

GLOBALIZATION AND THE DYNAMICS OF NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract

Globalization and the increasing interconnectivity of the international system has brought about changes in the nature of state relations and newer trends in security threats within the international system. Security threats that hitherto did not exist are now made manifest with the aid of globalization particularly as a result of advancement in information, communication and transportation technologies. Cyber-crime, transnational crimes, money laundry, human trafficking, terrorism financing, proliferation of small arms and light weapons amongst several other security threats now characterize the global system. This paper therefore attempts to interrogate globalization as a driver for insecurity. It is the position of this paper that national and international security dynamics have changes because of globalization. It is desk research and relies basically on secondary data. The paper therefore recommends the need for states to adopt security strategies that are in line with global trends so as to address security challenges. It also recommends the application of technology in addressing national security challenges.

Key words: Globalization, National Security, Twenty First Century, Threats, Interconnectedness, international System

Background to the study

The transition to the 21st Century is characterized by glaring differences in the levels of development among states along with the widening scope and intensification of economic, political, and cultural interdependence. This internationalization of politico-economic and socio-cultural processes designated by the term "globalization" has two effects: positive and negative (Heredia, 1997). Since the 1980's the concept of security has broadened from traditional military security to new additional arenas, with each contributing to national security. The post-Cold War era and the

current interconnectedness combined with the expanded concept have resulted in new perceptions of security and situations for states. Globalization can be traced to 1980s onwards when it gained global prominence; it has generally been debated in terms of its effects on states. The most accepted understanding of the term globalization is that it is manifestation of an interconnected and interdependent world in terms of economic, business, culture and political interactions transcending national boundaries (Waseem, Muhammad & Noor, 2019). Globalization is having a number of effects economic, political, cultural, religious, social, demographic, environmental, and military. Such number of effects explains why Globalization comes with numerous expectations especially in the aspect of personal liberty, economic vibrancy, political stability and social order (Nathaniel and Iwuchukwu, 2023, p.497). Understanding these aspects of globalization is important because the interactions among them can be benign or destructive. In the latter case, globalization can trigger new security problems (Stephen, Ellen & Richard, 2001).

What is unique about globalization in the current era is the revolution in information technology, accompanied by the spread of cable television, the increasing number of personal computers, electronic mail, and the instant availability of information. This revolution has sparked a business-driven interaction of advanced telecommunications, technology transfer, and capital flows. Globalization would not be occurring in its present form were it not for the business application of the knowledge revolution—for example, computers, e-mail, satellites, and other innovations. One hallmark of globalization is the emergence of the Internet, which has the effect of spreading knowledge to the far corners of the Earth (Stephen, Ellen & Richard, 2001).

The growth of international communications has contributed to a new political awareness. Television and the Internet, to paraphrase the late Congressman Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, have made all local politics global. The global village is becoming more tightly knitted as new technologies make it far easier to broadcast and receive news worldwide (Stephen, Ellen & Richard, 2001).

Concept of Globalization

Globalization is generally understood as the intimate integration of the people and the countries across the continents resulting into facilitation of

trade and investment, reduction in the cost of shipping and eventually breaking the artificial barriers for smooth and efficient flow of goods, knowledge, services and capital including the people across traditional nation state borders (Waseem, Muhammad & Noor, 2019). Globalization means “compression of the world and magnification of awareness of the world as a whole...both concrete world-wide interdependence and cognizance of the global whole in the twentieth century” (Robertson, 1992).

Globalization is “the process of economic integration of countries, through the increasing flow of goods, services, capital and labour” (Stiglitz & Joseph, 2003). Anthony Giddens, outlines globalization as “the growing interdependence between different peoples, regions and countries in the world” (Giddens, 1990). Onimisi (2014) views globalization as the integration of political, economic, social, and cultural values across international boundaries.

