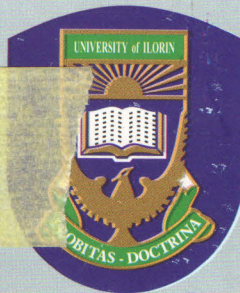


ALÓRE

VOL. 24, 2015



79-93

ILORIN JOURNAL OF THE HUMANITIES

ISSN: 0794-4551

ALÓRE

ILORIN JOURNAL OF THE HUMANITIES

Vol. 24, 2015

ISSN 0794-4551

Alóre: Ilorin Journal of the Humanities publishes papers of about 6000 words from any relevant discipline in the humanities. The journal is published in English, but contributions may be made in other languages. For details, see Notes for Contributors.



Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria,
2015

Published by:

The Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin, once a year.

Subscription Rates Per Annum:

	USA	CANADA	UK	EUROPE
Individual:	\$27	C\$30	£12	€18
Institutions:	\$37	C\$38	£20	€25

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THE IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBALISATION ON SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY OF BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY AND NIGER DELTA MILITANCY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

One of the most important and widely discussed ideologies that were initiated in the later part of the last millennium is globalisation. Globalisation is as a result of the advancement in communication and information technology, which has helped in the integration of different cultural, social, religious and economic activities across national boundaries. With the advancement of globalisation also came a lot of opportunities that facilitated growth and development in Nigeria. Despite tremendous benefits of globalisation, no meaningful development has occurred in Nigeria with the spate of insurgency in different parts of Nigeria. In the last seven years, since 2009 to be precise, Nigeria has been battling with insecurity as a result of insurgency, and this has become the major social problem in the country. Radicalisation and violent extremism have been at the root of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. This has threatened the survival of the Nigerian nation. Boko Haram insurgency has also resulted in massive loss of lives and property including mass movement of people from the North Eastern region of Nigeria to other parts of Nigeria, resulting in more social pressure and challenges for individuals, families and the country. Kidnapping, indiscriminate and senseless killing of Nigerians, armed robbery, business closure and

militancy in the Niger Delta region, had been the major security tasks for the government before the problem of the Boko Haram insurgency was added to the list of our national challenges. This paper takes a historic-structural, multi-disciplinary approach and analytic views of this menaces and concludes that these socio-economic and political problems are as a result of the short-changing of Nigerians by the colonial masters and their current Nigerian cohorts in power.

Keywords: Globalisation, Security, Development, Insurgency, Militancy

Introduction

Globalisation, security and development in the 21st century have become a challenge, as a result of insurgency in the North Eastern part of Nigeria and in the Niger Delta, kidnapping, robbery and militancy have been the problem. Globalisation has been seen as one of the driving forces, which have fostered global economy, technology and communication across countries. As a result it has intensified criminal activities as a fall-out of its massive popularity in Nigeria. The Boko Haram insurgency and the Niger Delta militancy and criminality, are responsible for the major security challenges in Nigeria. The Boko Haram, a group that was formerly underground for several years and known as *Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lid da'awati Wal-jihad* (congregation of the people of tradition for proselytism and Jihad), has imposed monumental insecurity challenges with displacement of Nigerian citizens in the North East of Nigeria. Boko Haram means western education is forbidden (Murtada, 2013: 254-255). It should be noted that the Boko Haram activities kept re-emerging frequently in the North East of Nigeria, leaving a lot of individuals dead and displaced. The Niger Delta militancy, comprising different groups, has emerged as a result of perceived inadequate compensation for environmental degradation by the multinational companies involved in the exploration of oil and gas in the area. The discourse on the Niger Delta militancy and Boko Haram

insurgency has taken a new dimension with increasing criminality showing that Nigeria is confronted with security challenges (Olasupo, 2013: 149-150)

