

[6]

GLOBALISATION AND SECURITY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Olatunji Eniola Sule

Management Department, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria
olasem2005@yahoo.com

Dr. Edwinah Amah

Management Department, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria
Edwinah4christ@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study examined how globalisation affects security, with particular reference to Nigeria. It focuses on its meaning, historical perspective and the social, political, as well as economic effects of its security on nations, with specific reference to developing countries. The study also considers the managerial implications of globalisation and security in Sub-Saharan African countries. The study is in the form of a literary review and is exploratory in nature. It recommends that less developed countries with security challenges as a result of globalisation, should objectively reassess the phenomenon and be proactive about designing security blueprints considering current trends, and the development of indigenous technology to enhance the competitive-ness of local institutions and enterprises, in addition to exporting such technology to other developing countries.

Key Words: Sub-Saharan security; foreign aid; financial grant; managerial implications; security; technology.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Industrial Revolution has led several nations to abandon a craftsman production system for mass production. A craftsman production system is where one person starts the production system and completes it all alone, and mass production is where an individual repeatedly makes just an aspect of the manufacturing process by using large machines and equipment. However, towards the commencement of that era in Nigeria, certain people in the South-Eastern region saw it as a continuous way of invoking slavery. Sule and Ugoji (2013) established that the Ibo tribe from the South-Eastern part of Nigeria, looked at it as *Olu Oyibo* (white man's work) and it was alien to them and in contrast to their self-employed and craftsman's way of carrying out their jobs.

The situation would have been redeemable if this revolution was only occurring in their country, but rather it is a global phenomenon from which there is no return. One of the results of the Industrial Revolution was the commencement of inter-border trades and businesses. Okwandu and Jaja (2000) postulated that international business is facilitated when an exchange of goods, services, technology, and even managerial ideas occur across national frontiers.

With the advent of international trade, most countries have access to those products that are not produced in their country. A good example of this is the use of cellular phones instead of the old wired telephone the colonial masters brought to Africa. The use of Internet services later led to social media applications like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp and many more, compared to the telegram messages of old. With all these facilities, doing business across the border was made easier. It also enhanced human relations among government and people, governments of nations and with individuals. Adesina (2012) submitted that global telecommunication infrastructure which includes satellite networks, the Internet and wireless phones can be credited to globalisation. This technology has brought major transformations in world communication and without access to these facilities countries would be excluded from world development. At the same time, it comes with a national system and personal security, which nullify other merits derived from such technology.

Again, as the international trade brought about trade between and across nations, the movement of people across borders followed and now we have

what is referred to as the mobility of people across the globe which is accompanied by cultural exchanges, technological transfer, etc. Perhaps, this was the commencement of what is today referred to as *globalisation*.

2. CONCEPT CLARIFICATION

So many reasons have been adduced for the benefits of globalisation. Nonetheless, this work will look into some factors considered essential and germane. The Industrial Revolution that started around 1770 in Britain could be the key reason for globalisation which at the same time makes a mockery of the ancient craftsmen's manufacturing style. As such, production capacities escalated beyond citizens' consumption rates. Therefore, more than ever, such products were exported to neighbouring and other countries interested in these products. This explains the emergence and encouragement of global marketplace incorporation in modern years (Garrett, 2000). Garrett (2000) believes that we are returning to the great era of internationalisation of the economic activities of the 20th century.

2.1 Globalisation

Since the 1990s when we started hearing about globalisation, so many definitions of globalisation have been given by various authors. Kilic (2015) opined that according to World Trade Organisation (WTO) "Globalisation is the integration of capital, investment and labour markets or its integration with world markets." Shenkar and Luo (2004:199) referred to globalisation as the interdependencies of economic growth in countries worldwide through cross-border increases in the volumes and variety of transactions in goods and services as well as transnational investment flows where technology and information diffusion became rapid and widespread.

Globalisation is an off-shoot of transnational trade, although international trade is specifically about business between nations. Divorcing international trade from globalisation would, however, be difficult.

2.2 Security

Security could be described as physical, psychological, emotional or financial threaten conditions. Again, it could denotes secured something. Security was viewed by Lippman (1944) as the capability of a nation to guide her core values by not sacrificing her core values in order to avoid

going to war with another nation and also, maintaining them to win war. Sailer and Trevors (2010) postulated that “security is a central human concern that includes numerous sub-listings. We often think of economic security, national security, energy security, nuclear security, cyber security, democratic and civil rights security, personnel security and health care security as some examples”.

