



## **Holistic View of the Implications in Power Centered Approach to the Political Economy of Developing Counties**

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### ***Abstract***

*The Power Centered Approach to political economy emphasizes the importance of power in economic relations; and proves if the democracy and legitimacy associated with power are justifiable. It analyzes the nature and different forms of power in relation to the crucial and basic part of the political order. This paper explains the implications of political powers to create worthy reforms in the socio-economic activities of a state to command expected change, growth, and development of the market society. The big puzzles are how undesirable outcomes can be avoided and what type of power does a leader/State exercises to affect a policy change to influence socio-economic activities? The State once triggered by external shock can propel changes of policies, institutions forcing the state to devolve some of its power. This will give rise to the emergence of independent legal, political, and economic institutions; propelling change and proffering solutions to challenges. This research adopted the secondary source of data collection.*

**Keywords:** *Political Economy, Power-Centered Approach, Developing Countries, Agriculture, Power*

## Introduction

Power Centered Approach is used to explain the premise of political economy; Political economy expresses the interrelationship between the political and economic affairs of a state. In the nutshell, the “Power Centered Approach” encompasses the necessities and existence of power in relation to contemporary issues which explains the nature of power in handling societal issues. Political power is unavoidably consequential in responding to issues that require one’s ability. Political powers include domination exercise of control qua political rights determine whether one person or group that exercise power over others. If power is conceptualized as the transformative capacity of actor or their ability to affect other player’s behavior. These actors can affect preferences and readings of both interests on the problems in the system in which it evolves. For example, financial institutions such as IMF, World Bank, World Trade Organization (WTO) detain such power that prevents our societies from taking appropriate actions in their interest in the fundamental reform of the financial system. The major proponents were the 17<sup>th</sup> century Greek Philosophers

and the modern theorists which include; Plato, Aristotle, Adams Smith, Thomas Hobbes, Karl Marx, and Max Weber, Immanuel Kant, Thucydides, and Han J Morgenthau who is considered to be the father of modern realist thought. All of these scholars made consequential input on the subject matter and this has stood the test of time.

## Review of Literature

### Conceptualization and Interpretation of Power

Power, in Social Science and Politics, is the ability to influence or outright control the behavior of people. Power can be seen as evil and unjust; it involves force or threat of force which its existence is accepted as prevalent to humans as social beings. Robert Dahl, 1961; opined that power is the state of affairs that holds a given relationship; for instance, in a correlation between A & B, such that a given influence attempt by A over B makes is more likely to make A’s desired change in B. In this perspective, power is fundamentally relative and depends on the specific understanding of the relationship between A and B. This requires B’s recognition of the quality and superiority in A, which will motivate

B to change in the way A intends.

### **Nature of Power**

From the conceptualizations of power, certain features have been analyzed and the analysis awaits uses in the relational sense. Thomas Hobbes in the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century defined power in politics as a man's present means to obtain some future apparent good. When there is only one player or element, the issue of power does not arise; it is because power implies the ability to influence or control others or get things done by others (Raphael, 1970). In the 20<sup>th</sup> century analysis of power; Freidrich Nietzsche saw power as the domination of other humans; it entails the exercise of control over one's environment. Naturally, Power relates to the relationship or interaction between two or among more than one element or actors. So power is always viewed in the background of relationships (Thomas 2002); an example is the political and economic activities of the North and South poles.

Power can also be disaggregated and non-cumulative; it is shared and bartered by numerous groups spread throughout the society and representing diverse interests. In any pluralist society, numerous groups and all competing among themselves at various levels to capture political power or influence the concerned agencies (Raven, 2008). Notably, the interactions between power and economic phenomena may provide an appealing focus for political economy. However, the obstacle to constructing a political economy in a foundation of power should not be underestimated; the obstacles are especially different if economics is interpreted as market behavior. For instance, farmers' ability to counteract the political influence of rural elites and urban dwellers is extremely limited (Raphael, 1970). Lack of independent institutions; clearly defined property rights and the presence of organizational residues not only reduce peasants' bargaining power but can be marginalized.

