

Taliban's Capture of Power in Afghanistan Despite the United States Huge Investment: Lessons to Sub-Saharan Africa in their Fight Against (ISWAP) and Other Extremists Groups

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Abstract

The Taliban are a crusade of religious scholars (talib) from the Pashtun regions of eastern and southern Afghanistan who were cultured in traditional Islamic conservatories in Pakistan. Their capture of Afghan on the wee hour of 15th August 2021 amidst US huge spending in last 20 years clearly sends a negative signal to global peace. From late 90s to year 2001, the Taliban held power over jaggedly three-quarters of Afghanistan, and imposed a strict clarification of Sharia, or Islamic law. The group became popular after 9/11 attacks in US, the attacks targeted World trade Centre and Pentagon all in United States. US alleged that Afghanistan were sheltering Osama Bin Laden and other al-Qaeda war lords linked to the September 11 attacks. In October 2001, Afghanistan recorded a heavy presence of US troop to oust Taliban. US troop to Afghanistan grew as White House poured in billions of dollars to fight a Taliban insurrection and fund rebuilding. As at August 15, 2021, US in the last 20 years spent about \$2.26trillion dollars which is equivalent to \$300million dollars per a day. The sub-Saharan African lacks such capital to fight terrorism in its region. Data form African Development bank shows that the continent is composed of low-income countries, lower-middle-income countries, upper-middle-income countries, and high-income countries, 20 of these countries are fragile or conflict-affected with either ISWAP (Islamic state west African Province) or other extremists like Boko Haram, Lord's Resistance Army, al Qaeda, in West Africa, Sada al- Jihad. The continent also has 13 small states, characterized by a small population with limited human and material resources, and a cramped land area. Fighting terrorism remains an uphill task due to paucity of fund. The fund expended by the continent in the last 20 years cannot be compared with what US alone put in Taliban war in Afghanistan. This paper will try to examine if killing extremist leader amount to total defeat of terrorist group as we popularly celebrate such feat. This work will apply content analysis approach via secondary source of data to draw its inference and recommendation including among others includes; a free, fair and credible electoral processes void of external influence, equity and fairness in distributing the wealth of nations in sub-Saharan Africa. The work will be anchored on the linkages between organized crime and terrorism theoretical framework Makarenko model.

Keywords: Terrorism, Volunteer Soldiers, Neo-colonialism, Boko Haram, al Qaeda, MENA (middle East and North Africa)

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Introduction

Act of terrorism turns to be a global phenomenon sequel the September 11 popularly addressed as 9/11 attacks on World Trade Centre and Pentagon all in United States of America In 2001. Before this time, the entire globe never experiences such loss of life and properties except for natural phenomena like earthquakes, wildfires, and pandemics. The high level of technological know-how

and advancement in science in the US amazed the world that such man-made calamity befalls them, targeting US World Trade Centre and Pentagon house at such a time of attacks can be seen as a calculated attempt. Before this, the US has treated other continents as a basket base; this is as a result of the extreme relaxation of the cold war, the attention of the US shifted to Economic strategic and military focus to other continents including sub-Saharan Africa. According Emmanuel, Yawe, (2021) narrating Dr Richard Joseph's experience while studying political science students in University of Ibadan *"In my discussions with Ibo tribesmen and others from the defunct Biafra, I discovered that they always talk of "before the war". It is not common to find other Nigerians from other ethnic groups to make reference to the civil war in every discussion."* He went on to observe that the civil war must have made a significant impact on the lives of Ibos and others from Biafra to remain a reference point ten years after it was all over.

He was then asked by one of the students if he feared that a similar war could still break out of Nigeria given the unwillingness of the rebels to forget the war. He said he did not harbor such fears. According to him, the Nigerian army of 1967 was quite different from the Nigerian army of 1979 and that if a rebel group threatened the corporate existence of Nigeria as they did in 1967, they will meet an army that was experienced in war and that the insurrection would be swiftly put down. An African American who had pinned a lot of hopes on the emergence of Nigeria as the first black power in global affairs, he was very disappointed in the turn-out of events in our country later on. Mr. Jonathan Ishaku, a notable journalist and author with whom I shared the same class at Ibadan later reported that the man broke down and wept at a public function when he was discussing how the country was messed up in the 80's. Ishaku was then Editor of the Champion newspaper and the country had fallen under military tyranny and misrule after soldiers seized power from squabbling politicians who had ruled Nigeria from 1979 to 1983.

Sub-Saharan Africa was not left out as many of the member states must have engage one civil war or the other. The support Taliban fighters enjoyed if such hand of fellowship stretched towards sub-Saharan Africa raved with hunger and poverty may be another threat to Africa peace.

