

Globalization and the Challenges of Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Abstract

Conflict has remained one of the most significantly challenging problems affecting countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. Several issues have been adduced as indicators or pointers to influencing these challenges of conflicts; however, globalization has played equally significant role in influencing conflict. The aim of the paper was to examine the role of globalization on conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa. The methodology employed in the study is the method of content analysis through secondary sources of data on the subject of study. The paper observed that, conflicts Sub-Saharan Africa are aggravated by economic, political, social and cultural factors which are the main targets of the globalization process. The many conflicts which have devastated the African states from Somalia to Liberia, the genocidal conflicts of Rwanda and Burundi, the democratic Republic of Congo and a host of others including the most recent conflicts in Dafur, Sudan, are traceable to serious economic dislodgments caused by the effects of globalization and made worse by unemployment and widespread poverty, which result from staff rationalization, privatization and massive retrenchment of workers. It was also discovered that the increased incursion of small arms and light weapons and the uncontrolled cross-border exodus of rebels in and out of Africa is one of the natures of globalization which have been aggravated by ineffective border policing and extensive years of political volatility in the region. The paper recommended that African communalism should be encouraged. The reduction in unemployment and poverty must be pursued as a matter of urgency through policy and practical means.

Keywords: Globalization, Conflict, Sub-Saharan Africa, Economy.

Introduction

Globalization is the unrestricted growth of products, services, and people around the world. This kind of global oddity differs slightly from trans-public in this regard (Ruler, 2017). As a result, Lord has unmistakably defined the globalist trajectory from a perspective that is neither public nor global. Economically, the merging of the public economies into the new global labor market has been slowed down by globalization. Reasoning in economics may be troublesome since it sometimes makes no sense.

Some modern social scientists, including Hirsch and Thompson, assert that globalization is mostly mythical. They explain why nation governments have the authority to manage public economies where globalization is perceived as eroding (Shaw, 2016). It speaks to the triumph of grace that Smith and Locke advocate. It is the triumph of a democracy, progressivism, and free market in general, over alternative philosophies and strategies of statecraft (Gill, 2019). The elimination of public lines remains the main focus of economic globalization. However, in the economically developed nations, these ideas unmistakably took control of market free enterprise, making it acceptable and satisfactory (Ruggie, 2008). Without a doubt, this is the final stage of the open economy, which started with privatization and economic development.

The period of contemporary instability in Europe and the ensuing European exchange and political excursion into Africa marked the beginning of the African peoples' most noteworthy terrible involvement in global Europeans. The political balkanization of Africa by Europe near the end of the nineteenth century was the second unpleasant factor in a staggering political influence on Africa

(Ninsin, 2020). Following long European colonial domination, which left numerous European imprints on the landmass, it also took from the region's natural and mineral resources and sows the seeds of racial and rigid conflict. Additionally, after political pioneer rule ended due to the new European socialism philosophy undermining the European traditional entrepreneur philosophy, which allowed Europe to literally mop Africa dry, European pioneer powers withdrew. However, this did not only leave Africa tragically subject to Europe politically and economically and similarly destroyed by the two European virus war belief systems; it also most regrettably stylized the continent. This tool is packaged in many political and economic systems as the cure-all for all social ills and has been more popular in recent years due to the term "globalization" (Ninsin, 2020).

Sub-Saharan Africa was trapped in an obligation trap under the supervision of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Related Asset (IMF) due to the dependence yet globalization condition that affected Africa significantly throughout the global economic crisis of the 1970s and 1980s. The SAP (Supporting Change Program) implemented in Africa during the 1980s also brought up a rash of mobs and conflicts on the mainland. Undoubtedly in 1990, with the end of the Ebola war, several African countries were devastated by a wave of hostilities that were primarily ethnic, territorial, and between state rivalries. In addition, a number of African nations came under military attack during this time period. According to reports from the United Nations Development Program, one in every four nations in sub-Saharan Africa is involved in some sort of violence (Nabudere, 2020).

In Nigeria, Burundi, Rwanda, Liberia, Sudan, Angola, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Cote d'Ivoire, ethnic conflicts have claimed lives. Conflicts in these nations undermined social cohesion and public resolve, and they also had an adverse influence on the economies, which had been growing at a declining rate. Since the end of the Cold war, globalization has dramatically altered most African sovereign states, with some of them being torn apart by ideological conflict. Thus, the paper examines the role of globalization on conflict situations in Sub-Saharan Africa. The paper aims to unravel the inter-connections between globalization system and the various forms of conflicts experienced by the various countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Concept of Globalization

The concept of globalization emerged during the postmodernism movement of the 1980s and has since evolved into a modern concept. It is a crucial idea through which we can understand how human society has changed over the past three millennia. According to Malcom (2015), globalization is "a social cycle where the countries' social and social plans subside and in which people gradually become aware that they are retreating." Malcom (2015) explained how globalization "seems to legitimize the spread of entrepreneurial society and western culture by arguing that there are forces at work beyond human control that are transforming the world". It is a direct effect of the spread of European civilization throughout the world. Deterritorialization of social and political plans is part of it. The area of public arrangements and the strategy-making process may be the most amazing exceptional aspect of the current globalization process.