### **Components of Power-Centered Approach**

#### **Types of Power**

Five bases of power were identified by John French and Bertram Raven in the early 1960s through a study conducted on power in leadership roles. These are:

### **Legitimate Power**

This is also called “Positional Power”. It is the power of an individual because of the relative position and duties of the holder and position within a defined setting. Legitimate power is a legal or formal authority delegated to the holder of the position. Its built-on hierarchy and rules rely on the perception of the level of power in addition to position and ranks; excessive use of positional power could lead to over domineering. For political scientists to investigate any kind of power, the relevance of legitimization is very vital to economic and political activities. Leaders of political systems and institutions strive to ensure that people adhere to decisions taken and this must have a positive effect on the lives of their citizens. For instance, a government that adopts a coercive measure in handling societal issues is said to lose its legitimacy and such a society could be prone to restiveness and lawlessness.

The Weberian theory argued that different leaders respond differently to issues based on their ideologies. “It is like a suitable government which can and should be changed according to exigencies of the situation” For leaders to exercise their power into authority; rational and legal factors must be structurally aligned to confirm the definition of legitimacy as the right and acceptance of authority by usually a governing law. Legitimacy denotes or signifies a system of government, wherein government denotes a sphere of influence.

### **Referent Power**

An actor can attract others and build loyalty; it is based on the charisma and interpersonal skills of the power holder. A person may be admired because of a specific personal trait and this admiration creates the opportunity for interpersonal influence. For one to obtain referent power, one must excel in four areas; (i) have a proven track record (ii) have a reputation for being fair (iii) model good behavior (iv) demonstrate strong interpersonal skills such as being kind, trustworthy. For example, soldiers fight in wars to defend the honor of their country. Referent power is usually bestowed upon a leader by the followers based on a lengthy period of leadership and trust; in which the followers or subordinate assumed the leader to be a role model.

### **Expert Power**

This is when an individual/actor's power is derived from the skills or area of specialty of the person and the organization’s need for the skills and knowledge.

This type of power is highly specific and limited to specific areas in which the expert is trained for reasonable duration and purpose. When individuals, States or countries specialize in tasks, possess a high level of knowledge or special skills, their counterpart tends to trust and respect them for their ideas. This triggers leadership height because of the high level of expertise, capabilities, and the ability to transfer knowledge, skills and information to fewer privileged strata. Referent power takes a whole lot of time to acquire, occasionally holders of this type of power can be rigid, dogmatic, and even selfish. The holders/actors could refuse to transfer acquired knowledge, skills, or experiences to others to avoid self-defection or become experts in one's territory.

### **Coercive Power**

Hence, Coercive Power is the application of negative influence, it includes the ability to demote or withhold a counterpart; it could be referred to as a "harsh" form of power. It's the most obvious but the least effective form of power as it builds resentment and resistance from the people at the receiving end. Threats and punishments are the common tools of coercion; this form of power results in a very cold, impoverished style of leadership. The final source of a ruler's power in politics is the type of and extent of sanctions at his disposal both for use against his subjects to supplement voluntary acceptance of exercised authority or in conflicts with other rulers. Sanctions are usually a key element in domestic and international politics that is subject to constant variation and people tend to vary in the use of power in political tactics.

### **Reward Power**

Reward power in politics depends on the ability of power in politics wielder to confer valued material reward. This type of power involves the ability of individuals to delegate matters to other people (subordinates) and aftermath rewards to the actor(s) for compliance/desirable behavior; it requires a certain status in the organizational hierarchy. This form of power is based on the idea that as a society progresses outcomes of the actors determine the value allotted. Rewards can take the form of a raise or bonus, promotion, time off, or other perks. These two forms of Reward power are personal and impersonal. Personal Reward Power comes when a leader conveys their approval or accolades after an in-depth appraisal to show that the subordinates are valued. The Impersonal Reward Power, by contrast, implies to a leader being able to give promotions,

bonuses, formal recognition to mention but a few. These forms of reward power are pretty common in most modern organizations both formal and informal.

