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**A Critical Discourse Evaluation of the Stumbling Block to  
Decolonization and Democratization Processes in Africa:  
A Postcolonial Reading of Selected Wole Soyinka's Non-fictional Texts**

Henry Jedidiah Hunjo  
Lagos State University

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## **Abstract**

Postcolonialism as a theory has guided the perception of cultural sensibilities in such a way that understanding the differences between categories such as the centre and the periphery, the status of the subaltern and the advantaged class and other matters involving class distinction and identity is no longer a problem. Volumes of articles have been written on the importance of Postcolonialism in order to describe why African societies have not experienced true democracy and decolonization. One of the areas that have enjoyed attention is the interpretation of the forces distinguishing the influences of the centre over the periphery. Questions around the nature of the centre and the periphery have been greatly answered such that the differences between the social categories have been exposed. However, nothing, perhaps, has been done to show that African sociopolitical problems require redefinition from the standpoint of the effect of the centre created shortly after independence and the periphery that naturally evolved thereafter. The question of the place of Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in the face of the global development going on in other continents can only be answered if we revisit the nature of the contrast between the centre and the periphery within the African independent states. In this paper, attention has been paid to the question of the relationship between the periphery and the centre in a new way. The paper identifies colonial government and the colonies as exhibiting a relationship between the centre and the periphery while, at the instance of independence, the table turns in such a way that the role of the centre shifts to the African leaders and the periphery is constituted of the citizens of the newly independent states. This shift in role brings about a new experience in postcolonial view of the relationship between the two classes. This new experience is responsible or should be responsible for whether or not Africa could compete with the developed nations of the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This paper, using data from Wole Soyinka's non-fictional texts, and deploying critical discourse analytical (CDA) methods of text interpretation, exemplifies how pre and post independent African leaders constitute a centre that merely places African development in the stead of political impropriety, thereby frustrating decolonization processes. Wole Soyinka's political discourse dwells on Nigeria as an example of post-independent state failure to attain full decolonization and democratization. The paper concludes by suggesting that until African leaders have their leadership style changed, there may never be a rise in the development of the continent to match the competitive edge in areas of economic, political and social infrastructural development. This conclusion is against the thought that African leaders' leadership template has been designed to be anti progress.