

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT AND CHALLENGES OF GLOBALIZATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN CONTINENT**

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**Abstract**

*The focus of this study is the examination of impact and the challenges of the concept of globalization on the development of the continent of Africa. No concept in the lexicon of international political economy has attracted more discourses in the recent times than globalization. The world is becoming faster and faster and faster a global village because of the growth in political, social and economic spheres as well as in culture and information technology etc. Although globalization has evolved for many decades, yet, it is gaining more attention and prominence because of the ever growing interdependence of the world. Many scholars and commentators have viewed the impacts and challenges of globalization differently, but a point that is clear is that globalization has come to Africa and is a change whose time has come, hence it is phenomenally irresistible. This study is a qualitative research carried out empirically by the use of secondary data such as textbooks, Journals, newspapers, online publications and other periodicals etc and the adoption of content analysis. African nation are advised among other things to face the challenges of globalization and tap from the benefits accruing from it while resisting the negative aspects of the phenomenon.*

**Key Words:** cold war, colonialism, development, deterrence, G.A.T.T  
global village, globalization, I.C.T, imperialism, neo-colonialism, TNC, SAP UNCTAD, W.T.O.

**INTRODUCTION**

The world is today awash with globalization, a concept which has become a common vocabulary in the global discourse of every development. Lawal (1998) is of the opinion that:

*Globalization has become a commonly used word world-wide. It is no longer a new concept or phenomenon in the academic and business world as social scientists, journalists, writers and commentators generally have at various times used and will continue to use the word in particular contexts for declared and undeclared purposes, with more or less effectiveness in their attempt to explain or interpret issues in this changing and complex world.*

Globalization is almost all embracing phenomenon, touching the entire political social, cultural, economic, technological including the information communication technology fabric of the international system.

The history of the world is replete with the emergence and influence of different social, political and economic developments whose effects affected and sometimes changed the course of human history. From slavery through mercantilism, Industrial revolution to liberalization of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and its successor World Trade Organization (WTO), the spread of multinational corporations, colonialism, influence of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, none has upset the world like globalization. While other globalizing epochs were limited, restricted or particularistic, the current globalization is all inclusive. Its role in the international system can be linked to the role of the heart in a human being or memory box in an automobile, controlling or affecting other organs and parts.

In each of the above historical periods from slavery to WTO, the African continent faced challenges whose impacts still linger in bitter refrains. The cumulative African experiences of the past are mostly responsible for the continent's embrace and acceptance of the challenges of the new globalization order with reservations.

The wind of globalization which is blowing across the globe has impacted tremendously on the African continent to the extent that Africa cannot resist the force of this phenomenal change. Writing on the term globalization, Igwe (2010:39) states that

*Over the past two decades, nothing short of a revolution may be said to have occurred to the speed of communication, which has fundamentally impacted on and across the globe, besides its impact on how business is conducted.*

However, even though globalization by all intents and purposes offers a lot of benefits, yet, its challenges are also enormous. In today's world and by extension, in Africa, globalization has created enormous problems such as multiplication of terrorism, criminality, cyber crimes, prostitution, human trafficking, insurgency, religious fundamentalism, narcotic terrorism, hostage taking etc.

In spite of these negative challenges, Ohiorhenuan (1998:6) sees globalization as principally aimed at the universal homogenization of ideas, cultures, values, and even life, styles as well as the villagization of the world. Oluabunwa (1999:20) further states that globalization is an evolution which is systematically restructuring interactive phases among nations by breaking down barriers in areas of culture, commerce, communication and several other fields of endeavour.

There is no doubt that globalization affects all aspects of human endeavour. It has permeated into every form of interaction across national borders, regions, sub-regions and continents, as well as scholarly discourses and writings.

Unfortunately, like any other period in the evolutionary process of international political economy, the African continent seems to be lamenting irrespective of the litany of benefits inherent in it.

The backwardness of Africa and the irresponsibility of the African leaders to compete and do what they are supposed to do predispose the continent to the persistent weak position in international system, unable to compete, struggle and bargain to their own advantage in the face of any socio-economic and political order.

Regrettably, even some African scholars who should know better have been deluded to conclude that globalization is out to impoverish and out-compete Africa and make the continent prostrate.

In line with this thought, Lere (2014) describes globalization as another form of re-colonization of African countries including those nations that were hitherto not part of the old colonization, hence as he put it, they have discovered a virgin ground for the re-colonization of African countries. This involves the use of exploitative instruments like WTO, IMF, World Bank, MNCs and other international financial institutions in order to capture the world in the name of globalization under the umbrella of United States of America.

