

Coding External Interventions: A Case Study of Crises in Cote d'Ivoire

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This study intends to appraise the political crises in Cote d'Ivoire in historical, legal, constitutional, socio-economic and international perspectives. This is with a view to taking a position on the nature and degree of interventions already made or being contemplated by international communities. In particular, the appraisal is meant to conclude on whether or not, the present decisions of the United Nations and Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS), to engage force so that Laurent Gbagbo may surrender power to Alassane Ouattara can be justified by relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter, due process and best practices.

The study will rely on primary and secondary sources of information based on relevant theoretical modes propounded by notable scholars in the fields of International Law, Political Science and Diplomatic Relations. All data collected shall be subjected to content analysis.

As parts of the findings, the study shall inquire into the sovereign status of Cote d'Ivoire as an Independent nation, member of regional and international organizations. This approach is to assess and codify external interventions in the crises giving the past and present experiences. Why did President Laurent Gbagbo and his allies refused to relinquish power to Mr. Alassane Ouattara despite the declaration by the Election Commission of Cote d'Ivoire that the latter won the November 28, 2010, second round of elections; a declaration supported by the African Union, European Union, United States of America and Heads of States of ECOWAS? How far can it be corrected to assert that the proposed interventions by international communities especially ECOWAS, tend toward quantitative methods? What are the likely components of such interventions? Findings shall also include the genesis of the crises in the perspectives of ethno-religious diversities of Cote d'Ivoire; her economic base; political leaders and their allies; socio-economic involvement of world powers; electoral processes and institutions; legal and constitutional frameworks; the likely impact of the crises on other nations.

In conclusion, the study shall propound realistic approaches for the warring parties and the international communities in ensuring amicable resolution of the crises in Cote d'Ivoire without degenerating into full-scale war capable of endangering peace of West Africa and the rest of the world. The need for a state of equilibrium between conflict management and diplomatic relations will be stressed coupled with a concern for the cost of prosecuting a war.