

## GLOBALISATION AND THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL SECURITY: AN OVERVIEW

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### Abstract

This paper examines the Nigerian National Security issues and the unethical blood shed caused by the terrorist organization called Boko Haram in the Northeastern Nigeria and the entire country in the era of globalization. This has become imperative in view of the unabated bloodletting done to innocent citizens, especially recent bomb blast at the Nyanya park outskirts of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja. The paper in addition to other issues, takes a look at the concept of globalization, national security and a closer view of the activities of Boko Haram. It recommends revitalization and strengthening of the national orientation with a mandate on value re-orientation, equity, fairness and social justice, international community is not left out especially in information sharing in order to put an end to this menace.

**Key words:** Globalization, National Security, and Boko Haram.

### Introduction

Globalization can be seen as one of the most important forces impacting on the global economy. It is accepted that the world economy has become more integrated due to the process of globalization (Nwaosue, 2005). Despite, the fact that globalization is not a new phenomenon, the intensity of the process increased since 1990 (Mostert, 2003:1). The increasing intensity in the process of globalization is evident in the increased financial transactions in the world market. Hak-min (1991) indicated that the three folds in private capital transactions between 1980 and 1990 could be ascribed to the process of globalization in the international financial markets.

With the increased reliance on the market economy and renewed called in the private sector, a process of structural adjustment spurred by studies and influence of the developing countries was initiated. Globalization has brought a new opportunity to countries. Greater access to developed country markets and technology transfer hold out promise for improved productivity and higher living standard (Jean, 2002:23). However, globalization has also thrown up new challenges like growing insecurity, inequality across and within nations, volatility in financial markets and environmental deterioration (Betterton and Potion, 1996) besides a great majority of developing countries remain cut off from the process of globalization. Although globalization has tremendous potential benefits for developing countries. The challenge is to realize the potential benefits without undertaking huge off setting cost (Neuland and Hough, 1991:1).

The process of globalization is reality as the increasing integrated economy provides an unprecedented opportunity for growth and higher living standard throughout the world. What is perhaps worrisome about globalization is that as we grow in it, those who benefit from the changes reduce the world to the service of the personalities and those who do not see only the threats and mind off field of transformation (Bhagwat, 2007:182). This article examines the Nigeria national security situation and the unabated blood shed occasioned by the activities of Boko Haram in the era of globalization.

### Conceptualizing globalization and national security

#### Globalization

Globalization is the process of the integration of economic, political, social and cultural values across international boundaries. Middleman (2006:6), sees globalization as a historical transformation in the economy and modes of existence in politics, loss in the degree of control exercised such that the focus of power gradually shifts in varying proportions above and below the territorial state and in culture, evaluation of collective achievement or perceptions of them (Ogonnaya and Ehigiamusoe, 2013).



Globalization deals with the increasing breakdown in trade barriers and the increasing integration of world market (Fafowara, 1998:5). In other words, Oluabunawa (1999:20) opined that globalization is an evolution which is systematical restricting interactive phase among relations by breaking down barriers in the areas of culture, communication and several other fields of endeavors". This is evident from its push of free-market economics, liberated democracy, good governance, gender equality and environmental sustainability among other holistic values for the people of the member states.

Globalization goes beyond the economic sphere alone. Many scholars seem to have focused on the economic sphere of the concept as explained by Tony and Jan (2003), globalization is a process integrating not just the economy but culture, technology and governance. The concept is used to represent the growing worldwide interdependence of the people and countries (Ogbonnaya, 2013:60). This process has accelerated dramatically because of the huge advance in technology (Anim Etchie and Dickson, 2003, 156); including global telecommunication infrastructure, cross border data flow, the internet, satellite networks and wireless telephones are all credited to globalization (Adesina, 2012, 193).

The increase in arms proliferation, cyber attacks, ethnic violence, global crime, and during trafficking are occurred by globalization (Davies, 2003). Bugan (2007) simplifies the security implication of globalism when he opined that, globalization as an economic activity now dominates international relations, replacing war as the driving force behind both the state and world politics. In either view, the key point about globalization is that much of this activity and its consequences transcend the territorial framing of the state".

### **National Security**

The concept national security cannot be discussed without making reference to the meaning of state. A state is the most inclusive organization which has formal institutions, for regulating the most significant contracted relationship of man within its scope (Anifowose 1999:85). The state plays a major role in the security of her citizens. Security is the key function of the state (Buzan, 2003). Security is a situation which provides national and international conditions favourable to the protection of a nation state and its citizens against existing and potential threat. National security traditionally is understood as the acquisition, deployment and use of military force to achieve national goals (Held, 1998:226).