The argument of some African scholars that there is no country in the world that is in the process of developing in the name of globalization or has developed as a result of its involvement in the global economy is absolutely defeatist and reminiscent of the usual position of people who see nothing good in anything externally induced, and unprepared to integrate and compete in an interdependent world. It is a phenomenon that torches every facet of global development, reaching the remotest part of the world. Globalization when carefully followed and integrated into national economy, portends enormous benefits, although, in Africa, the story seems not to be the same.

Globalization has dismantled national boundaries, cut across regions and integrating the continents into a compact village. Its impacts are noticeable in all areas of human development from communication, trade, politics, economics, social, cultural, religion, environment, including climate change. Even though globalization comes with benefits, it is not without dangerous challenges. The issues of crime, terrorism, religious intolerance, corruption, consumption of narcotics, spread of illicit weapons, cyber crimes, insurgency, kidnapping, human trafficking, dumping of unwholesome goods and toxic wastes, spread of dangerous diseases, pollution of world environment, piracy etc are some of the many negatives of globalization.

Drawing from the view of Daouas (2001), although, globalization has helped increase growth and wealth in recent years, it has not done so for all continents and all countries. According to him, in the least developed countries, and on the African continent in particular, a worsening of existing imbalances has impeded development and aggravated poverty. The marginalization of these countries is reflected in their small share of the world trade which is estimated at 2 percent outputs and 1 percent foreign investment

It is obvious that while globalization has given enormous benefits to the developed countries because of their ability to extend the frontiers of their creative and productive capacity as well as their rapid liberalization, the third world and in particular, Africa, are unable to compete and survive because of often lack of strong leadership ingenuity with the will to advance the course of national development and service delivery to the people of the continent vis-a-vis the rest of the world.

The fact remains that while globalization is effecting latent and manifest changes in the developed countries. African nations are still lamenting of marginalization and poverty aggravation. A problem of this nature is inherent and recurrent in Africa's international economic and political relations with the rest of the world, hence, there is need to address such cankerworm and siege mentality of the continent.

More than one decade after the implementation of the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) in some parts of Africa as advanced by the IMF and World Bank, a sizeable number of African nations are yet to make any measurable progress (Ogbemi 1992). The problem with African continent is that most often, things that work in other regions rarely succeed in Africa basically because of the mentality of the people and the attitude of the leaders of African countries.

All the global development initiatives put forward by the United Nations, the international community and initiatives and institutions like MDGs, SAP, UNCTAD, NEPAD, NIEO, demoralization etc, failed to yield desired results.

In spite of all these strongly held views which hover in Africa it is the view of this research that despite challenges, globalization has impacted and shall continue to impact on the overall development of Africa not only negatively but in many undeniable beneficial ways.

## **THEORETICAL FOUNDATION**

Globalization is certainly a reality today, but it is not something new. There is much debate among scholars and even policy makers about whether or not globalization is really anything new. Some, like the world system theorists argue that a global economy has existed for at least a millennium (Rourke and Boyer, 2003). They contend that what we call globalization today is really just a bigger and faster version of what has been going on in the world economic system for a very long time.

Other scholars like Igwe (2010) describe a theory of globalization as modernization theory, reinforced by greater emphasis on international integration and the power of external forces to induce rapid change. Thus, in this study, which focuses on the analysis of the impact and challenges of globalization on the development of African continent, we have adopted here the theory of economic internationalism as a tool of analysis. This theory has its root in economic liberalization.

Internationalism is a major theoretical and policy approach to international political economy (Rourke and Boyer 2003). The theory is associated with such terms like liberalism and free trade. Economic internationalists are liberals. They believe that international economic relations should and can be conducted cooperatively because, in their view, international economy is a zero-sum game in which prosperity is available to all.

Economic internationalists contend that the best way to create prosperity is by freeing economic interchange from political restrictions. Consequently, economic internationalists oppose tariff barriers, domestic subsidies, sanctions and any other economic tool that distorts the free flow of trade and investment. It is for this reason that Tandon (1998) opined that globalization seeks to remove all barriers to the free movement of international capital and this process is accelerated and facilitated by the supersonic transformation in information technology. It is the expansion, diversification and deepening of trade and financial links between countries (Ouattara 1997). This reflects in multi-lateral tariff reduction and trade liberalization efforts.

