RE-ASSESSING THE NIGER DELTA OIL CONFLICT IN NIGERIA: A SECURITISATION PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

This article re-assesses the protracted Niger Delta oil conflict by putting it into the context of securitisation theory. It argues that the application of the Copenhagen School’s perspective on securitisation on its own is not sufficient to provide a clear understanding of the state security strategy in the Niger Delta. It considers the Paris School version of securitisation theory and demonstrate that both the Copenhagen and Paris Schools’ versions of securitisation theory are not methodologically incompatible. The article employs both qualitative and quantitative methods of data gathering and analysis. The findings offer statistical evidence of the coercive nature of the state security apparatus. The result also demonstrates that by applying the Paris School strand of securitisation theory, the state strategic response to the Niger Delta oil conflict is both a product of security discourses and practices.

Keywords: Conflict, Nigeria, Niger Delta, Securitisation Theory.