Concept of National Security

The concept of national security has been defined in different ways throughout the years, according to Thomas (1991) is a contested concept, meaning that it has no universally accepted definition but that its conceptualizations are influenced by such consideration as the prevailing ideological context, the time frame being considered and even the level of analysis. Meanwhile, security is the state of being secure; freedom from fear, anxiety, danger, and doubt. Security means protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life in homes, offices or communities. Security may also be defined as the state of being or making safe secure from danger, etc (Wehmeier & Ashby, 2002). Barry Buzan has defined national security as “the ability of a nation to pursue successfully its national interest, as it sees them, anywhere in the world” (Buzan, 2000). According to Eselebor (2013), two security schools of thought currently exist. They are traditionalist (national security) and non-traditionalist. The traditionalists continue to support the Cold War conception of security which centers on military and state-centric approaches. This shows that traditionalists in security studies equate the concept of security with military accounting and the use of force. The focus on military threats and the use of force complements ideas of power and interest, rather than the tough-minded approach to foreign policy which seemed appropriate for the Cold War years (Garnett, 1996). The non-traditional or modern notion of

security adopts a more holistic approach in conceptualizing security. Issues like food security, human security, environmental security, climate change, disaster amongst others fall within the purview of the modern notion of security.

Characteristics of Globalization

Globalization has the following identifiable characteristics:

- i. It is precipitated by scientific advancement particularly information and communication technology
- ii. Interconnectedness
- iii. Border-lessness
- iv. It is multi-dimensional and has pros and cons
- v. Transnational corporations as major drivers of globalization

Interrogating the Nexus between Globalization and National Security in the 21st Century

The introduction of term globalization appeared on the international scene during 1980s, highlighting innovations, technological advancements which paved the way for speedy financial flows and transactions. Globalization manifests in extension beyond national borders of nation states (Waseem, Muhammad & Noor, 2019). Many aspects of globalization now combine increase the dangers of a variety of transnational threats from weapons proliferation, cyber-attacks, ethnic violence, environmental degradation, and the spread of infectious diseases (Davies,2003). The impact of globalization on both national and international security is multidimensional while also bearing in mind the multi-dimensional nature of the concept of security in the 21st century. For the purpose of the chapter, the impact of globalization on national security will be discuss using the following thematic areas of analysis:

- a. Globalization Cyber-crime and Cyber Terrorism
- b. Illicit financial flows Terrorism financing
- c. Trans-border crimes (proliferation of SALWs, Drug trafficking, Human trafficking etc)
- d. Impact on human security and the Spread of Diseases (COVID, EBOLA etc)

Globalization, Cyber-Crimes and Cyber Terrorism

Globalization is a multidimensional phenomenon: Information technologies, along with a variety of other technologies, are developing

rapidly and spreading widely. Trade is expanding globally, as is the flow of private capital and investment. Interdependencies are growing in all aspects of our lives. These developments create real possibilities to achieve economic prosperity, spread political freedom, and promote peace. Yet they are also producing powerful forces of social fragmentation, creating critical vulnerabilities, and sowing the seeds of violence and conflict (Davies,2003). Although, globalization gave rise to development in every area of our society from socio-cultural, political, economic, and technological aspects, it had, however, been argued that globalization begets terrorism (Njoku, 2011).

Globalization has in no small way promoted crime within the cyber space. One may argue that cyber-crime is an unintended consequence of globalization. However, the emergence of cyber space and the need for private individuals, business enterprises and government to use the cyber space has also triggered criminals to relocate their activities to the cyber space. Pollitt (1998) attempted a conceptualization of cyber terrorism by simplifying and blending both the concept of cyber and terrorism when he says that cyberterrorism is composed of two elements: cyberspace (a place where computer programs function and data moves) and terrorism (the use of force or violence and a political motivation).

Denning (2000) further argued that the union between cyber space and terrorism brought about a threat of attacks or an actual unlawful attack against computers, computer networks, and the information stored so as to intimidate or coerce a government or its people in furtherance of political or social objectives that could cause violence against persons or properties, cause or fear, death or bodily injury, explosions, or serious economic loss to the victim. Nelson, Choi, Iacobucci, Mitchell & Gagnon (1991) defined cyberterrorism as the unlawful destruction or disruption of digital property in order to compel governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are religious, ideological or political.

