



Globalization and Development Crisis in Emerging Modern Societies

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Abstract

The negative effects of globalization on people in the emerging modern societies outweigh the positive ones. As the topic is very important in this present day, it has been selected for presentation. The main purpose of this presentation is to look at or describe the negative effects of globalization on citizens in the emerging modern societies and also proffer solutions to the negative effects of the phenomenon. By means of synthesis and analysis, globalization which encompasses trends, including expanded international trades, telecommunications, monetary coordination, multinational cooperation, technical cooperation, cultural exchanges, migration and relations between the world's rich and poor countries has its negative impact on the emerging societies such as substantial reductions in exports as the rapid pace of trade expansion declines sharply. Other negative impacts include the non-development of industrial base which enables emerging societies to create wealth for consumption; their goods are not being protected from competition at the global village; developing societies are affected negatively since they cannot influence the institutions guiding the operation of the global activities; their influence on the market-share distribution is not enough, hence, there is need for the emerging societies to find ways of checking the activities of high ranking societies to reduce their economic and political dominance over emerging ones.

Keywords: Globalization, Crisis, Modern State, Development & International Relations

Introduction

No country however big, small or rich can exist in isolation from all the member states that form part of the global community. No state is self-sufficient. This means that no state produces all that it needs and consumes all that it produces. As a result of this therefore, this inter-dependent nature of the international systems is important to understand the relations between members of the international system in order to promote mutual and beneficial interaction between them.

There is therefore more need to intensify the worldwide social, political and economic relations which will link distant communities. Developing countries entered the 1990's with a lot of hope due to the wave of democratic openings going on in the emerging societies and the strong pressure from the West to see these happen. Subsequently, the West in its desire to front economic activities on the globe introduced a new terminology known as 'globalization'. According to Giddens, (1990:4)¹ globalization can be defined as the

intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa. Globalization encompasses many trends, including expanded international trade, cultural exchange, telecommunications, Multinational Corporation, monetary coordination, technical corporation, migration and relations between the world's rich and poor countries. The word globalization is derived from the word globalize which refers to the emergence of an international network of economic system. It is the process of international integration comprising from the interchange of world views, products, ideas and other aspects of culture. Advances in transportation and telecommunication infrastructure, including the rise of the telegraph and its development, the internet are major factors in globalization generating further independence of economic and cultural activities.

Giddens's definition of globalization captures the meaning and what actually goes on in international economic relations. The basic dimension here is the pre-dominance of the world economy and a free trade and free movement of capital investment and production. The implications include dismantling of tariff barriers by nations, removing all barriers on investment and investment capital, competition of agricultural and industrial products in the free market and application of varieties of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) to all nations in order to equip them for participation in the world economy.

After all, globalization as explained above is a process of interaction and integration

among the people and companies driven by international trade and investment aided by information technology. Globalization is also being driven by the global expansion of multinational corporations based in the United States of America, Europe and worldwide exchange of new developments in science technology and products with most significant investment of the time having their origins in the Western world. It has facilitated advances in technology which has reduced the costs of trade negotiation.

Theoretical Framework

For a thorough grasp of the changing patterns of Western relations in Africa up to the globalization process as well as its impact on developing nations, the centre periphery theory propounded by Galtung (1972) is to be adapted. The theory takes as its departure two points of the most glaring facts about this world, viz; the tremendous inequalities within and between nations in almost all aspects of human existence. This includes the power to decide over living conditions and the resistance of this inequality of change. The world consists of centre and particularly nations and each nation in turn has its centre and periphery.

One great concern is the mechanism underlying these discrepancies; the choice of this theory is predicated on its relevance to the paper based on the lopsided relationship between the technologically underdeveloped peripheral nations of the Third World. It is a relationship where the West dictates to developing nations of their co-existence economically, socially and politically. This theory is combined with the dependency paradigm (Andre Frank, 1967) for a critical analysis of the factors underlying the impact

of developing nations and the Western relations on the underdevelopment of the developing ones.

The centre periphery theory emphasizes how the metropolitan states of the West are at the centre of the world stage, that is, decision making. It is a theory that portrays the alliance between elite of the centre and the periphery in which the elite of the periphery open their economies for easy plundering by the West in the name of economic liberalization. It has been pointed out that if not with the collaboration between the elite of the centre and that of the periphery, the entire machinery of indirect control of the Third World would not have emerged.

