



Non State Actors and International Conflicts: A Study of ISIS and Boko Haram

¹Azubuike Callistus Francis, ²Ojo Idowu Akinwumi, ³Igboke Shedrack. C.

^{1, 2, & 3}Department of Political Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria

Corresponding Author's Email: cf.azubuike@unizik.edu.ng

Abstract

This paper examined the role of non-state actors in international terrorism with special emphasis on ISIS and Boko Haram as cases under review. The paper examined the complex and evolving roles of non-state actors, specifically ISIS and Boko Haram, in international conflicts. It delves into issues surrounding recruitment, radicalization, transnational impact, and responses by states and international community. By investigating these aspects, the study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges posed by these groups and inform more effective counterterrorism strategies and policies. The research questions that guided this study are, how do non-state actors contribute to local and international conflict, and what are the implications for global security? The research objective was to analyze the strategies employed by these two groups to achieve their objectives and to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures adopted by the international community to combat their activities. The theoretical framework adopted in this study is the Terrorism and Insurgency theory seeks to explain and understand the use of violence and intimidation by non-state actors to achieve political, ideological or social objectives, with its use of armed struggle against government or occupying force, often involving guerrilla warfare and popular support, with the aim of achieving political change, and sometime independence. The findings of this study revealed that non-state actors like ISIS and Boko Haram pose a significant threat to global security, as they are able to carry out attacks on a global scale and destabilize entire regions. In the light of these findings, this study proposes several recommendations for addressing the threat posed by non-state actors. These include improving intelligence sharing and coordination among states, strengthening legal frameworks to prosecute individuals and groups engaged in terrorism, and addressing the root causes of conflict, including poverty, political instability, and social marginalization. Only by adopting a comprehensive and coordinated approach can the international community effectively combat the threat posed by non-state actors and promote global peace and security.



Keywords: Non-State Actors, New Wars, ISIS, Boko Haram, International Conflicts

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Introduction

Non-state actors, defined as entities that are not affiliated with or governed by a recognized state, have played an increasingly prominent role in international conflict in recent years (Byman, 2018). Two groups that exemplify this trend are ISIS and Boko Haram, both of which have emerged as major threats to global security. This literature review aims to provide a historical background on the role of non-state actors in international conflict, with a specific focus on these two groups. The concept of non-state actors is not new, as various groups such as rebels, militias, and terrorist organizations have existed throughout history (Mousseau, 2011). However, their impact on international conflict has become more pronounced in the post-Cold War era due to factors such as globalization, technological advancements, and the weakening of state institutions (Hofmann, 2005; Nkwede, Abah, & Nwankwo, 2015).

Non-state actors have become increasingly prominent in international conflicts in recent years (Kaldor, 2012; Mousseau, 2016). These groups, which can include insurgent groups, militias, and terrorist organizations, can exert significant influence in conflicts despite lacking the formal recognition and resources of state actors (Gates, 2019). The role of non-state actors in conflict has been the subject of much scholarly and policy debate. This study aims to contribute to this debate by examining the role of two prominent non-state actors, ISIS and Boko Haram, in international conflict. Non-state actors have become increasingly prominent in international conflict in recent years. This trend can be attributed to several factors, including the proliferation of non-state actors, the decline of state power, and the growth of transnational networks (Barno & Bensahel, 2018). These factors have created opportunities for non-state actors to engage in conflict and exert influence in ways that were previously impossible. This trend has been particularly pronounced in the Middle East and Africa, where non-state actors have played a

central role in numerous conflicts (Foucher, 2017). The research problem for this study is to understand the factors that contribute to the success or failure of non-state actors in international conflicts. Specifically, the study aims to investigate the role of ISIS and Boko Haram in the conflicts they are involved in and the impact of their actions on the affected regions. To properly achieve this purpose, the following research questions have been posed:

1. What factors contribute to the successful operations of non-state actors in international conflicts?
2. What roles have ISIS and Boko Haram played in global conflicts?
3. How have their actions affected the regions they operate in and what should be done to minimize their operations drastically?

