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Theory of Demotocracy and Familotocracy and Major Typologies of Government: A Critical and Comparative Assessment

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Abstract

When new concepts are introduced in any field of study, and after they might have successfully undergone integrity tests, the next step is to either transform them into a theoretical framework or compare them constructively with other related concepts or both. Hence, this work centred around a critical and constructive re-assessment of the new and successfully introduced concepts of “Demotocracy” and “Familotocracy” for the purpose of transforming them into a theoretical guide. This work also undertook a comparative assessment of Demotocracy and Familotocracy with some major typologies of government for the purpose of identifying strengths and weaknesses. The qualitative method using historical and content analysis of books, articles, materials and other relevant documents etc, was employed in the data gathering and analysis process. The findings from critical examination of relevant data showed that, Demotocracy and Familotocracy are negative variants and subtypologies of Democracy, and when compared with other major typologies of government, there were areas of similarities and differences that were identified. It was therefore recommended that, Demotocracy and Familotocracy should be best employed as a theoretical guide for explaining aberrations and corruption in political systems. Moreover, political science scholars and politicians as well as researchers were advised to identify other variants and subtypologies of the other major forms of government as was done in the case of Democracy.

Keywords: Demotocracy, Familotocracy, Theory, Government, Totalitarianism and Dictatorship

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Introduction

Demotocracy and Familotocracy as newly introduced concepts in political science had successfully undergone integrity tests over the years through scholarly publications in conferences (Ifeanyichukwu, 2017 and 2018), Journals (Ifeanyichukwu, 2021) as well as through international commentaries (Bondarenko, 2021). Following these successful tests, publications and global commentaries, it is now deemed necessary to move Demotocracy and Familotocracy from the status of concept to the status of theory. This transition from a conceptual guide to a theoretical guide is to further increase the academic value and contribution of these new concepts by re-positioning them as theoretical tools that can be applied in explaining aberrations and corruption in different political systems. As a further step directed at enhancing the quality of demotocracy and familotocracy, there will be a comparative and constructive assessment with the major typologies of government like; Democracy, Aristocracy, Oligarchy, Plutocracy, Statocracy, Theocracy, Gerontocracy, Monarchy, Fascism, Nazism and Totalitarianism.

Nevertheless, this work will be critically and constructively examined under the following

sub-headings, namely; “Theory of Demotocracy and Familotocracy,” “Major Typologies of Government” and “a Comparative Assessment of Demotocracy/Familotocracy and the major Typologies of Government”.

Theory of Demotocracy and Familotocracy: A Critical Assessment

A theory is an explicitly defined and integrated conceptual framework comprised of logically interrelated propositions designed to explain and predict the causal relationships between two or more variables in a manner that enhances the possibility of demonstrable empirical verification (Ollawa, 1979; Coventry and Nixon, 1999, p.538). A theory is like a microscope for viewing as well as confronting situations and in relation to socio-economic and political matters, a theory provides the basis, guidelines as well as principles upon which a critical assessment is carried-out (Ifeanyichukwu, 2012, p.1).

For the “Theory of Demotocracy and Familotocracy”, it is a two-fold theory having two major components and their associated features, guidelines and principles. Moreover, the major rationale behind the formulation of this two-fold “Theory of

Demotocracy and Familotocracy” is to provide an intellectual platform, basis and framework for assessing issues and matters of aberrations as well as corruption in different political systems. However, this two-fold theory will be critically discussed under its two major components of Demotocracy and Familotocracy.

A. Demotocracy: Demotocracy as a conceptual and theoretical guide was Divinely-inspired and diligently formulated by Dr. E.O. Ifeanyichukwu through his Ph.D field work experience in relation to “Budget Implementation and Infrastructural Development in Imo state from 1999 to 2015, and which portrayed the Budget implementation process in Imo State especially from 2011 to 2015 as a demonstration of bureaucratic strangulation and isolation as well as a demonstration of executive totalitarianism. Demotocracy as a concept and theory is an exemplification and demonstration of a democracy under the influence and control of autocratic, despotic and totalitarian leadership (Ifeanyichukwu, 2017, Pp.187-255). Demotocracy is a democracy that is gradually and seriously shifting from the popular will to the personal as well as