Conceptualisation of Globalisation, Security and development in Nigeria

Globalisation is the increasing integration of social, political, economic and even cultural values across the world. Many scholars such as (Onimisi, 2014: 80) have focused their attention on globalisation and security as it reflects the activities of the Boko Haram insurgency. Globalisation is also seen as a process of integration of economic and decision-making such as consumption, investment and saving all across the world (Ogbonnaya, 2013: 59-60). Paulo (1998: 10) views globalisation as a process of increasing global integration which has accelerated dramatically in the technology within countries. (Ogbonnaya 47) also see globalisation as a process of integrating culture, economy, governance and technology. (Adesina, 2012: 192-193), defines globalisation as telecommunication infrastructure, becoming a global village across borders, like internet facilities, telephone and satellite networks; these are tools for facilitation of globalisation. This goes to show that global crime, kidnapping, internet fraud, criminal arms and ammunition deals, human and currency trafficking, insurgency and ethnic crisis are all associated and enhanced by globalisation. According to (Davies, 2013: 1), globalisation has affected security and resulted in inter-boarder activities and relationships among member countries. Globalisation, in spite of her positive effects on security and development, also has its consequences of translating to terrorism and other criminal activities in Nigeria (United Nations, 2013: 7-21). Odeh (2013: 45) asserts that globalisation is a mono economic block, whereby different countries and different economic policies are found to be

extending their tentacles outside their immediate environment. The World Bank views globalisation as the growing integration of economics and societies around the world. Since globalisation reflects the integration of countries, it shows that security, economics, politics and culture, among others, are also integrated into the society. This has made it easier and quicker for criminal activities which have led to insurgency in the North East and Niger Delta area (World Bank, 2001: 9-30). The World Trade Organisation defines globalisation as a historical stage of accelerated expansion of market capitalism, like the one experienced in the 19th century with industrial revolution. It is also viewed as a fundamental transformation in societies, because of the technological revolution which has led to a recombining of economic and social forces on a new territorial dimension (Lamy, 2006). From all ramifications, security is a big challenge in Nigeria, and all efforts to stop the activities of Boko Haram insurgents and other militant groups, have not yielded the desired results in terms of peace and security in Nigeria. Be that as it may, while other countries are benefiting from globalisation, Nigeria has continued to reap the bad fruits of globalisation in the form of insecurity, corruption, drug trafficking and human trafficking, among others.

Nigeria is one of the countries with enormous natural resources and potentials, which has not grabbed the global economic opportunities provided by globalisation because of imperialistic tendencies (Salimono, 1999: 1). Globalisation connotes the linking of the world into becoming a single entity through the development of strategies/systems to turn the whole world into a global village, which has allowed interconnectivity across borders linking nations. Unfortunately, this interconnectivity has allowed free flow of arms and ammunitions into the hands of criminal groups like the Boko Haram sect, the Niger Delta militant groups, and many other criminal groups

who have continued to use arms to undermine the peaceful co-existence of various groups in Nigeria, thereby causing the challenge of insecurity and underdevelopment in Nigeria (Anifowose, 1991: 86-102). The aim of this paper therefore is to examine the impact of globalisation on security and development of Nigeria, using the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East, as well as the Niger Delta militancy in Nigeria as case study.

Globalisation and Security in Nigeria

Globalisation is one of the terms used to describe the fast growing integration of different countries economically, socially and politically. Globalisation has dramatically been demonstrated in the growth of technology and information in Nigeria, one of the characteristics of globalisation is the interconnectivity among countries. It should be noted that the process of globalisation is not restricted to the economy, but also to the advancement of information technology, which has led to easy communication even for criminal activities (Baylis, 2001, p.45). This had also resulted in the enthronelement of security and development in Nigeria, among the top agenda of government responsibilities. What could be considered as worrisome in globalisation is the Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM). This is almost everywhere in Nigeria, and the industry is growing at a fast rate, and this system is also facilitating crime. It is worrisome that even children of age fifteen use mobil phones to perpetrate crime in Nigeria. For example, some of the young Boko Haram members use GSM and internet facilities in communicating and passing information among themselves, on how to perpetrate criminal activities in different areas of Nigeria (Hamzat: 2015).

Security

Security refers to a condition of not being threatened, especially physically, psychologically, emotionally and financially. That is to say a country that enforces laws, rules and regulations, as well as maintaining the rule of law can be seen as a country free from insecurity. According to Held (1998: 220-234), security can equally be viewed as the fall-out within the domain of military force. His emphasis was on taking caution on all aspects of security in Nigeria. Security can also be seen as the military capability to overcome internal and external attacks. In talking about security in Nigeria, it is necessary to ask if Nigeria is free from security threat. The answer is, “No!”. That is why, it is pertinent to look at the security situation or security threats in Nigeria.