Literature Review

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)

ISIS stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, also sometimes referred to as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). It is an insurgent group that emerged in the early 2000s and gained control over large parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014 (CNN, 2021; GlobalSecurity.org, 2019). The group adheres to a fundamentalist interpretation of Sunni Islam and seeks to establish a caliphate, or Islamic state, in the Middle East (BBC News, 2018). ISIS has been responsible for numerous acts of violence and terrorism, including attacks on civilians, military personnel, and religious minorities (Counter Extremism Project, 2018). The group has been the target of a military campaign led by various international coalitions, which has significantly reduced its territorial control and weakened its military capabilities (BBC News, 2018).

ISIS is a Sunni jihadist group that emerged in Iraq in 2013. The group gained prominence in 2014 when it seized control of large swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria (Hafez, 2017). ISIS's territorial ambitions and brutal tactics have made it a significant threat to regional stability and international security. The group has engaged in numerous acts of terrorism, including the 2015 attacks in Paris, and has attracted thousands of foreign fighters to its ranks (Hafez, 2017). The role of ISIS in international conflict has been the subject of much debate. Some scholars argue

that the group represents a new form of transnational terrorism, while others contend that it is primarily a local insurgency with limited international ambitions (Pape, 2018).

Boko Haram

Boko Haram is a militant Islamist group based in northeastern Nigeria that was founded in 2002. The group's name translates to "Western education is forbidden," reflecting its opposition to Western education and influence in Nigeria. Boko Haram has been responsible for numerous acts of violence and terrorism, including attacks on civilians, government officials, and military personnel, as well as the abduction of schoolgirls and other atrocities (Council on Foreign Relations, 2021). The group's ideology is rooted in a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam and seeks to establish a caliphate in Nigeria based on strict Sharia law (BBC News, 2021). Boko Haram has also been known to engage in activities such as smuggling and kidnapping for ransom to fund its operations (Council on Foreign Relations, 2021). The Nigerian government has been engaged in a long-standing conflict with Boko Haram, with various military campaigns aimed at suppressing the group's activities (BBC News, 2021). The conflict has resulted in thousands of deaths and displacement of millions of people, particularly in northeastern Nigeria where the group is most active (Council on Foreign Relations, 2021).

Non-State Actors

Non-state actors (NSAs) are actors in both national governments and international political arena that are not affiliated with any government or state entity. They play increasingly important roles in the international system and have become more prominent in recent years. This literature review will explore the definition and types of non-state actors in international relations, drawing on relevant sources. According to Biersteker and Weber (2016), non-state actors are defined as "entities other than states that participate in international relations and influence outcomes." This definition includes a wide range of actors, including international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), multinational corporations, and terrorist groups. These actors can have a significant impact on international relations and can challenge the traditional power structures of nation-states. Adagba and Olaniyan (2016), alluded to this assertion when he opines that "non-state actors are defined as "actors in the international system that are not formal

entities of states or intergovernmental organizations." This definition includes a wide range of actors, including NGOs, civil society organizations, private businesses, and religious organizations. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are a prominent type of non-state actor in Nigeria. According to Akinyemi (2014), NGOs "are voluntary organizations that are independent of government and work towards social, economic, and environmental objectives." These organizations play an important role in addressing social problems and advocating for human rights in Nigeria.

In addition to NGOs, other types of non-state actors are also present in Nigeria. For example, religious organizations such as the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and the Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) are influential actors in the country (Ayoade, 2014). These organizations have significant political and social influence and can shape the attitudes and behaviors of their followers. There are several types of non-state actors in international relations. International organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are one type of non-state actor. These organizations are created by states but operate independently and have a global reach (Barnidge, 2021). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are another type of non-state actor. These organizations are usually non-profit and are focused on specific issues such as human rights, environmental protection, or humanitarian aid (Kaldor, 2013). They often work in collaboration with other non-state actors or governments to achieve their objectives. Multinational corporations (MNCs) are also considered non-state actors in international relations. These corporations operate across national borders and have a significant impact on the global economy (Gilpin, 2016). They often have more resources and influence than some nation-states and can affect the policies and decisions of governments. Private businesses are another type of non-state actor in Nigeria. As Oluwagbemi and Adeniyi (2020) note, "the Nigerian private sector is an important stakeholder in the development of the country." Private businesses can affect economic growth and job creation in Nigeria and can influence government policies and regulations. They can also engage in activities that jeopardize local and international security.