This dominant-subservient relationship is possible because of the unfair relations between the industrialized nations of the West and the under-developed countries of Africa. A relation in which the latter depends on the former for their technological and finished goods, hence centre periphery illustrates how the elite of the peripheral nations, by incorporating their economies into the so-called international economy, makes it easy for the industrialized nations to have access to these economies. These industrialized nations are therefore in a position to dictate the pace of economic development of developing nations.

From the foregoing, one can explain the nature of developing countries and the West, their relations within the globalization process; a relation in whom developing countries continue to depend on the West for their finished and technological goods as well as efforts at industrialization. With the

prevalent emphasis on the industrialization of the capitalist mode of production and its consequent globalization of world politics, the West in collaboration with the elite in developing countries continue to plunder the economies of African countries. The global relations is therefore that of master-servant relationship, with the West occupying the centre stage of the relations, that is a decision making process, which entails why the West has free access to the plundering and siphoning of the economies of developing nations.

Lending credence, Walter Rodney observes that the development of Europe is the underdevelopment of Africa; and by extension the development of the West in the globalization is the underdevelopment of Africa. This is premised on the realization that the incorporation of these nations economy into the world economy (where the West occupies decision making process) is nothing but a forum for easy and effective control of developing nation's economies, by the multinational corporations and transitional bodies owned and ran by Western countries. This encourages capital flight and disinvestment.

It is understood that, he who controls a country's economy has directly or indirectly the control of all other decision making processes within the country and this is how the West still continues to dictate to these nations, for instance, the system of government to be operated is dictated by the West. The threats of sanctions which the West uses to compel the emerging societies to comply with their wishes in globalization processes are dealt with in this paper

The ideas behind globalization can now be examined. In the globalization processes, free capitalism is the key principle because it is the most important force for a country's development. According to free market capitalism, if the business makes large profits, the business will trickle down to everybody since it will become a continuous process. Onuaha (2000:22)² says, free market is supposed to work like this:

When business owners make profits, they reinvest those profits by building new facilities or expanding their existing plants. When business owners reinvest in this way, they will need to employ more workers in order to produce more goods. When more workers are employed, they will have more money to spend. When workers have more money to spend, more goods will have to be produced for them to buy. This will lead to another round of more profits, more investment, more jobs, etc. As you can see the key to success in this model is the profit of individual capitalist. Because of this, the ideology of free market also promotes individualism, particularly the drive for profit and success on the part of the individual business owner or entrepreneur.

We can observe that so far globalization has done little to address widespread economic disparities, because we are yet to notice large scale international development projects designed specifically to provide basic needs, satisfaction to the inhabitants of the world's poorest countries or, much less, any structural changes in the current world markets system designed to the advantage of developing states. The developed nations, especially Europe and North America have continued to retard their population through

family planning and birth control measures, these measures are making them more comfortable to operate at the global level and realize good benefit. The case in developing societies of the third world countries is different. In developing countries, rather than planning to check the rapidly expanding population and comparatively low levels of economic development and job creation, population continue to increase unchecked. As a result of this, emerging nations face the almost insuperable task of providing meaningful employment for citizenry. This is so because the available capital for infrastructure and physical plant are extremely limited.

Some of the essential instruments used by the developed countries or nations particularly the European nations and North America to useless the economy of developing nations are deregulation, privatization, trade and financial liberalization. These are impetuses of sapping the natural resources in the manner that methodology of their implementation does not tally with the economic principles upon which an emerging state is based. This in turn, has greater effect on the natural savvy. Privatization as a matter of fact, is an impetus of globalization. A developing nation like Nigeria is committed to following the footsteps of several countries that have embarked upon the privatization of the national economy. The scope of the nation's privatization programmes covers several sectors of economy including banking and finance, manufacturing, oil and gas, hospitality and tourism, communication among others. It is unfortunate that even the sectors that are necessary for economy

growth, like power and telecommunication are not doing well.