The determination of the US to flush terrorism overnight led the George Bush administration in October 2001 to lynch a man haunt of late al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Ladin. President Bush devoted the last 6 years of his two-term reign as the President of the US, he mobilized all human and material resources of the country to ensure that the al Qaeda network ceases to exist in the Middle East. Resources to fight terrorism were never an issue to the US as she was bent to ensure that terrorists across the globe cease to operate. The al Qaeda network exploded to other continents after the 9/11 attacks in the US. They have metamorphosed from one group to the other, in recent times the sub-Saharan African witnessed unprecedented attacks from ISWAP (Islamic State West Africa province)

According to Wikipedia, from 1996 to 2001, the Taliban held power over roughly three-quarters of Afghanistan and enforced a strict interpretation of Sharia or Islamic law. The Taliban emerged in 1994 as one of the prominent factions in the Afghan Civil War and largely consisted of students (Talib) from the Pashtun areas of eastern and southern Afghanistan who had been educated in traditional Islamic schools and fought during the Soviet-Afghan War. Under the leadership of Mohammed Omar, the movement spread throughout most of Afghanistan, shifting power away from the Mujahideen warlords. The totalitarian Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was established in 1996 and the Afghan capital was transferred to Kandahar. It held control of most of the country until being overthrown after the American-led invasion of Afghanistan in December 2001 following the September 11 attacks. At its peak, formal diplomatic recognition of the Taliban's government was acknowledged by only three nations: Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. The group later regrouped as an insurgency movement to fight the American-backed Karzai

administration and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in the War in Afghanistan.

The Taliban have been condemned internationally for the harsh enforcement of their interpretation of Islamic Sharia law, which has resulted in the brutal treatment of many Afghans. During their rule from 1996 to 2001, the Taliban and their allies committed massacres against Afghan civilians, denied UN food supplies to 160,000 starving civilians, and conducted a policy of scorched earth, burning vast areas of fertile land and destroying tens of thousands of homes. While the Taliban controlled Afghanistan, they banned activities and media including paintings, photography, and movies that depicted people or other living things. They also prohibited music using instruments, except the daf, a type of frame drum. The Taliban prevented girls and young women from attending school, banned women from working jobs outside of healthcare (male doctors were prohibited from treating women), and required that women be accompanied by a male relative and wear a burqa at all times when in public. If women broke certain rules, they were publicly whipped or executed. Religious and ethnic minorities were heavily discriminated against during Taliban rule. According to the United Nations, the Taliban and their allies were responsible for 76% of Afghan civilian casualties in 2010, and 80% in 2011 and 2012. The Taliban also engaged in cultural genocide, destroying numerous monuments including the famous 1500-year-old. These and other things will prove to you the reason many Afghans choose to run away with US Air force Jet at Kabul airport which unconfirmed video shows that many clanged on the aircraft and later fall and died. Atrocities committed by the Taliban against humanity made the US destroy Afghanistan and as well contributed to rebuilding it in the last 20 years of its existence in Afghanistan.

The Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), a splinter of Boko Haram, is growing in power and influence. From its territorial base on the banks and islands of Lake Chad, this jihadist group is waging a guerrilla war across north-eastern Nigeria and elsewhere on the lake's periphery. By filling gaps in governance and service delivery, it has cultivated a level of support among local civilians that Boko Haram never enjoyed and has turned neglected communities in the area and islands in Lake Chad into a source of economic support. If Nigeria and its neighboring Lake Chad states want to sever the bond between ISWAP and these communities – and they should – then they cannot stop with countering ISWAP in battle. They will need to complement military action by filling the service and governance gaps that ISWAP has exploited.

Displacing ISWAP will not be easy. Although the group's methods are often violent and coercive, it has established a largely symbiotic relationship with the Lake Chad area's inhabitants. The group treats local Muslim civilians better than its parent organization did, better than its rival faction, Jama'tu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (JAS), does now, and in some ways better than the Nigerian state and army have done since the insurgency began in 2009. It digs wells, polices cattle rustling, provides a modicum of health care, and sometimes disciplines its personnel whom it judges to have unacceptably abused civilians. In the communities it controls, its taxation is generally accepted by civilians, who credit it for creating an environment where they can do business and compare its governance favorably to that of the Nigerian state.

The activities of ISWAP in sub-Saharan Africa are worrisome following the antecedent that had happened in the region in the last 2 decades, Synergy between the Sister States in the Region is not yielding fruit following the diversity in culture and religion. There will be consolidation of leadership, resources, intelligence, which will be more difficult for them to deal with. ISWAP has been gaining ground in the region following an alliance with other terrorist groups like BOKO HARAM operating from the lake-chad basin sharing a border with Nigeria, Chad, Niger Republic,

and Cameroun. Boko Haram is known to hold larger bases in northeastern Nigeria's Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states.