One of the security challenges in Nigeria is the Boko Haram insurgency. It is a terrorist organisation based in the North Eastern region of Nigeria. Boko Haram literally means Western education is evil, and it is a Jihadist group, whose activities are said to have begun in Bauchi State. Radicalisation and violent extremism have been at the root of the Boko Haram insurgency. The sect bombed churches, schools, market places and police stations, among others, especially in Abuja, the Federal Capital of Nigeria, Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states (Shehu, 2011: 13-35). The Nigeria national security issues, like the shedding of blood by the Boko Haram sect, have become major problems in Nigeria, especially the bombing that occurred in Nyanya motor Park, and other places at the outskirts of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja. (Onimisi, 2014). Many factors have been implicated to be responsible for the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East of Nigeria. For instance, Adesoji (2010: 96-100) claims that issues of imbalance and marginalisation are the causes of poverty in Nigeria, and these are some of the reasons different groups have emerged in Nigeria

causing insecurity and loss of lives. The incessant ethno-religious crises that Nigeria has witnessed for over three decades can also, to some extent, be attributed to the multi-ethnic and multi-religious configuration of Nigeria. Some of the militant attacks and insurgency are politically motivated, while others may have religious, social or economic undertone (Babatunde 2014: 60).

Globalisation has enhanced the activities of this organisation because of interconnectivity that has boosted their criminal activities. Money is transferred to the Boko Haram in Nigeria through electronic banking by foreign-based groups that have sympathy for the Boko Haram movement. But there is no strong evidence to support the claim (Shehu, 2011, pp.13-35). The activities of the Boko Haram movement have led to deleterious consequences on the Nigerian state. For example, many policemen, soldiers including civilians were killed and public properties destroyed. The activities of the Boko Haram have spread from the Northern part of Nigeria up to the Federal Capital, Abuja. The organisation has carried out a lot of attacks in the markets, churches, motor parks, mosques, military barracks, schools, police stations, television viewing centres, government agencies and the United Nations building in Abuja. This terrorist organisation, whose aim is not very clearly defined, has endangered security in Nigeria, with the spate of bombings and killings. It has shown that the organisation is an evil group (Yakubu, 2010: 13). The Boko Haram insurgency has led to massive dislocation and movement of Nigerians, both young and old, from various ethnic groups, from the North Eastern region of Nigeria to the other parts of the country, as well as to neighbouring countries such as Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

Another factor that has been a great threat to the security and development of Nigeria is the Niger Delta militancy. There are several militant groups in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria that have brought about insurgency and instability in the area.

There is the Niger Delta Volunteer Force, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta and Movement for the Survival of the Ijaw Ethnic Nationality, among others. Some of these groups and their splinter organisations are into kidnapping of foreign oil workers, as well as other Nigerians. They have now extended their kidnapping to wealthy and influential Nigerians like the king of Ubulu-Uku Kingdom in Aniocha North LGA of Delta State HRM Obi Edward Offulue who was recently killed by kidnappers, a retired academic and the present traditional ruler, Late Albert Adeoye Ileobade, a former Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology Akure was kidnapped and eventually murdered, among several other prominent individuals. It should be stated also that because of the lack of adequate compensation from the multinationals to the communities in the areas of their operation, atrocities like kidnapping of foreign workers, politicians and some of the prominent indigenes in the area appear to be aided and abetted by the local communities. Since the inception of these groups, tension has been rising in the Niger Delta region and kidnapping has become the order of the day, and also a means of livelihood for some of the unemployed youths. This has shown that unemployment has a negative effect on national security and development in Nigeria (Akpan, 2010: 33-42). Multinationals are exploitative and oppressive to the communities where they operate. This in a way contributed to the conflicts between them and the communities in the Niger Delta region (Bakare, 2010: 30).

Development in Nigeria

It is important to note that development means so many things to different people. Many scholars have also seen development in different perspectives. Adeniyi (1999, pp.57-61) sees development as a social change, which means there is always transformation in any society. It also means that the

economic, political, cultural and social behaviour of a society is constant to change. According to Okobiah (1984, pp.20-45), development is a process of political, economic and social change which moves towards the betterment of the society. It is important to note that the development of any society should improve the quality of the standard of living of the people. It is imperative, therefore, that Social development, political development, cultural development and economic development should move at a faster rate because of globalisation (Okobiah 1984). In Nigeria today, the benefits of globalisation are yet to be harnessed, rather, information technology has been turned to a global configuration of evil, whereby most of these groups use technology to destroy their land and people. They use their handsets to communicate and to map out strategies on how to bomb a target or kidnap an individual (Friedman, 1995, pp.20-21). Advancement of globalisation is not only in integration or interdependency, but also leads to ethnic violence, global criminal arms deals and trafficking, among others. That is the reason, Yusuf (2003) emphasises that despite the advantages of globalisation, globalisation is also associated with numerous problems. Some of these problems are the illicit transaction of small arms and light weapons, illegal drug trafficking and terrorism, which have all increased violent conflicts between and among groups in Nigeria. Typical examples are the Boko Haram insurgency and the Niger Delta militancy which are the focal point of this paper.

Another negative impact of globalisation on the Nigeria state, is the subjecting of the country to European ideologies, which has made the Europeans to be indirectly governing Nigeria's economic, political, cultural and even social affairs. More than five decades after independence, there is no consensus on the legacy of colonialism, because Nigeria is yet to find her feet as a country (Smith, 1990: 188). Some of the European

countries such as the United States of America, Britain, and France, among others, are controlling Nigeria through the multinationals, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and some of the big communication companies with facilities like, internet access and the global system of mobil communication GSM. Satellite cables like cable-television, video CDs and the radio are fast influencing the culture of Nigerians, thereby making Nigerians to adopt a violent culture and intolerance (Ya'u Yunusa, 2004, pp.98-124). On the other hand, the insurgents and militants have also used cable television to gather information and carry out their nefarious activities, using information technology as an enabler (Otu, 2015).

Some of these agents of neo-colonialism foster insecurity, and could also bring about a change of government to their favour. The home countries of these agents, such as United States of America, make financial and trade policies that make it impossible for proper growth and development to take place in Nigeria (Babatunde, 2016). The neo-liberation policies put in place by the IMF and World Bank were to further exploit Nigeria and other developing countries (Onimode, 2010: 2-45).

Impact of Boko Haram Insurgency and Niger Delta Militancy, on the Development of the Nigerian State

This menace has gone a long way in affecting and contributing to the down turn in the economy of Nigeria. The most worrisome factor is the relocation of most of the individuals from the affected areas to other parts of Nigeria as internally displaced persons (IDPs). Currently, there are about one million, five hundred and thirty eight thousand, nine hundred and eighty two IDPs and 40 to 60 percent of them are women and children (Norwegian Refugee council: 2014). The figures of the internally displaced people may not be accurate, because almost on a daily basis, the insurgency is still raging on in the North East of the

country. The activities of the Boko Haram have destroyed the socio-economic activities in the North Eastern region of Nigeria. The destruction of lives and property has been on the increase since the new government was inaugurated in May 2015. The North Eastern part of Nigeria is economically paralysed, because most businesses have been short down, even schools and government agencies have also been closed down. It has also affected the posting of National Youth Service Corp members to some of these areas. Dismantling and routing this group have been a major problem, even for the new and determined administration of President Muhammadu Buhari. The socio-economic implications of insurgency in Nigeria may remain for decades, even after the Boko Haram has been defeated and completely routed, because the devastation of the economic, social, cultural, political and religious life of the people has been monumental (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre: 2015). It should also be noted that the economy of any country depends on adequate security of that country. Globalisation has not yet fully impacted its advantages on the Nigeria economy, because the economy is still underdeveloped, as evidenced by a high level of insecurity, low trade, unemployment, poverty and poor communication. In order for Nigeria to develop and harness the full advantages of globalisation, efforts should be made to develop human capital, ensure good management of the country's resources and prevent insurgency in the country. Above all, good governance, transparency and accountability are necessary for a better and competitive development. This should be in line with the global best practices.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the paper has attempted to examine globalisation, security and development in Nigeria, especially bringing to the fore the nexus between the concepts of

globalization, security and development. The menace of the Boko Haram and the Niger Delta militancy have been sources of hindrance to the development and security of the Nigerian State. The war against terrorism in Nigeria has not yielded much success, more funding and training of military personnel should be encouraged. Globalisation as a tool for development has turned to be a mirage in the economy because of its imperialistic tendency; it has aided criminal activities in Nigeria. Efforts should, therefore, be made by the government of Nigeria and Nigerians at large to harness the benefits of globalisation so as to bring prosperity to all and sundry in Nigeria.

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