Abstract: This paper examines the necessity of traditional sociocultural systems for stability and security in Nigeria. Despite the incorporation of Western values into traditional social institutions, indigenous values remain strong. Further, the mixture of traditional and Western values has created dilemmas which affect stability and security in Nigerian society. Traditional communities that are on the receiving end of development projects may accept, reject, or partially accept and partially reject the imposition of external values, as exemplified in the case of a World Bank goat breeding project in Brazil. The authors conclude that the indigenous knowledge system is very important and should be utilized to promote stability, security and development. Models of the creative use of culture for promoting stability and security include the African kinship system, extended family networks, and integrity, traditional militia organizations and the Obudu Youth Movement, and the Harambee model of solidarity in Kenya.