The news of killing the leader of the Islamic sect Mohammed Yusuf in 2009 led to a quick succession by Abubakar Shekau whose death keep reverberating, the most recent is in May 2021, Shekau reportedly blew up himself to avoid capture by ISWAP the story unfolds, although it must be noted that Shekau has been reported dead many times before. A credible source has it that ISWAP will likely take control of more areas but said the rivalry between the groups is not over. The source further states that "They are a more tested set because they are coming from an environment where they have been at war with very strong nations, At this stage is when all elements, all forces should be brought against them because they are still trying to find their footing and trying to get other elements of Boko Haram into their fold. The battle between the two groups will continue for a while but on the whole, there's more danger for the lives of people around generally. (Obiezu, 2021)

ISWAP is known for often targeting the military and easily recruiting civilians from communities. Experts fear that ISWAP's reign will make the Islamist insurgency much more difficult to control and set back years of progress.

The reason terrorism without defined salary and other entitlement enjoy more patronage in terms of easy recruitment to that of conventional Army with salary, pension, and other severance package are worrisome, people go the extra mile to volunteer as a terrorist. Therefore, it becomes imperative to ascertain the cause(s) of a citizen taking arms against the state.

Political angle depicts that there is a great gulf fixed between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' and that divide have made it possible for the citizens to be closer to extremist to the government. The case in Sub-Saharan African is more worrisome due to negligence from the political representatives that only remember them once in four years. The political class arrogance diminishes ones in four years during re-election, it is only them that they remember that grass root people are important, they come with an enticing gift that ordinary citizens can afford but due to their ineptitude to the plight of the people, they subject them to the abject poverty that accepting salt and noodles will be rated as democracy dividend. This negligence makes the citizens gullible to the allurements of a terrorist group that promises them daily bread.

Socially, the states in Sub-Saharan African engage more in propaganda than feeding the populace with the right information that will keep them abreast with government policies, the advent of social media has also increased chances for the extremist to reach the volatile people ravaged with hunger and negligent, they promised them a better life abroad as a means to lure them to become extremist in disguise. The conventional media houses were busy playing ostrich while fake news takes over the news space from a different terrorist group.

Economically, sub-Saharan African's unemployment rate is alarming in recent years, the sequel to this, much young populace are idle and susceptible to any social vice and an adage goes that 'an idle mind is devil's workshop' many in their quest for greener pasture got trapped with ISIS, ISWAP and other extremists around the globe. They promised them a job in the Middle East and other parts of the world. The case of Mutallab the son of a former First bank Director is a clear example. He was lured to Yemen and as well sent to bomb a US bond airline but unfortunately, he was overpowered by the passenger who did not allow him to detonate the bomb and finally got him and arrested and prosecuted. Mutallab case cannot be linked to poverty due to his family background but an unsearchable quest for knowledge and popularity. A good number like him today got stocked due to promising by such extremist groups in disguise to make them celebrities, models, and world brands.

The government in sub-Saharan African are not helping matter in the fight against extremists, terrorism cannot be won through the barrel of a gun just as we have seen in Afghanistan, the US spend 20 solid years fighting and about \$2.26trillion fighting, terrorism is an ideology that needs to be dismantled through proper orientation and inclusive governance, the failure from the side of government led to the increase of extremist campaign they include the following: Born to rule syndrome that cut across Africa, people remain in power for life, not that they remain in power, they impose their children to continue after them, all these constituted the buildup of grievances in the land that makes the citizens choose to carry arms against the state.

Where there is election par says, it lacks credibility, people are selected against the wishes of greater population and they are imposed to the people as leaders when such crisscross the sub-region you will know what the outcome will look like. Sub-Saharan African lacks a free, fair, and credible electoral process, using the state resources to finance elections that lack credibility every four years is worrisome.

The Place of the Middle East in the Global Peace Process

The Middle East is a geographical and cultural region located predominantly in western Asia, but also parts of the northern Africa region and southeastern Europe. The Mediterranean Sea defined the western border of the Middle East, where Syria, Lebanon, and Israel lie opposite Greece and Italy in Europe. The Middle East is a geographical region that has been of great importance in history since ancient times. Strategically located, it is a natural land bridge connecting the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe. ... In recent times its enormous deposits of oil have made the Middle East more important than ever. It was in 1902 that the term "Middle East" became more prominent and was coined to title the area that exists in between Egypt and Singapore, including major admission points to Asia, such as the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, etc. Suffice it to say that the name the Middle East is vague, culturally and geographically prejudiced, vulnerable to miscalculation, and therefore unusable in terms of precision. Though the term has been called Eurocentric, (Hosbon, 2012:56). It is more precisely Anglo-centric, (Wright, 2012:114-115)

Amin, (2010:217) stresses further that the term "Middle East" may have originated in the 1850s in the British India Office. Nevertheless, the popularity became more obvious when American naval strategist Alfred Thayer Mahan used the term in 1902 to "designate the area between Arabia and India". All of these ("Near East," "Middle East and North Africa" or "MENA," "Arab World," "Islamic World" and "Muslim World") are frequently used in tandem with the "Middle East." "Southwest Asia," another term for this shifting territory has limited popularity although it does not relate to Europe. The Middle East and the Arab world are often confused as the same thing. (Solomon and Tausch, (2020). By other definitions, the Middle East crisscross all of North Africa and springs to the western mountains of Pakistan. The Gulf of Aqaba separates Saudi Arabia from Egypt. Saudi Arabia is also separated from the African continent by the Red Sea. (Reiss and Hottinger, 2012:14-15).