Economic development was the driving force behind globalization (Tilly, 2015). Globalization is unlimited or begins with simple development of the elements of creation, goods, services, data, and innovation, same treatment of unfamiliar goods, services, innovation, along with primary changes underway and work in accordance with the line and inclination of multinational corporations (MNCs), which are connected with open economies debilitating the boundary wall (Tilly, 2015). It is a direct result of the globalization of European civilization. One aspect of it is the deterritorialization of social and political plans. Perhaps the most remarkable unusual component of the current globalization process is the field of public arrangements and the process of strategy-making.

Globalization was fueled by economic progress (Tilly, 2015). Globalization is either limitless or starts with the simple development of the creation, goods, services, data, and innovation elements. It then extends to the same treatment of unfamiliar goods, services, and innovation, along with primary changes already in motion, and follows the direction and preference of multinational corporations (MNCs), which are linked with open economies weakening the border wall (Tilly, 2015). In this way, the opposition only succeeds at the level of other global organizations that are equipped with capital-escalated creation techniques and comparable company structure models. The appropriate sector of the economy is consequently affected by relocation, cost, capital expenditure, pay disparity, absence of social security, local administration, and social effects. Comparatively, the casual sector of the economy experiences the effects of delinking, capital flight, and small-scale firms (Sharma, 2017).

According to the worldwide plan for democratization, development, and financial changes, military systems in Africa were destroyed. International organizations and cycles have increasingly had an impact on people living within a state. In reality, this led to the erosion of public influence and constrained the ability of legislatures and individuals to make straightforward decisions when faced with options for economic, social, and societal initiatives. Given that the concept of globalization goes beyond economic systematization and includes innovation, legal concerns, and humanism, this definition has a limited view of the phenomenon. In other words, although political globalization alludes to the shrinkage of the nation state (in some measure, at least as far as economic sway is worried), mechanical globalization alludes to the new communication innovation and data turmoil. The term "global town" refers to a group of people who watch largely comparable television shows and recordings, consume or attempt to consume comparable goods, etc. (Ruler, 2017). This suggests that increased global economic harmony, as well as social, political, and societal unanimity, are required. The transparency of the majority of nations to global financial speculation serves as a description.

Nnoli (2020) goes on to describe globalization as an intricate peculiarity that interacts with various facets of social life and is permeated with ambiguities, varieties, vulnerabilities, and inconsistencies. At its core, however, is the unavoidable expansion of private enterprise as a whole, including the dissemination of its qualities. Globalization is thought to speed up the process of nation- and people-group integration. It has had an uneven impact on a number of nations and people groupings, undermining some and compensating others with inconsistent appropriation of benefits and disadvantages (Fix, 2020; Khor 2017). African nations have received a disproportionately small allocation of global assets, and their options are constrained by an organized global system. This forced the majority of African states to abandon their development projects, delaying the restoration of numerous dismantled social orders and further weakening the system of social assistance.

The region where the state used to play important roles in people's existence through social government assistance arrangements and projects is where the impact of globalization on African social orders and people groups can be best seen. Now, however, the acceptance of market change programs has completely weakened financial equilibrium. The aspects of these transition plans initially manifested as unrest, instability, and occasionally collapsing.

Conflict Situations in Africa: An Overview

In general, conflict is thought to represent a part of the political cycle in Africa; nevertheless, political conflict also represents a portion of conflict in African society. Conflict, according to Coser (2016), occurs when at least two people engage in a struggle over beliefs and claims to status, authority, and resources with the purpose of killing, injuring, or eradicating their opponents. He went on to explain this, pointing out that conflict occurs whenever one party perceives that the actions of at least one group are compromising any of its goals, purposes, methods of reaching those

goals, or inclinations. The gatherings may seek to explore a related field, real circle, or, more abstractly, a related field of influence or ways of acting.

The inadequacies of the public authority have been blamed for Africa's involvement in violence. The state's plans and institutions have largely lagged during the era of freedom, with the emphasis instead placed on creating institutions that addressed asset mismanagement and abuse (UNDP, 2020). The focus of the effort to date has been on the enhancement and misuse of resources that outline plans and structures for public attachment and human development.

The states have been perceived as states that heavily rely on rents from regular assets, in particular: oil-based goods, Gold, Iron Metal, Copper, Tin, and other strong mineral assets. The state apparatus has been used with a single purpose for asset extraction rather than money management on country working. Because they are abusive and insensitive to the needs and circumstances of the bearing networks and individuals, the brilliant notion of the extractive corporations and the collaborative effort of the state bureaucrats fail to amaze anyone. The state is now preoccupied with providing commodities, employment opportunities, and all other fundamental frameworks that money cannot provide.

