

Editorial

Navigating Globalist Influences and Ideological Pressures: The Past, Present, and Future of Media and Communication in Nigeria's Journey

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Cite this article

Soyombo, O., Soyombo, T., & Gautreaux, R. J. (2025). Navigating Globalist Influences and Ideological Pressures: The Past, Present, and Future of Media and Communication in Nigeria's Journey. *Journal of Global Perspectives in Communication and Media*, 1(1), 6. <https://jgpcm.org/articles/v1i1-editorial-nigeria/>

Published

March 2025

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Article page

<https://jgpcm.org/articles/v1i1-editorial-nigeria/>

This file was reissued on 22 September 2026. The article text and page numbers are unchanged from the issue as first published. This cover page was added, and a running production footer printed on every page of the original issue file was removed. See <https://jgpcm.org/corrections/> for details.



Navigating Globalist Influences and Ideological Pressures: The Past, Present, and Future of Media and Communication in Nigeria's Journey

A Foreword by Olatunde Soyombo, Terricia Soyombo, and Ryan Gautreaux

Stepping onto the train from Lagos to Ibadan is stepping into a new chapter of Nigeria's story. Chinese subtitles scroll beneath Hollywood action films on the overhead screens, foreign telecom signals connect our phones, and the train line itself—constructed by Chinese crews—all suggest a nation at the crossroads of a new type of trade among high-stakes international ideologies.

Our Nigerian elders recounted tales of British rule, when education excelled but colonial strings were firmly attached, making it hard not to reflect on how Nigeria's past and future converge with these stark international features.

Today, Nigeria's position as a leader in West Africa reflects the region's broader shifts. As ECOWAS challenges economic influence and neighbouring nations question decades of Western influence, Nigeria navigates complex partnerships with new global powers who are often ideologically at odds. These partnerships, whether reshaping networks or building infrastructure, offer opportunities but also introduce risks of new dependencies, even surveillance opportunities. Nigerians have been shaped by a history of resilience and face these choices with informed rationality, yet the question remains: can these alliances empower the country, or will they replicate the troubling dynamics of the past?

If we focus on the key role of media and communication in its various dimensions, we are offered insight into how these forces shape Nigeria's unfolding story. When we amplify insightful perspectives and shed light on evolving media relationships, we can uncover promise as well as folly and propose pathways forward. With the right lens, we can uncover what it means for a nation to reclaim its narrative amidst the static in a new era of globalist pressures.