Terrorist groups, such as ISIS and Boko Haram, are another type of non-state actors in international relations. This group use propaganda, violence and intimidation to achieve their political objectives and can destabilize entire regions (Council on Foreign Relations, 2021). It is this category of Non-state actors that formed the subject matter of our research work. In conclusion, non-state actors in international relations are entities other than states that participate in international relations and influence outcomes. They include international organizations, non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations, and terrorist groups. Understanding the definition and types of non-state actors is important for understanding the complex nature of international relations.

International Conflicts

According to Keohane and Nye (2001) international conflict are situations in which two or more states perceive that their interests are incompatible and express this perception through their foreign policies." They emphasize the role of perception and interest in shaping conflicts. Walter Laqueur defines international conflict as "a disagreement or antagonism between states, which may be manifest in a range of behaviors from peaceful negotiations to armed hostilities" (Laqueur, 1977). While Russett and Starr describe international conflict as "a breakdown in peaceful relations between two or more states, marked by a threat or use of force and typically involving issues of contention between the parties" (Gerring, 2007). Keupp characterizes international conflicts as "a state of open, armed, often prolonged fighting, typically between countries or ethnic groups" (Gerring, 2007).

International conflict has undergone significant transformations in recent decades, partly due to the increasingly prominent role of non-state actors. This discussion critically examines the nature of international conflict in the context of these non-state actors, with reference to scholarly sources and relevant empirical evidence. International conflict traditionally involved interactions between nation-states, often driven by geopolitical interests. However, in contemporary times, non-state actors, such as terrorist organizations like ISIS and Boko Haram, have emerged as key players in the realm of global conflict (Barnett & Duvall, 2005). This shift has altered the landscape of international conflict, blurring the lines between state and non-state actors.

Understanding the activities of non-state actors in international conflict requires an examination of their motivations and tactics. One of the defining features of non-state actors in international conflict is their transnational reach. ISIS, for instance, has orchestrated attacks in multiple countries, illustrating the global impact of such groups (Berger & Morgan, 2015). This challenges the traditional understanding of conflict as primarily occurring between nation-states within defined borders. Non-state actors pose significant challenges to international security. They exploit weaknesses in state structures and often operate in regions marked by political instability and weak governance (Acosta, 2018). The activities of groups like Boko Haram have far-reaching consequences, affecting not only the security of the nations in which they operate but also regional and global stability (Trombly, 2013). Evidently, international conflict has evolved significantly with the emergence of non-state actors like ISIS and Boko Haram. These groups challenge traditional notions of conflict by operating across borders, employing asymmetric tactics, and pursuing diverse ideological goals. Understanding their motivations, strategies, and impacts is crucial for addressing contemporary international security challenges.

Methodology

The research design for this study was structured in a case study design, focusing on the role of two specific non-state actors (ISIS and Boko Haram) in international conflicts. The case study approach allowed for an in-depth exploration of the topic, drawing on a range of secondary sources including academic literature, media reports, and government publications. The data collection methods for this study involved a systematic review of secondary sources. The sources of data included academic journals, books, government reports, news articles, and online databases. The data analysis technique for this study involved a content analysis of the secondary data collected. Content analysis is a method used to systematically examine and interpret the content of textual, visual or audio materials, for identifying, analysing, and reporting patterns and themes within the data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The data collected was analysed to identify key themes related to the role of non-state actors in international conflicts, with a particular focus on the case studies of ISIS and Boko Haram.



Theoretical Framework

The study of non-state actors and their role in international conflicts is enriched when examining two significant groups, ISIS and Boko Haram, through the frameworks of terrorism and insurgency theory. These extremist organizations have garnered global attention due to their ability to operate across borders and disrupt regional stability. By applying terrorism and insurgency theory to this analysis, we gain valuable insights into the complex dynamics, motivations, and strategies that drive the actions of ISIS and Boko Haram.