As they are covetous and biased in their distribution of scarce resources and political offices, the political pioneers who claim to have solutions to the problems are significant for the causes of conflict. As an illustration, Ibeanu (2018) cites the Niger Delta crisis in Nigeria as being caused by the official authority's harshness toward the situation of the oil carrying networks and asset control, which has led to shared and ethnic disputes plaguing the nation. Conflicts over Africa's frontier entrance caused in various regions of the continent led to the arrangement of anticolonial liberation developments. Individuals and the border powers engaged in battle. The most egregiously obvious incidents involved the public struggles for freedom in the Portuguese-speaking nations of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea Bissau. The Boko Haram combat situation is the most recent. Boko Haram's violent actions in North Eastern Nigeria have not only had an influence on Nigeria's security forces; the group's uprisings have also had an impact on state-run organizations in neighboring countries including Niger, Chad, and Cameroon in the Lake Chad Basin. These nations are powerless to stop the Boko Haram rebellion. Candidates for Boko Haram have established networks around the Lake Chad basin as their havens and recruiting locations (Voice of America News, 2016). Nigeria's failure to subdue Boko Haram sparked a coordinated response from nations competing in the Lake Chad Bowl to decide on the creation of the international united team.

Inadequate boundary enforcement and protracted political flimsiness in the region are also to blame for the increased convergence of small arms and light weapons and the unchecked cross-line expansion of radicals throughout Nigeria, two effects of globalization. The North East is weaker due to the high inflow of small arms and light weapons, which has also put the Nigerian state's corporate presence in danger. This is demonstrated by the increase in armed robberies and other serious crimes in the North Eastern Nigeria region, which is heavily affected by Boko Haram, as well as by the situation of the line networks in Niger, Chad, and Cameroon (Establishment for Harmony and Conflict Goal, 2017).

Globalization and the Challenges of Conflict in Africa: A Discourse

We have observed that conflict is pervasive and an inevitable component of how some societies function. Each aspect of human life involves some form of conflict. This holds true not just for Africa but for the entire planet. We have also understood that globalization, which at first seemed to be just another ideology, has actually been a significant aspect of long-standing European expansionism. Before the anti-pioneer wars, economic change, and globalization, there was fighting in Africa and elsewhere on the earth, but it was only on a small scale.

Conflicts were mostly between states in line conflicts in the past, whereas public freedom battles were opposed to foreign principles. Conflicts currently exist between the common and the state. These disputes are exacerbated by the economic, political, social, and other factors that the globalization cycle places a strong emphasis on. According to Nnoli (2020), the globalization cycle, which disarticulated the delicate legislative frameworks in Africa and effectively hindered the growth of the sovereign nations, has been the major cause of violence in Africa during the past twenty years or more. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, globalization has evolved into a destructive framework for reconstructing African social orders in that, from one perspective, it has shattered the fabric of the fragile African economy and diminished the continent's mainland (Nnoli, 2020).

The opposition between and among personalities, the shifting scene of the data stream, the new stage created by common society, and social advancements all revealed the goals of the global receptiveness as well as the ingredients and philosophical backdrop. The sheer fact that social change is communicated through a variety of developments taking place concurrently at dispersed levels is one notable aspect of globalization. The new global economic environment, in which trade goods and, for the most part, agrarian goods are discounted on the global market, has also undervalued the idea of the African economy. Destitution, hardship, and social and political tension are the results of the following grimness estimates, which have distributional outcomes observed by Hegrett and Glotseth (2020). Conflicts, arbitrary violence, and thuggery between people and groups vying for political power have been sparked by the struggle for economic resources, which has become an instrument and stage for crude aggregation in Africa.

The globe has been enthralled by globalization, and the gap between the rich and the poor has grown wider. According to a study by Hegrett and Glotseth (2020), there is a direct correlation between poor or imaginative growth and a high risk of national conflict or furnished conflict because of unemployment and the decline in the cost of rebels' access to open doors. Smith (2018) observed that there is a close relationship between economic hardship and conflict after noting that half of the 25 most burdened developing countries were engaged in conflict in 1990 or mid-1991. This claim has also been supported by Brown (2015), who argued that the 33 countries in Africa that are the most debt-ridden and economically challenged have not yet been overrun by conflicts and wars. The numerous wars that have torn apart African nations from Somalia to Liberia, the destructive wars in Rwanda and Burundi, the popular Republic of Congo, and a large number of others—not to mention the most recent wars in Dafur, Sudan—are evident in the severe economic divisions brought on by the impact of globalization and made worse by unemployment and utter destitution due to staff justification, privatization, and massive retrenchments. Rigid economic systems are the cause of this significant increase in the driving force behind distributional disputes (Hegrett & Glotseth, 2020). The majority of conflicts caused by globalization are the outcome of some type of change strategy when legislators are responding to the worldwide fever of discovering the strategy for the development of international capitals.

Concluding Remarks

The immediate impact of globalization on the conflict situation in Africa has become incredibly obvious in light of the previous analysis. We believe that the 1990s democratization cycle and fundamental transformation programs serve as the private axis around which the globalization interaction revolves. These adaptability, collectivity, and interconnectedness developments in the economy, sociology, and politics obstruct and limit the ability of independent African governments to provide social government support for their relatives. The African states must "watch the occasions and decide not to globalize regions that contradict African culture and social prosperity"

in order to escape this predicament. African nationalism has to be revitalized. The reduction of unemployment and need should be pursued as a matter of urgency.

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