Security is equally viewed as falling within the domain of the military force (Held, 1998). It emphasized the coercive means of putting all the aspects of the state on check. It is the ability of a nation to protect its national value from external threats.

National security is seen in terms of a nation's military capabilities or the struggle to overcome internal and external aggression. A nation is secured once it is free from military threats or political coercion (Aliyu, 2012). National security has traditionally been about the survival of the state against military threats posed by other states (Buzan, 2003). Security threat differs amongst nations. The major security threat to some powerful nations like the USA and its allies may be how to defeat international terrorists and to promote their economic interest and democratic values (Aliyu, 2012). However, national like Nigeria has its own peculiar security threat determined by socio-economic and political circumstance. This article is concern with the threat to Nigerian security caused by the activities of the Jama' at Ahlas sunnah lid-da'wa wal-jihad, popularly known as Boko Haram.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Since globalization is a multifaceted, complex phenomenon, it can be explained in a number of alternative ways. Even within an international relations framework, there are numerous theoretical explanations, which generally follow the lines of the "great" paradigmatic debates. Realism (neorealism), neoliberal institutionalism, and neo-Marxism provide the most influential tools for

understanding the way globalization affects international politics, while constructivism puts more emphasis on building it into a broader context of social interaction. For the purpose of this study realist theory will be utilised.

During the course of the last three decades the intensity and extent of global interconnectedness has grown to be ever more apparent in every sphere from the cultural to the economic. Economic integration on a global scale has increased as the growth of global production, finance and commerce connects the fate of households, communities and nations across the globe's major economic zones and beyond within a rising worldwide market economy. Contemporary globalization shares characteristics common with earlier phases, but is differentiated by some distinct organizational elements, creating a world which is increasingly shaped by novel technologies, a universal economy, the emergence of global and regional systems of governance, new means of global regulation and the rise worldwide systemic crises. Globalization also has consequences for international politics as it has brought about a shift in the type and nature of political organizations, with one distinguishing aspect of this being the rise of global politics (Intelliconn, 2012). Furthermore, the forces and processes of globalization have significant ramifications for the theoretical approaches to international politics, and it with this in mind that this paper addresses the concern that globalization weakens the fundamental assumptions in international relations. (McGrew, 2005: 20; Held, 2004: 73, 89; Walt, 2002, 197).

Realism was born as a theoretical approach to international relations in the inter-war period of 1919-39 and as an ideological rival to idealism. The theoretical approaches rising from the realist tradition offer an explanation of politics as it is in reality as opposed to the normative theoretical approaches that provide recommendations and instructions for political activity and how politics should ideally be. The realist theories tend to concentrate on the permanent historical experience and the doubtful of efforts and attempts to rise above the competitive character of political life (Dunne & Schmidt, 2005: 162; Guzzini, 1998: 16; Walt, 2002: 199).

As with most theoretical approaches to the study of international relations, there are a number of different denominations within realism but despite this all theories emerging from the realist family subscribe to three principle elements or fundamental assumptions, these being statism, self-help and survival. With regards to the principle of statism, realists hold that states are the key actors in international relations and that sovereignty is its defining characteristic. Realists maintain that because states are the principal actors in the international system and because no state recognizes the authority of another above its own, the international system is left lacking an international authoritative figure. In other words the international system lacks the existence of a central authority capable of regulating and governing global affairs and as a result the international system is in a state of anarchy. This lack of a central authority in the international system and the existence of a number of sovereign states within it constitute the explanation offered by many realists for the perceived insecurities, threats and dangers to the very survival of the state. Furthermore, realists argue that in this anarchic system states will compete amongst each other for influence, markets and security. Thus within the international system, realists argue that states are locked in a competitive struggle for power, as the accumulation of power is seen as critical to ensuring and sustaining the survival of the state (Dunne & Schmidt, 2005: 172-173; Walt, 2002: 199-200; Guzzini, 1998: 26-27).

The principle of survival in the realist tradition is of paramount importance as all realists argue that in international politics the core objective of the state is survival. For realists survival is an objective, which once attained, lays the foundation for the achievement of all other goals. In an attempt at ensuring and guaranteeing the survival of the state, it may opt to choose one of two means – power or security maximizing – to achieving this end. This gives rise to two emerging strands of thought within the realist paradigm, namely defensive and offensive realism. In terms of defensive realism, Waltz and Grieco (1997, as cited in Dunne and Schmidt, 2005: 174) maintain that security is the principal interest of the state and as a result states will only seek to acquire the

required amount of power necessary to guarantee survival. As a result, this view holds that states will not aim to acquire increasing levels of power of this process is to jeopardize its own security. On the other hand, offensive realists argue that the ultimate objective of every state is to gain hegemonic status in the international system. This view further holds that states constantly crave more power and are ready, should the opportunity arise to alter the status quo even if such an action would place their own security in jeopardy. Furthermore, defensive realism holds that states will enter into alliances in order to balance the power when faced with aggressive or strong states, while offensive realists argue that competition is rife in the international system because states are willing to risk their security and survival in an aim to enhance their status in the international system (Dunne & Schmidt, 2005:174; Walt, 2002: 200, 204,207; Guzzini, 1998: 127).