selfish agenda of the political executive and leadership in a state (Ifeanyichukwu, 2021, p.4). Demotocracy is a democracy in the process of decay and in danger of extermination (Ifeanyichukwu, 2021, p.4) Demotocracy as a conceptual and theoretical framework in the social sciences in general and political science in particular is structured in the following simple arithmetic equation:
Democracy (Popular and Constitutional Rule) + Totalitarianism (autocracy, despotism, fascism, authoritarianism etc.) = Demotocracy. Demotocracy is a combination of some of the features of democracies and those of totalitarian governments. Nevertheless, the concept and theory of Demotocracy as an essential and major division of the two-fold “Theory of Demotocracy and Familotocracy” is rooted in the following principles and operational guidelines, namely;

- i. The existence of either a covert or overt para-military force that works in close collaboration with the police and army.

- ii. The prevalence of corruption, which is the obvious consequence of non-adherence to constitutional rule and non-adherence to principles of due-process.
- iii. The prevalence of dictatorial, anti-democratic and anti-parliamentary tendencies (Aromolaran, 1976, Pp.10-11).
- iv. The near-total subordination of everything to the main goal of the government especially in the areas of peace, religion and education.
- v. The prevalence of a weak legislature, weak judiciary and a rubber stamped political executive.
- vi. The use of “polemics”, which is the appropriate praising of one’s own ideas while at the same time condemning those of the opponents (Leeds, 1981, p.155).
- vii. The use of “Plain folks”, which is the identification of one’s or party’s objectives with those of the society despite the unpopularity of the individual’s or party’s goals (Leeds, 1981, p.154).
- viii. The use of “Glittering Generalities”, which is a condition whereby the policies of the political leadership or government are usually identified and aligned with widely accepted virtues like; affordable or free education, truth, freedom and democracy despite the unpopularity of such policies.
- ix. The use of “Bandwagonism”, which is a propaganda tactics whereby it is asserted that, the policies of a government are widely acceptable to majority of the populace and that it would be beneficial for the masses if such policies are implemented since the prevailing slogan and belief is “Everyone is strongly behind such a policy”.
- x. The use of “Name-calling”, which is a technique of employing a discrediting word or statement against the ideas of an opponent for the purpose of ridiculing both the opponent and idea.

- xi. The presence of a weakened, sick and powerless civil bureaucracy.

From the above assessment of the concept and theory of Demotocracy, we can categorically assert that, it is not only qualified as a conceptual guide or as a sub-typology and negative variant of Democracy, but is better qualified and employed as a theory and theoretical framework for assessing and explaining socio-economic and political aberrations in different political systems. However, let us critically examine the second major component of the two-fold “Theory of Demotocracy and Familotocracy”.

B. Familotocracy: Like Demotocracy, Familotocracy as a conceptual and theoretical guide was also DIVINELY-Inspired and intelligently formulated by the Philosopher, Genius, Wiseman and Political Scientist, Dr. Eugene Obiefule Ifeanyichukwu, Who through his Ph.D field work experience in relation to Budget Implementation and Infrastructural Development in Imo State (1999 – 2015) discovered that, the budget implementation process in Imo state especially from 2011 to 2015 was characterized with bureaucratic strangulation cum isolation as well as

executive totalitarianism in addition to portraying the entire budgetary process of formation, formulation, implementation and monitoring as a cliquish, selfish and dictatorial expression of the will and expectations of the political executive (Ifeanyichukwu, 2021, P.6). Familotocracy is the worsening and rottenness of Demotocracy as well as the degeneration and degradation of demotocracy. Familotocracy is a democracy under the dominance and influence of the family members, friends and colleagues of the political executive (Ifeanyichukwu, 2017, Pp.245 -247). Moreover, the concept and theory of Familotocracy is structured in the following simple arithmetic equation: Familotocracy = Demotocracy + Excessive Nepotism

Nevertheless, the concept and theory of Familotocracy as an essential and key aspect of the two-fold theory of “Demotocracy and Familotocracy” is characterized with the following principles and features, namely;

- i. Familotocracy is not Monarchy, but a democracy dominated by strong family members and very

- close friends of the political executive.
- ii. Familotocracy is not only a characteristic of regional, state or national governments, but also a feature of international cum global organizations.
 - iii. Familotocracy is neither communalism nor monarchy because the principle of hereditary governs monarchy while the principles of equity, need and brotherly love govern communalism.
 - iv. In Familotocracy; extreme competition, extreme loyalty, excessive favouritism cum nepotism as well as possession of manipulative skills are the key principles that govern the operations.
 - v. Competition in the manner of intense struggle for recognition among close associates will lead to the selection of the trusted few and loyalty is for secrecy and the protection of the interest of the political executive while manipulative skills will enable the familotocrats or the political

- executive overcome challenges and win the support of the uninformed or ignorant masses.
- vi. Excessive favouritism is the key principle and tool employed by the political leaders in familotocracy to maintain ties of loyalty, love, hardwork and productivity.
 - vii. The prevalence of political fallacies for the purpose of confusing and deceiving the ignorant masses is also a key feature and principle guiding the operations of Familotocracy.

In addition to the above, when political appointments, governance and elections are done based on tribal, ethnic, racist, religious or extreme professional bias, all of these amounted to familotocracy. Moreover, when only a majority of the members of a particular national, tribal, ethnic, religious, racial or professional group are appointed or elected into positions of governance in any society/organization, this is also familotocracy in operation.

From the above assessment of the concept and theory of familotocracy, we can confidently declare that, it is not only qualified as a conceptual guide or as a

subtypology and variant of Demotocracy, but is better qualified and employed as a theory and theoretical framework for assessing and explaining socio-economic and political aberrations in different political systems. Nevertheless, let us briefly examine the major typologies of government before undertaking a comparative assessment between these major typologies of government and the two-fold theory of “Demotocracy and Familotocracy”.

Major Typologies of Government

The following major typologies of government are discussed, namely;

- a. **Democracy:** This is a form of government that is strongly powered by the people, and is of the people and for the people through their elected or selected representatives (Ifeanyichukwu, 2020, P.4). For Aromolaram (1976, Pp.280–284), the following are some fundamental principles associated with Democracies, namely; popular sovereignty, political equality, economic equality, majority rule and popular consultation etc.
- b. **Fascism:** This is an autocratic government that relies on excessive and

extreme nationalism (Ifeanyichukwu, 2020, P.5). According to Aromolaram (1976, P.10), fascism originated in Italy in 1922, and was the name given to the political movement led by Benito Mussolini as well as the regime he eventually established and the body of doctrines that he elaborated. For Aromolaram (1976, Pp.10-11), fascism operates under the following features and principles, namely;

- i. Fascism aims at the establishment of a dictatorial, anti-democratic and anti-parliamentary regime.
- ii. Fascism is authoritarian and anti-materialistic.
- iii. Fascism negates the whole Christian ethics of humanitarianism.
- iv. Fascism believes that, authority and responsibility should flow from top to bottom and not the reverse.
- v. Fascism belittles democracy by seeing it as vulgar and inefficient as well as encouraging the enthronement of the ignorant and incompetent.

- vi. Fascism calls for the subordination of individuals and groups to the state.
 - vii. Fascism believes in the application of terror for securing unquestionable obedience and loyalty to the state.
 - viii. Fascism believes in the maintenance of a one-party state and system.
 - ix. Fascism believes in a near-complete monopoly of the means of force and of communication.
 - x. Fascism believes in an official ideology that covers all aspects of human existence and unto which every member of the Society must submit to.
- c. **Totalitarianism:** Totalitarianism is the complete extension of government control over every aspect of socio-economic and political life of both the individual and group. Under totalitarian regimes, everything is subordinated to the central and total goal of the government including the pursuit of peace and international cooperation. In their conduct of foreign policy, totalitarian governments employ Machiavellian techniques like;
- intemperate languages, threats and spying etc.
 - d. **Aristocracy:** This is a government under the authority and rule of the privileged and wealthy few.
 - e. **Oligarchy:** This is a government by a small and powerful group whose membership is determined more by close affinity to the already and long existing ruling class.
 - f. **Plutocracy:** This is a government in which the rich and wealthy employ economic monopoly and political oligopoly in ruling the populace, and it is an advanced form of Aristocracy and Oligarchy.
 - g. **Statocracy:** This is a model of government that employs military conquests as a major tool for obtaining popular support and could be equated to imperialism.
 - h. **Theocracy:** This is a government by the Divinely-Ordained clergy whose leadership are guided by the commandments of GOD.
 - i. **Gerontocracy:** This is a government under the authority of the aged who are adjudged to possess the requisite wisdom for credible governance.

- j. **Monarchy:** This is a government under the leadership of a King, Queen or Emperor whose family lineage had been the custodian of political power and authority over many years or centuries.
- k. **Nazism:** This is a German version of fascism that was projected by Adolf Hitler between 1933 and 1943, and which revolved around total control of every aspect of citizens' socio-economic and political living in addition to seeking to expand German territory via imperialism.

Theory of Democracy and Familotocracy

- A. **Democracy, Democracy and Familotocracy:** Democracy is government of the people, by the people and for the people. Good governance through obedience to constitutionalism and popular will is the chief goal of democracy. Democracy and Familotocracy on the other hand, are not only sub-typologies of democracy, but also negative variants and anti-thetical to the noble virtues of democracy that are centred around popular sovereignty, political equality, economic equality, majority

rule and popular consultation etc. Critically looking at the features and operational principles (weak legislature and judiciary, covert or overt paramilitary, totalitarianism, anti-parliamentary tendencies, corruption, excessive favouritism and political fallacies etc.) of the two-fold theory of Democracy and Familotocracy, we can see that, they are not only anti-thetical to democratic virtues, but can only be employed as a valuable and intellectually-sound theory for explaining aberrations and corruption in different political systems.

- B. **Fascism, Democracy and Familotocracy:** Fascism is an autocratic type of government that relies heavily on excessive and extreme nationalism. Some of the operational features and principles of fascism are; anti-democratic and anti-parliamentary, high centralization of power or authority, excessive application of force in securing allegiance, one party dictatorship, monopoly of military and communication apparatuses as well as an official ideology etc. A careful look at the above fascist principles and features will identify some differences

and similarities with the two-fold theory of Demotocracy and Familotocracy. For example; anti-democratic, anti-parliamentary and high centralization of power or authority etc., are some of the fascist operational principles of the two-fold theory of Demotocracy and Familotocracy. However, the major difference lies in the fact that, Demotocracy and Familotocracy operate under the cover of Democracy while fascism operates under the cover of autocratic totalitarianism. Moreover, fascism is a political concept that transformed itself into an ideology in political science while Demotocracy and Familotocracy are new political science concepts that have been transformed into the two-fold “Theory of Demotocracy and Familotocracy” in political science.

- C. **Totalitarianism, Demotocracy and Familotocracy:** North Korea and China are classical instances of totalitarian governments while Nigeria under Buhari, Uganda under Museveni, Russia under Putin, Gabon under Bongo’s family, Congo Brazaville under Sassou Nguesso, USA under

Donald Trump and Togo under Eyadema’s family are examples of demotocracies and familotocracies in the contemporary period. However, an obvious similarity between totalitarianism and Demotocracy/Familotocracy is in the subordination of everything to the central and total goal of the government especially in the pursuit of peace and international co-operation, and as was demonstrated in the tracking down and final arrest of both Nnamdi Kalu of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and Sunday Igboho of Oduduwa Republic, all of whom were arrested outside Nigeria through the collaborative efforts of Nigerian and heavily paid foreign security agents. Nonetheless, the area of difference between Demotocracy, Familotocracy and Totalitarianism is on the fact that, totalitarianism often operate under the cover of military despotism, autocracies and dictatorships while Demotocracy and Familotocracies operate under the cover of Democracies.

- D. **Aristocracy, Demotocracy and Familotocracy:** Aristocracy as a

government by the privileged and wealthy few is neither demotocracy nor familotocracy, but is related in the sense that, demotocracy and familotocracy are democracies in decay and in the hands of few totalitarian leadership.