Geographically, enough evidence abounds that the state of Saudi Arabia is situated in Asia since it is surrounded by eight other countries that are within the continent of Asia. (Blaut, 2012:65).

According to the Human right watch 2021 world report, (2021) there were seven states with active armed conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in 2020 (the same number as in 2017–19): Egypt (low-intensity, subnational armed conflict), Iraq (internationalized civil war), Israel (low-intensity, extra state armed conflict), Libya (internationalized civil war), Syria (internationalized civil war), Turkey (low-intensity, extra state, and subnational armed conflict) and Yemen (major internationalized civil war). All the armed conflicts had fewer fatalities than in 2019, and total

conflict-related fatalities in the region have reduced by almost 70 percent since 2017. With conflict-related fatalities in Syria dropping below 10 000 in 2020, the war in Yemen remained the region's only major armed conflict. Many of these conflicts were interconnected and involved regional and international powers, as well as numerous non-state actors.

The report stresses further that a ceasefire in Idlib province in Syria in March 2020 and a nationwide ceasefire decided in Libya in October 2020 recommended both of those conflicts might be open to some form of resolution soon. However, in Yemen implementation of the 2018 Stockholm Agreement remained stalled.

Solomon and Tausch,(2020:65) x-rayed the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic as it relates to arms conflict the result appears to have had minimal impact on the region's armed conflicts, although it unmistakably added a layer of complication to the prevailing humanitarian challenges. Anti-government protests ensued all over the region, with physique protests in Algeria, Iraq, and Lebanon, and irregular protests in Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, the Palestinian territories, and Tunisia. Furthermore, tensions between Iran and the United States again threatened to escalate into a more serious interstate military conflict.

Complex and interlinked armed conflicts in Iraq, Syria, and Turkey

Daoudy, (2020:205) established a link between arm conflict Iraq, Syria, and Turkey, the report goes further to say that in 2020 the government of President Bashar al-Assad continued to amalgamate its hold in Syria, with armed hostility group, he focused on two areas: Idlib province in the north-west, and regions in the north-east partially controlled by Kurds. The March ceasefire in Idlib province led to a further reduction in large-scale hostilities.

In 2020, Iraq also in the Middle East remained a fragile, largely post-conflict state with weak societies and increasing protests. Iran on their own maintained an influential presence in Iraq (as well as Syria), and Iranian–US tensions trickled over into Iraq. Turkey intensified its military operations in northern Iraq, and the protracted armed conflict in the south-east of Turkey also lingered

North Africa and the armed conflict in Libya

In the work of Sullivan, (2021) North Africa is experiencing a coming together of crises following the fall out between the US and the Afghan government, the capture of Kabul Afghan capital is tantamount to a greater increase in the activities of a terrorist group with negative spillover onto the stability of neighboring states in the eastern Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa. The 40-year territorial quarrel over the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (Western Sahara) between Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Río de Oro (Polisario Front) started again towards the end of 2020, while Egypt's low-level Sinai uprising continued in 2020 with no sign of an end or a decisive outcome.

The escalating roles of Egypt, Russia, and Turkey in the civil war in Libya complicated peace efforts and amplified the risk of a direct military skirmish between Turkish and Egyptian or Russian armed forces giving support to opposing sides in the armed struggle. A globally backed ceasefire in Libya in October 2020 offered new grounds for optimism.

