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Abstract

The main object of this thesis is to x-ray the causes of the environmental degradation being perpetrated in the Niger Delta which has given rise to crises which appear intractable due to years of destruction and negligence. This thesis argues that man and his environment are inseparable and intertwined. Unfortunately, neo-colonialist powers, represented in the Niger Delta by multinational companies, appear unconcerned about the environment of their host communities.

Meanwhile, due to the security nature of this research, the researcher adopted semi-structured interview as his methodology. Also, informants were used to interview key stakeholders in the Niger Delta area. This thesis is very keen in three questions it sets out to address. These questions are. (1) What are the causes of conflict in Niger Delta? (2) Why is there environmental degradation in Niger Delta? (3) Why are the people of the Niger Delta very poor, unemployed, neglected, and marginalized in the scheme of affairs? These three questions form the fulcrum around which this thesis revolves.

However, the findings show that Niger Delta does not only produce oil but the methods of oil exploration fall below international standards, which has resulted in the degradation of the environment, and displacement of the local people who depend on agriculture for sustenance. This, in turn, has created disenchantment and disaffection among the local people, especially in the youths, who suffer from the pollution of rivers and lands by oil spillage and oil activities. This displacement not only leads to unemployment but also increases the poverty level in the area. Niger Delta is the poorest oil producing area in the world because both government and oil companies operating in the area have failed to recognize the need to maintain host communities' environment which has led to conflagration of the imbroglio being experienced in the area today.

Key words	Environment, Degradation, sustainable development, Colonialism, Neocolonialism, Conflict, Militants, exploitation and underdeveloped, imperialism, corporate social responsibility, Multinational corporation, Oil companies
Further information	