However, there used to be two ways to every coin as such globalisation in this study perspective comes with both security and insecurity, though the two words might be used interchangeably to denote the same meaning. This study will dwell more on the insecurity of nations, individuals and the system as a result of economic, social and political effects of globalisation.

3. GENERAL CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF GLOBALISATION

The innovation of technological advances has affected the production and transport costs of such products around the globe with shrinkages seen in time and space. This enhanced Industrial Revolution has enabled the easy movement of products and labour mobility. Garrett (2000) submits that international financing and multinational trade is more accessible as transactional innovations are now available on a 24-hour basis.

Furthermore, with technology, mobility and interaction have increased among people. The easiest and fastest transportation mode before Nigeria’s independence was through sea travel until aeroplanes made travelling more convenient and quicker than before.

Focusing on the manufacturing of products provides a competitive advantage over other nations and might be another reason for globalisation. This study discusses the effect of globalisation on three viewpoints, that is, political, social, and economic, on the nation and individual security. The big nations, particularly those that were colonial masters benefitted from globalisation and also, many of those nations colonised earlier still suffer adversely from the implications of globalisation.

Again, the first unfortunate thing that came with globalisation was the segregation of states into two distinct sets as the north and south nations, underdeveloped and developed countries, master and servant, centre and periphery, the wealthy and the poor, the progressive and the backward nations which were fuelled by globalisation. According to Onuoha (2009),

the dependence and vulnerability in transnational dealings steered transnational dualism. Some nations truly attained greatness through dedication, steadfastness and handiwork of their leaders like the Four Asian Tigers. This refers to the economies of South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore who, because of rapid industrialisation between the 1960s and 1990s, experienced high growth rates.

3.1 Economic Effects

Because of globalisation, the economies of nations are now measured using an international yardstick and mostly, conducted by recognised independent international bodies. Therefore, most Third World nations go begging for foreign aid, which Onuoha (2009:2) described as the dependency syndrome. Yes, “the rich nations have an obligation to back the commercial and societal development of the least developed countries (LDCs)” (Onuoha, 2009:6), but the leaders of some the LDCs normally overdo it and severally, the foreign aid is not channelled to the appropriate developmental projects. Again, Onuoha (2009:7) asserted that “Aid is taken as an important component in the growth process since it supplements scarce domestic resources” by helping to convert less developed countries’ economies structurally and add to self-sustaining economic development. The worse aspect is that those external advances given to the country are misappropriated, thereby increasing the debt and other related burdens of the state. The problem of such a loan is designed to linger on and influence the debt profile and increase the burden.

Countries like Nigeria were assisted by the Paris and London clubs with its debt burden and there was a debt cancellation under President Olusegun Obasanjo. There was also a refund from the Paris Club to the Nigerian government of President Muhammadu Buhari. However, it is painful that some government officials are still accused of misappropriating the refund.

It can be concluded that the economic consequences of globalisation, has meant that the industrialised nations’ economies have become increasingly inter-dependent on global products and Africa and Latin America have been harmfully affected by internationalisation (globalisation), especially international trade (Onuoha 2009:28).

3.2 Political Effects

Globalisation involves how policies are transferred across borders, knowledge transmission, cultural stability, and the reproduction, relations, and discourses of power. Political issues deal with governance which includes a country's globalisation issues and these matters are sensitive and if there is an inability to manage it properly it may spell doom for the state. For example, the partial closure of land borders in Nigeria should be done with caution to not engender ill-feeling from neighbouring countries and also the nation's citizenry. An additional illustration could be the xenophobia cases in South Africa recently witnessed there. Perhaps, if poorly managed by the South African government or perhaps, if the Nigerian government is hostile like some nations, troops could have been sent to South Africa to retaliate on behalf of her citizens.

Garrett (2000) believes that radical change has become a reality through globalisation but it has also been profoundly disequilibrating. But looking at foreign aid, a nation must be ready via her policies to accept foreign aids or grants. This is because for a nation to offer foreign grants there must be another nation ready to accept such aid which dictates that for an offer to be valid there must be a corresponding valid acceptance. According to Onuoha (2009) quoting Todaro (2000:349-350), foreign aid is more "oriented towards purchasing their safety and propping up sometimes shaky regimes than promoting the long-term development of societal and economic factors". Again, Todaro (2000:349) quoted in Onuoha (2009) submitted that "countries give aid primarily because it is their political self-interest to do so."