With the expansion of human activities and interests in the areas of transportation, communication, trade and financial exchange, political as well as nuclear targeting around the world, it is expected that even the emerging modern societies or third world countries including Nigeria will definitely improve on their economic sectors for the benefit of their citizens. We are aware that globalization allows free flow of capital across national boundaries, encourages the migration and diffusion of vital technical skills for nation building and development. The nations have free access to foreign technology and they (nations) also have the advantage of improving on their large-scale production because they have direct access to the world market. Developing nations are not finding it easy coping with the dictates of these ideas in the globalization process because the developed nations are behind these ideas and obviously will benefit more than the emerging states.

Another instrument which is used by the developed nations to use the economy of modern state is deregulation. As we have already noticed, deregulation involves removing government legislation and laws in a particular market. In other words, it is referred to as the removing of barriers to competition. This process of deregulation is often accompanied by privatization; selling of state owned assets or enterprises to private sectors.

Deregulation has some advantages and disadvantages: increased competition acts as a spur greater efficiency, leading to lower costs and prices for customers. Government

regulation often involves excessive costs of bureaucracy. Disadvantages; deregulation could lead to a compromise of public servants with poor quality provision. It can also be difficult to create effective competition in an industry which is a natural monopoly-high barrier to entry; it may also create a private firm with monopoly power. We can see that deregulation deals with the elimination of government laws and rules. These laws, or removal of them, impact consumer and business activities, such as obtaining loans, importing supplies and selling products.

In Nigeria, because the government wants to be effective in globalization process and also to act in line with the dictates of globalization, Nigeria had to deregulate the country's downstream sector, which deals with refining of crude oil for domestic consumption, which was hitherto managed by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) on behalf of the government. The upstream sector, which deals with refining of crude oil, is still being regularized by the Nigerian government. (www.sloin.com/valore/itikbanga.html) (Retrieved December 15, 2015)³.

Other sectors privatized or deregulated in Nigeria include; electric power, which was formerly called NEPA, National Electric Power Authority now called PHCN, Power Holding Company of Nigeria, Telecommunication Company, Nigeria Port Authority among others. There are some successes in the privatization, deregulation and liberalization agenda in Nigeria especially as regards telecommunications sector. Though the programme also attracted investment from reputable international and national companies like

Scancem from Norway, Haalcem from Spain, Lafarge France, Dangote from Nigeria among others in many sectors, the programme still remains controversial. Part of the controversy is due to a suspicion among the general public. The general public appears to be saying that privatization was not done in an open and transparent manner. Secondly, there are many people who feel that, what they get when the state is regulates these companies or an agency in form of privileges and handouts is taken away from them. They are still opposing the privatization agenda. Thirdly, part of this controversy is ideological. Some people from the labour union, in the media, the academia etc. who though have noticed the failures of the state in owning and managing these sectors still want the state to continue to be the producer, employer and owner of these sectors.

It is now left for policy makers to pursue the agenda of privatization, deregulation and liberalization to a logical end as other nations have done and are benefiting from the global economy. Developing nations should check what has gone right or wrong and take necessary steps to improve on the process (Okonjo-Iwela Vanguard News Paper 10th November, 2015)⁴.

The principle of dominance in international relation helps to assess and understand the development crisis affecting the emerging modern societies. As has been explained by Goldstein and Perehouse, (2011:7)⁵ dominance solves the collective goods problem by establishing a power hierarchy in which those at the top control those below. Social conflicts such as who gets resources are resolved automatically in favour of the higher-ranking state or actor.

As a matter of fact, in the global village, principle of dominance underlines the great power system in which a handful of countries dictate the rules for all the others thereby creating crisis in the developing states. Sometimes a so-called hegemony or super power stands atop the great powers as a dominant nation. The United Nations Organization (UNO) Security Council, in which the world's five strongest military powers hold a veto, reflects the dominance principle. The higher-ranking nations have power and influence and they control decision making processes in their relationships with the lower-ranking nations. Even though all member nations whether high in ranking or low are expected to contribute to the common goods, the lower-ranking are submissive to the higher-ranking nations who have more influence on the market-share distribution. Goldstein and Perehouse, (2011:8)⁶ are of the view that globalization has created backlashes among people who are adversely affected and who believe their identities are threatened by foreign influence. With the increasing globalization, transnational concerns such as environmental degradation and disease have become more prominent as well and this is not healthy for the emerging modern societies.