Terrorism theory, with contributions from scholars like Walter Laqueur, Bruce Hoffman, and Martha Crenshaw, offers a lens to understand how non-state actors employ violence for political, ideological, or religious purposes. It delves into the asymmetric tactics they employ, such as bombings and hostage-taking, to instill fear and capture attention. Terrorism theory also explores the psychological and political impact of these acts on governments, societies, and international relations.

In contrast, insurgency theory, championed by the likes of David Galula, Mao Zedong, and Carl von Clausewitz, focuses on armed uprisings and movements that challenge established authorities. It investigates the strategies used by insurgent groups, including guerrilla warfare, propaganda, and recruitment, while considering the underlying grievances that drive marginalized groups to rebel. This theory also addresses the counterinsurgency strategies employed by governments to combat such movements. Critics of terrorism theory argue that it can oversimplify complex political conflicts, reducing them to issues of violence and terror, potentially overlooking root causes and grievances. On the other hand, critics of insurgency theory claim it may overly prioritize military aspects and neglect the political and social dimensions of insurgencies, sometimes failing to adapt to the changing nature of contemporary conflicts involving non-state actors.

In the case of ISIS and Boko Haram, both terrorism and insurgency theory prove relevant. These groups have been designated as terrorist organizations due to their use of violence to advance their goals. Analyzing their motivations, tactics, and impacts aligns with the core principles of terrorism theory. Simultaneously, they have conducted insurgent activities aimed at challenging

governments and establishing their rule, making insurgency theory applicable. For example, ISIS combines elements of terrorism and insurgency, as it has engaged in acts of terror, such as the 2015 Paris attacks, while also seeking to control territory and challenge existing states. Boko Haram's insurgency in Nigeria illustrates the application of insurgency theory, as it aims to replace the Nigerian government with its version of Islamic law.

Combining terrorism and insurgency theory helped us to construct a comprehensive framework for analyzing non-state actors like ISIS and Boko Haram. This framework facilitates a multi-dimensional understanding of their actions, motivations, and the responses of affected governments. It also enables an assessment of the effectiveness of counter-terrorism and counterinsurgency strategies employed by states and international actors.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Role of Boko Haram in Nigeria

Boko Haram is a jihadist militant organization that has been operating in northeastern Nigeria since the early 2000s. The group has been responsible for numerous terrorist attacks, including suicide bombings and kidnappings, and has also been involved in clashes with the Nigerian military (Miklian & Carlsen, 2012). Nigeria has experienced a significant amount of violence and conflict in recent years, much of it involving non-state actors such as Boko Haram. As Miklian and Carlsen (2012) note, Boko Haram "has emerged as one of the most violent, ruthless and enigmatic Islamist militant groups in the world." The group's tactics include suicide bombings, kidnappings, and attacks on civilian targets, and it has been responsible for the deaths of thousands of people, and the kidnapping of hundreds of young school girls in the northern part of Nigeria. The Nigerian government has struggled to contain the group's activities, with many critics pointing to the government's lack of capacity and corruption as contributing factors. As Miklian and Carlsen (2012) argue, "The Nigerian state's inability to effectively contain the violence is partly due to the fact that the country's security sector is fragmented, poorly trained, corrupt and heavily politicized".

The Role of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the Syrian

The role of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the Syrian crisis has been significant and complex, with the group playing a major role in the violence and instability that has characterized the conflict. ISIS emerged as a major player in the Syrian conflict in 2013, when it split from Al-Qaeda and began to operate more independently (Nacos, 2018). The group's goal was to establish a caliphate, or Islamic state, in the territory it controlled, which spanned parts of Syria and Iraq (Berger, 2015). They quickly became known for its brutality, carrying out numerous terrorist attacks and atrocities against civilians, including mass executions and beheadings (Nacos, 2018). The group's tactics were intended to instill fear and exert control over the population, and they proved effective in expanding its territory and influence.