Closely related to cyber terrorism is information terrorism which is also a consequence of globalization and used in most cases by several terrorist organization across the world. Devost, Houghton & Pollard (1997) sees information terrorism as the intentional abuse of a digital information system, network or component toward an end that supports or facilitates a terrorist campaign or action. Consequently, information terrorism can be

said to be forms of attacks that would not necessarily result in violence against humans but it might incite fear that can be characterized as terrorist. Like other terrorist organizations, there are several instances where Boko Haram makes of the cyberspace to showcase their activities and in some instances upload videos of their victims Nigerians held hostage. The video of 276 kidnapped Chibok school girls, video of 37 students of the College of Forestry and Mechanization kidnapped in Kaduna, Videos of the Kaduna-Abuja Train kidnapped victims, videos of beheaded aid workers etc are all online. Their idea is for terrorist to continue to inflict fear on citizens and create global awareness of their existence using the cyber space.

The above view tallies with that of Ogunlana when he averred that terrorist groups, preferably, use social media as an efficient and convenient tool for disseminating information because it has the ability to spread short messages that may be blended with images, texts, and voice notes (Ogunlana, 2019). This is why cyberterrorism is seen as a part of Information Warfare. With the use of websites, blogs, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, and other social media platforms, these cyberterrorists have been able to promote their nefarious activities because it allows easy dissemination of information beyond geographic locations, thereby, recruiting people beyond borders (Ogunlana, 2019).

The cyberspace is primarily concerned with the security, control, and protection of shared information that are vital for decision making processes in any type of communication network. Terrorists now threaten public security by using cyberspace and social media technology to create fear and spread violence as the ways of intimidating a government or the general public. The readiness to respond to these threats (both internally and externally) to security, requires a combination of civilian and military tools in addition to economic and diplomatic resources that are needed to inhibit threats and to moderate their effects (Udosen & Osah, 2021:85).

This amalgamation of the world into a global village for the good of all was, however, the basis on which terrorist groups perpetrated cyber terrorism. The cyber domain involves the electromagnetic spectrum to house, transfer, and edit information through physical infrastructure and

virtual networks (Udosen & Osah, 2021:85). It was in relation to this dynamism that the National Research Council, (1991) argued that the thief of today can steal more with a computer than with a gun and the terrorist of tomorrow may be able to do more damage with a keyboard than with a bomb. cyberterrorism could be said to be the introduction of sophisticated computer viruses introduced into computer-controlled systems used for communications, banking, life support, and manufacturing that could cause in massive disruption of highly organized and technological societies (Collin, 1997). For instance, during the 2023 national elections in Nigeria the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) claimed that there were over 12 million attempt to hack and attack INEC server during the 2023 presidential elections so as to manipulate election results. No wonder Hathaway, et al (2012) sees cyberattack as any action taken to demean the functions of a computer system or its networks for political or national security or hinder the effective governance of any country.

With the effort to protect its cyberspace and its telecommunication infrastructures from terrorist attack, the Nigeria government has spent a huge sum of money, giving much attention to cybercrimes like fraudulent online financing and fundraising activities (Ogunlana, 2019).