Liberalization is the policy of freeing the life and activities of man and society from antiquated and cumbersome ideas and practices, including laws and institutions that hinder trade, scientific inquiry, cultural expression, political thought and activity which includes the entire multidimensional nexus of the interaction of peoples and states (Igwe 2007)

Liberalization is built on freedom of thought and action of people and free flow of humanity, hence it is a manifestation of the doctrine of liberalism which is simply a belief in an unimpeded exercise of thought and related activities from both the left and the right. Adam Smith's (1776) advocacy on the principle of laissez-faire is the most famous postulation of liberalization both for domestic and interstate economic relations.

The liberal theorists accept the reality of globalization but view it as progressive/necessary and benign. This school has within it those who basically have some advantages to derive from globalizing the world (Agara and Kunle 2013).

From this, we can draw a link between globalization and liberalization, Laissez-faireism, international integration and modernization, whose objective is principally the removal of all forms of inhibitions and barriers against free flow of ideas and exchange in virtually all fields of global interaction through the absence of territoriality. With this, globalization is making the world more compact, reducing distances, enhancing greater cooperation and free flow of information, knowledge, inventions and even crimes in all areas international development,

### **WHAT IS GLOBALIZATION**

In an attempt to throw more light on the concept of globalization, several definitions and explanations have been put forward by scholars, analysts, statesmen, socio-economic and political commentators and other practitioners in the field of international affairs. Various definitions of globalization are sometimes influenced by the academic persuasions and idiosyncrasies of scholars.

One wonders whether there is any other concept in the field of political science that has received almost revolutionary definitions and explanations as globalization. The proliferation of diverse and loose definitions of globalization suggests a restless search for new ways of understanding unfamiliar phenomenon and goes to show that human condition is presently undergoing profound transformation in all its aspects. Thus, according to Okafor (2008:204)

*Globalization has no doubt changed the course of history. It has remained the only single phenomenon that has affected everything not excepting those secretive things that were hitherto unperturbed by the realities of their environments. From the realities of the social, economic, political and religious dimensions of life, globalization has been so permeating and on the supersonic fast lane of events in perpetual motion.*

In fact, it seems that everything in the world today fall within globalization, both good and evil. What it means is that globalization is synonymous with human existence. To Lawal (2006), while some perceive globalization as a process of integration into the world economy as positive (Salvation), others see it as negative (damnation) in terms of unequal pattern of development.

Globalization is the absence of a territorial boundary. According to Mahathir (1996), the break down of boundaries as barriers to economic exploitation that globalization represents, means that every country of this world, rich/developed or poor/developing world has access to every other country. That is, the developing nations would have access to the markets of developed countries, unrestricted and vice-versa. It will be a borderless world.

Globalization intensifies the expansion of global linkages, the organization of social life on a global scale as well as the growth of global consciousness. Nowadays, we see everywhere, the effects of globalization in life style, dressing, conduct, thought, music, information and communication, social media, medicine, governance, terrorism, worship etc. It is actually unstoppable.

In the words of Giddens (1997), globalization is the process of modernization of the world system through the use of institutions. He further posits that globalization is multi-faceted, that is, it takes place at all levels and sectors of the society. From Wikipedia, globalization is the process of international integration arising from the interchange of world views, products, ideas and mutual sharing and other aspects of culture. Advances in transportation, such as the steam locomotive, steamship jet engine, container snipe and in telecommunications infrastructure, including the rise of the telegraph and its modern offspring, the internet and mobile phones, have been major factors of globalization, generating further interdependence of economic and cultural activities.

One of the early writers in the field, Robertson (1992) defined globalization as "the compression of the world and the intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole." This definition is indeed apt, considering the fact that things that happen in other parts of the world today repeat and influence actions and events in far distant countries. Lechner and Boli (2012) explains globalization as more people across large distance becoming connected in more and different ways just as Martins Albrow captures it as all those processes by which the peoples of the world are incorporated into a single world society. In Giddens (1997) view, globalization is the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring miles away and vice versa.

One of the most cited definitions of globalization was provided by Held et-al (1999). In this definition, they held that:

*Although in its simplistic sense globalization refers to the widening, deepening and speeding up of global interconnection, such a definition begs further elaboration.....*

*Globalization can be located on a continuum with local, national and regional. At one end of the continuum lie social and economic relations and networks which are organized on a local and or national basis; at the other end lie social and economic relations and networks which crystallize on the wider scale of regional and global interactions.*

*Globalization can refer to those spatial-temporal processes of change which underpin a transformation in the organization of human affairs by linking together and expanding human activity across regions and continents without reference to such expansive spatial connections. There can be no clear and coherent formation of this term. A satisfactory definition of globalization must capture each of these elements: extensity (stretching) intensity, velocity and impact.*

There are many more scholars who perceive and equate globalization as westernization of the world. The dependency proponents see any externally induced development as not only westernization but disguised imperialism or a tool of exportation by the developed countries of the impoverished third world countries. To some others, globalization is the ascendancy of capitalism (Ferguson 1998), yet, there are those who perceive the phenomenon as generating increasing homogeneity (Kellner 1998). Ekeuwei (2007:12) describes globalization as producing diversity and heterogeneity through increased hybridization while Scholte (2001:14) states that globalization is same as deterritorialization.