The Group's involvement in the Syrian conflict exacerbated existing tensions and contributed to the violence and instability that has characterized the conflict. As Nacos (2018) notes, "The emergence of ISIS added another layer of complexity to the conflict, and heightened fears about the potential for extremist groups to gain power and destabilize the region." The group's involvement also drew the attention of external actors, including the United States and Russia, both of whom carried out military operations against ISIS in Syria (Berger, 2015). Despite significant territorial losses in recent years, ISIS continues to pose a significant threat in Syria and beyond, and its legacy in the Syrian conflict will be felt for years to come.

The Impacts of Non-State Actors on International Security

Non-state actors such as Boko Haram and ISIS have had significant impacts on international security, both in their regions of operation and beyond. Here is an interrogation of the impacts of non-state actors on international security, using Boko Haram and ISIS as case studies. Boko Haram has had a significant impact on international security in Nigeria and beyond, with the group's tactics of violence and terrorism causing widespread fear and instability. As Akinola (2018) notes, "The activities of Boko Haram have led to the displacement of millions of people, destroyed infrastructure, and caused significant economic losses in Nigeria". The group's influence has also extended beyond Nigeria, with its connections to other terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS causing concern for regional and international security (Boutin, 2015). Boko

Haram's ability to carry out attacks and establish territorial control has demonstrated the capacity of non-state actors to challenge the authority of states and undermine international security.

Similarly, ISIS has had a significant impact on international security, with its tactics of terrorism and brutality contributing to the destabilization of the Middle East and beyond. As Marrouch and Kurczy (2018) note, "ISIS's control of territory in Iraq and Syria enabled it to operate as a quasi-state, with the ability to generate revenue, recruits fighters, and plan attacks." The group's reach extended beyond the Middle East, with ISIS-inspired attacks carried out in countries around the world, including Europe and the United States (Phillips, 2017). The threat posed by ISIS and other non-state actors has led to increased efforts by states and international organizations to address the root causes of extremism and terrorism, and to develop strategies to counter their activities. In conclusion, non-state actors such as Boko Haram and ISIS have had significant impacts on international security, challenging the authority of states and contributing to instability and violence in their regions of operation and beyond. As scholars continue to study these groups and their activities, it will be important to consider the ways in which non-state actors shape and are shaped by broader political, economic, and social contexts, and to develop effective strategies for addressing the threats they pose.

Factors Contributing to the Emergence and Persistence of Non-State Actors

The emergence and persistence of non-state actors in international conflict can be attributed to various factors namely;

1. Failed States or State Collapse

According to Abrahms (2008), non-state actors arise as a result of failed states or state collapse, where the government is unable to provide basic services and security to its citizens. In such situations, non-state actors can fill the void and provide essential services, giving them legitimacy and support from the local population.

2. Globalization

Another factor contributing to the emergence of non-state actors is globalization, which has facilitated the spread of ideas and resources across borders, allowing non-state actors to gain access to weapons, money, and other resources (Buzan et al., 1998). Moreover, the spread of



radical ideologies through the internet and social media has contributed to the rise of non-state actors, as seen in the case of ISIS. According to Keohane and Nye (2001), globalization has facilitated the growth of transnational civil society, which includes non-governmental organizations (NGOs), social movements, and other groups that operate beyond national boundaries. This has enabled these groups to mobilize resources and support from a global audience, making them more effective in pursuing their goals. For example, the global anti-globalization movement that emerged in the late 1990s was able to coordinate its activities and mobilize supporters across different countries through the use of the internet and social media (Juris, 2008). Similarly, groups like Greenpeace and Amnesty International have been able to leverage their global networks of supporters to influence governments and advocate for human rights (Keck & Sikkink, 1998).

3. Technology

Advances in technology have also played a significant role in the emergence and persistence of NSAs. The widespread availability of communication technologies such as the internet, social media, and mobile phones has enabled NSAs to coordinate their activities, recruit members, and disseminate their messages to a global audience (Lynch, 2011). This has also made it easier for NSAs to evade state surveillance and repression, making them more resilient and persistent. One example is the use of social media by the Islamic State (IS) to recruit members and spread its propaganda. ISIS has been able to use platforms like Twitter and YouTube to disseminate its message and attract followers from around the world (Berger & Morgan, 2015). Another example is the use of encrypted messaging apps like WhatsApp and Telegram by NSAs to communicate securely and evade state surveillance (Kostka & Geers, 2020).

