



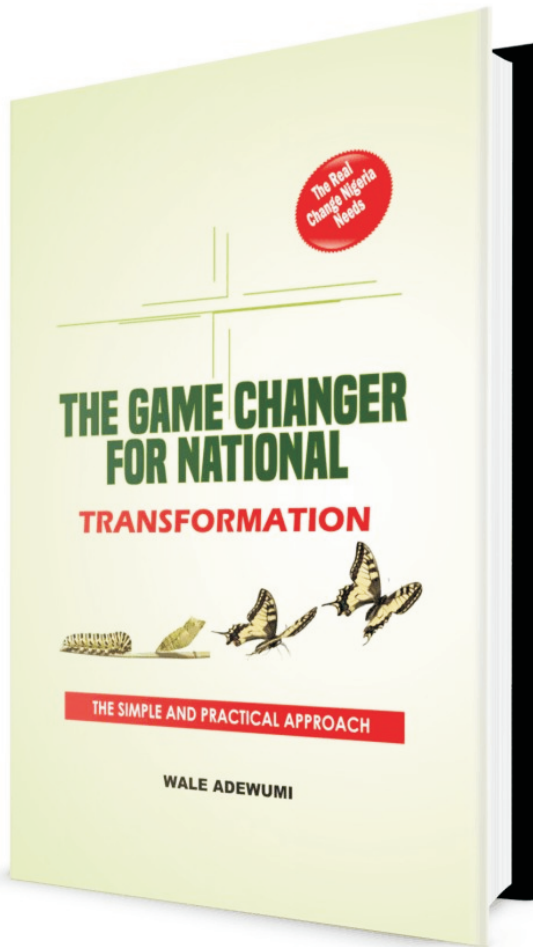
# **THE GAME CHANGER FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION**



**THE SIMPLE AND PRACTICAL APPROACH**

**WALE ADEWUMI**

**INTRODUCTION & CHAPTER 2**



**THE BOOK THAT IS DISRUPTING  
THE POLITICAL TERRAIN  
...OFFERING ANSWERS TOWARD  
THE RECONSTRUCTION OF NIGERIA**

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## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **THE EFFECT**

When water is poisoned at source it will also have the traces of the poison wherever it flows.

What we were handed as a government was a tainted one. Upon this, most governance and leadership were patterned after. Check every tier of government and every sector. We have leaders and people who are there thinking of what they could make out of the system.

The colonial master's primary goal is about how best they could harness their colony with the intent of maximum exploitation. The leaders they breed follow suit.

At the federal level we have been able to raise many presidents who thought the resources of the nation are theirs and to be used as they wish. Many of them successfully diverted huge sum of money for personal gains. To make it worse, they stole their people's money to help the already settled economy of the advanced nations through diverse money laundering tactics. It was a case of an ex Head-of-State whose loots have to be expatriated over and over from different offshore accounts.

This implies that such leaders do not have their people's interest in their heart in the first place. The citizens committed to their care do not matter to them. The programs that see the light of the day are those that have direct benefits to them or the cause they have vested interest in. They are vestiges of the colonial masters.

In the same vein, other national leaders take after the overall head. They share and plunder what rightly belongs to the populace: the colonial master's style of governance. Everybody is looking for the opportunity to plunder and take advantage of the other. We think in terms of "my own" and not "our own". There is no cohesive force of corporate drive for a common laurel and achievement. Each person, every tribe and religion want to outshine without thinking of his fellow's wellbeing. This is the debased mind sold to us and which we kept on propagating. If we keep nourishing our debased mind of personal gain and aggrandizement at the expense of others, we should not expect so much from the system.

We could see the expression of our inordinate propensity for self in diverse ways and forms.

## **Example of the Lawmakers**

Taking a look at the senate, the federal representatives and the State House of Assemblies one would notice that many of the bills passed in one way or the other do not represent the interest of the masses. Often those bills were created to protect or benefit a specific class.