Globalization can therefore be said to involve universalism where different phenomena go beyond national and geographic demarcations permeating the sovereign nations in the process of affecting decisively, the roles and values of individuals. It describes according to Knor (2003:1) the defining process of the present age while Ajayi (2002:175) views globalization as the dominant contemporary paradigm, which stresses the aggregation and reduction of the universe into a micro-level of a village community through high tech Information system.

## **EXPLANATION OF DEVELOPMENT**

Development is a continuous process. It manifests itself in improved quality of life, cultural regeneration, social homogenization and cohesion, political awareness and the stabilization and consolidation of participatory political institutions. The above definition is holistic and therefore shows that development is more than economic development. It is the entire evolutionary process of any society. Development implies a change in individual and group value and norms and is essentially a dynamic process seeking total societal transformation to effect all round balanced upward change (Mbachu LO. cited in Ndoh C.A. and C.E Emezi ed. 1988:181). According to Rodney (1972:21), development is a dialectical phenomenon in which the individual and society interact with their physical, biological and inter-human environment, transforming them for their own betterment and that of humanity at large. The lesson learned and experiences acquired in this progress are passed on the future generations, enabling them to improve their capacities to make further valuable changes in their inter-human relations and their ability to transform nature.

Development is first and foremost, a phenomenon associated with changes in man's humanity and creative energies, not in things. It is the unending improvement in the capacity of the individual and society to control and manipulate the forces of nature as well as themselves and other individuals and societies for their own benefits and that of humanity at large. Development connotes an increase, propagation, expansion, improvement or change for the better.

Real development involves a structural transformation of the economy, society, politics, and culture which permits a redirection of science and technology and other potentialities to meet the needs of the society. What is worthy of note here is that development is a change concept which cuts all facets of human endeavour just like globalization. While globalization can be both negative and positive, so also, development can be negative and positive. The emphasis is not only placed on economic growth through increase in labour productivity or capital accumulation but also on the condition in which people in a country have adequate food and job and the reduction in the peoples income inequality. Put differently, emphasis is placed on the service of the well-being of people by concentrating on indices of standards of living like poverty, income distribution, life expectancy, infant mortality, nutrition, and literacy, access to education, social services and amenities.

## **HISTORY OF GLOBALIZATION**

Interaction among human beings and societies goes back to many centuries. In these interactions and contacts, they engaged in social, political, economic, religious and other forms of relations. From the period of antiquity to the discovery of the new world down to the era of European imperialism, colonialism and the present neo-colonial times, Africa and indeed, the world have witnessed the penetration and influence of foreign culture and civilization on other societies on a very large scale which shaped and reshaped their conduct and ways of life.

The early phase of globalization is referred as archaic globalization (Hopkins 2004 ed.). These are events and developments from the time of earliest civilization until roughly the 1600s. This term is used to describe the relationships between communities and states and how they were created by the geographical spread of ideas and social norms at both local and regional levels. The first globalization featured the influence of the Eastern contributions on the west and this led to the second period. Globalization at this period even though, not on worldwide scale as it is today spread from the oriental world of the middle-East, Asia and North Africa. In the interactions among states, close proximity was of essence since it was not easy to interact with those at a very great distance.

However, with the advancements in technology, another phase of globalization emerged. The next phase (third) was the era of interdependency. States became dependent on each other for needs not available in their areas, leading to mutualism.

Scholars have traced the early stage of the globalization to different events. These include the emergence of industrial revolution in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, through the economically developed ancient world of Gujarat, Bengal in India, Coastal China and Japan, the rise of trade links between Sumer and the Indus. Civilization, the era of commercialized urban centers of the axis of Greek culture which reached India,

Spain, Alexandria and other Alexandrine cities (Kochler 2000:35, Frank, 1998). In addition to these factors was the trade on silk which opened long distances, political and economic interactions among China, India, Persia, Europe and Arabia.

Early modern globalization is associated with the period which was characterized by the rise of maritime European empires in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, from Portuguese Spanish, Dutch and British empires. At this period, the chartered companies like British East India Company (1600), Dutch East India Company (1602) later known as multinational corporations emerged. It was then that slave trade and triangular trade flourished.

