



GLOBALIZATION AND THE RECOLONIZATION OF THE THIRD WORLD: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT: *The paper is an investigation into the ambiance of contemporary trends of globalization; it delves into the global viewpoint and position of the third world in the globalized world. Secondary methodology is being adopted as an instrument of library research and findings show that, the third world countries are losers and nothing but victims of globalization. The paper concludes that, when some people see globalization as advanced capitalism, others hold that it is re-colonization in disguise aimed at sustaining Africa as a perpetual Western underdog. Glaring economic indices attest that Africa is today the last moral test to the West. Over \$300b out of \$800b of Nigeria's crude sold since the oil boom has been siphoned to Western strong banks in connivance with their overlords. The paper recommends that, the third world countries in order to fit in the era of globalization have no option other than: to improve agricultural production for sustenance and exports; to embark on massive industrialization process even with the help of other advanced third world nations in Asia; to fight poverty, illiteracy, corruption and insecurity, among many other prospects.*

KEYWORDS: Africa, Globalization, Colonization, Re-Colonization, Capitalism, Analysis, Third-World

INTRODUCTION

The assertion that 'the world is a global village' is now a common place parlance. Everyday reality in Nigeria or any country for that matter can easily substantiate that, for example, the quest for credible elections and good governance by nation states may be subject to European Union (EU) election observers and monitors comments or approval and assessments. The budgetary consideration and implementations by the legislature and executive in Nigeria are conditioned by their understanding of the volatility in the crude oil price in the world market. In 2007-2008 the world experienced acute global Financial and economic crisis, with serious socio-economic implications on developmental drives. Governments around the world tried to contain the crisis, as many suggested the worst did not yet happen. Stock markets went down more than 40% from their highs. Investment banks have collapsed, rescue packages were drawn up involving more than a trillion US dollars, and interest rates dropped around the world in a coordinated response (Dirk-Willem, 2008). In Egypt and Nigeria, the stock market indices declined by about 57 percent between March 2008 and March 2009 (Ashamu and Abiola, 2012).

Having multiplier effects on the Banking sector of the nation resulting into Banks merging up to survive, as others resurrected by the nation's Central Bank with billions in support, as the Magpie and American Wall Streets were reported to be experiencing financial difficulties.



The plight of vulnerable children in trouble nations like Iraq and Afghanistan could top the agenda of deliberations in United Nations (UN), just as civil war in Syria divided the world is fused over. These aspects of global existentiality, interrelatedness and connectivity define the world of 21st century, which we are passing through. More recent events in the globe adequately justified these facts. The details of Haiti and Japan earthquakes, considered as world deadliest in recent times, were monitored live by people in Nigeria as elsewhere, through communication gadgets and Cable News which raised sympathies, concerns and quick responses to the situation's world over. The Greek 'debt crisis' is seriously reverberating in Spain, Portugal and Germany amongst other European nations economy. Also an individual suicidal action in Tunisia instigated what has come to be considered as 'Arab Spring' world over, culminating in the overthrowing of 'sit tight' leaders of office in peace or in pieces as in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Syria, even if this entails NATO (an organisation of western Europe military alliance) involvement in an assumed African Union enclave as Libya. Other succinct examples are the emergence of UAE (United Arab Emirate) as 'hottest commercial' hub and with China and Japan as industrial and technological destinations.

A synopsis of the salient points in above suggest increasing global demand and drive to democracy and capitalism as started by Europe and strengthened by USA after WWII and the drive to global prosperity toward increasing use of science and technology.

It is therefore, notable that, striving and distribution of global peace and harmony is supported by increasing transmission and transfusion of dominantly European and American values in food, sport, music, and mannerism to the globe. International organizations such as UN, IMF, WB and their subsidiaries such as WTO, ICJ, UNICEF, UNESCO etc. and MNC's such as IBM, Microsoft, Facebook, MacDonald, KLM, BA,AF etc. were instruments enhancing this trend of globalization. Based on these developments the world looks more Europeanized and Americanized than been global. Again, observers noted that this development is not different from the 16th-17th century European imperialistic and colonial dominations and exploitation of the continents of Africa now refers to as the third world? There is no difference apart from nomenclature substitutions such as Africa/third-world, Europe/America and first-world.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Globalization: The word globe, literarily taken as the planet earth, is believed to be the harbinger of the concept Globalization. Globalization means and implies many things to many people. As observed, by Douglas Kellner (1995) "the term is used in so many different contexts, by so many different people, for so many different purposes, that it is difficult to ascertain what it is at stake in the globalization. What functions the term serves, and what effects it has for contemporary theory and politics remains problematic" (Dimitrova,2002). Despite these perceived difficulties, several useful meanings were provided for the phenomena called Globalization. According to Wilczek (2008) who buttressed Anthony Giddens definition of the concept, it means "decoupling of space and time... with instantaneous communications, knowledge and culture that can be shared around the world simultaneously". Accordingly, Camedessus (1998) refers to the concept as disinterested



movement of history bestowing benefits without discrimination upon the earth's people (in Okege, 2008).

Dimitravo (2002) contends that Globalization refers to the integrations and bringing distant realities closer to each other, which occurs through the channels of technology. As for Asobie (2001) the concept implies 'essentially the universalization of capitalism' and euphemism for westernization'. While, Obono (2004) opined that Globalization is an abstraction or cliché that enables industrialized western countries to mobilize worldwide consciousness around neo-liberal ideologies and trade practices that served their economic interest. On the implication of the concept Wilczek (2008) posits that countries all over the world are trying to remain interdependent in many possible ways. Unfortunately, there is probably no area of human activities left, not affected by globalization. As harsh as it may seem, human beings all over the world listen to the same music, eat the same food, wear the same clothes, and decide war and peace issues amongst one another. Ezema (2009) looked at economic implication of the phenomena and asserted that, "nations across the developed countries of the globe become open to foreign direct investments. This can contribute to an effective economic growth by stimulating domestic investments, thereby improving efficiency and productivity as a result of greater access to new technology and the increase in the knowledge applied to production." This is as Sule (2008) argued that "the entire globe and humanity is living in the era of intensified globalization: a process marked by accelerated flow of goods, services, capital, images, knowledge, fashion, labour, etc. through electronic information and communication, electronic transfer of large funds across borders and closer relationships and unprecedented interdependence among nations like has never been witnessed in any historical epoch of human existence".

The Third World: The concept of third world is an interesting recent European scholarship creation. The conception "Third World" is divisive often denigrated in nature of world socio-economic and political geographies a "us" versus "them." According to Greene (1980), the term "Third World" has French origin. That it is a direct translation of the word *tiers monde*, which could variously mean "Third Position and "Third Force. It mainly refers to the view that the interests of the former colonial nations (and the "oppressed," generally) are best served by a position independent of both the capitalist and communist ideological systems. In 1952, the modern usage of the term was said to be coined by the French demographer, Alfred Sauvy (who was the director of the Institute National d'Etudes Demographiques, in Paris). By the 1960's, intellectuals and leftists in the west and the former colonial sector were using the term extensively, largely as a result of its popularization by Franz Fanon, in his *The Wretched of the Earth* (op-cit.).

According to Greene (1980), generally commentators use the term "Third World" to refers to those nations which lag in industrial development, low in per capita income, exporters of only raw materials which are subject to extreme price oscillations, and required to buy more on the world market for their people's needs than they can pay for out of export earnings. "Third World" nations are also characterized as, having a colonial past and being underdeveloped economically, and suffering from illiteracy and domination of political life by small western-oriented and educated elites.



THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The world system theory of globalization is being adopted to explain the topic under study. The world system approach as argued by Sheriff (2013) explains how the world has been integrated into the capitalist system, where goods manufactured in Europe and America are found and consumed in other parts of the world. Asia is not left behind as struggling to fit into the global system, with industrialization and technological inventions. The world system approach replaces all other economic system completely, with only few nomenclatures hiding behind capitalism with hollow names. Victims such as the third world are being identified as losers in the globalization process, where advanced capitalist societies are the gainers in the trend.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Globalization and Re-colonization of the Third World: Colonialism and its impact on Africa has been fully documented and critically explained. Some good roll call here, include Walter Rodney (1971), Mazrui, (1979) Elaigwu and Uzoigwe (1996), Bala (2006) and (2015) etc. Rodney in his analysis maintained that Africa was developing at its own pace (in fact the pace was near equivalent of what developmental stage of Europe at the time of study). That Europe not only truncated African development at that time in family structure (by enslaving the abled bodied men to European plantations), economy, agriculture craft/industries and trade. Europe (Britain, France, Portugal, Spain etc.) used their amassed surplus from both African enslavement and colonialism (appropriations of the riches: gold, diamond, tin, columbine, hide-skin, cocoa, palm oil etc.) to developed the colonies in USA, and supported science, technological and industrial drives that instituted world economic and enacted institutions such as GATT (1947) and UN etc. to sustain their global economic and political dominance).

Elaigwu and Uzoigwe work catalogued how European colonialists repressed and suppressed religion, law and educational development with reference to Nigeria. Bala's (2006) works critiqued historical/anthropological description of African economic and political institutions as incapable of progress and sustained prosperity. In fact, showing clearly the depth and length of Nigeria's various entities educational, political, economic and social entities richness and prowess locality and continentally in outlook. From 1950s the imperial colonial machine started dismantling all over the globe. But were nations recolonized in the 21st century? Some critical observers agree that Africa and other third world nations are found under re-colonization process. Mafa (2016) argues thus:

there is an imperative need to understand that Africa attained the flag and national anthem independence only, because a critical analysis of 21st century Africa indicates that Eurocentric principles, values and practices are still evident and that too many African states have been captured and become subjects of Eurocentric hegemony in a fashion that is reminiscent of recolonization.