Again, globalisation encourages business to transform from national business firms to international business firms and finally to multinational business organisations. Apart from employment gains, better relationships between countries, and possibly, the mobility of their workforce within those countries where the multinational business have its subsidiaries located, the rest of the countries, especially Asian and African countries, suffer at the hands of most of the multinational companies (MNCs). Some are so powerful that they go as far as to dictate who rules certain countries. These are normally done by subverting the rules of the country and sponsoring different forms of unrest. Onuoha (2009:96) stated that "they normally operate in businesses that are of vital economic/national importance to underdeveloped countries" and therefore "...have the size,

flexibility and centralization to successfully sidestep governmental regulations” especially of the host nations (Onuoha, 2009:49).

The subverting of the rules of host nations was normally done through retired top public servants who served as links for selfish, parochial goals. Onuoha (2009) described those political frontrunners of the less developed states as “multinational companies’ (MNC) lackeys”. According to Onuoha (2009:50), “after securing the chairmanship or directorship of these companies, third world leaders provide multinational companies with privileged official information; protect their overall interests in the host countries and secure patronage for them in exchange for peanuts.” Onuoha (2009:50) submitted that multinational organisations use arm-twisting devices to negate the policies of host nations through the corruption of public administrators and exploitation of loop-holes. Nigerians are used as frontmen in the outright violation of the law. A relevant example of this was the Halliburton, Siemens and Saipem bribery scandals that led to the Nigerian government losing much money in hard currency. Another issue was the unrest that ravaged the South-South of Nigeria especially, Rivers and the Bayelsa States.

Aside from the political involvement of multinational companies, they are noted for underpaying their personnel from host countries. Many of the multinational companies also engaged in tax evasion which they would never attempt in their home countries. Outdated machines and equipment and dumped toxic waste are delivered to developing nations such as what occurred in Koko village in Delta State as mentioned by Sule and Amuni (2015). As a result, the inhabitants suffer the effects which have retarded the state’s political and technical growth. These are easily achievable through the lackeys’ backing which Chinua Achebe, author of *Things Fall Apart*, once described as “second-class hand-me-down capitalism”.

Eventually, these developing nations were turned into dumping grounds by importing trash from their colonial masters from Francophone countries to the Benin Republic, Togo and Cameroon. Toxic or hazardous wastes are often imported by developing countries from developed countries.

As noted by Onuoha (2009:11), many of these nations are still culturally and socially associated with their colonial masters. They, therefore, retain colonial vestiges by continuing to be dependent on their former masters at the cost of denying their people better-living standards. Onuoha (2009:11)

advised that this occurrence also affects indigenous entrepreneurship development. However, on a more positive note, these developing nations have benefited from financial aid, technology, employment opportunities and knowledge transfer.

3.3 Social Effects

Adesina (2012) opined that a major aim of globalisation is cultural diffusion but this aim had adversely affected most of the less-developed countries (LDCs).

The benefits of the Internet for business purposes is undisputed. However, the ready availability of pornography constitutes a threat to the strong Islamic and Christian cultural heritage in African countries. Adesina (2012) advises that Africa's rich, elegant dress style is now considered outdated.

Adesina (2012:196) noted that HIV/AIDS is also a product of globalisation together with other health pandemics such as Ebola. The world is currently in the throes of a pandemic from the COVID-19 virus. Its origins are still under debate.

Still on the social effect of globalisation, one must not forget the scourge of human trafficking continuing around the world especially from Africa to Asia, Latin America and Europe. It is so devastating that the International Labour Organisation (ILO 2001:47) as cited in Adesina (2012:196) describes trafficking as the globalisation underside. Mostly, it is the womenfolk who are trafficked for sex work and they are either kidnapped or deceived with job prospects in foreign countries in Europe.

4. EFFECTS OF GLOBALISATION ON SECURITY

There is a need for an understanding of how globalisation affects the world's safety and individual nations. For illustration, the hostilities between Iraq and America triggered the Persian Gulf War. Sule and Amuni (2015) explains how there was a split effect on member nations of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) due to the crude oil price increase and resultant increases in income for each nation, that is, a financial windfall. What about the New Zealand mosque shooting during a Friday Jum'at prayer? This incident can still be viewed as an effect of globalisation as the assumed shooter is from another country.

Again, some nations continued to dump toxic waste like e-waste, and unusable and unserviceable computers, as alerted by the Lagos State Environment Protection Agency (LASEPA) that “an estimated 53,600 metric tonnes of e-waste are dumped annually at Lagos State landfills which include 860,000 computers, 530,000 printers, 900,000 monitors and 480,000 television sets” (LASEPA, 2011 as quoted in Adesina, 2012).