Modern civilization dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the rise of industrial revolution, first in Britain and then to other parts of Europe and the rest of the world. During this period, rapid population growth created sustained demand for industrial commodities; steamships, rail roads were developed which made transportation cheaper and easier. At this time, more nations' embraced international trade, while the 19<sup>th</sup> century imperialism in both Africa and Asia set out.

At the end of Second World War, the Bretton woods institutions of World Bank and IMF came into being to facilitate international monetary policy, commerce and finance to facilitate global economic growth. The general Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was initiated which led to many agreements to remove trade restrictions and later succeeded by World Trade organization (WTO) in 2005 to provide a framework for negotiating and formalizing trade agreements and dispute resolution process.

Thereafter, followed the formation of the United Nations organization (UNO) in 1945, the universal declaration of Human Right in 1948, the Declaration on the granting of Independence to colonial countries and peoples in 1960 by the UNO which accelerated the independence of many African and Asia countries making them state actors in the international system.

Other developments in this era of globalization include: the emergence of cold war between the west and east, the rise of perestroika and glasnost reforms in Soviet Union, the collapse of Soviet Union and disintegration of Eastern Europe, the end of the cold war in 1991 and the emergence of the new world order (Unipolar system) characterized by the wind of free market economy and democratization.

### **AFRICA AND THE CHALLENGES OF GLOBALIZATION**

The structural imbalance in the world economic development in which Africa remains at the periphery of the periphery poses a very serious challenge in global competitiveness. This is perhaps, one issue African scholars who are the critics of globalization have not been able to address. What is responsible for Africa's backwardness even after many decades of self rule? Why are other third world nations who had similar colonial and historical experience outside the continent ahead of Africa and even closing the gap between them and the developed countries? Why has Africa been unable to tap and add value to the abundant natural resources in the continent even when the continent remains the richest in natural endowments? Why is every global initiative or regime whether economic or political received by Africans as exploitation, harmful and anti-African development?

From GATT to WTO through the IMF and World Bank Intervention, UNCTAD, the Structural Adjustment Programme Initiatives, the North-South relations, the New International Economic Order (NIEO) and the current globalization, all placed Africa on the disadvantage. What then does Africa want? According to Quattara (1997) "the challenge facing the developing world and African countries in particular is to design public policies so as to maximize the potential benefits from globalization and to minimize the downside risks of destabilization and or marginalization.

Quattara is of the view that none of these policies is new and most African countries have been implementing them for some time. He agrees that in particular, sub-saharan Africa<sup>^</sup> has made substantial progress towards macro-economic stability thus:

1. There has been some success in bringing down inflation-many countries have achieved single digit inflation rates
2. Countries have also reduced their internal and external imbalances

3. There has been continued improvement in overall growth performance etc,

The above was since 1997 and beyond. In the 1980s and 1990s, most African nations embraced Structural Adjustment Programme as recommended by the World Bank; Although, some African scholars have criticized this programme as evil, and succeeded in influencing their leaders in rejecting the reform programme which was meant for the restructuring of many African economies. Notwithstanding the barrage of criticisms, some countries such as Nigeria keyed into the programme leading to significant progress in:

1. Reduction of government intervention in economic activities
2. Liberalization of agricultural marketing and reduction in administrative price control
3. Restricting and privatization of state owned enterprises with varying spread and degrees of success
4. Introduction of fiscal reforms and rationalization of tax systems
5. Enhancement of administrative efficiency
6. Cutting of wastage and spending on key social services like education, health and infrastructure etc.

Adjustment and restructuring is part of human development. It is a globalized process of societal existence. Some nations may be derailed in the process of this reform because of some internal dynamics and individual systems. This does not mean that the reform recommendation is evil; rather, the implementation is to be blamed.

The greatest challenge of African nations in the face of globalization and the new world order is leadership problem. No society rises above the quality of its leadership. The misappropriation and squander of national wealth is a feature of African politics and leaders. Such misused opportunities have become part of African life. Nigeria for instance enjoyed oil boom in the 1970s and 2000s, yet the nation did not make efficient use of the opportunity to develop her economy to global reckoning. Between 1958 and 2015, Nigeria earned N98.293 Trillion from oil revenue (Vanguard, February 4, 2016:1-5) as follows:

