



Evaluating the Effects of Globalization and Small Arms Proliferation on Nigeria Economic Development

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study is to evaluate the effects of globalization and small arms proliferation on Nigeria Economic Development. The method adopt in this study is content analysis with the use of secondary data. The result of study shows that globalization has increased high rate of crimes in the society such as increase in Boko haram, kidnapping, Proliferation of Militant Group etc. The study concluded that globalization has really created room for the uncontrolled manner in which small arms and light weapon diffused into different part of the country, after inducing a market friendly environment for them. This study recommends that the Nigeria government should endeavor to sign up programme that can support her citizens in the fight against the small arms and light weapons proliferation in the nation by incentivizing anyone that provides sufficient information to security mediators on the spread.

Keywords: Globalization; arms proliferation; economic development.

1. INTRODUCTION

One major phenomenon that is currently at trending and that has pervaded every aspects of

human endeavor worldwide is globalization. The forces of globalization have induced opportunities, which have encouraged nations to heavily subscribe to it. Globalization however is

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the most important phenomenon that shaping the current environment for economic development in the nation.' Small arms and light weapons proliferation is acclaimed to be the major security challenge to people, societies and states globally, fuelling insurgency, human trafficking and drugs, terrorism, organized crimes, internal insurrections and civil wars, posing obstacles to sustenance of stable peace and security. Many a times, little internal insurrection tends to escalate into larger civil wars and could destabilize a region' [1].

Arms proliferation in West and Central Africa is nothing more than the most visible symptom of a much deeper and destabilizing factor which is slowly but progressively affecting the security of most of African states especially Nigeria. Small Arms have killed by far more people than biological, chemical or any other types of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). According to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/50/70, arms proliferation has contributed to insecurity in Nigeria, including cattle raiding and armed robberies, kidnapping, the intertribal skirmishes in Nigeria between the north and other ethnic groups in the south, militancy groups and recently Boko Haram insurgency. It is very difficult to say how many weapons are in the country because the weapons are everywhere in the country including hamlets, villages, towns, and the state capitals. Hazen and Horner [2] observed that, given the difficulty in legally owning a gun, the majority of small arms in Nigeria are believed to be held illegally. Their illegality makes it difficult to track flows and possession. Weapons transit into the country across land borders and via sea ports are so enormous and difficult to trace. Okeke and Oji, [3] concludes that Nigeria is at the same time, source/origin, transit and destination of small arms proliferation.

Against the background of the growing complexity of transnational relations engendered by globalization, then, the scope, goal, type of actors and the ferocity of struggles involved in the conflict dynamics in Africa have broadened significantly [4]. Realizing the destructive effects of small arms, given the numerous conflicts world over, several steps were taken to control their trafficking, proliferation and use yet, their trafficking, proliferation and misuse continue unabated as intra and international conflicts continue. The availability of arms continues not only to fuel crises but has dominant and destabilizing effects on ethno-religious crises.

Globalization is also provoking crisis in the manner in which it deepens and exacerbates the insurgency as a result of conflicts in Africa and the world at large. When a conflict flares into armed violence, its cause is linked to a neighboring state or another external power. Such conflicts often escalate beyond the control of the initial actors [5].

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Olayiwola [6], proliferation of small and light weapons causes conflicts and criminal activities in places where they are used. The wide availability, accumulation and illicit flows of such weapons tend to escalate conflict, undermine peace agreements, intensify violence and impact crime, impede economic and social development, hinders the development of social stability, democracy and good governance. It is often used to forcibly displace civilians, impede humanitarian assistance, prevent or delay development projects and hinder peace keeping and peace building efforts. Small and light weapons are a contributory factor to armed conflict, displacement of people, organized crime, and thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable social and economic development (Geneva Declaration Secretariat in [7]).

In Africa, the sources of SALW proliferation are many and varied of international efforts to curb proliferation tend to concentrate on the manufacture and supply of new weapons, a major pipeline of SALW remains the stockpiles that were pumped into Africa in the 1970s, 1980s and early 90s by the ex-Soviet Union, the USA and their allies to fan proxy intra-state and interstate wars. These leftover weapons have found their way through clandestine networks involving rogue arms brokers, private military companies, shady airline companies and local smugglers to exacerbate on-going conflicts and facilitate the commencement of new ones in the continent [8].

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Radical structural conflict theory

The basic idea of radical structural conflict theory is that conflicts emanate out of the structures that characterize a society's organizational framework. In like manner, such reactive practices as oppression, exclusion, marginalization, discrimination, inequity, injustice,

just to mention a few, have been depicted as the foundation of conflicts and violence in any given society. The theory was made popular by the ideas co-authored by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the "Communist Manifesto" and "Historical Materialism" [1]. The major points highlighted hinge on the fact that capitalism is an oppressive economic system which is to blame for conflicts in the society, as it has successfully enslaved the working class or proletariat through economic policies and control of the production of goods [1]. Subsequently, capitalist-enunciated process of production and distribution has divided society into the bourgeoisie or elite and the proletariat or working class. In this way, conflicts in society have become a class struggle engendered by economic exploitation of the proletariat.