The third and final fundamental assumption of realism, self-help, is conceptualized in the context of the international system lacking an overarching authority figure. As a result of this state of anarchy in the international system states must provide for their security themselves as no one else will. Furthermore, because of the anarchic and competitive nature of the international system, states can never entrust their security or survival in another state. However, in the process of providing for its own security and aiming to secure its survival, the actions carried out by the state in question feeds the growing insecurity and perceptions of danger and threats of other states. This drive for survival and security by one state gives rise to what is termed the security dilemma. Security dilemmas originate when the military armament of one state creates an irresolvable ambiguous perception as to whether the actions taken are for defensive or offensive purposes. The conclusion to this scenario is that one state's pursuit of security is the cause for another's insecurity, and the military armament undertaken by one state is likely to be followed by that of its neighboring states (Intelliconn, 2012), (Dunne & Schmidt, 2005: 175; Walt, 2002: 200; Guzzini, 1998: 127).

### **Boko Haram A Threat To Nigerian National Security**

Here, it is important to trace the implications of globalization on Nigeria Security as it is reflect on the activities of Boko Haram. Throughout history people have perpetrated extreme violent acts in the name of religion on whether it is Christianity Islam, Judaism itinduism or another faith. A complex series of psychological, Political, historical and theological factors combine to trigger such behavior.

(Kressel, 2012)

The Jama at Ahl as-Sunnah lid da'wa wal-Jihad better known by its hausa name Boko Haram which literally means western education is evil. This is an Islamic Jihadist and Takfiri militant and terrorist organization based on the Northern Nigeria (Wikipedia, 2014). The activities of this group has left over 16,000 policemen, soldiers and civilians including politician killed the terrorist (UN, 2013). Boko Haram rebellion started In Bauchi on July 26, 2009 and has since then spread to other parts of Nigerian states of Borno, Adamawa, Kaduna, Yobe and kano (Ogbonnaya and Eligiamuose, 2013:19). The group has no clear structure (Doyle, 2012) and it has 3 three different groups with lot of supporters. The most prominent one is the Ansaru group with Abubakar Shekeru as the head assisted by Amodu Bama and many indoctrinated members. They have carried series of attacks on churches, schools, police stations, government agencies, UN building in Abuja and recently bombing in market places and on market days.

It is important to note that the ideology of the group has gone beyond their initial ideals of a Islamic of the Northern states and the rejection of all practice which are contrary to Islamic teaching to a full blown terrorist organization. The ideas of Boko Haram are not clearly defined. Hoswever, what is clear is that a pure Islamic state ruled by Sharia law is what they seek (Michael, 2001). Esco (2011) explained further that the root sense of the group resort to violence and criminal in order to influence public policy is rather deep –seated and beyond the sectarian belief. This is because the attacks of the group have been targeted or directed at every sectors of the state.

Unfortunately, the attacks by rebel group Boko Haram in Nigeria's restive Northeastern have killed more than 1,200 people since May, 2013 when a state of emergency was declared in the region, the united. While the united national humanitarian agency beliefs that over 1, 224 people here been killed in BOKO HARAM related attacks (UN, 2014). And most recently on of April 14, 2014 over 72 people were killed and 164 people were seriously injured in Nyanya motor pack outskirts of Abuja (Gbade, O. et.al 2014:4).

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

This paper has attempted to examine the concept of globalization and national security, the destructive activities of Boko Haram and the unabated bloodletting by this terrorist group in the era of globalization. It is on this note that the paper recommends the following measures as a means of ending the crisis. First, revitalization and strengthening of the national orientation with a specific mandate on value and ideologies re-orientation towards a harmonious living all faiths and belief in the country should be encouraged. Secondly, the economic fortunes of the people with a greater focus on the far eastern Nigeria by strengthening the institutions that will provide access to poverty reduction is constitute a central place in governance. Worthy of note is that fact that equity, fairness and justice should be entrenched in our relationships as a people, and in all inter governmental and societal interactions as the absence of societal justice is an invitation to chaos and violence, which threatens national security (Aliyu, 2012). The assistant of national organizations and all countries of good will put an end to the activities of terrorist through sharing of ideas and information.

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