Essentially, globalisation is spreading owing to the commercial reasons of countries and their inhabitants. This is because, since the economy of nations based on trade by barter has been abolished and forgotten, coupled with the propagation of spiritual philosophies by sending emissaries to countries, trading between nations increased. Of importance is the fact that the missionaries always go to those nations with their technology, religion, beliefs and dialect (language). Some nations, like Nigeria, embraced three of the four items from the globalisation package, though, the fourth one (technology) that was not taken cognizance of, appears to be more important than others, and this, therefore, signifies a foundation of security issues in Nigeria.

Moreover, trading between countries steered the advent of words like import, export, balance of payment and balance of trade. With these words incorporated into the nations’ accounting vocabulary, and every nation wanting to remain solvent by having balanced trade and payments, there was vigorous collaboration with other nations having the same interest while those with resources but uninterested in having dealings with some nations, were forcefully entered by certain super-power countries. The Afghanistan, Iraqi, Libyan and even Egyptian situations are good examples. Investigations revealed that those afore-mentioned nations have crude oil in abundance and were managing it adequately for the nation and the inhabitants benefited from the good management of the resources before the American government invented stories to achieve autonomy over the nation’s resources and today, their crude oil is being controlled by the “super-powers”. In fact, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had to wisely accept the United States of America’s proposal to have a permanent camp for her army on their land to avert bloodshed and war.

Globalisation has increased the mobility of people with some migrants falling into the waiting hands of criminals who make money from illegals. Children are enticed through cash and gradually introduced into drugs and other menaces. For instance, the North-East, Nigerian Boko Haram issue

started as a small group of criminals agitating for certain things before they recruited more young men into their fold. The same scenario played out in South-South, Nigeria – a kidnapping that did not start as a kidnapping group but agitated for certain things like youth employment.

5. MANAGERIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Managers' analytical ability of the effects of globalisation

Any would-be manager must be abreast of events globally and not only should they be aware of events but such manager must also be capable of dissecting the happenings to predict the necessary follow-up action. Issues relating to globalisation are not topics only accessible in textbooks as they unfold daily.

Managers need to be proactive in responding to events happening globally and in their immediate surroundings too. They must not be what Professor Onuoha of the Management faculty of the University of Port Harcourt used to refer to as 'no history, no geography' manager. For illustration, the New Zealand mosque shooting during a Friday Jum'at prayer session is something a manager should be concerned about after hearing such vital news. Brainstorming sessions should take place on how events like this could affect an organisation and possibly, how to take caution and benefit from the state of affairs. The necessary actions of the administration of the state wherever it happened must be monitored concerning curbing escalations or reprisal attacks in your home nation and the reaction of those attacked.

5.2 Managers' sustainability strategies and development skills

Sustainability is now a worldwide discussion among organisations. Because of globalisation, managers should key into relevant sustainability strategies and development to tackle the menace of globalisation arising from health and green concerns. For example, it was proven that polythene takes many years to decay and is a serious environmental hazard on the soil which will invariably affect farming which is what most of the underdeveloped nations rely on to feed their citizens. Managers, then, must either develop strategies for the re-use of polythene by customers for other items or find other alternatives.

5.3 Managers' ability to understand basic rules of the dominant religions

In advertising, designing and the ingredients of merchandises, managers should be conscious of the guidelines and principles of the foremost religions (Islam and Christianity) around the globe today. This is traceable to the fact that they form the main target customers and any infringement on their rules might become a disaster for the organisation as the product could be boycotted. What this means is that managers must recognise the instructions and regulations of the two religions.

5.4 Human resources recruitment as a competitive advantage

It was asserted in Cha (2000) that skill revolutions arise as outcomes of globalisation. This, therefore, gives the managers opportunities to employ skilful employees. In the same vein, this denotes that managers should step up the recruitment process to attract the best applicants and obtain improvements in knowledge and management skills and practice.

5.5 Security consciousness

After employing the workers, they should be looked after, especially the foreign nationals among the workforce. As asserted by Cummings (1978), as quoted in Sule and Ugoji (2013:81), managing human resources is specifically thought to be “concerned with obtaining the best staff for an organisation, and having got them, looking after them so that they will stay and give of their best to their jobs”. Essentially, their safety should be guaranteed and in doing this the organisation should provide security assurance, in addition to every other welfare package. Rosenau (1998:21-23), as quoted in Cha (2000), advised that as a consequence of skill revolutions arising from globalisation, there are increases in drug smugglers, political terrorists, criminal organisations, and ethnic and religious insurgencies.