The said lawmakers may want to argue that they are doing great; to these ones I say: talk is cheap - by their fruit you shall know them. No matter the line of defense, it is clear that the common man is not well favoured by most of the bills rolled out.



Nigeria is a wonderland where the laws hardly affect the super rich and powerful; they always have a way out. Don't we wonder about the porosity of the Nigerian laws which seldom affect the high class, the rich, the nobles and the politicians? There was a case of a Nigerian leader who was acquitted by Nigerian law, but the same man was charged and imprisoned in a foreign country on the same charges. Our laws are deliberately designed that way to protect the big guys at the expense of the rest.

Why do you think we have more bills protecting the larger corporations, rich individuals and the powerful? This happens when lawmakers are after personal gains: bribes corrupt good judgment. The conglomerates, multinationals and large firms have a way of paying dues to favour bills that will protect them: even when they are over charging or offering inferior services.

Many of the accursed bills are purported to stifle the growth of the common man, but in a subtle way. I believed that many of our regulatory agencies and controlling agencies are often paid hugely by some mega corporate firm to trample the upcoming under the guise of regulation. These nasty deals are done under the cover of this ill intentioned bills and laws.

Many of the bills and laws around us do not empower the common man; until the common man is empowered the economy will never be liberated. Empowered people build an empowered nation!

Good laws will create enabling environment and equal opportunity for all. But in a corrupt society some people are placed above the law because some powerful lawmakers are induced to tamper with the laws and constitution in a negative way. Somebody may not like what I am saying here, but clearly no name is called; what we want if you are

affected is that you choose to make a change now.

The lawmakers were placed or elected there by the people and for the people but they never saw it that way. Once they get there the negative mindset goes to work: the evil model from the colonial masters that represent its own interest by lording it over its subjects.

It was a sorry expression of a man's faculty to call his subject apes. This was the picture of a colonial master of his colony – he sees them as not better than apes (animals) to be used for personal own end. This therefore portends the colonial masters as bad leaders.

In their footstep we have raised from our own kindred worst leaders bedeviled with reckless pursuit of personal interests.

## **Examples of the Governors**

Coming downward, we have governors of states who believe the state is their personal possession. They give the expression as if they own the people and whatever magnanimity they do is of personal benevolence. It is a common thing for a governor to come on air to blah what he has done as if he used his personal funds to execute projects. Their expression shows that they do not think deep that whatever they do are of duty of theirs, a mandate and rights of the people. Many of these governors go offshore to borrow loans which would put the future generations into bondage.

Why do most of them borrow in the first place? When they borrow, they have access to large fund, with large fund opportunity to “execute project”, to execute project is to gain opportunity to pocket some of these large sum in percentages. Self enriching at the expense of the people!

The colonial masters seem better in this wise: even though they came

to pillage our resources, they left behind durable projects, structures and work. But our own native leaders who are of the same blood are demonically possessed with greed as they loot our common good to the skin.

Things are falling apart because of the height of greed and self centeredness of our leaders; everything falls from the center and decays from the foundation. The whole lot is excited into the race of greed and self.

Nigerian politicians are mostly of the same bunch which includes the lower cadres and tiers: the local government chairmen, political advisers, federal ministers and commissioners. Everyone seems to look for opportunity for personal enrichment.

## **A Problem Rooted in All of Us**

Now to us: many times we are often too quick to point at the leaders as the woe of our dear nation. But looking critically we discovered that the problem of Nigeria is not really a leadership problem but a system failure: using the wrong blueprints to run our affairs; a blueprint that originated with a colonial system of administration.

If it were a leadership problem, Nigeria would by now be settled, re-engineered and healed. All the first generation leaders after the nation's independence from Britain are all dead. Many of the second generation leaders are already leaving the scene, yet leadership is getting worst by the day. The problem is that emerging leaders are getting indoctrinated after the former leader's blueprint: the blueprint that makes the citizens second class and tools to nourish the upper class. A template of



governance that makes the citizens answerable to the leaders and not the other way round, a system that makes servants out of the citizens. As we were saying, the old breeds of leaders are gone, but where do the new breeds of leaders emerged from? They emerged right from our midst.