YEAR REVENUE	YEAR REVENUE
1958 -0.2 Million	1986 -8. 107 Billion
1959 -3.4 Million	1987 -19.027 Billion
1960 -2.4 Million	1988 -20.934 Billion
1961 -17 million	1989-39. 131 Billion
1962 -17 million	1990 -55.216 Billion
1963-10"	1991 -60.314"
1964-16"	1992-115.392"
1965-29"	1993-106.192"
1966-45"	1994-160.192"
1967-30"	1995-324,548 "
1968 - -	1966-369.190"
1969 -75.4 million	1997-416.811 "
1970-167 "	1998-289.532 "



1971 -510"	1999-500,000 "
1972-764"	2000 -1.34 Trillion
1973 -1.016 Billion	2001 -1.7076 Trillion
1974 -3.724 Billion	2002-1.2309"
1975-4.272 "	2003-2.0743"
1976-5.365 "	2004-3.3548 "
1977-6.081 "	2005-4.7624 "
1978-4.556 "	2006- 6.109 "
1979-8.881 "	2007-6.70 "
1980 -12.354 '	2008 -3.96
1981 -8.564 "	2009 -2.225 "
1982 -7.815 "	2010 -9.15 "
1983 -7.253 "	2011 - 5.561 ‘’
1984 - 8.264 "	2012 - 12.5 "
1985 -10.915 "	2013 -13.44 "
	2014 -14.902 Trillion
	2015 -6.7
	Total -N98.293 Trillion

(Source: Vanguard, Feb. 4, 2016:1-5)

The above shows that only in 1968, Nigeria did not earn accounted revenue from oil because of the heat of the Nigeria civil war, and this excludes revenue from other sources within the period. With all this, Nigeria is still far behind in the human development index.

This could also be said about the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), one of the three most endowed countries in Africa, yet, among the poorest nations in the world. Its former leader Mobutu Sesesekou was said to be richer than DRC (Zaire) by the time he was overthrown. All over Africa except South Africa (because of White rule) the story is the same and not even Egypt with the oldest civilization in the world has a different story.

Africa maintains the highest share of the world's number of dictators, sit-light leaders, corrupt leaders, unpatriotic, vicious and visionless leaders as well as the highest number of undemocratic and illegitimate regimes in the world. Many African nations are yet to make a distinction between democracy and civil rule. A nation can have civil rule but not democratic rule and this is what is obtainable in many African states. Democracy is a tonic for political stability and good governance, economic growth and development all of which are essentials of the current globalization.

African resources are stoten by a few corrupt political leaders and greedy citizens and these resources (money) are hidden in foreign bank accounts located off-shore African continent, where they are used to develop foreign economies, create jobs for their people and improve their human development index.

Quattara (1997) outlined some areas where African countries need to achieve greater progress in order to speed up their participation in globalization.

1. **Maintaining macroeconomic stability and accelerating structural reform:**  
The emphasis must be to maintain economic stability and re-enforce the implementation of structural policies that will make the economies more flexible, encourage diversification and reduce their vulnerability to exogenous shocks. These include further reforms in the areas of public enterprises activity, the labour markets and trade regime. Governments should ensure that public services are provided in a reliable and cost efficient fashion.
2. **Reforming the Financial Sectors:**  
This aspect of globalization confronts developing countries with a new challenge to accelerate the development and liberalization of their financial markets and enhance the ability of their financial institutions to respond to the changing international environment.
3. **Achieving Good Governance:**  
National authorities should spare no efforts to tackle corruption and inefficiency and enhance accountability of government. These include, reducing distortionary activities, eliminating wasteful and unproductive uses of public funds and providing necessary domestic security and comprehensive reform and re-orientation of civil service.

### **EMPIRICAL VERIFICATION, DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

Change is the only permanent thing in life and it is a common phenomenon in all historical epochs. Globalization is a change phenomenon and nothing can be changed unless it is faced. The African continent is in the midst of globalization. Globalization is synonymous with interdependence hence there is global connectivity,

Ibrahim (2013) captured this in a sentence thus: "as the world becomes more interdependent on one another, decisions are made as a collective whole in economic field, not the interdependent political state". From the look of things, most African nations and scholars have not been positively receptive to globalizing world order. However, Ibrahim (2013) expressed regret that:

*The position of Africa in the international system has been considerably weakened by the fact that it has been losing the race for economic development in general and human development in particular to other regions. These poor performances by African countries account in part for political and social instability and rise of authoritarian regimes that have characterized much of post-colonial Africa, further weakening the ability of African countries to deal effectively with globalization.*

But this unfortunate condition is self inflicted. African nations and their leaders are the most corrupt in the global corruption index. Most world dictators, autocrats, sit-light leaders and looters of national wealth come from Africa. African nations are neither creative, nor innovative while some of their leaders are unpatriotic in nation building. This state of affairs has been with the continent since independence. From independence in the 1960s... the African continent was enmeshed in the war which was globalized by the super-powers to the superlative. Tendon (1998) states that:

*The cold war which was born out of the process of globalization had significant consequences for Africa. During its height in the 1,960s and 1970s, the cold war witnessed the emergence of authoritarian regimes in the form of one-party or military regimes. This was largely a result of the support of the two blocs to keep African countries in their respective camps. This in turn reduced Africa's international negotiating power and its ability to maneuver in the international system.*

To him, cold war and its demise worked against democracy and economic development in Africa.