### **Information Power**

Information Power comes first from having an insight into information that is very rare to other people. access to certain information makes one stand out. Information power comes from delivering persuasive and compelling reasons why some people are better off in terms of performance, output, and productivity. Intelligence and knowledge gathering, logic, compelling argument, and so on, necessitate desired change and increased productivity.

### **Views of other Theorist**

In a pluralist society, there are numerous groups and all competing among themselves at various levels to capture political power to influence their subordinates. Social scientists in their effort to analyze and explain the concept of “Power” and its functions in societal issues; made these consequential contributions by propounding the following theories.

### **Idealist Theory**

Idealists affirmed that cultural power is important and it focused on the values, not the materialist goods associated with culture; rather cultural values that others respect give states moral authority. The power of moral authority also comes from the successful practice of cultural values in global politics over time. Soft power and the appeal of cultural values are associated with the “battle for hearts and mind” that is way imperative in contemporary struggle (Alexander, 2003)

The “Soft power” as used in the context compels one to accept this ideology because culture or institutions are initiated without the use of military or other forms of coercion. For example the acceptance of democracy globally, the United States was able to set up international institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations (UN) after the Second World War and the continual domination of this global forum. Democracy may indirectly foster agricultural productivity by influencing the level of economic freedom (Mon- Chi & Liu, 2008) thus, a marketplace comprises the producers and the consumer. Soft power has propelled the global watching and Hollywood film, the urge to wear jeans material and use of cell

phones (Nye, 1990). The ideologist argued that the use of coercion to inculcate norms and values are unsustainable but rather through influence based on the attraction of one's ideas on the ability to set political agenda in a way that shapes the performance of others. More so, for an idealist, cooperation is desirable because it provides a "value" of peace to attain sustainable development. The idealist tradition believed in the protection of persons and property of each member with all the common force and one is free or entitled to his opinion.

### **The Realist Theory**

This theory emphasized States as the most important actors in global politics it pursues power to secure States' interests. It's of the view that states and governments should exercise supreme or sovereign authority over a defined territory (Morgenthau, 1978). The countries at the Core control the activities of the countries at the periphery for their interest using the Expert power. For Realists, the pursuit of power and political interest is separate from the economic sphere, moral sphere, and any sphere of human endeavors. However, power consideration must come first; action taken in the name of economic wealth must be evaluated on how it contributes or undermines the national interest. Realists, for example, may be concerned about their State's economic ties with other countries in terms of trade agreements, direct investments, and making them dependent on them.

The ideologies of moral principle, human rights policies are not accepted by the realists as the power of dependent States might even be threatened and this proved that conflict and the use of coercion to achieve its aim remains a dominant feature in this perspective. Furthermore, economic analysis rarely explains why the protectionist measures were adopted in the first place or explores the dependencies that these policies generate. As such policy reform will continue to yield counterproductive results (Harvey, 2003).

### **Constructivist or Prescriptive Theory**

Constructivists argued that power like any other concept depends on its "social edifice" Constructivism viewed power more than physical capabilities, in this regard power is not possessed by actors like States but it has characteristics of dialogue and incorporating new ideas into pre-existing knowledge (Glaserfeld, 1990). The common tenets of Constructivism are; first, 'Learning' is a search for meaning; therefore, learning must start with the issues that actively propels

trying to construct meaning. Secondly, “Meaning” requires understanding ‘wholes as well as parts; the parts must be understood in the context of wholes. Thus, the learning process focuses on primary concepts, not isolated facts. Thirdly, to pass vital information, the mental models support ideas that must be understood. And lastly, the purpose of learning is for an individual/State to construct self-meaning and not just to memorize the right answers provided by another person but to must make inputs to the existing issue or process; this simply explains the relationship the actor has with the people.

Its central position is not about if the State is more powerful but rather it strongly considers the underlying norms and standards of legitimacy which allows actor or State to be presented as “powerful” In respect to this, the theorist argued that power resides in the mental ability to determine ideas or the ability to set rules or norms by which the actors are constructed. Constructivism applies the same logic to the concept of anarchy, which is central to realism.

‘Power’ for constructivists is about representing and classifying states as civilized, rogue, European, unstable, westernized, and democratic. All these generate expectations and structure relationships between actors. Similarly, the power of actors in the international society is not determined by military resources but it’s measured from existing international practice. According to Rusell, (1982). he stated that the force of “will and intelligent” is the basis of the demonstration of authority but the actor should be guided by the lessons of history. The role of the person in authority is not to make decisions that will adversely affect the citizenry. The ‘Core’ leader or country must therefore ensure a balance in managing the affairs of the society (Oakeshott, 1963).

### **Liberal theory**

For more than three centuries, the hallmark of liberalism has been the attempt to promote individual liberty where freedoms are uppermost recognized. It believed that government can use its power to protect individuals from being harmed by others but they also understood that government can pose a threat to liberty. The liberals argued that for society to achieve sustainability, the political and economic power must have authority through consent and mutual understanding and not coercion. A State or individual with economic power has a strong economic base as such can influence others economically by imposing treaties, trade sanctions, or withhold investments.

The Liberalist argued that in the modern world, every single bearer of the power of command is legitimized by the system of rational norms. In a simplified understanding, his legitimate powers must correspond with the norms of the society (Fredrich, 1958); the Liberalist used the term legitimacy to compare socio-political processes. Power in relation to legitimacy simply means for people to be ruled or governed regardless of the type of government (Risse et al, 1999). The Liberalist also acknowledged that authorities can be exercised through any of these, which are: traditional, charismatic, and rational-legal.

### **Marxist and the Neo-Marxist**

This theory contained his doctrine of class struggle, where he criticized the ruling bourgeois as a group of capitalists and their hired lackeys consciously exploiting and dominating the working class (Scott et al, 1998). To him, the social authority of the ruling class hinges solely on economic factors; political power is merely an organized power of one class to oppress another. Marx argued that class domination is caused by owners and controllers of means of production and the issue of domination has three dimensions namely; economic, political, and ideological precepts. The political domination can be traced to states being an instrument of exploitation and oppression by one class over the other. In a capitalist society, the state is the hand of the bourgeoisie; their opinion and decisions affect the livelihood of the (“have not’s”) oppressed (Goodwin & Green 2008).

Economically, in the production of goods and services; Expert powers lead to total dominance, exploitation, and oppression. While the ideological perspective argued that the bourgeoisie might be neutral as not adopt any of the two either; on the view that authority is enforced through a dialectical agreement. So, the law of dialects enjoins that the exploited class must struggle to put a permutation to the locus of power. The Neo-Marxist placed a premium on economic power, it argued that the division of labor in the global capitalist system creates a great economic disequilibrium between the core of the haves and the periphery have not’s (Blackledge, 2004). For many Neo-Marxist interpretations of world politics, economic power is obtained through coercive means. In other words, economic power is not viewed as the way to acquiring dominance as the realist might view it; rather coercive means are used to perpetuate wealth. The theory also emphasized that industrial processes such as the development of capitalism and imperialism continued to affect global

politics. Dependence theory, a variation of neo-Marxism, argued that even after the colonized areas became independent the core continued to exploit the periphery through neo-imperialism such as indirect domination through military interventions, control of international organizations and biased trade practice and collusion with corrupt elites who governed the periphery (Khoo, 2005).