Illicit Financial Flow and Terrorism Financing

Globalization has made trade and other economic relations seamless as technological advancement in the areas of information technology and transportation propels the economics of trade. All of this notwithstanding, globalization has promoted financial crimes in several ways. Illicit financial flow (IFFs) both at the domestic and transnational levels is made possible by globalization. IFFs are monies illegally earned, transferred or used. Criminals and Terrorist organizations require significant financing to create and support their organizational infrastructure, underlining followership and to sustain their propaganda as well as finance the seemingly legitimate activities needed to provide a veil of legitimacy for their organizations. Illicit financial and arms flows has become a major driver of growing insecurity concerns across the world while fueling insurgency, terrorism, human trafficking, organized crime, internal insurrections and civil wars among other destabilizing trends thus posing an obstacle to the sustenance of global peace and security. In countries where the legal and institutional structures are weak, globalization has generally intensified the problems of bribery and corruption and facilitated the development of criminal

networks. Corruption and crime not only divert resources, but they also damage public confidence in a market economy (Stephen, Ellen & Richard, 2001). Consequently, Cronin (2003) asserted that characterized by unpredictable and unprecedented threats from non-state actors, the present stage of international terrorism is not just a reaction to globalization but also its facilitator (Cronin, 2003).

Organized crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism, aided by the latest information technology, are also growing, to the point where they already form a sinister underbelly of globalization that threatens the security of all countries, including the developed democracies. These criminal activities have the potential to infect world politics on a larger scale by creating criminal states that seek economic profits through illicit activities and use military power accordingly (Stephen, Ellen & Richard, 2001).

Globalization has exacerbated transnational security threats to all states. But the economic and other non-security aspects of globalization also pose significant threats to the internal security and stability of many rigidly controlled or weak states. The collapse of internal control can also have damaging consequences for regional security, as rebel armies, drug traffickers, or extremist religious groups pursue their agendas with little respect for national borders (Stephen, Ellen & Richard, 2001:18).

In Nigeria, illicit firearms trafficking and illicit financial flows are inextricably linked and have fueled massive violent crimes and armed conflict currently threatening the corporate existence of the country (ICCT Report (2021). Nigeria fully recognizes that Terrorism financing poses many challenges to all countries and considered it critical to emplace strong mechanism for Anti Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) to protect the integrity of the financial system and ensure that public funds are not being misused, misappropriated or found in the hands of misguided groups such as the terrorists.

As part of additional measures to combat this menace effectively, Nigeria ratified its membership of the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, or GIABA, a Financial Action Task Force (FATF)-style regional body. Further to this, Nigeria enacted into law the Terrorism Prevention Act of 2013 as amended, which included provisions prohibiting terrorist financing and providing for the seizure of

funds and property held by individual terrorists or terrorist organizations (<https://www.unodc.org/>).

Nigeria established agencies like the National Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Crime Commission (ICPC).

Transnational Organized Crimes

The end of Cold War heralded globalization, which has brought numerous gains but is not without its shortcomings (Straw and Glennie, 2012). Technology has supported advances in connectivity which have enabled criminal enterprises and terrorist activities to cross national borders with greater ease than previously experienced (Okunade, 2017). The evolution of global interdependence and interconnectedness through flows of goods, people, and communication has led to the production and enhancement of transnational organized crime (Karstedt, 2012a: 343; Sassen, 2007: 5). One major disadvantage of globalization is that it has caused a complex network of illicit markets, which consists of trafficking of drugs, human organs, and arms, prostitution, smuggling, cybercrime such as child pornography and slavery. Transnational networks have been improved by both the criminals and the terrorists to increase their activities, strategies, and logistics to operate across the continents (Ahmed, 2016).

Nigerian boundaries were delineated by the Europeans at the 1884/1885 African-Berlin Conference, and consist of 4,047km of land and 853km of maritime borders (Babatola, 2015). Available estimate indicates that over 70 percent of about 10 million illegal weapons in West Africa are in Nigeria. This is because of the country huge population, wide expansive border regions and other internal and external factors affecting Nigeria security landscape (SALW Survey Report, 2019).

Eselebor (2013) opined those transnational crimes, even though on the increase, are quite civilized in practice, as they operate in syndicate states not adequately equipped to curb the menace of human trafficking, drug trafficking, contraband smuggling, smuggling of small arms and light weapons, cross-border armed banditry/robbery, oil theft/bunkering, financial crimes, advance fee fraud. It was based on the foregoing that Conklin (2007:315) defines organised crime “as syndicated crime, the violation of the law on a large-scale basis by on-going, tightly structured groups devoted to the pursuit of profit through criminal means”.