According to Oyejide (1995), specific impact of globalization on Africa was in the political sphere, the most important consequence is in the erosion of sovereignty, especially on economic and financial matters

as a result of imposition of models, strategies and policies of development on African countries by international monetary fund, the World Bank and the world trade organization.

However, the use of the world imposition above instead of recommendation of models, strategies and policies is inappropriate. This is because no body forced such policies on African nations, rather, they had choice to accept or reject such recommendations. It is quite understandable that the weakness and unproductive nature of African economies have made them vulnerable to global competitiveness. This is why economically, globalization has reinforced the economic marginalization of African economies because of their dependence on a few primary goods for which demand and prices are externally determined.

In turn, this has increased poverty and economic inequality and the ability of the vast number of Africans to participate meaningfully in the social and political development of their countries.

There is in Africa today, an uncontrolled invasion of African continent by foreign negative culture. This is making the African nations to gradually but continuously lose their cherished culture often and create cultural lag that often lead to cultural conflicts. The ideas of seeing extra-African culture as superior has eroded and continues to erode old African civilization.

There is no doubt that a good percentage of African conflicts both internal and external have their roots on the involvement and penetration of the influence international system on the continent. From the era of slave trade (both trans-Saharan and trans Atlantic), through imperialism, colonialism, decolonization to and neo-colonialism to cold war, the African people have been at the receiving end of extra African induced conflicts in the struggle and scramble for African resources.

The Africans embrace of policy of non-alignment , Algerian war of independence, Apartheid policy in south Africa, the Congo crisis of the 1960s, white supremacist regime in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), the Angolan Conflict, and the international coalition against Iraq in 1990-1991, the latest western war on Libya etc were all the effects of globalization.

The sale of illicit arms to oppressive regimes, rebels, insurgents, terrorists, rights agitators etc caused series of armed struggle in many parts of Africa, making security of life and property as well as economic progress difficult in the continent. There is a new wave of international conflicts through terrorism with its concomitant effect on Africa, like the Al-Shabab in Somali, Boko-Haram in Nigeria, Islamic Maghreb in Libya and Mali, Alqaeda in west and central Africa as well as the influence of Taliban style and induced terrorism on the continent with significant Moslem population.

Globalization has brought to Africa another wave of crimes apart from terrorism. These include: prostitution, trading and consumption of illicit drugs, smuggling, human trafficking, pornography, kidnapping and hostage taking, dumping of dangerous toxic materials, degradation of environment, stealing of continents resources by unscrupulous entrepreneurs, multi-national companies and corrupt political leaders. Added to the above is the impact of globalization in the facilitation of brain-drain not only from Africa but across the developing world.

With this, labour freely moves from one nation to another which of course favours those countries with developed, productive and more competitive economies with higher per-capita income and attractive human development indices. Globalization sometimes leads to the porosity of African borders because of the often unregulated penetration of foreign goods into the continent. This renders locally produced goods uncompetitive. In some cases, this results to the dumping of inferior products in the developing countries. Knor (1996) states that:

*Most third world countries are still economically dependent on northern countries, their trans-national corporations and institutions. This form of dependence is associated with specific mechanisms whereby the southern countries have substituted funds and economic resources transferred aboard. The South-North flow of resources far outweighs the North-South aid (mainly loans to be repaid).*

According to him the world economic situation and globalization have been described as inequitable and inimical to African and the third world countries in general.

In spite of the negative sides of globalization, there is no doubt that its benefits or positive impacts outweigh the negative aspects. It is discernible that majority of those who do not see anything good in globalization fall within Africa and developing countries who are still beclouded by the stereotypes of Marxist mentality and incidentally are radical in declaration and intellect but neo-liberals in practice. Dalip (1995) states that:

*The wave of globalization is facilitated by the rate of development and the level of intensified interdependence, which makes it almost impossible for any nation to isolate itself. That all nations might benefit from the interdependence, which is manifested in the increasing economic linkage among countries through financial flow etc, the full involvement and participation of all states is highly imperative.*

In the face of the inevitable effects of globalization, particularly on African economies and development, African countries should strive to develop the potentials for active and effective participation in the world economic order.