2.1.2 The failed state theory

For the purpose of this paper, we adopted the failed state theory to explain the subject of discussion. According to Anyanwu [9], the term "failed state" is used to describe a state perceived to have failed in fulfilling the basic conditions and responsibilities of a sovereign government. A failed state is one that has shattered social and political structures. It is characterized by social, political, and economic failure. Common features of a failed state include: weak and ineffective central government that is unable to have firm control over much of its territory, non-provision of basic public amenities or services, wide spread criminality and corruption, presence of internally displaced persons (IDPS) and irregular movement of population, and sharp economic decline [10]. According to Anyanwu [9] failing states are invariably the product of a collapse of power structures providing support for law and order, a process generally triggered and accompanied by anarchic forms of internal violence. In the Nigerian context, it is the failure of governance and state institutions of coercion and enforcement especially the police, immigration, customs, and the Army that resulted in the illegal flow of arms and ammunition through the Nigerian borders. This is also evident in the inability of police and the army in safe-guarding life and property in the society.

2.2 Dimensions of Arms Proliferation in Nigeria

Nigeria remains vulnerable to transnational crime that threatens her national security and corporate

existence as a result of proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Nigeria border towns serve as hub for nefarious activities such as arms, human and drug trafficking, kidnapping perpetrated by criminals who crisscross the borders after committing the crimes. Nigeria borders have various footpaths that are linked directly to Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Benin and most of these paths are not manned, protected or fenced, even because these arms are small and collapsible makes it very easy to move by nomadic herdsmen through donkeys, camels and cows unsuspected and undetected. Nigeria water ways and seaport provide heaven for arm trafficking through ships and speedboats on high sea and the use of canon in the creeks. The porosity is compounding by inadequate personnel and all other security gadgets to monitor the waterways, all these led to increase in the proliferation of small arms especially in the Northern part of Nigeria.

Nigeria like any other developing countries has no human intelligence capacity to guarantee the security of life and property of her citizen. Nigeria has about 250 ethnic groups and with each ethnic group feeling marginalized and underdeveloped often takes to arms and send wrong signal to other ethnic groups thereby encouraging arms traffic. Effective border management is vitally important for the preservation of natural security. All these transnational crimes have been exacerbated by Nigeria porous border with her neighbour. The porous borders have continued to engender transnational crime and instability in Nigeria owing to lack of both human and material machinery for monitoring of movement and other activities at the border post. Akinyemi [11] stated that "Nigeria lacks boarder protection and much importance has not been accorded to our national borders as evident in vulnerability of threat posed at our border such as trans - border activities and the movement terrorist attack that can befall the country resulting in unregistered influence of migrant through the routes ".Nigeria border security is porous and it continues to encourage various illegal transactions and transnational crimes. The use of dried tree, oil drum and rims of tyres to demarcate our border in this age of complexity of crime shows clearly that Nigeria's border is not properly manned and secured. Many routes are not known; even the ones that are known are not properly manned. Corruption of security operatives, inadequate manpower logistic and lack of motivation also make Nigeria's boarder permissible for all sort of

contraband and small arms and light weapons. Proliferation of small and light weapon in Africa continues to pose a systemic and pervasive threat to peace especially in Nigeria.

Nigeria share porous border with West and Central African countries some that are politically not stable and have undergone various armed conflicts such as Liberia, Serria Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and many others. These borders which include land and waters are characterized by inadequate manpower to patrol the land and water ways, this has encouraged the influx of arms to the shores of Nigeria. Proliferation of arms has thus increased the magnitude and intensity of ethnic crises, political rivals, local wars, human right abuses and crime and this continue to have a devastating impact on development and governance. Violence arising from the proliferation and widespread use of small arms in Nigeria serve as challenge to human existence. The wide availability of these weapons fuel instability, conflict and pose a threat, not only to security, but also to sustainable development. The widespread proliferation of small arms is contributing to alarming level of armed crime, in both the rural and urban areas and the incessant killings in the Plateau communities by Fulani herdsmen [5].

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons fuel wars, organized crimes, insurgence and terrorist activities and thereby poses great obstacle to social and economic development of Nigeria. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) can be attributed to failure of governance in Nigeria with its attendant inability to control its numerous porous borders. The ease with which small arms and light weapons are available lead to easy escalation of conflict and pose a major challenge to peace and development.