Again, in this era of globalization the power of the state is being challenged because the activities of globalization are eroding the state's ability to control what goes on within and across its borders. In a situation where the state is unable to control political, economic and cultural issues among others, the state is exposed to a lot of crises which will definitely lead to serious problems.

Amenger (2005:145)⁷ observes that the greatest concern about globalization is the way it has widened the gap between the haves and the have-nots. It looks like while global wealth has undoubtedly increased, it has become concentrated in fewer hands and few countries. The emerging states do not appear to take off from a sound foundation which would have placed them in a better position to function well at the global neighbourhood. Sawgerr in Onuaha (2000:237)⁸ had explained that globalization involved massive flows of trade and finance across national borders, which have put the sovereignty of modern states under stress; rise of financiers and speculators who are able to move large amount of money or capital on short-term from one jurisdiction to another in an instant. It is not possible for the emerging modern societies to have the capital to move such amount of money on short-term arrangement.

So far, emerging modern societies are yet to benefit fully from the current integrative process since they have not been able to develop their own industrial base properly, that would enable them create wealth for their consumption. Amenger, (2015:97)⁹ also holds the view that for Nigeria and the African countries to benefit from the globalization economy very well, the master-servant relations between the developed nations and Nigeria should be discouraged. Nigeria should have the right to accept or reject policies that she prefers and the ones that are against her interest while functioning at the global village. He (Amenger) further notes that a truly and successful globalization would definitely improve the life of every inhabitant of the global relationship but what we are seeing so

far in recent years falls short of the ideas. Human rights and social equality have lagged far behind technical and material progress. Developing societies which Nigeria is one are most affected in this regard because the principal problem is that, economic globalization is driven by the desire to make money and continue with the process of re-investment.

It is very unlikely for the governments of the world to be able to effectively regulate the economy, politics, technology and culture that would provide justice because already they (governments) have found it difficult to solve some very vital global problems like crime, poverty, terrorism, security among others in the previous attempts. When such problems come up, the developing nations especially in the third world are most affected. It is true that globalization has created opportunities and challenges for developing countries and they are expected to promote economic growth, however many developing nations especially poor ones in particular have not been able to take full advantage of the opportunities created by the globalization process.

Goldstein and Perehouse (2011:8)¹⁰ also state that, within the international system unlike in the national system, there is no central government to allocate values or goals competed for by the actors. Each state acts in its own way to get what it wants in the international system. As a result of this, the possibility for violence in international system tends to be higher than the national systems. This therefore, calls for international integration (Globalization). International integration refers to the process by which supranational institutions replace national ones. This is however a

difficult process in practice, because states find it very difficult to share power or sovereignty with the supranational institutions. States have been unwilling to give up their exclusive claim to sovereignty and have limited the power and authority of supranational institutions.

It should also be understood that most developing societies are desperately poor and on the other hand the West has multiple wealthy members. And even those members with weakest economies in Europe far exceed almost all those of developing nations.

Studies so far reviewed that the domestic factors that determine Nigeria's economic, leadership, constitution, demography among others are not fully developed to give the country leverage to assert her influence at the regional level and on the global scene. Nigeria along with other developing nations should therefore check the factors that impede their relations with other countries—corruption, poor leadership and underdeveloped economy. When these and other impediments are looked into and resolved, obviously, the developing nations can benefit from the globalization process. This is what industrialized countries of the world have been doing.

Many nations around the world including Nigeria are becoming more and more integrated for development. This integration is possible because of reduced transport costs, low trade barriers, faster communication of ideas raising capital flows, due to foreign investment and immigration. If developing societies can improve on their economic, political, environmental, social, cultural, religious

dimensions, they will definitely be relevant in the global village. Despite the numerous benefits globalization has generated, countries that have refused to develop their governments and economic institutions to be able to function well at the regional and global level, will obviously not have benefits of globalization. They will as a matter of fact, have the serious problems of unemployment, living standards, thwarts social progress among others. Globalization is expected to promote economic growth, however, many countries, poor ones in particular have not been able to take full advantage of the opportunities brought by globalization. They are not able to participate in its benefit fully.