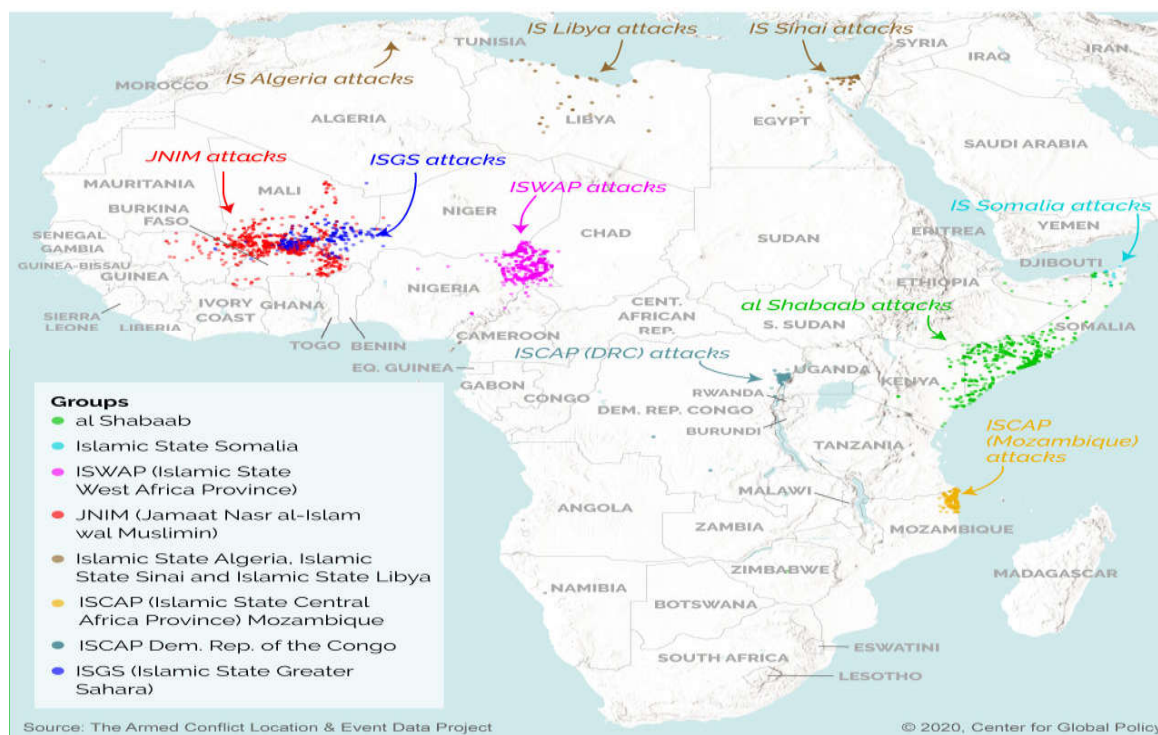
ISWAP's Presence in sub-Saharan African and its Challenges

A recent report from Newline institute for strategy and policy stated that in 2018 when the Islamic State began dropping its "territorial caliphate" in Iraq and Syria, ISIS's leadership knew that the organization would have to depend on external "provinces" (called wilayat) to keep its global project

thriving. The provinces would launch attacks and remain loyal to ISIS, and ISIS could claim that the "caliphate" might no longer be increasing, but it was remaining. With impediments in Afghanistan and the Philippines, Africa arose as the only continent where ISIS could operate as it did in Syria and Iraq during its prime. So long as ISIS thrives in Africa, the dream of the global caliphate relics is alive.

Not only can ISIS conduct urbane attacks in Africa, but it also can inhabit areas and overpower armies like what is happening in Afghanistan presently. Moreover, with unrestrained increasing populations, antique tales about revitalizing pre-colonial Islamic states, and challenges resulting from shaky governance and reckless security forces' abuses, ISIS finds the fruitful ground to grow the act of terrorism. foreign policies of a greater number of African states often focus on geopolitical competition among member states, especially between the two contending world powers; the United States and China, the advent of the Islamic State as a power thespian on the continent – on top of deadly al Qaeda's group presence there since as early as Osama bin Laden's 1990s stay in Sudan this means that the Islamic State will be a force that governments, soldiers, support organizations, international corporations, and, of course, citizens will relentlessly have to challenge.

Islamic State Provinces and Rival al Qaeda Affiliates' Areas of Operations in Africa, March 2017 to May 2020



Thus, in Africa, like elsewhere in the world, including Syria and Iraq, ISIS provinces and fighters are present, resilient, and releasing propaganda videos through ISIS's centralized media apparatus. However, in many African locations, ISIS faces pressure.

Only three standout provinces in Africa – ISWAP, ISCAP, and Sinai Province – are in their league when it comes to ISIS's external provinces. ISIS Sinai Province conducted more attacks in 2019 than either ISWAP or ISCAP and wage guerrilla warfare in the Sinai. However, this Terrain Analysis focuses on ISWAP and ISCAP because they have greater "breakout capacity" and potential to

conquer territory resembling what ISIS achieved in Syria and Iraq. ISIS Sinai Province, in contrast, is "boxed in" amid Egyptian – and clandestinely Israeli – aerial and ground operations, despite its causing significant harm in Sinai and Lower Egypt. (Jacob Zenn, May 26, 2020)

According to the SIPRI yearbook, (2021) the report has that there were at least 20 states (out of a total of 49 states) with active armed conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa in 2020: Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. The analysis has it that ten were low-intensity, sub-national armed conflicts, and the other 10 were high-intensity armed conflicts (Nigeria, the DRC, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mali, South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Cameroon, and Niger). Except for CAR and Somalia, all the other 18 armed conflicts had higher estimated conflict-related fatalities in 2020 than in 2019. The total regional increase was about 41 percent, giving the region the most conflict-related fatalities globally. (Ian Davis et al, 2021)