5.6 Information gathering and management

Finally, because “nation-state can no longer control the movement of technology and information” (Simon, 1997, as quoted in Cha, 2000), it is paramount for managers to cultivate a strategy and means of verifying current news. Social mass media has been proliferated with junk and fake

news, nowadays. Managers should devise a means of establishing the trustworthiness of news both within the nation and overseas before acting on them. There was news that a brand of noodles was poisonous and therefore, the populace should be alert to avoid it. After much effort, a top officer of the organisation was on air on television, the noodles were prepared and eaten on a live programme. Such fake news would have caused the organisation's sales to drop and any competitor taking advantage of this to react, probably by increasing their production or any other additional methods.

6. METHODOLOGY

This study is an exploratory literature review on how globalisation led to national, system and personal insecurity for most of the sub-Saharan African nations. The study considered how the political, economic and social effects of globalisation aroused security threats to sub-Saharan Africa and Africans and is a precise investigation aimed at the discovery of ideas and insights into the discourse.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The preferred culture should be preserved by ensuring learning, practising and the promotion of cultural affairs are more insular. The Internet should be used positively for the propagation of values and the creation of websites where youth can learn proverbial sayings and other phrases of the country.

Again, a reassessment should occur on how the state fares in the phenomenon called globalisation. Undoubtedly science promotes globalisation and therefore, every nation should benefit from it. As Internet facilities and telecommunication contain both decent and evil aspects, citizens should be proactive and work on the ways to obtain positive advantages in using this technology. The Internet could be used to promote an eroded culture, value system and social norms, once again, so Westernised life influencing the youth should be drastically reduced.

Finally, indigenous technology would improve local production and industry that will export such technology to other nations rather than being at the bidding of any other nation for essential goods and services. Citizens should take pride in the way of life, heritage and the nation's cultural system.

8. CONCLUSION

Let me conclude with the submission of Adesina (2012):

“...while it is correct to say that globalization has both positive and negative impacts on the world, Nigeria inclusive, its negative impacts are very weighty. There is a need to urgently and effectively address these challenges arising from globalization. Without a doubt, globalization is an irreversible process in accord with natural laws. In as much as the pain caused by some aspects of globalization is undeniable, the real issue is whether the negative effects of its sweeping processes can be ameliorated - and the positive effects enhanced.”

We should, therefore, note that globalisation exists with us and as such, we need to acclimatise to every situation arising from this phenomenon.

REFERENCES

- Adesina OS. 2012. The negative impact of globalization on Nigeria, *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2(15): 193-201.
- Bilgi P. 2012. Globalization and in/security, Middle Eastern encounters with international society and the case of Turkey in Stetter and Stephan, *The Middle East and Globalization: Encounter and Horizons*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Cha VD. 2000. Globalization and the study of international security, *Journal of Peace Journal of Peace Research*. 37(3): 391-403.
- Garrett G. 2000. The causes of globalization, *Comparative Political Studies*, 33(6/7): 941-991.
- Kilic C. 2015. Effects of globalization on economic growth: Panel analysis for developing countries, *Economic Insights – Trends and Challenges*, IV(LXVII)(1): 1-11.
- Lippman, W. 1944. U.S. Foreign policy, London, Hamish Hamilton.
- Okwandu GA & Jaja SA. 2000. International business management, Port Harcourt, Nigeria: Pearl Publishers.
- Onuoha BC. 2009. The third world and underdevelopment: The role of ‘Sambo Personality’ and development strategies, 2nd Edition, Port Harcourt, Nigeria: African Entrepreneurship and Leadership Initiative.
- Sailer, MH & Trevors, JT. 2010. Global security in the 21st century, *Water, Air, Air Soil Pollut*, 205: 45-46.
- Sharma NK. 2013. Globalization and its impact on the third world economy. *Crossing the Border: International Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 1(1): 21-28.
- Shopina I, Oliinyk O & Fanaheiev V. 2007. Globalization and its negative impact on the global economy, *Baltic Journal of Economic Studies*, 3(5): 457-461.

Sule OE & Amuni SI. 2015. When the problem was how to manage financial windfalls: Issues of public and private sector in Nigeria, *Journal of Business Administration and Education*, 7(1): 112-126.

Sule OE & Ugoji IE. 2013. Impact of personnel recruitment on organisational development: A survey of selected Nigerian workplace, *International Journal of Business Administration*, 4(2): 79-103.

The 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Amended) as presented by The Presidency, Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB)