The Border Factor in Cameroon-Nigeria Relations: A Theoretical Approach

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Introduction

A border is a line that separates one nation from another. The function of a border is to keep people in their own space and to prevent, control or regulate interactions among countries which share a common boundary (Oscar J. Martinez, 2015, 55). The Cameroon-Nigeria border in many respects has been the centre of rupture between the two countries. In order to understand the complexities, dynamics and problematic surrounding Cameroon-Nigeria border relations it will be imperative to examine theories on ‘contiguity and proximity’ and how they affect interactions among nations. The major objective of this paper is to situate the Cameroon-Nigeria border dispute within a broader theoretical framework of border conflicts.

Bibliographical note

Eric Elong Ebolo holds an M.A. in History from the University of Buea, Cameroon. He also served as graduate teaching/research assistant in the abovementioned institution for two years. He is a former student of International Politics at the Centre Européen de Recherches Internationales et strategiques (CERIS). He takes interest in border politics, land grab, state building, constitutionalism and governance and development in Africa. Eric's doctoral thesis is entitled: The Border Factor in Cameroon-Nigeria Relations: The Case of the Bakassi Peninsula Dispute.

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