Virtually all the armed wars were globally linked, including as a result of state actors and the conglomerate activities of violent Islamist groups, other terrorist groups, and illegitimate nets. The conflict of cultural and religious tensions was often ingrained in a mishmash of state flaw, fraud, ineffectual delivery of basic needs of the citizen they're by making them susceptible to the antics of the armed group, rivalry over natural resources like some African states blessed with Oil today fight for derivation fund through petroleum Industries Act (PIA 2021), disparity and nous of marginalization to some ethnic nationalities on the basis that they fought a civil war in the past when they tried self-determination. Security dilemmas in sub-Saharan Africa in 2020 were also a fallout in the electoral process that resulted in violence and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic among the populace ravaged with hunger and diseases, coupled with poor clean water supply for human and animal consumption and climate change.

West Africa, Sahel Savanna and Neighboring African States worst hit Globally

The security situation in West Africa deteriorated rapidly in 2020, with an increase in armed transnational religious groups extending their grip in West Africa. The proliferation of community-based militias also exacerbated existing conflicts. The armed conflicts in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger worsened, especially within the tri-border Liptako-Gourma region. The connection between Boko Haram and other Islamist groups in West Africa could further intensify regional security concerns among the populace especially the recent incident in Afghanistan. After the group assured their loyalty to the Islamic State in March 2015, the United States boosted its military aid and arrayed three hundred troops to Nigeria to help in the fight against Boko Haram. The stability of Nigeria is important to regional security and U.S. economic interests; secondly, Nigeria as the largest African oil producer plays a critical role in the economy of Africa. The situation in Nigeria became worse as the increased activities of Boko Haram escalated to the Northwestern part of the country. Arms Bandits targets School children to kidnap for ransom, report has it that between early 2020 to June 2021, about 144 school children were kidnaped in Kaduna state alone, while about 5 died in the hand of the captors. The seven states that formed Northwestern Nigeria were not left. The North Central States like Niger recorded similar incidents of school kidnap for ransom. Schools remain shut by the government in those states to reduce the risk to school children. Nigeria is pivotal in the West African states due to its population, huge human and material resources, and different Ethnic nationality, Connection to the Atlantic Ocean, Sahara desert, and a large expanse of arable land.

Sustained violence across Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon shows no sign of abating, and the risks are spreading across the Sahel and the wider region. Many of these countries

are now among the world's riskiest locations according to the index. With the worst possible score of 0.00 out of 10.00, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Somalia and Syria are tied as the highest risk countries globally, but are closely followed by Cameroon (ranked 6th), Mozambique (7th), Niger (8th), DR Congo (9th) and Iraq (10th). Africa's largest economy, Nigeria, is ranked 11th. All are categorized as 'extreme risk' in the index.

West Africa is currently shouldering the brunt of terror attacks. This mostly results from a significant deterioration of the security situation in the Sahel and an intensification of Boko Haram attacks in Chad, Nigeria and Cameroon.

Although the motivations, momentum and military capabilities of groups vary considerably, we believe it likely that the extremist groups operating in West Africa are seeking to exploit the fragility of national governments weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic. (Raymakers, 2021:4)

The new European Task Force Takuba, led by France, added to the existing external national and multilateral counterterrorism operations in the Sahel and Lake Chad regions alongside more traditional multi-national United Nations peace operations. The armed conflicts in Chad and Nigeria also worsened in the context of increasing instability in the Lake Chad region. The Swedish parliament approved the deployment of up to 150 soldiers to the so-called Takuba task force in June 2020, with reinforcements of up to 100 others. Takuba is the latest international initiative for the Sahel pushed by France, following efforts to create a regional force composed of African soldiers known as the G5 Sahel. The mandate expires on December 31, 2021. (France24, 2021)

The linkages between organized crime and terrorism theory which this work is anchored on are been enunciated by some researchers who have developed an interest in creating a nexus on how, and the scope to which, organized criminal groups and terrorists/terrorist groups network globally. Other models, such as those developed by Hutchinson and O'Malley (2007) are also worth considering when providing a comprehensive theoretical framework of the linkages between these two phenomena.

Furthermore, Ballina (2011) outlined several key theoretical models that have been developed by academics in this field and which have an application to the study of linkages between organized crime and terrorism. Williams developed one of the earliest works on the crime-terror nexus theory and identified three distinct hypothetical models of linkage between organized crime and terrorism.

The first of these models is the "convergence" thesis, which concerns the amalgamation of organized crime and terrorism into a single phenomenon. This might be illustrated by, for example, terrorist groups engaging in bank robberies and other criminal activities to finance their operations, and terrorist groups becoming closely linked to, and in some cases involved in, drug trafficking.