2.3 Globalization and Small Arms

Globalization is concept that has been defined in various forms, but these definitions stress the interdependence and interrelationship that exist between people and countries. This web-dependence and interrelationship have bought about improvement and relation of the world into a global village, which has solidifies the communication networks and promoted easy access of people to place and goods in the world [12].

Obadan [13] refers to globalization as the growing interdependence of the worlds

people. Globalization is about increasing interconnectedness and elaborate interdependence among the world's regions, nations, governments, business, institutions, communities, families, and individuals. Also, the report of UNDP [14] reveals that globalization involves both a description and a prescription. The description is centered on the widening of international flows of trade, finance and information will produce the outcome for growth and human welfare.

Globalization is becoming an ever-influential architect of the new international security agenda. Its impact on the evolution of the relations among states is contradictory. On the one hand, globalization contributes to accelerated development of productive forces, scientific and technological progress and ever more intensive communication among states and people. On the other hand, it has facilitated the easy transportation of illegal arms from one country to the other and has transformed a domestic law and order problem to a national and international security threat [15,16]. Coupled with liberalization, states have in effect, lost control of markets as reflected in the rise of black markets and the inability of the states to prevent the flow of illicit arms because of the porous nature of most borders and the adoption of policies such as "free movements" of people in a particular region [16].

Evidence indicates that illegal arms transfers are easier in periods of political transition and elections that are normally preceded by periods of violence. The politicians release arms to some political thugs who assist them to rig and win elections at all costs and after the politicians must have won and sworn into office; they forget to retrieve the arms already circulated. Thereafter, the political thugs and miscreants use the arms in their possession to unleash terror on the state [17].

Globalization has contributed to small arms proliferation in the world. Before the discussing the relationship between globalization and small arms proliferation, it is essential to conceptualize small arms. The term small arms in this global community marked by the existence of highly sophisticated technological development are very difficult to define. The reason is that it is difficult to determine the weapons that constituted small arms. However, department for International Development [18] defines small arms as weapons designed for individual use such as

pistol sub-machine gun, assault rifles and light machine guns. Rana [19] perceives small arms as any means of lethality other than sheer use of physical force.

2.4 Globalization and Small Arms Proliferation in Nigeria

There is no doubt about the immense contributions of globalization to the growth of the international market, which have included enormous opportunities for nations to exploit for the betterment of their citizens. Taping these opportunities posed by globalization has been a function of various factors, which have bearing on the internal strength and external influence of countries. The sheer inability of the developing countries to manipulate these factors in their capacities to reap optimally from the presented opportunities, effectively harness these available resources at their disposal for appropriate decision making in matters of allocation, efficient provide their legitimate duties to their citizens in terms of service provision and welfare and appropriately secures their various boundaries for effective policing to prevent underground economic activities capable of discouraging decent and legal activities for the progress of their economies.

These developments have gladly elongated the existing inequality among the have and have not nations in all aspects. The point is that, the corporate benefits inherent in globalization are not evenly distributed among nations. Apart from the fact that this has affected the reaping capacities of African countries, it has also caused a lot of problems to their economies. World Bank [20] indicates that indeed, it is heed in many quarters that globalization is exacerbating inequality and worsening the condition of the poor by eroding their incomes, increasing their vulnerability and adding to their disempowerment. Ozughalu and Ajayi [21] see globalization as "repugnant to equity" They therefore argue that it have brought unprecedented opportunities to billion of people through out the world. However, the massive and increasing presence of absolute poverty in the developing regions of the world, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, the widening of income gap between the rich and the poor countries and the huge disparity in quality of life between the high income and low income nations, all in the atmosphere of high and unparallel wave of globalization, are clear indication that there has

been gross inequality and inequity in the distribution of the benefits of globalization.

Globalization has contributed in large measures to the backwardness of most developing nations, of which Nigeria is not left out. One of the ways by which globalization has done this is by opening up channels for the speedy acquisition and diffusion of arms conjured by the opening up cold war. The experience of Nigeria on the issue of small arms proliferation is highly disheartly and disappointing. In fact, one can confidently claims that small arms proliferation is one of the by-products of globalization which has negatively affected the growth of the country. The findings of small arms survey [22] indicates that Nigeria may be home to some one millions private small arms. The implications of this development are that, these weapons will be used unceremoniously to induce and commit various crimes that will have gracious impacts on the people and their resources. Small arms proliferation in Nigeria can be attributed to several causes, but the role played by globalization stand out among the others. The various ways in which globalization has contributed to the proliferation of small arms in Nigeria are interconnectedness and interrelationship of countries.