This implies that Nigeria problem is rooted in all of us!

Here are some instances: going to a government organization, gatemen who are one of the first contacts in an establishment are often known to be notorious for asking for tips from visitors. The office assistant will not allow one to see his boss until you tip him and the files of proposals may become missing until the director knows what is in it for him. Permanent secretary connives with politicians in power to divert or loot the treasury. There is no end to the whims and caprices of civil servants to extort or divert funds. The problem of Nigeria is neither that of politicians nor that of civil servants alone; every sector has its own share.

Taking a look at the religious circle, many of our religious leaders are self-serving from the lowest to the highest echelon. They cash on the vulnerability of their followers to build up their own financial empires using gimmicks and falsehood.

To avoid sounding absolute here about wealth; wealth is good but should not be built at the expense of others.

A man who creates value for others has the right to be rich. It is a good thing to be rich while we bring solution to our world, but it becomes evil when we try to become rich by making life difficult for others through subversive means. A Bill Gates wealth is the right kind, a robber's wealth is the wrong kind because no value is exchanged for the wealth gotten.



I have heard of terrible stories of policemen ransacking dead accident victims to collect money and valuables. Should we go so bad and reckless in our quest for personal gain?

Our security personnel depending on the power of the gun would often use violence and force to have their ways. Altogether, they have forgotten that they are there for the rest citizens and for a time.

The cabman who takes advantage of his passenger is not different. Give him bigger responsibility he will act in the same way; in the spirit of lording it over others.

Many lecturers would do anything possible to sleep with the female students under their tutelage and they would intimidate any male student who trespasses around their female choices. This act has led to many students being failed or withdrawn from schools. Instead of using their position for the good of mankind, they utilize it as means for taking advantage of others. In the same token, they extort others through unjustified sales of lecture materials. This is a group of enlightened calibre from whom much is expected.

I remembered one of my lecturers, an old man who stooped so low that he would have wanted me expelled from the university. He would, if he had his way, get me bundled with cultists. His problem was that a female friend whom he was interested in moved him to envy, he thought in his heart that I was her lover. This was a mere assumption which could have cost an innocent person his education.

The traders and business men also have a way of short-changing the people. Their greed is one of the drivers of inflation in our society. A little fluctuation in the chain of demand and supply often reflect in pricing, this tells why prices may never be stabilized relatively for a long time. In Nigeria, most prices that go up seldom come down because our price increase is a bandwagon type. The following has

been noted centrally as influencing pricing significantly in this part of the world: salary increment, fuel price and exchange rate. These three factors are strong indices all over the world, but there should be proportionality and justification. In Nigeria, most price action is outrageous and reflecting our mindset to take advantage of situations.

Labour groups, unions and associations have become another terrible sector. In every sense of bargaining, each side should have what to bring to the table for mutual benefit. The existence of labour groups has been serving a lopsided benefits which are about bargains for increase in salary and benefits. The other side of bargains which relate to standardization of output and productivity is often overlooked. You cannot get something with nothing to give in exchange; without equitable exchange there will be collapse of a system, it is just a matter of time. We have corporations closed down because of the insensitivity of the labour group to justify salary increase with productivity.

The economy of any nation is a reflection of the type of labour group that exist within it: consumption oriented or production oriented. The roles of the labour group in revamping an economy cannot be over-emphasized. We can easily tell what kind of labour groups we have in the nation by the health of the economy.

Zeroing upon the labour groups leaders, we have also seen on the increase their self-serving tendency. They do not bargain in the interest of their followers most of the time. Instead they subvert their followers to achieve their own sinister gains; they cunningly wrestle for gains from the employers and the government by employing hundreds and thousands of naïve followers through strike actions.

We need honest and sincere labour group leaders to advance the

nation; I mean labour leaders that empower their followers and not their own greed.