The second model is the "organized crime-terrorism nexus" thesis, which concerns the cooperative collusion between organized crime and terrorism. Williams suggested that this might be illustrated by arms for drug deals and the payment of tribute or taxes to terrorist groups by organized criminal groups for moving contraband through their territory.

Williams' third type of interaction is "transformation", which concerns the mutation or migration of criminal activities to political terrorism or vice versa. This captures situations where a terrorist group reduces its terrorist activities and increases criminal practices, or a criminal organization becomes highly politicized and radically alters the focus of its activities. For instance, this last instance could be observed in the behavior of some organized criminal groups who actively target and kill political candidates and members of local and national governments. (Williams, 1998)

From the above what is happening in sub-Saharan African today as it regards the activities of a terrorist group is not far from the three models propounded by Williams. The terrorist group operating in the region applies the three models postulated by the linkage between organized crime and terrorist theory. The current state of Afghanistan is a clear indication that sub-Saharan Africa is no longer a haven if necessary care was not taken by African leaders. The kidnap for ransom replaced their initial strategy of suicide bombing having realized that they can get paid by the relatives of the kidnapped, and through that increase their capital base to capture more territories.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Sub-Saharan African nation is bedeviled of bad governance despite its enormous riches in human and material resources and has contributed negatively towards increasing activities of an armed group in the region. The political elites are not helping matter due to their insensitivity to the plight of the people. Seat tight policy of Africa political leaders resulted in the poor electoral process that is not free, fair, and credible in electing leaders. The colonial and neocolonial syndrome tied Africa to the apron strings of the west in taste, education, and style. Development in sub-Saharan Africa remains a mirage due to over-dependence on the west and our import-driven economy that allowed us to export primary goods that do not pay our bills. The kind of resources that the US put into the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan is not in sub-Saharan Africa. A whopping sum of \$2.26Trillion spent in Afghanistan by the US government from October 2001 till July 2021 will put Africa's poor infrastructure development to flight, the region cannot boast of such an amount of money let alone investing such to fight terrorism.

The high rate of unemployment, underemployment and illiteracy in sub-Saharan Africa is another threat, recently South Africa is rated highest on the global unemployment scale, that figure is alarming. As an adage says that 'an idle mind is devil's workshop' when a greater number of the populace are unemployed, underemployed or illiterates is a clear indication that they are gullible to terrorist allurements. The most worrisome part is that the youths in the region are worst hit.

The dearth of data remains the greatest challenge in sub-Saharan Africa, a greater number of the country hardly conducts a national census to ascertain the accurate number of its populace, they believe on the UN projection to make their annual budget that is always deficit due to inconsistency in the figures presented for analysis. The region cannot boast of accurate population demography. The region annual budget remains a mere document that is non-realistic, the only data that is near accurate in the region is WHO (world health organization) sponsored programs, I said near accurate because they pay virtually for every process but for any other, it is more of projection and estimation that they use. Governor of Borno State, a state in Northeastern Nigeria, Prof. Babagana Zulu in a television interview in the statehouse after a meeting with the Country President confirm that Boko Haram have killed over 100,000 people and over 4,000,000 displaced since its operation in Northeast Nigeria comprising Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states.

Election in the sub-region is a Condit pipe to embezzle State funds, this is because the president conducting the elections within him or her knows that the entire process cannot be free, fair, and credible. The only electoral process near-global acceptance today is the electronic voting system, it does not mean that e-voting has no flaws, it does but it's minimal. Election in the region is a fallacy because the leaders in Africa are infested with seat tight syndrome; to this end, they find it very difficult to relinquish power even when they know quite well that the people are tired of their governance. The electronic voting system will continue to fail in sub-Saharan Africa due to a dearth in infrastructure, the region is too back when it comes to technological advancement; from sporadic electricity supply to low broadband penetration, high illiteracy, and cultural practices that see women

only as baby-making machine thereby undermining their potentials and managerial abilities. The right to vote and to be voted for remains a mirage in some African countries, tagging women politician prostitutes is worrisome as that has led a greater number of them to retreat in their political career despite huge investments made so far.

"Winner takes it all" in the sub-Saharan Africa political system without extending hands of fellowship to the opposition party after a general election is of great concern in the region. Political opponents are seen as the enemy rather than a complementing force for good governance and public accountability. Lack of opposition in the African political hemisphere makes any political party in power feel like a demy god, they threaten oppositions with anti-graft agencies to bring them into perpetual servitude of their membership.

The illegal proliferation of small arms makes the region volatile as a result of arming young men during the election to assist the political class remain in power, after the election nobody tries to retrieve the arms from them is another source of worry in the region. The porosity of our border remains worrisome among member states. Some speak the same language with another country, under such conditions you cannot distinguish one from another in terms of nationality.