Globalization generally, intends to generate and yield substantial benefit to all nations of the world as those that are involved show some commitment and strong will. It is unfortunate that, Nigeria with relatively open economy and rich natural, human and other resources is yet to realize significant benefits from globalization. Nigeria is one of the developing nations in Africa that has been operating at the global village with other nations in the third world, but she and such countries are not finding it very easy to function well at the global village.

Amenger (2015:96)¹¹ states that, the effects of globalization or post-bipolar on Africa still remain contestable. The proponents of globalization have argued that the global integration of Africa into the world economy will not only stimulate and alleviate poverty, but will also facilitate the continent's democratization process.

As Africa's most populous country and the largest economy, Nigeria has to improve on

all her economic sectors if she must operate as one of the global forces, Amenger (2015:100)¹². We noticed that these developed nations with their institutions are not fair to Nigeria and the rest of developing countries in their relations. We do know that these industrialized nations will obviously not wait for African nations to meet them so as to continue with development at the same level or space, but we expect that they (African nations) too should be involved in decision making at that high level of decision making process.

The introduction of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) by the industrialized nations was another step towards marginalizing both economic and political processes. It seems that globalization politics is based on marginalizing Africa through structural adjustment programme introduced by leaders of the industrialized nations. The international politics of the post-bipolar era demands speedy market reforms and most of these reforms in Africa are imposed from outside by Bretton-Woods institutions. Most African states that have adapted these recommendations as mentioned earlier dismantled the parastatal bodies. Nigeria should therefore endeavour to step up their bargaining powers so as to develop their economic sectors to be able to function well at the global level.

It has been observed that the activities of markets have increased as a result of new information and transportation technologies, as well as attitudes about the role of government and states. Nearly half of all industrial outputs today is produced by multinational enterprises whose decisions about where to locate factories have a powerful effect on domestic economies and

of course, politics. The unjust relationship between the West and African in which the West is still at the centre and Africa at the periphery cannot definitely solve the Africa economic and political problems. Nigeria is at disadvantage in this process, because global markets depend on an international structure of power which she (Nigeria) is far behind the industrialized countries. The security situation in the country too, has not favoured Nigeria in her struggle to be effective in the globalization process. In recent years, and in addition to corruption which has been preventing the country from investing more in her economic sectors, insecurity has increased seriously in Nigeria thereby making things more difficult in the country. The issue of Boko Haram killings, destroying religious buildings, houses, offices among others has made the government of Nigeria to spend a lot of money in trying to stop terrorist activities at the expense of investing such money in the development of economic sectors.

In spite of these numerous problems developing societies have, which makes them ineffective at the global village, they still have some advantages belonging to the globalization process. Such advantages include technological development, economic processes, social and economic developments. Globalization helps emerging nations to some extent to increase their economic growth, solving some environmental problems, poverty problems among others.

As earlier said, many nations around the world including developing ones are becoming more integrated for development. The integration is because of reduced transport cost, faster communication of

ideas, raising of capital flows due to foreign investment and immigration. Some developing nations are improving on their economic, political environment, social, cultural among others and are definitely becoming relevant in the global village. Nigeria for example, with relatively open economy, rich natural, human and other resources is trying to realize significant benefits from globalization.

Most recently, the countries in Africa in 2002 formed the African Union an ambitious plan to coordinate economic and foreign policies, elect an African parliament and create a stronger infrastructure than the predecessor, Organization of African Unity (OAU); Of course, none of those organizations have experienced the success of European Union (EU) but their aims are often similar, Goldstein and Pere house (2011:356)¹³.

Globalization and integration as a matter of fact, have actually improved the relations of different continents as can be seen in the interactions between European Union and African Union. When nations interact, they share for example, values of democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance as well as the right to development. Leaders of these countries also notice the importance of peace and security as prerequisites for development and prosperity. They work towards economic growth among them. The leaders of these nations also have the task of ensuring common effort in fighting international terrorism and of course, combating the spread of small arms.

