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## **GLOBALIZATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The phenomenon of globalization is one of the major trends that have become dominant in contemporary world system. Given the new wave of information technology, it is not only irreversible but capable of defining the policy of development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the last few decades, and more than ever before, nation states have witnessed increase in business activities, cash flow and other economic interactions on a global scale with its attendant implications on development. The paper examines globalization not only as a strategy of economic development but also on how Nigeria can minimize the adverse effect of globalization and benefit maximally in terms of improved wellbeing of the people. The study relies on secondary source of information. It contends that for Nigeria to fully participate in the complex global political economy, it must necessarily confront frontally the constraints on global integration.

**Keywords:** Globalization, Development, National Development, Experience

### **Introduction**

Undoubtedly, a major trend that cannot be wished away in the global political economy today is the phenomenon of globalization. Though the beginning of globalization can be traced to around 1870, its pace and scope in the last twenty years has been unprecedented (Onimode, 2000). The collapse of the Soviet Union by 1990; the subsequent adoption of economic liberalization programmes by erstwhile Communist States, the efforts of China to join the main stream of market-led economies of the Capitalist West, all of these combined as factors that propelled economic globalization process (Babawale, 2007). According to Mkor (2012):

*Globalization is a process of vertical and horizontal integration involving increasing volume of and variety of transnational transactions, in goods and services, in international capital flows, in human migration, and through a rapid and widespread diffusion of technology.*

Today, as a major force in the world system, globalization enhances trans- borders' interaction which in turn stirs all aspects of the process, namely; economic, historical, technological, social and political among others. In a more concrete term, it refers to the increasing economic interdependence among countries of the world through the increasing volumes of cross-border transactions in recent times (Egbaju, 2007). We could take globalization to mean the establishment of a global market for goods and capital. The universal character of competing technologies, the progression towards a global system of production (Amin, 1998).

The phenomenon of globalization came to Nigeria for the first time, not just in the last century, as it is generally thought, but when the Portuguese and the British landed on our shores before the end of nineteenth century to establish new trade link, and to spread Christianity (Iwara, 2004).

Globalization is therefore the increasing breakdown of barriers and obstacles to the world-wide diffusion of economic ideas, doctrines, products, services and practices originating from the western industrialised, especially the United States of America (Abutudu, 2000). Whatever ideas, products and services are distributed across territorial boundaries. It therefore implies a world system in which development in one region can come to shape the life chances of communities in parts of the globe (Arowolo, 2008).

It should be noted that Nigeria, a post-colonial state, cannot feign ignorance of the force of globalization. Of course, globalization has the promise of new opportunities for expanded markets and the spread of the use of technology (Ajayi, 2004). To be properly integrated into the dynamics of the global arena, Nigeria should necessarily align with the demands of the new wave of technology, capital flow and vigorously pursue the goal of development and how Nigeria can minimize the adverse effects of globalization and harness the benefits there in to engender national development.

The paper is structured into five parts. First is the introduction. The second is the concept of globalization and development. It is followed by the challenges of globalization. Fourth aspect is the nexus between globalization and development. Fifth is the implication of globalization for national development and the last is the conclusion.

### **Concept of Globalization**

Globalization is today probably the most singular factor exerting the greatest influences not only on nation-states, but also on all dimensions of human existence and interactions (Saliu, and Omotola, 2006). In point of fact, no universal definition of globalization has emerged. There are many definitions as there are scholars. However, for our purpose, a number of these shall be put forward. Globalization is the transcendence of the economic, social, cultural, political, environmental constraints across territories. To the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it

denotes greater integration of goods, services and capital between countries in the international system (IMF, 1997).

Globalization manifests in many dimensions. Again, its' so profound that today, distance is no longer a barrier. This is because of technological innovations. Territoriality is being eclipsed by telemetrically (Tuathail, 1998). Globalization could be taken to mean the "changing way of production organized as required by general dismantling of trade barriers and the free mobility of financial and productive capital (Garea, 1998). It is the internationalisation not production, finance and exchange (Pearson and Rochester, 1998).Oyejide's comprehensive definition provides an illumination. According to him;

*It is the increased integration across countries, of markets for good, service and capital. It also implies accelerated expansion of economic activities globally and sharp increases in the movement of tangible and intangible goods across national and regional boundaries (in Ukaogo, 2003).*

Aluko (2003), defines globalization as 'the growing interactions in world trade, national and foreign investments, capital market and the ascribe role of governments in national economies. 'Globalization is the intensification world-wide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring miles away and vice versa' (Giddens, 1990). From the foregoing and deluge of definitions of globalization, albeit, the inflow of goods and capital may be guaranteed however, the manifestations of imperialism is revealing.

### **Components of Globalization**

The globalization process has a number of components. Akin-Aina supported us when he comprehensively presented the following:

- i. The emergence of a time-space compressed interdependent world where interdependence does not preclude polarization and inequality.
- ii. The emergence of a new world order where there is a shift from the bi-polar world of the cold war era to a unipolar dominated and led by the United States of America. The recent war on Iraq is a pointer to this.
- iii. The emergence of a new international division of labour and unequal and polarised global economy that seeks to integrate all other local economies through a process of trade liberalization and deregulation, often term "structural adjustment programmes" (SAPs).
- iv. The emergence of a world of new flows of persons, culture, ideas, finances, etc. (Appadorai, 1990).
- v. The emergence and spread of new technologies, particularly with the information revolution and their transnationalization.

The increasing importance of knowledge and information for production, culture and economy and for the creation of new forms of social differentiation and stratification in society (in Taiwo, 2004).

The polarised global economy is classified into three-part hierarchy by Cox. According to him: At the top are the global economy managers and the relatively privilege workers, who serve global production and finance in reasonably state jobs. At the second level are those who serve the global economy in more precarious employment. These are those who will first get the boot whenever restructuring occurs. The third level consist of “superfluous labour”. Those whose lots are exclusion from the global economy and who serve it only as a potentially destabilizing force. This bottom level also constitutes the “Wretched of the earth” or the object of global poverty and not control. Indeed, the whole region of the third world belongs to this third level (in Egbadju, 2007). There is a three-part hierarchy of the social structure of the world as shaped by the forces of globalization.

### **Concept of Development**

Many scholars have come up with varying views of development. According to Joyce (1966); development is how best to organise a country, which has half of its population suffering from acute shortage of food, shelter, school Hospital etc. It is conceived with all means that can be used to wipe out the productive of poverty, hunger, disease, ignorance and misery. To Finkle and Gable (1972) ‘development is the ability to maximize output per unit, increase in knowledge of production and increase in per capital income. Seers (1969), opines that development involves not only economic growth, but also a condition in which people in a country have adequate food and jobs and the income inequality among them is greatly reduced. For Todaro (1977), while economic progress is an essential path to development, it is not the only one. From this definitional exposition, development is not just about economic development, it is also more than political development. Rather it is all embracing and multi-dimensional. Development is a multi-dimensional concept that involves in it re-organisation and re-orientation of the entire economic, political and social institutions (Olaleye, 1997).

### **Challenges of Globalization in Nigeria**

In spite of the global changes, many third world writers on globalization have argued that there is little to celebrate about the phenomenon. Thus Julius Ihonvbere poignantly argues that:

*Globalization offers Africa the opportunity to be fully integrated into the emerging global capitalist order to exploit the developments in science and technology, the new information revolution, and the expansion of the global market. Such integration allows opportunities for trade investment, foreign aid and support for development objectives. But in spite these apparent benefits, the challenges in the world system hold the possibilities for further marginalism (Ihonvbere, 1996).*

He maintains that the constraining legacies of colonial and neo colonial exploitation, foreign domination, conditions of poverty make participation in the global order impossible. Viewed from the foregoing, third world countries, including Nigeria that are still suffering from infrastructural decay, grinding conditions of poverty, weak institutions cannot actively and effectively participate in the global order.

Our understanding of the challenges of globalization can be perceived from the relationship status between and among the participating actors in the global system. Globalization is not only a force of marginalization but inequity and also a factor of fragmentation (Adedeji, 2005). In truth, globalization has succeeded in breaking borders, collapsing space and time. In sum it has turned the world to a global village. Yet, it has aggravated the gulf between poor and rich countries. A country like Nigeria that is still battling with the forces of backwardness and economic stagnation cannot effectively harness the benefits of globalization.