4. Ideology

Ideology is another important factor that contributes to the emergence and persistence of NSAs. Many NSAs are motivated by ideological goals, such as the desire to establish a religious state or to promote a particular political or social agenda (Barnett & Duvall, 2005). These goals may be in conflict with the interests of the state, leading to violent clashes and protracted conflicts. For example, the Taliban in Afghanistan has been able to sustain its insurgency for decades by promoting its radical interpretation of Islam and challenging the legitimacy of the Afghan government (Ghosh, 2019). Similarly, the Basque separatist group ETA in Spain was motivated

by a desire to establish an independent Basque state, and used violence to achieve its goals (Montero, 2018).

5. Elite Complicity

Elite complicity in the activities of groups like Boko Haram and ISIS is a complex and contentious issue. While there is evidence to suggest some level of involvement or support from elements within elite circles, it is essential to approach this topic with caution, as it can vary widely across different contexts.

Boko Haram and Elite Complicity

Boko Haram's rise in Nigeria has raised questions about possible elite complicity. Some scholars argue that corrupt elements within the Nigerian government and security forces may have turned a blind eye to, or even benefited from, the group's activities. According to Trombly (2013), corruption and political patronage networks in Nigeria have created an environment where certain elites may have tolerated or exploited Boko Haram's actions for personal gain. Additionally, Nwankwo (2017) highlights that Boko Haram's recruitment strategies have exploited the grievances of marginalized and disaffected populations, potentially involving local elites who sympathize with the group's objectives or who have grievances against the government. However, the extent of such complicity remains a subject of debate and investigation.

ISIS and Elite Complicity

ISIS, with its global reach, has also raised questions about potential elite complicity in various regions. Some sources suggest that local elites in conflict zones may have provided tacit support or cooperation with ISIS for various reasons. For example, Marrouch and Kurczy (2018) point to instances in which local elites in Iraq and Syria may have collaborated with ISIS due to grievances against central governments or in pursuit of economic interests. Katzman (2020) discusses state sponsorship of non-state actors, including ISIS, and how certain governments have been accused of providing support or turning a blind eye to their activities. This raises questions about elite complicity at the state level, although such claims are often politically charged and subject to international scrutiny.

It's crucial to acknowledge that proving elite complicity can be challenging, as these relationships may be covert and hidden from public view. Additionally, complicity can vary significantly within elite circles, and not all members may support or collaborate with extremist groups. The issue of elite complicity in the activities of Boko Haram and ISIS remains a topic of debate and controversy. Some argue that focusing on elite complicity can oversimplify the complex dynamics of these conflicts and may divert attention from addressing the root causes and grievances that drive support for such groups. In conclusion, elite complicity in the activities of Boko Haram and ISIS is a multifaceted and contentious issue. While there is evidence and scholarly discussion surrounding potential involvement or tolerance by certain elites, the extent and nature of such complicity can vary widely across different contexts and regions. Further research and investigation are necessary to gain a more comprehensive understanding of this complex issue.

7. State Sponsorship

Finally, state sponsorship is another factor that contributes to the emergence and persistence of NSAs. Some states may provide support to NSAs as part of their foreign policy objectives, either to advance their own interests or to undermine their rivals (Mullenbach & Terman, 2015). This support may include financial assistance, weapons, training, and other resources that enable NSAs to sustain their operations. One example is the support provided by Iran to Hezbollah, a Shia militant group in Lebanon. Iran has provided Hezbollah with financial assistance, weapons, and training, enabling it to become a major player in Lebanese politics and a potent force against Israel (Byman, 2015). Similarly, the support of the Soviet Union to communist insurgencies in the 20th century played a significant role in shaping the dynamics of international conflicts during the Cold War (DeRouen & Heo, 2004). In conclusion, while failed and collapsed states are significant factors contributing to the emergence and persistence of NSAs, globalization, technology, ideology, and state sponsorship also play important roles in shaping the dynamics of international conflicts involving NSAs.

Efforts of State Actors and International Communities to Combat these Groups



State actors and the international community have made significant efforts to combat ISIS and Boko Haram in order to maintain regional and global peace. These efforts have included military operations, economic sanctions, and diplomatic negotiations.