Nigeria for example, in recent times, especially from 2009 has been plagued by a

number of security issues, posting a variety of threats to Africa's most populous country. The activities of Boko Harm, kidnapping foreigners and Nigerians, armed robbery, militancy, cultism, piracy, and cattle rusting among others are very serious security threats that are reducing Nigeria's economic, political, cultural relations with other nations. In view of these therefore, it is not possible for Nigeria and other developing nations to function effectively at the global village.

It is also the responsibility of the leaders of these nations to pursue policies that will create jobs and also ensure long-term growth on both continents. They are expected to ensure prudent and transparent management of natural resources in their various countries. The leaders again, have the responsibility of encouraging greater investment and economic development within and between countries in both continents.

On comparative note, Europe has an European parliament which has been very functional and successfully serving a lot of economic problems among other sectors, African parliament of African Union only exercises advisory and consultative powers which include making of recommendations aimed at contributing to the attainment of objectives of the Union. Though the African parliament encourages good governance and accountability in member states, the states are not making fast efforts to improve their economic growth hence they are not succeeding well at the global village.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Having analyzed globalization which encompasses trends; including expanded industrial trades, telecommunications, monetary coordination, multinational cooperation, technical cooperation, cultural changes, migration and relations between the world's rich and poor countries and its negative impacts on the emerging modern societies, there is therefore the need to conclude and suggest the way forward.

It has been observed that, the negative impacts were as the result of the non-development of industrial base in the emerging societies that would enable them creates wealth for consumption; their goods are not being protected from competition at the global village. The developing societies are yet to influence the institutions guiding the operation of global activities, their influence on the market-share distribution has not been enough and of course not impressive, hence, there is need for them to find ways of checking the activities of the high-ranking societies so as to reduce their economic and political dominance over the emerging ones.

Developing countries should endeavour to step forward in the international ladder to be placed in position where they can influence the institutions guiding the operation of the globalization process. The situation where the nations are only Western and American-oriented is definitely not favourable for the interest of emerging societies.

There should be constitutional provisions to enable developing countries to have a say in policy decisions that affect their economic and political activities in their relations with the West and USA. The incorporation of

Africa into the global economy where the West and America dominate decision-making process is not healthy for developing nations and should be discontinued. Relevant laws should be enacted to discourage some elite from collaborating with the developing nations in plundering the economy of developing nations.

It is only with economic growth that emerging democratic regimes will begin to meet some of the popular expectations inspired by democratization or by reforms in the direction of better governance. Conversely, many analysts believe that economic progress depends on democratization or at least on substantial reform which include greater openness, transparency and accountability in government.

Unless the master-servant relationship between the West and the developing nations is discouraged and the developing nations have the right to accept or reject the policies that they prefer and the ones that are against their interests, the unjust relationship between the West and these nations in which the West is still at the centre and the nations at the periphery cannot definitely solve their economic and political problems.

Amenger, (2015:99-100)¹⁴ African problems can be traced right from their history and these problems have remained in place, because the African leaders are so obsessed with short term goals. The inability of the African States to look into the future, plan for posterity and systemically push the plan through is one of the factors leading to the sorry state that Africa finds herself. This is

why throughout the history of Africa; all the great empires built by Africans are known to have collapsed because the leaders could not see beyond immediate effect.

In the globalization process therefore, the continent should have a second thought, retrace their steps and ensure that things are not only done on short term basis, but should take a long view to set clear goals and target, plan for them and systemically work toward actualizing them. It may take some time for such plans to come to fruition, but they should not give up. This is what Europe did that placed her far above and ahead of Africa economically, politically and otherwise.

There is need for developing nations to have visionary leaders who can always ensure that imperialism is completely wiped out in their states, especially during the twenty first century. The leaders should understand that many people see globalization as the final solution to many years of marginalization and brazen exploitation by the West, therefore all efforts should be made to actually eliminate poverty and guarantee employment activities.

The government of Nigeria should take decisive and proactive steps to stop the threats to security in the country by equipping the various agencies responsible for maintenance of peace and security. This will enable foreigners, Nigerians and other

business organizations to invest and do business in the country without fear.

As a matter of fact, globalization is a key to growing businesses in the twenty-first Century. Nations especially the developing ones must recognize that their success depends on efficiency and scalability; being able to quickly mobilize global resources and reach world markets.

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