The list would go on without restrain: Every sector, group and individual has in one way or the other contributed to where we are presently as a nation. The sum of the individual component makes up the whole; to absolve you of all responsibility makes you shallow, irresponsible and ordinary. Take up responsibility and make your sphere of contact much better than you met it. It is time you truly live. Most of us are often too quick to point an accusing finger to the government, politicians and leaders as our problems for underdevelopment. But we should begin to think in a balanced way that the leaders emerge from within us and that whatever dominant characters and vices they display are reflection of the whole.

If we all make up our minds to do things right, become considerate and begin to serve a cause that is beyond us, things will change. Let us take our eyes away from what others have to do but looking inward to what we have to offer. Whatever we want from others starts from us.

## **SHIFT TOWARDS PRODUCTIVITY**

The biggest problem of Nigeria is not corruption per se, and it is not ethnicity, tribalism or division and it is not even terrorism. Our biggest problem is our apathy to productivity; lacking in capacity to contribute meaningfully to the development of our ends.

Productivity is the hub of development and growth of any nation, it should be a top priority and focus of any government that is sincere in giving quality state of living to her people.

Productivity is the discipline of laboring to improve the state of things by being given to tasks that evolve into a better form, degree and

output. Productivity helps to transform an individual, people and nation. Productivity is what pushes the stone aged man from living in the thick forest as barbarian into the present civilized form; this civilization has given man saner society with unparalleled infrastructures and easier life than the previous generations.

Every day, the rest of the world is adding new beauty to the world we are living in. The mind of man is creating better ways of governance. Technology through human ingenuity is improving lives. It has affected food production, housing, transportation, communication and has further improved virtually every area of human endeavour. The productive minds make the world a better place to dwell in.

We might be happy to be in the world to enjoy all these opportunities. The question that should unsettle us is this: How relevant are we to these changes? What is our contribution to the improvements we see? What is our contribution in evolving better governance in the world? What do we give back in exchange to the immense technologies imported to us in Africa?

It is act of irresponsibility when a grown up man go to his neighbor eat and wipe his mouth only to appear next day knocking for more. The mature and responsible farmer when given bread will look for yam or cassava to give back.

If Nigeria and the leadership want to become responsible, they must begin to think of what to give productively to the rest of the world. This is the only way we can improve bilateral relationships with nations, gain their respect and ushered into prominence as a key nation.

#### Pleasure Without Labour Leads To Slavery

Nothing enslaves a man like the propensity to get things done to him free of charge. The desire to have things for free has enslaved us in

many ways.

We are spiritually enslaved when we think our moral bankruptcy can be relegated and without consequence. It is lack of wisdom to think that we can act against the law of justice and still have peace. Our spiritual wholeness begins when we realize that doing things right is the bedrock of every desirable transformation we will ever need. Spiritual slavery begins when we lack morality attuned toward good work. The natural world is designed in such a way that we cannot get anything for nothing; there is a price to greatness whether spiritually or physically.

In politics, Nigeria will continue to recycle bad leaders until it costs us our (personal) money, time and efforts to get credible people up there. As long as we still yield to take gifts from politicians we will continue to be blinded and bias in our choice of who leads us. There is no free money. Once you are used to taking money from politicians before you vote them into power, then never expect or dream of quality leaders around.

In the same light, Nigeria will never be free from the clutches of poverty if we continue to be the recipients of aids and supports from the rest of the world. Strong nations give, weak nations receive. In the same light, a nation that tilts towards consumerism is tending towards poverty. No policy formulation or government intervention programs will be capable of saving a consumer oriented society.

This is why every society that wants to kiss greatness must become productive in every sense of it. To desire greatness without equal sacrifice towards being productive is like having clouds without rain. Every effort that would bring a backward society into prominence must start with being productive.