### **Feminist Perspective**

The feminist questioned the traditional focus on capabilities as the roots of power. The perspective defined power as the ability to act in concert or action taken in connection with others. “Power is the human ability to act in concert or action which is taken in connection with others who share similar concerns” (Ann, 1988). A feminist Ann Tickner saw power as “domination” always been associated with masculinity since the exercise of power has generally been a masculine activity. It is rare for a woman to exercise legitimate power in the public domain

### **Critiques**

The approach is biased due to its complexity; the use of power in describing the approach is not only a complex concept but also a core reason of social existence as argued by so many theorists of the approach. Some Scholars defined “power” as a single concept, some viewed political power based on its domination focus nature. And the modern definition of power, encompasses its legitimacy and value justification (Haugaard, 2010). While the liberal’s definition of is circumscribed to in a scope which stresses on a strict distinction of private and public spheres. Therefore, there is a consequence of tension between the normative and empirical evaluation of the concept. And similarly, normative and empirical evaluation of factors were not measured also the assessment of the concept “power” becomes a difficult base on the context it is used in explaining the activities of actors in a particular region.

### **Power And Market Society**

Amid the golden age epoch, societies' values had been achieved and inculcated via power. The traditional society evolved to feudal society; the means of production were owned by the master (lord) and wealth accumulation was by dispossession. At this period of development, the central institution for organizing economic activities are the religious institutions such as the catholic

church; the source of rules and legitimacy, the integrator, and the carrier of civilization following the collapse of the Roman Empire. It was commonly characterized by hierarchical division of labor and the limited roles of economic motivation for economic activities, profit, and wealth maximization; these were far less important than prestige and social obligation. The feudal stage lacks saving and market instruments; indeed, most markets were primitive and crude with no general integration except for tradable luxury goods in urban merchants (Marx, 1975). Developing societies in the primitive era delight in fraternity relationships among themselves; the society is known for communal relationships and had great respect for culture, traditions, and norms (communalism). Nigeria in this regard, the societal roles and culture were structurally differentiated (Ake, 1982) and community interest surpasses that of individuals.

The industrial revolution in England in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, gave rise to the adoption of the free-market policy to remove the last vestige of the mercantile era where industrial regulation, monopoly, and tariffs were withdrawn and this encourages capitalism. It is an economic system in which individual economic agents are engaged in business activities with a large measure of economic freedom. Individual economic actions conform to the existing legal and institutional framework of the society which is given by institutions of private property, profit motive, competition, consumer sovereignty (freedom of choice), and freedom of enterprise.

Markets are closely related to the idea of choice among freely contracting individuals; markets are impersonal, dispersed structures of buyers and sellers operating independently of one another in pursuit of personal goals (Caporaso, 1992). In a market society, the political and economic life is dominated by ideas of individual freedom and self-interest; in the simplest term, each actor (person) is allowed to decide what to do. The market existed under strict guide, regulation, and local protection from outside competitors (Jhingan, 1998). The State endorsed the policy of Laissez-faire; it is a policy of non-government interference in the economic activities both on the producers and consumers. The role of the government is therefore limited to the establishment of and enforcement of rules of exchange; the government facilitates the exchange process by protecting private property and enforcement of contracts. The aforementioned roles of the government could be distorted or come to a halt if there is a market failure; that is the inability of the market to function properly.

## **Power, Market System, and the Developing Economies**

Less Developed economies are embedded in politics and economics of capitalism contrary to Adam Smith's view of the "invisible hand", the tendency of free markets to regulate self employing competition, supply and demand, and self-interest (Smith, 1790). The classical theorist believed that government intervention often leads to economic inefficiencies that make people worse-off; this simply implies little or no government control; individuals make economic decisions. Markets are impersonal, dispersed structures of buyers and sellers operating independently on one another in pursuit of private or personal goals. The view of economics as tied to the market, firstly, agents face a voluntary choice; Secondly, no single agent has enough economic capabilities in terms of capital, labor, goods to influence any other agent. The defenders of market capitalism argued that power does not and should not exist in the market. The market is both an effective solvent and concealment of the power of industrial capitalism. The critical feature is the absence of coercive imposition or restrictions regarding economic activity (IMF, 1998). No modern country operates completely inhibited free markets; coercion may only take place by prior mutual agreement in a voluntary contract; such as contractual remedies enforced by tort law to form a regulated market. For example, price mechanisms, licensing quotas, and subsidies control demand and supply arising from the interplay of free and equal economic actors that are controlled by coercive central authorities.

