

**Title of Article:** *Ethnic Militia and Sub-nationalism in Nigeria: A Comparative Study of MASSOB and OPC.*

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**Abstract:** The proliferation of ethnic organizations operating outside the confines of the law as forms of sub-nationalism expression has become the prevailing feature in Nigeria. This constitutes threat to the survival of the state and its democracy. The study shows that both MASSOB and OPC were ethnic militia organizations at various stages of development that emerged as forms of sub-nationalism expression because of the weakness and inability of the Nigerian state to resolve its national question which revolves round issues of citizenship, resources control, federalism and representation. These lingering issues provide plank to wipe up ethnic sentiments by the elites excluded from the equation of power at the centre. The study concluded that both OPC and MASSOB are developments that emerged from the contradictions of the Nigerian political system and that grievance against the state forms the major motivation of membership and create condition for people for people to be instrumentalized.