2006 to 2007 Nigerians ranked first in the Netherlands as the most frequently detected foreign victims of trafficking in persons in that country (UNODC, 2010:51). The EU Organised Crime Threat Assessment Report (OCTA, 2009:21) suggests that Nigerians were the second most active OC groups involved in trafficking human beings into European states in 2009. Albin (1971) thus sees organized crime as any criminal activity involving two or more individuals specializing or not, in certain type of crime; furthermore, it encompasses some form of social structure, leadership, and utilizing certain modes of operation, through which the ultimate purpose of the organization is achieved. Chow, (2003: 473) refers to OC as a “group of persons or entities acting in concert to engage in criminal conduct within an overall organizational structure and under the direction of an individual or group of individuals.

Globalisation and technological changes coupled with fast movements of people, goods, and information has encouraged the Organized Crime networks to internationalize their operations throughout the globe (Bjelopera and Finklea, 2012). According to Karstedt (2012a: 344), “global interconnectedness exposes people, criminal justice systems, and governments to crime problems and pressures. The global illicit economy links illegal production with illegal markets, and organised crime groups in the global North and global South”. It is no doubt that illicit flow of goods and services of demand markets are situated in the global North. Often referred to as modern-day slavery, human trafficking is an egregious example of how globalization can facilitate and grow international crime rings for the purpose of economic gains. It occurs both transnationally and domestically, and within both developing and developed nations (Kabance, 2014).

Globalization created the ideal conditions for sex trafficking to flourish because it made victims “easy to procure, easy to transport, and easy to exploit.” Though economic globalization “led to several benefits, such as expanding international trade, foreign investment, and acceleration of the transfer of knowledge among countries, globalization’s corresponding ills resulted in a rapid increase in global slavery by deepening rural poverty, widening the chasm between rich and poor, promoting social instability, and eroding real human freedoms (Kara, 2009).

While globalization created push and pull factors that caused an increase in sex trafficking, it is likely that technological advancement was globalization's biggest contributor to the industry's growth. Cell phones and the internet made global communication easier than ever before, allowing traffickers to mobilize international crime rings more easily, more quickly, and with less cost (Kabance, 2014).

In terms of human trafficking as an organized crime, Nigeria falls within the top 10 most commonly listed countries of origin of individuals trafficked to European countries. These countries are the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Thailand, Nigeria, Romania, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Albania, China, Belarus, Bulgaria, Morocco, Myanmar, and Vietnam (Van Dijk, 2008; UNODC, 2010: 17). A more contemporary approach to trafficking aided by globalization is the issue of organ harvesting and organ trafficking. Organized syndicates carry out this nefarious activity with unsuspected Nigerians under the guise of giving them employment overseas. Trafficking in human organs is an organized crime with two main types of transactions. The traffickers either force or deceive the victims into providing their organs or the victims formally or informally agree to sell an organ. However, in these transactions traffickers often refuse to pay for the organ or the victims are paid less than the promised price (Glaser, 2005).

While interrogating the nexus between globalization and organized crime, the Organized Crime Assessment Report (OCTA), (2006) maintains that:

Globalization of crime requires the collaboration of foreign partners at both destination and countries of origin. Transnational OC groups are defined by the collaboration between non-indigenous (not having nationality, origin or ethnicity of a country where the OC operates) groups or between an indigenous (having nationality, origin or ethnicity of a country where the OC operates) and nonindigenous group, or an international operation carried out directly by an OC group.

The economics of organized crime has been a major driver for such crime. Drug traffickers mostly facilitate the operations of Organized Crime groups based on agreed upon fees. In Nigeria, in some cases, the couriers are 'holiday makers' or 'international students', who are frequently recruited by Nigerian drug dealers, who usually carry small parcels of drugs in return

for cash payment upon delivery in the European drug market (National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), 2009). The organized criminal groups usually operate on a loose network structure which as though they are disorganized even though they are organized. The OC groups use legitimate business to achieve their objectives in three major ways; to facilitate criminal activities; to launder money and to reinvest the proceeds of crime (OCTA, 2007).