The element of resistance has been important in the definition of power. In an economy and society, Max Weber defined power as "the probability than an actor in a social relationship which will be in a position to carry out its own will despite resistance regardless of the basis on which the probability rests" The politics of capitalism is liberal to mark an open and competitive economic environment; in which the state is the umpire, a regulator and referee. In this context, the State which comprises designated political institutions is liable to form policies that could aid to manage several situations within a period. These policies are subject to change to curb socio-economic contemporary emerging challenges.

Looking at today's contemporary societies the assumption of Adam Smith on the wealth of the nation, factors of production are left in indivisible hands; this has been dislodged because there is a new interest in the study of the practice of capitalism by the first world countries. The State has accumulated surplus

capital which Marx saw as an internal contradiction and this has made them more powerful politically and economically. This lies evidently on the waves of privatization and commercialization of state-owned properties. The going trend has led to the domination of the world economy by international capitalism; this phenomenon has opened up competitive capitalization to maximize profit solely for their parochial interest (Yuri, 1984).

Karl Polanyi in 1944 put forward an argument that economic activity is embedded within a social and economic context. This comprises how markets evolve, develop and change in terms of processes which Polanyi referred to as “embedding and disembedding of market forces” The scholar also argued that the development of the modern state went hand in hand with the development of the modern market economies is called the market society. The processes brought changes to the system. The change from a pre-modern economy to a market economy as a result of transforming the local social institutions to idealized ones that aimed to promote a self-regulating market economy which could apply to some sectors of the economy. A market economy is an economic system in which economic decisions and the pricing of goods and services are guided by the interactions of individuals and businesses in a defined area. It gives entrepreneurs the freedom to pursue profits by creating outputs more valuable than the inputs; thus, there may be some form of government intervention or central planning to ensure efficiency in the system.

For Polanyi, central to the change was that factors of production such as land and labor could now be sold in the market at a market-determined price instead of the allocated price according to tradition, redistribution, or reciprocity. The economist also acclaimed that the market society is not a naturally occurring phenomenon but it’s a political and social construct to set up some welfare state institutions to protect the vulnerable citizens. This is a useful way of understanding the politics of modern capitalism. Some form of government intervention could propel policy reforms to redress limitations or issues without disarticulating the fundamental of the system. The use of this word emerges in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and it’s believed to originate from Christopher Wyvill’s Association Movement with identified “Parliamentary Reform” as its primary aim. Reform is generally distinguished from revolution, the latter means basic or radical change while reform simply implies fine turning or redressing serious issues/wrong without altering the fundamental of the system (Joanna, 2003). At

one point/time or the other, every sectoral reform is very imperative to achieve the desired change.

The word “Reform” is usually adopted to make an improvement and permutation on behaviors or structures that are under or counter-productive (Cambridge Dictionary). Reforms seek to improve the system and never to over-throw it in totality or completely. Developing countries initiate and implement a wide range of reforms to improve the living standard of the people, workforce, visions, or statements following the appropriate organizational process in different institutions of governance often with supports from World Bank, International Financial Institutions (IMF), and Aid Agencies. This includes; reforms on Micro and Macro-Economic Policies, Civil service, Media Sector, Agricultural and Religious Institutions (Harrington, 1986). Reforms intend to examine and analyze or diagnose a particular issue currently facing an economy; and also seeks to examine if a country pursues the right reform; how do sectors formulate and implement these reforms appropriately and what are the strategies to execute the reforms. The reformer of the reforms is usually termed as technocrats that can design and initiate a policy that a positively driven; the reformer is much concerned about accelerating economic growth in the designated sector which should be felt by the man. Among these sectors are agriculture, solid minerals, manufacturing, real estate, and construction (Okonjo-Iweala, 2012).