In point of fact, as the world economy becomes more integrated a new reality constraints nation states. As Egbadju (2007) puts it “the current situation in developing countries, whereby they export largely primary commodities such as crude oil and cocoa, make it impossible to gain from the trade driven by American globalization.” This is because, such commodities are often characterised by unfavourable laws. This to a large extent affects developing countries. Similarly, Jahosh notes that increased international trade and financial integration of the underdeveloped countries has worsened their balance of payment problems and national development (in Mkor, 2012).

### **Globalization and National Development**

The world system is clearly based on an unequal relationship. Whilst the advanced capitalist countries dictate the pace, it is not so with the countries of the South. Indeed, African countries are particularly worse off. While it is true that contemporary globalization encourages increase in capital flow and improved technology in terms of tele communication, globalization has deepened the inequity in relation to development to the detriment of the third world countries, including Nigeria. A penetrating analysis of this was made by Martin Khor. According to him:

*A key aspect of the globalization and development relationships is inequity; in power capacity and resources to begin with; in the distribution of gains and losses. The way the world economic and trading system, is set up is very inequitable; the terms of trade finance, investment and technology transfer are inequitable; the distribution of benefits or losses is inequitable; in general, the more powerful parties gain from international economic relations yet other countries actually stand to lose (in Mkor, 2012).*

Viewed from Mkor’s thesis, the global economic integration exacerbate and deepen the inequality between rich and poor countries on the one hand, and debilitate the desperate economies of the developing countries on the other.

As mentioned elsewhere in this paper, we must admit that globalization has come to stay. This is better demonstrated by the rapid development of technology, increased investment of capital and movement of foreign goods. Given the mono cultural nature of the Nigerian economy, bad governance, weak institutions, corruption and decaying infrastructures, it may be difficult for Nigeria to cope with the competitiveness which globalization offers. This is especially so for developing countries still struggling to join the global competition with little or no comparative advantage (Babawale, 2007). In order to engender national development, third world countries, including Nigeria must show commitments by minimizing the challenges of the phenomenon.

The flow of capital, movement of goods and the consequent monumental changes which globalization represents create grounds for development. However, most third world countries are fraught with the challenges of internecine and intractable wars, border disputes, ethnic crisis and electoral violence. To be specific, since the re-birth of democratic governance on May 29, 1999, the Nigerian State has been embroiled in one form of violent conflict or the other. Apart from the intra-ethnic conflict, the country has not been free from religious provoked violent conflict. The matter is further worsened by the deadly activities of Boko Haram in northern Nigeria. The fall out of these conflicts leave many people with several others wounded. Again, properties worth millions of naira have been destroyed.

Given the atmosphere of fear and insecurity engendered by ethno-religious crisis, genuine investment capable of engendering development is hampered. Quite cardinaly, an insecure, crisis and violent ridden environment can neither attract foreign investment nor promote national development. No sane or genuine foreign or local investors, invests in a volatile and hostile environment.

### **Nigeria and Globalization**

The Nigerian nation state cannot be said to be a stranger to the phenomenon of globalization. Already, globalization had to a good degree integrated the economy of the state into the world capitalist system. Even at independence and after, Nigeria as it were lacks autonomy in all respects except flag independence to forge an independent and sustainable development process. From the Arabs to the Europeans through the experience of slavery and colonization, to contemporary globalizing conditions, Africa has never been given any window of opportunity to develop on its own terms. Nigeria, a post- colonial state, lacks the capacity to mobilize the available resources to achieve the goal of national development. Rather than being a key player in the global system and taking proactive measures, Nigeria has always been taking reactive measures.

The current world order exemplified by globalization is skewed in favour of the advanced capitalist societies. Without too much caricaturisation, African leaders including Nigerians' lack the political skills and zeal to assiduously embark on the goal of development in the emergent globalization process. In the word of George Obuoforibo;

*The World Order that the North is fashioning through the process of Globalization would certainly not be in the interest of Africa. This is predicated on the fact through the mechanism of their policies and the multi-national corporations they have already succeeded in pocketing the leaders of Africa. This has given rise to African leaders pursuing anti people policies mostly designed by WTO, IBRD and IMF (Obuoforibo, 2010).*

Little wonder that African leaders' policies more often than not are reactionary rather than being proactive. For a country like Nigeria to fully participate in the complex and nebulous global political economy, demands good governance, modern technology and good infrastructure among others and of course all these are lacking.