- E. **Oligarchy, Demotocracy and Familotocracy:** Oligarchy as a government by a small and powerful group whose membership is determined more by close affinity to the already and long existing ruling class is related especially to familotocracy which is a democracy under the influence of close family members and friends of the political executive.
- F. **Plutocracy, Demotocracy and Familotocracy:** Plutocracy as government in which the rich and wealthy employ economic monopoly and political oligopoly in ruling the populace is related especially to familotocracy in the area of the use of excessive nepotism by the political executive in allocating resources and positions to their close friends and allies.
- G. **Statocracy, Demotocracy and Familotocracy:** Statocracy as a form of

government that employs military conquests as a major tool for obtaining popular support could be likened to Demotocracy especially in the area of covert or overt para-military units that can be used by the Demotocratic executive in threatening the populace.

- H. **Theocracy, Demotocracy and Familotocracy:** Theocracy as a form of government by the Divinely-Ordained Clergy whose leadership are guided by the commandments of GOD is different from Demotocracy and Familotocracy, but can be deceptively employed by the Demotocrats and Familotocrats who can subordinate everything in the society to such virtues as truth, religion and peace so that they can carry-on with their evil under the cover of these virtues.
- I. **Gerontocracy, Demotocracy and Familotocracy:** Gerontocracy as a form of government by the aged who are adjudged to possess the requisite wisdom for good governance is different from Demotocracy and Familotocracy, but somehow related in the sense that, the political leadership in a Demotocracy and Familotocracy can claim to be aged in wisdom and which

can also be used to tremendously exploit and deceive the ignorant and uninformed.

J. Monarchy, Demotocracy and Familotocracy: Monarchy as a form of government under the leadership of a King, Queen or Emperor whose family lineage had been the custodian of political power and authority over many years or centuries is different from Demotocracy, but a bit related to Familotocracy which is a Democracy under the stronghold and influence of the close family members and friends of the political executive.

K. Nazism, Demotocracy and Familotocracy: Nazism as a form of government that revolves around the total control of every aspect of citizens, socio-economic and political living is not related to familotocracy, but is more related to Demotocracy, which is a democracy under totalitarian and oppressive leadership.

Findings and Implications

- a. Demotocracy and Familotocracy are subtypologies of Democracy.
- b. Demotocracy and Familotocracy are also negative variants of Democracy that must be eradicated or reduced to

the barest minimum if democracy must survive and produce dividends.

- c. Demotocracy and Familotocracy as conceptual frameworks improved their academic values through critical research and which by implication increased their worth, leading to their promotion from conceptual frameworks to the more honourable position of a theory and theoretical framework.
- d. “Theory of Demotocracy and Familotocracy” as a two-fold theory is best employed in explaining aberrations and corruption in various political systems.
- e. That, Demotocracy and Familotocracy are different in some ways and in other ways related to some major typologies of government like; Fascism, Totalitarianism, Aristocracy, Oligarchy, Plutocracy, Statocracy, Theocracy, Gerontocracy, Monarchy and Nazism etc.

Recommendations

- a. That, Demotocracy and Familotocracy as conceptual frameworks have been transformed through critical research into a two-fold theoretical framework known as the “Theory of Demotocracy

and Familotocracy”, and that, this new theory is highly recommended to scholars and for further research.

- b. That, the “Theory of Demotocracy and Familotocracy” should be employed by both scholars and statesmen as a valuable tool and theoretical framework for explaining aberrations and corruption in various political systems.
- c. That, efforts should be made to reduce the impact of Demotocratic and Familotocratic aberrations and practices in different political systems because their reduction or eradication will protect the virtues of Democracy and promote good governance.
- d. That, Political Science scholars, statesmen as well as researchers should carry-out further research in relation to the other major typologies of government, with a view to ascertaining their variants and subtypologies as was done in the case of Democracy, which led to the discovery of “Demotocracy and Familotocracy” as subtypologies and negative variants of Democracy.

Conclusion

The joy and happiness of all academic research and scholarly investigations are rooted in the ability of such endeavours to

generate, create and recreate new ideas that are not only unique, but very capable and valuable in proffering lasting solution to prevailing societal problems and challenges. Hence, scholars and statesmen in politics, political science and the social sciences in general, should undertake a collaborative effort directed toward discovering new ideas that can help in alleviating the sufferings of the masses and move the society forward through good governance.

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