The democracy experience in Nigeria has not been palatable, politicians stockpile arms recruit youths as thugs and arm them for purposes of prosecuting elections in the country. Although, one is not saying that creating democratic spaces in the world is wrong, but globalization has eroded the democratic norms in terms of positive values and political culture that would have served as a regulatory mechanism in moderating the democratic practices in Nigeria [23,24].

Globalization increased the information base of the world. That is, information acquisition and utilization have increased largely. In Nigeria, it has caused drastic erosion in the value system and tradition of the people. In fact, this has distorted the way of life of the people [25,26]. Nigerians have been misinformed owing to western cultures and pattern of doing things. This has developed a wrong way of perceiving issues and dealing with situations. It has enshrined a culture of violence in our ways of interaction and behavior. The use of gun as a means of interacting and dealing with situation has risen to an abnormal degree in our society.

3. METHODOLOGY

The method adopted in this research is content analysis, by the use of secondary data. The secondary data employed include existing literatures on the topic such as books, journals, newspapers, magazines, conference papers, UN and ECOWAS publications, periodicals and other related documents. There are other method like primary data and also give out styles analysis.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 Effects Small Arms Proliferation in Nigeria

Increasing Criminal Activities: A high wave of criminal activities was recorded in this country after the advent of the Nigeria Civil War. The main reason being that after the war, the process of disarming and weapons collection were not observed, the problem of unemployment coupled with poverty influenced those having guns to perpetuate criminal acts. In the recent times, it has boomeranged into organized crimes as a result of easy availability of these evil weapons. Armed robbery, firearms offence, assassination, rape, indecent assault, murder and much more, have been on the increase and these are arms related crimes.

Insecurity Problems: The uncontrolled availability of small arms in Nigeria has given rise to the problem of insecurity. Due to the poor security network in the country, the problem of insecurity has increased. People are no longer free in their domains. Fear, intimidation and harassment have taken over the center stage of activities, giving rise to increase in the rate of assassination in the country, this is worse during the election period.

Proliferation of Militant Group: The springing up of various ethnic militant groups in the country, such as Oodua People's Congress (OPC); The Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB); Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP) Boko Haram etc. are sustained, solidified and consolidated in their activities as a result of the presence of arms in their disposals. Small arms are a major force backing their methods of operation.

4.2 Boko Haram

The proliferation of these small arms and light weapons and the new emergent trend in armed

violence in Nigeria put to question the efficacy and total commitment of the Nigerian government in combating the menace. The alarming rate of SALW spread poses a serious threat and challenge to Nigeria's internal security. However, the outbreak of Islamic extremism and domestic terrorism in the North-East, Nigeria, remains evident in the growing audacity of the "Boko Haram" sect, following the attacks in the Eagle Square, Abuja during the 50th Independence Day, 1 October, 2010 in which no fewer than 12 people were killed; the Nyanya Motor Park bombing on April 14, 2014 also claimed more than 75 lives and injured several dozen others, bombing of the UN Building in the FCT and abduction of about 216 girls of in Chibok, Borno State the next day leaving the country in a state of insecurity [17].

4.3 Kidnapping

Another security concern spreading across Nigeria like wildfire is kidnapping. When it began in the creeks of the Niger Delta region some years ago, nobody thought it would become a nightmare. Gradually, it has even become a lucrative business" for many of Nigeria's jobless youths in the South East, South West and other parts of the country. Initially, it was the kidnapping of expatriates that was predominant in the South but today, the situation has gotten so bad that "nobody is safe". Serving government officials are not spared in the kidnapping menace, as their family members, relatives and friends have become worthy, targets". Interestingly, armed robbers and other sorts of criminals are fast abandoning their trades for the more lucrative business of kidnapping [27].

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study examined the effects of globalization and small arms proliferation on Nigeria economic development. Globalization and small arms proliferation have negative resultant effect on economic activities in the nation. Globalization has opened doors for all sorts of small arms and light weapon into different part of the nation. This has triggered high rate of criminals activities in the nation and if control measures have not been putting in place it will affects the security of the country. The study concluded that globalization has exposed the economic into danger as a result of small and light weapon.

The Nigeria government should endeavor to enlist the support of her citizens in the fight against the small arms and light weapons proliferation in the country by incentivizing anyone that provides reasonable information to security agents on the spread. Anyone caught having illegal possession of arms should be reported to the security agents. There is a need for concerted and collective efforts among stakeholders at all levels of the society to curtail illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons proliferation. Hence, capacities of stakeholders should be enhanced to ensure effective implementation of result-oriented programmes and formulation of evidence-based policies. There is also need for an improved border management mechanism using modern and sophisticated detection equipment to discourage arms trafficking through the borders. In addition, effective strategies should be deployed to police the numerous unauthorized entry/exit routes on the continent, recognizing the need to enlist the support and cooperation of border communities.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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