Violence in Africa's terrorist hotspots is getting worse and the risk of attacks is rising in many countries across the region, including some previously considered safe, reveals our latest Terrorism Intensity Index. The quarterly ranking of 198 countries shows sub-Saharan Africa is now home to 7 of the world's 10 riskiest locations, making it the worst-performing region globally.

With a further 9 countries witnessing significant increases in the frequency and severity of attacks, the findings suggest that the reach and effectiveness of terrorist groups in Africa are growing. The last quarter alone saw a 13% rise in terrorist incidents across the continent compared to the previous period. The trajectory of these trends should be a major cause of concern for the region's governments, as well as the mining and energy companies operating there.

Over the last 12 months, 4 of the 5 countries seeing the biggest falls in the Terrorism Intensity Index were in Africa. Burundi saw the greatest increase in risk, dropping 37 places to become the 27th riskiest nation globally. Côte d'Ivoire (30th) and Tanzania (32nd) witnessed similar falls, while Chad, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, and Senegal also saw their scores significantly worsen. The only African countries to register improvements in the index were Rwanda and the Central African Republic.

Sustained violence across Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Cameroon shows no sign of abating, and the risks are spreading across the Sahel and the wider region. Many of these countries are now among the world's riskiest locations according to the index. With the worst possible score of 0.00 out of 10.00, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Somalia and Syria are tied as the highest risk countries globally but are closely followed by Cameroon (ranked 6th), Mozambique (7th), Niger (8th), DR Congo (9th) and Iraq (10th). Africa's largest economy, Nigeria, is ranked 11th. All are categorized as 'extreme risk' in the index.

West Africa is currently shouldering the brunt of terror attacks. This mostly results from a significant deterioration of the security situation in the Sahel and the intensification of Boko Haram attacks in Chad, Nigeria, and Cameroon. (Raymakers, 2020).

Therefore, the pressure that sub-Saharan Africa will face sequel to the capture of Afghanistan by the Taliban should be of utmost concern to any right-thinking African. The US on their own is sounding incapacitated following the resurgence of a dreaded Taliban group after killing their leader Osama

Bin Ladin 10 years ago. The Taliban have taken over power in Afghanistan following the announcement of the US Army withdrawal from Afghanistan. This has answered our research question and hypothesis validated that killing a terrorist group leader does not necessarily result in the total annihilation of the terrorist group. The death of Nigeria Boko Haram leader Mohammed Yusuf in 2009 did not stop their activities rather than it gave them more popularity in the country. The Boko Haram present leader Shakaaru has been declared dead on several occasions by the Nigerian military forces. The most recent was as alleged that he blew off himself while resisting arrest from the ISWAP group.

Lessons for sub-Saharan African states to learn from Afghan's story include the following: that terrorism cannot be only defeated through kinetic force rather the need to employ the carrot and stick approach and by correcting the wrong impression created in the minds of the populace by the political class as a result of maladministration over 6 decades that some of the African states gained independence from the colonial masters. Kinetic force can only amount to the enrichment of few elites that see terrorism as a business. The carrot and stick approach does wonders.

A continent that imports virtually everything including matches and toothpick cannot produce arms to fight terrorism, such will be capital intensive for Africa that depends hugely on the West for everything to fight the level of insurgency in the Middle East.

Africa should look inward and try to think out of the box in the area of developing technology not necessarily Tucano Jet or F35 to fight insurgence in the region; trusting that the West will give us a solution to ending terrorism they imported to sub-Saharan Africa is false, The armory they stockpiled in their various country in the West is for sale not for decoration, the goal of the West is to ensure that Africa is not safe so that they continue to smile to the Bank. Africans need to apply a non-conventional approach that our forefathers used that is peculiar to every African state.

Shouting down the people will not bring solution to security challenges to sub-Saharan Africa. People should be allowed to say their mind especially the issue that concerns them. The power of the people is stronger than the people in power. Terrorism is like rotten Onion, the more you remove the layers the more you see the level of damage, and the west cannot paint terrorism as something we can remove like a tick, rather it's a process that will take time and resources.

Finally, African needs to resolve the issue of maladministration, injustice, religious extremism, corruption, sit tight syndrome in the seat of power, over-dependence on the aid from the West thereby undermining the enormous potential in Africa both in human and materials resources, lack of credible electoral process and colonial dependency syndrome that made China a second god to sub-Saharan Africa. To this, this paper suggested also that undue influence from G8 countries to what they described as 'third world countries syndrome' that made sub-Saharan Africa remain in a perpetual slavery in education and technology be discouraged and also by allowing the 'third world' countries to have a credible, free and fair electoral process to choose their leaders; knowing very well that terrorism cannot be defeated through a barrel of gun. "Treat the source and not the substance"

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