

OIL EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION AND EXPORTATION IN THE NIGER DELTA OF NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF OML 68

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In this paper, the author who grew up in the area under study, highlighted the drastic changes which corporate oil exploration, exploitation and exportation has brought about to the Niger delta areas, particularly in the Rivers State of Nigeria. He uses a diachronic approach, in which the period of contact with oil prospecting companies is divided into five periods of Scratch, Search, Surge, Scourge, Scramble and Sabbatical periods. The periods also correspond with various stages of growth in oil company activities on the one hand, and the environmental degradation and ecological distortion of the areas on the other. The paper points at possible ways of restoring justice to the inhabitants of the area, and shows why peace will continue to elude Nigeria and the international community as long as the present trend of reckless deforestation, blatant gas flaring, air pollution, and environmental and ecological decay continues in the Niger Delta. Finally, the paper appeals to churches and voluntary organizations to come to the rescue, proffering the sabbatical principle as a basis for initiating change. The author has also written booklets in Ogba (one of the main languages of the Niger Delta) intended to cultivate the people's interest in their language, and has in partnership with the Ogba translation committee translated the Holy (New Testament) Scriptures into Ogba because they believe that God's eternal Word provides answers to all conceivable human problems.

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