Market structure reform is dominant in a perfectly competitive market, where economic exchange and power repel each other. With numerous producers and consumers, no one can exert influence. However, in imperfect (concentrated) markets, economic agents may have the capacity to influence others. The reform correlated the sellers and buyers to ensure favorable economic activities. The function of a government is to legitimize power in a political system through its institutions. Therefore, a power-centered system explains the government actions in a political-economic system which may yield either positive or negative outcomes (Binder 1962).

Lindblom (1977) argued that big companies in national markets have a common pattern called Oligopoly; it effectively controls participating actors in national dialogue; taking recognizance of the players that suffer censorship of silence. For example, an American automobile industry where four companies account for 99 percent of output or the farm machinery industry where four firms account for over half the output. Perhaps as much as 60 percent of manufactured

goods in the United States are produced by enterprises that make their production plans and set their prices in light of their interaction with two or three other dominant firms in their industry; these enterprises can be regulated through government intervention to effect price control on the manufactured goods to curtail over hyping on the selling price of the goods.

### **Research Methodology**

The research methodology adopted the secondary source of data collection (from renowned textbooks and libraries). This was necessary to gain prior and contemporary insights into the research topic.

### **Conclusion**

This approach could be used to answer this research question “*To what extent would power be applicable in initiating change in the reform process of most sectors of developing economies?* “

The reforms process encompasses the use of a designated form of power to affect policy change in most sectors of a developing country like Nigeria. This could be implicitly or explicitly be attributed to some power feasibilities (i) Decentralization; this changes the balance of power within the political structure (ii) Deconcentration of power helps to shift power within an organization in favor of front-line managers. (iii) Delegation; public agencies shift power outside the government administration such as organization, parastatal, or ministries. (iv) Lastly, power could be feasible via Devolution which is also known as democratic decentralization; it changes the balance of power to a more significant extent, increasing the power of the front-runners in the lower cadre to facilitate policy change; thus, this could mobilize political pressure groups and democratic representation. The aforementioned power feasibilities at one point or the other have the capability of answering vital questions propelling change to contemporary challenges in a State, structure, workplace, or organization. In the change process, government institutions and political authorities define the reform programmes and set their priorities; the reform agencies implement the programmes to benefit the recipients. In this context, the leaders obtain the support of other government bodies like the State, legislature, ministries, and provincial level of government that may be responsible for the implementation of the reforms. The relevance of the Center Power Approach in an attempt to answer the aforementioned question; the reviewed literature affirmed that the actors in the reform processes exercise different forms/levels of power to bring about the desired change in the sectors of a political economy. Consequently, for successful reforms, political

commitment at the highest level must be adopted to ensure that the outlined goals are achieved. Virtually any reform is likely to involve losers and as well gainers (Bennell, 1997) Reform process intends to provide and improve services via improvements in a market environment and more so, promote social edifices which in turn accelerates growth and development.

### **Recommendations**

- i. The major tenet of reform is to restructure enterprises, sectors of an economy such as the market system. Therefore, to achieve the desired change; the reform process must have well-defined objectives before the actor enforces power to speed up the process and actualize the set-out goals.
- ii. There should be a need for a Political Commitment or ‘Will’ for the process to make headway in diverse sectors of an economy that is defaced with developmental constraints.
- iii. For public sector organizations; its internal efficiency could be improved via increased budgets, changing the incentive and regulatory frameworks through the central authorities (actors) to ensure that the process attains a successful conclusion.
- iv. An actor holding much power in authority could streamline or marginalize the players tensibly; this could make a crack to the initial or original prospects. Therefore, Decentralization of power is one possible way to improve a developing country’s sectoral performance.

### **Author Contributions**

All authors made substantial contributions in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; agreed to submit to the current journal; gave final approval of the version to be published; and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

### **Disclosure**

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