Managing Conflict in Nigeria

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A Turbulent Democracy

- History of social conflict
- Military rule: repression, underdevelopment, and inequality
- Liberalization and transition 1998-
- Growing scope of social & political violence
  - 900+ incidents
  - 16,000 fatalities
Total Fatalities from Political/Social Violence in Nigeria 1998-2012 – by Community
Centers of Conflict

- **Niger Delta**
  - Oil production and local communities
  - Development and environment
  - Companies and government
- **Jos**
  - Ethnicity, religion, local origin
  - Political and institutional drivers
- **North/Boko Haram**
  - Regionalism
  - Political grievances
  - Religion/legitimacy
Sources of Violence

- **Background conditions**
  - Poverty
  - Demography
  - Resources
  - History

- **Drivers**
  - Threat/provocation
  - Shocks: economic, demographic, political
  - Entrepreneurs: politicians, activists

- **Triggers**
  - Elections
  - Rhetoric
  - Institutional change
  - Accident
Role of Government

- **Security**
  - Containment/order
  - Human rights
  - Legitimacy

- **Mediation/Negotiation**

- **Representation**
  - Elections
  - Political appointments/institutions

- **Development**
  - Services
  - Distribution
Problems of Conflict Management: Boundaries and Bargains

- Boundaries: formal rules
  - Federal structure
    - States/LGAs
  - Revenue allocation
- Bargains
  - “Elite cartel”
  - Clientelism/patronage
  - Networks and arenas
Problems of Governance and Conflict

- **Capacity**
  - Security forces
  - Development capabilities
  - Representation & voice

- **Commitment**
  - Political interests
    - Clientelism and distribution
    - Dominant party
  - Economic interests
    - Regionalism and distribution
    - Elite bargains