Globalization has indeed eased international trade and commerce, facilitated foreign direct investment and flow of capital to Africa while imposing greater accountability and responsiveness of African leaders to their people. It has forced many African countries to embrace policies and programmes and measures that are globally imperative, irrespective of the feelings and sentiments of the majority of the people eg, Structural Adjustment Programme.

Presently, some African nations are striving for good governance in their countries in line with global standards. It is important to note that many African countries are now democratizing, conducting relatively free and fair elections, like in Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, South Africa, Liberia, Sierra Leone; opposition parties taking over from ruling parties like in Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, some leaders trying to reduce their tenure like in Senegal, Burkina Faso, more itching for greater transparency and accountability while sit-tight leaders are beginning to have a rethink. Without globalization setting certain basic standards and influence on Africa, the case would have been different.

There is greater interaction between Africans and the rest of the world and among Africans, cultural exchanges, flow of ideas and values are cutting across boundaries while knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavioural patterns are permeating from one entity to another through emulation and imitation.

Of greatest importance among the impacts of globalization to African nations is the new wave of the spread of information Communication Technology (ICT) which has no doubt eased interaction among nations and peoples living distance apart and reducing the world to a compact global village irrespective of the diversity of the international system.

## **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Summary**

This study tried to examine the phenomenal issue of globalization and its challenges and impacts on-the development of African continent. The study set out to analyze the problem by exposing the challenges posed by the rampaging globalization on African countries, before critically examining its impacts x-rayed as having both negative and positive effects.

To this effect, research questions were posed following the statement of the problem of the study following the articulation of the objectives of the study and its significance to the society.

In furtherance of this, the researcher embarked on the extensive review of relevant literature to the study to prove how documentary inquires tried to address the research problem. Effort was also made to explain the concept of development which is an essential component of the research.

The information for the study was derived mainly from secondary sources utilized through qualitative method of content analysis. The result of the empirical verification shows that globalization is fraught with both negative effects and positive benefits. It also shows that most African scholars who contributed to the debate on globalization dwell on the negative impacts with little acknowledgement of its benefits to Africa.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the strength of the data generated through secondary sources and validated by our hypotheses, it has been established that globalization like any other change phenomenon preceding it has negative and positive sides. However, the research has been able to prove that the benefits of globalization outweigh its negatives.

It is also important to state here as earlier noted that globalization as a phenomenon did not start recently. It had existed in international relations for many centuries past but was only re-invented and given greater publicity and relevance in the present world order.

It is therefore necessary that since the world is fast getting closer and integrating economies in more interdependent manner, African nations should endeavour to key into this wind of change so as to derive its maximum benefits like other regions of the world. Today's world is that of competition, knowledge and survival of the fittest, hence only the capable can adjust and benefit from this world order of globalization.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of all the expositions on the subject matter throughout this study, the following recommendations are put forward:

1. For Africa to participate effectively and benefit from globalization while avoiding marginalization, the continent and its leaders should demonstrate true enthronement of good governance. This is very essential for achieving transparency, rule of law, and political stability, which are prerequisites for socio-economic development.
2. There is need for African nations to imbibe the culture of structural adjustment of their economies from time to time so as to be in tune with the relevant global order.
3. African countries should learn to be creative and innovative and should stop this blame game of linking their woes on the developed nations. They have to emulate some Asian and Latin American countries like South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Brazil, China, India, etc who have moved away from the complaint of marginalization to become global competitors.
4. African nations should avoid excessive accumulation of debt or heavy debt burden. The heavy debt burden of many African nations is a serious hindrance to development. Accumulation of debt even when it is necessary must be channeled to proper use for the development of the countries instead of ending up in the private pockets of corrupt leaders. Again, borrowing should be linked to the capacity to pay back.
5. There is urgent need to curtail the high rate of brain-drain from Africa. This is one area where globalization has affected the continent so badly because the quest for greener pasture abroad by Africans. This problem develops foreign nations and underdevelops Africa.
6. There is need to check the activities of multinational corporations, expatriates and indigenous collaborators who are in the habit of exploiting and siphoning the resources of the continent with little accountability.
7. African nations should evolve their own indigenous technology while initiating extra-African technology. Today's world is a knowledge and technology based one and regions and nations who cannot key into this fast lane are left behind,
8. Africa and Africans must innovate, create, shake off primordial sentiments, siege mentality, desires of the moment, and strategize for future, look inwards, add value to their products and embrace global competitiveness and develop appetite for locally produced goods.

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