Why not be critical enough as we confront the truth, this is the only means to sincerely transform the nation. Go to the average standard homes, more than ninety of the appliances are imported goods. Many of our factory tools are imported so are the technologies by which we run our smallest businesses. If overnight, the rest of the world agree to stop the flow of their aids and technology, can we survive even for a moment? We need to reflect deeply on this.

We cannot keep the consumerist spirit and expect to be free. Without our own technology, inventions and reserved funds we will continue to play the second fiddle in the comity of nations.

The much touted fight against corruption is good but it will not be a long win without visiting the foundational problem, moving from a society that wants free things to a nation that is vitally productive in all sectors.

## **The Idle Mind**

The idle mind is said to be the workshop of the devil. When a man is not engaged in productive ventures he will get himself occupied with low and ordinary activities which usually are inimical to his wellbeing and the society.

Unproductive people are often sullen, lacking in morale and habitually frustrated or depressed. They often don't have reasons for being alive, so they don't have much at stake. This is why they are easily engaged in nefarious activities such as robbery, hooliganism and terrorism.

Most of the end tools of terrorism are unleashed by jobless, idle and low status people. When one has nothing at stake, he is an easy tool for evil mercenaries.

Once a society becomes productive and the individuals in it are engaged; crime naturally abate. A productive society does not breed crimes. Therefore, there is a strong correlation between crime and joblessness.

## **The Light Versus Darkness Analogy**

Darkness is what you have when there is no light. Put on the light and you have the darkness disappeared. Most of what we refer to as national problems indicate the absence of a fundamental. When a society becomes productive, most of its challenges automatically disappears. When a society is not productive, it is like having the light of that nation goes off so vices (darkness) takes over.

Corruption does not grow unilaterally; it appears because something is missing. When people don't want to sweat but want the good life, they generally create corrupt channels to satisfy their needs. Lack of productivity makes us seek rewards without input. We want greatness without responsibility and money without work.

Subsidy, government interventions, largesse, unmerited appointments and malpractice are some ways we often employ to want to things free. The more a society is inclined as such, the more they kill the productive spirit of the citizens.

The average citizen has the entitlement mentality. Such citizens believe that Nigeria is there to serve them, while they don't think on why they must serve the nation. This rubs off on every sector of the nation. This is the beginning of our problem as a people as everyone, tribe, people and religion look out for how to take advantage of the others.

It is the other way round for a productive people and society; they often work hard seeking for avenue to give to the world.





The important task should be: How do we marshal the populace into a synchronized force to deliver the good needed? This should begin with a new mind set, a shift in the way we think and this will affect the core of our thinking.

No nation of the world will prioritize the development of another nation. They will always give out from their leftovers. No economic bailout has ever been enough to ease a nation's needs this is why if there is anything a nation ought to do; it is to raise productive citizens.

Finally, the paradigm shift should move towards becoming a productive society and we will look back and realize that the many challenges of our society will be gone just as easily light replaces darkness.

You can get the complete book from chapter 1 to 10 at  
[www.thegamechangerproject.org](http://www.thegamechangerproject.org)

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**THE GAME CHANGER FOR  
NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION**  
*The Real Change Nigeria Needs*

Wale Adewumi presents a compelling anatomy of bottom-up change as panacea for national transformation, creating a paradigm shift towards governance and effective ideological transfer.

It is a book for those who want to grow in influence, create a boomerang and sustain the tempo of transformation in an amazing way. It is a book for leaders of leaders, compelling the leader in you; an irresistible and riveting book, a pointer to a magnificent world in our time.

Follow through, be transformed and get set to transform the next generation.

**Warning:** Reading this book will change you!

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WALE ADEWUMI's passion for nation building project has spanned about two decades. He has pioneered and contributed to a number of campaigns.

He is always developing contents and strategies toward transformation leadership. This book is an outcome of about 20 years work.

He is a social entrepreneur, a consultant, speaker, advisor and prolific writer with more than 20 books (published and unpublished scripts) to his name.

**Wale** goes beyond repeating the old fad that does not work in nation building.

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