Since the re-birth of democratic governance in May 1999, successive governments have not taken giant proactive measures to talk loud and take advantage of the seemingly window of opportunities that democracy offers. The country still relies heavily on oil receipts, the goal of development is not genuinely pursued and the foreign policy infrastructure is in the negative. In sum, our argument is that there is no paradigm shift from the dictatorial style of governance of the preceding military authoritarianism and the political space is replete with encumbrances capable of discouraging local and foreign investments

This is in harmony with the feelings of Abdulrahman (2004) as he notes that:

*For Nigeria and most African countries the tools for proactive participation in global politico-economic arena are solely lacking. While world exports have increase, Africa's share of world trade has been more than 2 percent for raw materials and almost zero for manufactured goods.*

### **Implications for Nigeria's Development**

Undoubtedly, globalization creates a world market and flows of goods, technology and people between states; however, the free flow of information, communication and capital notwithstanding, third world countries still lack the technology to compete with the developed countries. Again the former are largely dependent on the advanced capitalist economies.

Several decades after Nigeria became independent; the country as it were is still dependent. The strategy of development has remained the same. Consequently, emphasis is still on growth, over dependence on one export commodity and the lack of good governance. First and foremost is the economy. A major dimension of globalization is economy. As said elsewhere, globalization engenders the flow of capital. As capital transcends all spatial barriers in its quest for surplus accumulation, improvement of the host economy is not really its priority. Rather, foreign capital would request for state policies that further its accumulation in its host country. The kind of development that globalization will promote in Nigeria, if unchecked foreign capital would want to further dominate all facets of the economy to the detriment of the growth of indigenous business class, self-sustaining, local economy and export oriented industrialization (Omoweh, 2000). The implication of this access to foreign capital is an increasing depending on foreign capital and a consequent external vulnerability. Various forces and institutions of globalization such as the World Bank, IMF, WTO etc have been manifesting in Nigerian economy. For instance, from the beginning of the mid-1980s, the Babangida regime introduced the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) through which it implemented some World Bank and IMF conditionalities. The Structural Adjustment Programme has its own negative side. Abutudu (1995) view serves as an illumination. He poignantly notes that;

*SAP is essentially a tool one of whose major significance is to ensure the continued valorisation of international capital in those countries where its being implement, SAP becomes a way of keeping the African economies open for foreign capital. African states are supposed to benefit from this process. However, there seems to have more capital outflow attendant upon SAP than its. One reason for this is that as the*

*economy deteriorates further under SAP, capital has found no motivation to remain. (Abutudu, 1995).*

In countries where this is introduced, people often protest because of the hardship it imposed on the people. The implementation of SAP had a large negative impact on the living conditions of most Nigerians

### **Industrial/Technology Development**

Technological innovation has given concreteness to globalization (Opcit 50). Electronic Communication have compressed both time and space. Deriving from this is the believe that globalization has enriched Africa especially in area of transport and communication where by several remote areas, which were hitherto little known have been made accessible. For instance, the inauguration of democratic governance on May, 1999 and the attendant communication revolution is singled out as providing job opportunities for the citizens. The fact remains that Nigeria still lacks the autonomy to have proactive response to the challenges of globalization particularly in the realm of technology. Today, all technologically intensive sectors of our socio-economic life are dominated by expatriates, who sell archaic and outmoded technologies. The knowledge for the operations, maintenance and service resides outside the shores of the country (Abe, 2004). The problem is further compounded by the lack of appropriate infrastructure that can enhance vibrant industrial policy.

It is important to state that globalization has further deepened the existing inequality between rich and poor countries. In the social realm for instance, its' deepening social and cultural peculiarities which are increasingly being politicised and finding expression in religious fundamentalism and ethnic conflicts (Obuoforibo, 2010).

### **Concluding Remarks**

In this paper, we have amply demonstrated the many and varied components of globalization and how the force of globalization have impacted on national development. Undoubtedly, Nigeria as an actor has been responding to the many challenges thrown up by the forces of globalization such as economic liberalization, Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) etc. However, infrastructural decay, condition of poverty, ethno-religious crises and bad governance are some of the plethora of factors stultifying Nigeria's integration into the global system and by extension the achievement of national development. There is the dire need for government at all levels to show and indeed demonstrate the political will and zeal to cope and meet with the current global realities in its totality.

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