According to NDLEA (cited in Sotande, 2016).

National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in 2011 seized a large quantity of high grade cocaine at the Tin Can Island Port, Lagos, Nigeria. The drug was packed in 150 square parcels inside 38 cartons of floor tiles that originated from Bolivia. The legal import business of the Organized Crime group concealed the illicit commodity in legal goods. The total weight of the narcotics drug was 167kg with an estimated street value of \$10.6 million dollars (N1.6 billion naira). The Organized Crime group then colluded with a clearing agent in the Nigerian port for the clearance of the floor tiles. This was a professional clearing agent licensed by The Nigerian Port Authority (NPA) to operate in Nigerian ports

Impact of Globalization on Human Security

Human security is people-centered. It is concerned with how people live and breathe in a society, how freely they exercise their many choices, how much access they have to market and social opportunities-and whether they live in conflict or in peace (United Nations Development Programme, 1994: 24). In other words, human insecurity broadly conceived affects not just economic security but other areas of existence as well. This is why the first major reference to human security in 1994 identified seven areas of concern. These are the following (United Nations Development Programme, 1994:32):

1. Economic security (e.g., assurance of a basic income),
2. Food Security (e.g., access to food),
3. Health Security (e.g., access to health care and protection from diseases),
4. Environmental Security (e.g., protection from harmful effects of environmental degradation,

5. Personal Security (e.g., freedom from threats by the state, groups, or individuals),
6. Community Security (e.g., freedom from harmful community practices,),
7. Political Security (e.g., enjoyment of human rights, and freedom from political oppression).

Many analysts equally argue that "modern" values will emerge naturally as the result of a global process of diffusion of values conducive for holistic development. The question is how long do developing societies have to wait before these value changes occur? In the meantime, their populations are being inundated by globalization processes from the advanced industrial countries. Attitudes and value changes that underlie collective and individual modernity correspond to behavioral changes at the institutional and general societal levels. The problem of institutionalized clientele networks linked to rampant corruption and misrule, for example, are a symptom of the existence of psychic, mental, and other barriers to effective modernization in many countries (Inkeles and Smith, 1974).

Globalization has serious human security implications for some members of the world community. While it creates opportunities for some, it exposes others to the detrimental effects of its liberalization policies. In the last two decades of the 20th century gaps in economic development among countries has widened. While the 20 percent of the earth's population who live in advanced industrial countries account for 86 percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the 20 percent who live in the poor countries account for a mere one percent (Bogomolov, 2000).

Globalization has increased the spread of infectious diseases from South to North, but also the risk of non-communicable diseases by transmission of culture and behavior from North to South. It is important to target and reduce the spread of infectious diseases in developing countries. However, addressing the risk factors of non-communicable diseases and lifestyle risks in the South that cause disease, such as use or consumption of tobacco, alcohol, and unhealthy foods, is important as well (Ollila, 2005). Modern modes of transportation allow more people and products to travel around the world at a faster pace; they also open the airways to the transcontinental movement of infectious disease vectors (Pray, 2003).

CONCLUSION

If states must perform their responsibility of securing lives and properties of their citizens vis-à-vis the protection of their territorial integrity there is need to understand the multi-dimensional impact of globalization as an existential reality. Security environment has increasingly become more complex than ever before with emerging and evolving security threats and challenges. Though interconnectedness and interdependence have political-economic benefits for states. It however, is accompanied by security implications for states. The increasing rate of trans-national crimes, terrorism financing, human trafficking, illicit financial flows amongst several other crimes are aided by globalization. Globalization has also brought about changing in the nature of defence, security, war and conflict. Globalization has also brought change in the patterns of war. The increasing usage of technology in war reflects in the input of globalization.

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