Military Efforts

One example of military operations against ISIS was the US-led coalition's efforts in Iraq and Syria. The coalition conducted airstrikes and provided training and equipment to local forces to combat the terrorist group. According to a report by the US Department of Defense, as of September 2021, the coalition had conducted more than 34,000 airstrikes and enabled the capture of more than 100,000 square kilometers of territory from ISIS (DoD, 2021).

Similarly, in the fight against Boko Haram, the Nigerian government has conducted military operations with support from neighboring countries such as Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. The international community has also provided assistance, including training and equipment for the Nigerian military. In addition, the United States has designated Boko Haram as a terrorist organization and imposed economic sanctions on its leaders (US Department of State, 2022).

Diplomatic Efforts

Diplomatic efforts have also been made to combat these terrorist groups. For example, the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, which includes more than 80 countries, was established in 2014 to coordinate efforts to defeat ISIS through diplomatic, economic, and military means (State Department, 2021). Similarly, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, which includes Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Benin, was established to coordinate regional efforts to combat Boko Haram through military operations and intelligence sharing (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020).

State actors and the international community have made efforts to combat the impacts of non-state actors like ISIS and Boko Haram in their regional and international conflict management. However, the effectiveness of these efforts has been limited. According to the report by the United Nations Security Council, efforts to combat Boko Haram have been hindered by a lack of resources and coordination among states in the region. The report notes that "the military

operations against Boko Haram have been limited by logistical constraints, inadequate training, and limited resources and political will power" (United Nations Security Council, 2017).

Similarly, efforts to combat ISIS have also faced challenges. According to the report by the Congressional Research Service, the U.S.-led coalition's efforts to defeat ISIS have been hampered by a lack of support from regional partners and the difficulty of coordinating among the coalition's many members (Katzman, 2020). Overall, while state actors and the international community have made efforts to combat non-state actors like ISIS and Boko Haram, these efforts have been limited in their effectiveness. More resources, coordination, and support from regional partners may be necessary to successfully combat these groups, though those efforts have not yielded the desired results. In conclusion, state actors and the international community have made significant efforts to combat ISIS and Boko Haram to maintain regional and global peace through military operations, economic sanctions, and diplomatic negotiations.

Findings

This paper discovered that:

1. Non-state actors like ISIS and Boko Haram contribute negatively to the number of international conflicts and this have impacted greatly in global peace and security.
2. They use propaganda, terrorism and guerrilla warfare tactics to challenge the authority of nation-states to achieve their objectives and gain support from local populations.
3. ISIS in particular has attempted to establish a caliphate and has sought to expand its territorial control, while Boko Haram has primarily focused on establishing its authority within Nigeria and neighboring countries.
4. The actions of ISIS and Boko Haram have had significant negative impacts on the regions they operate in, including causing displacement of populations, economic damage, and loss of life.



Conclusion

This study focused on the role of non-state actors in international conflicts, with a particular emphasis on the case studies of ISIS and Boko Haram. Through a systematic review of secondary sources and analysis of relevant data, the study has explored the factors that contribute to the success or failure of non-state actors in international conflicts, the roles that these groups have played in global conflicts, and the impact of their actions on the regions they operate in. The actions of Non-State actors (ISIS and Boko Haram) have had significant negative impacts on the regions they operate in, including displacement of populations, economic damage, and loss of life. The use of propaganda, violence and terrorism by these groups has led to a climate of fear and instability within these regions and in some cases has contributed to the breakdown of state authority. State actors and international community have

Recommendations

Based on the findings made on this study we recommend that:

1. The international community should work together to address the underlying political and social tensions that allow non-state actors to gain support and influence in conflict zones.
2. Effective counter-terrorism strategies should be developed and implemented to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies and the use of violence by non-state actors.
3. Efforts should be made to support the rebuilding and recovery of regions affected by the actions of non-state actors, including providing humanitarian aid and promoting economic development. Also, further research should be conducted to explore the roles of non-state actors in other conflict zones and to identify effective strategies for addressing the challenges they pose to international security.



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