Barbosa (2010) looked at education and find elements of re-colonization of Africa. He observed:

A current educational objective in Sub-Saharan Africa is creating a new generation of African universities that are focused on community development projects and programs aimed at aiding problems related to civil works. With significant financial assistance from foreign investors, however, African universities must be wary of the control external parties will have over internal matters. As a continent long enduring the effects of colonialism, Africa and its educational leaders must be intentional about ensuring that the primary beneficiaries of this developmental process are the African countries affected and those who study, work, and live there.

Folarin (2007) on the other hand looked at the political and economic relations to African re-colonization in the context that, the contemporary relationship between Africa and Europe, is not just that between two sovereign and ostensibly equal partners, but also very enormous and significant for the survival of the two continents; quite unlike in the past when it was that of the master and labourer-the labourer providing for the master's survival-from slavery to colonialism and neo-colonialism: developments that bred deep-seated resentment and racial contempt. The author take a critical look at the new intense economic relationship between Europe and sub-Saharan Africa and appraises such with the view of determining whether the developments are new measures to appease Africa for the centuries of plunder, and cement Euro-African relationship; or whether they are just another set of strategies to further create a stranglehold on the continent economically and make it perpetually dependent, through the role and activities of MNCs and foreign investors in Nigeria, which, to many Third World scholars, are effective instruments of neo-colonization.

Falorin's (2007) conclusions are telling, that, Multinational companies may have acted as agents of change, development and integration; but they have always left behind selective changes and relative development and a yawning gap between the metropolitan powers which they serve and which service them, and the post-colonial state in Africa. For Nigeria, while we can appreciate the depth of capital investment in the economy, which has inadvertently brought Nigeria into the mainstream of global capital; we can count our blessings, meaning the fruits of FDI are as infinitesimal as they are insignificant, despite Nigeria's front running position in African economic recovery through partnership with western oligarchs and an aggressive drive to open up for foreign direct investment.

The above inferences suggest that, Africa and other third world countries are in for recolonization through globalization as a camouflage. Some serious theoretical studies supported these dispositions. This includes, Thomas (2007) *Globalizations: The Major Players* and Boliand Petrova (2007) *Globalization Today*. The idea that African and indeed other third world countries are still enjoying old same wine in new bottles was made clear in a theoretical disposition as Robinson (2007) made clear. Immanuel Wallerstein for example tends to view globalization not as a recent phenomenon but as virtually synonymous with the birth and spread of world capitalism, c.1500. Robinson elaborated further, that, World-systems theory shares with several other approaches to globalization a critique of capitalism as an expansionary system that has come to encompass the entire world over the past 500 years. As elaborated by Wallerstein, it is constituted on the proposition that the appropriate



unit of analysis for macrosocial inquiry in the modern world is neither class, nor state/society, or country, but the larger historical system, in which these categories are located. The capitalist world-economy emerged *c.*1500 in Europe and expanded outward over the next several centuries, absorbing in the process all existing mini-systems and world-empires, establishing market and production networks that eventually theories of globalization brought all peoples around the world into its logic and into a single worldwide structure. Hence, by the late nineteenth century there was but one historical system that had come to encompass the entire planet, the capitalist world-system, a truly 'global enterprise' (1974).

Robinson (2007) for example discerned apposing theoretical disposition to Wallerstien and his WST understanding of capitalism as disguised in globalization in Sklair (2000). He posited that sklairhas put forward a 'theory of the global system', at the core of which are 'transnational practices' (TNPs) as operational categories for the analysis of transnational phenomena. These TNPs originate with non-state actors and cross state borders. The model involves TNPs at three levels: the economic, whose agent is transnational capital; the political, whose agent is a transnational capitalist class (TCC); and the cultural-ideological, whose agent is cultural elites. Each practice, in turn, is primarily identified with a major institution. The transnational corporation is the most important institution for economic TNPs; the TCC for political TNPs; and the culture-ideology of consumerism for transnational cultural- ideological processes. Locating these practices in the field of a transnational global system, Sklair thus sets about to explain the dynamics of capitalist globalization from outside the logic of the nation-state system and critiques the 'state-centrism' of much extant theorizing. His theory involves the idea of the TCC as a new class that brings together several social groups who see their own interests in an expanding global capitalist system: the executives of transnational corporations; 'globalizing bureaucrats, politicians, and professionals', and 'consumerist elites' in the media and the commercial sector (Sklair 2000).

Okege (2008) provided a detailed step by step explanation of the processes of globalization more succinctly as follows:

Firstly, and foremost, facilitating the attainment of globalization are such factors as technological advances in transportation particularly maritime technology, which gave rise to slave trade, colonization and the attendant exchange of goods and services among nations. Secondly is the international trade with its underlying intricacies, international gold reserve, euro-dollar market,' offshore export platform' and 'supply side economics'. The third factor is the advent of multinational companies, which forge a link among nations in production of goods and services far beyond the headquarters of these multinationals. Fourthly, the advent and revolution in information and communication technologies makes it possible to have access to remote locations in real time... Fifthly, is the establishment of international and supranational organizations, amongst nations and continents, necessitating the union of regional, continental and world bodies. Lastly, the end of cold ideological dispute between the capitalist west and the socialist east threw up a unipolar world political order, which in its wake, harvested such an advantages as the collapse of communism in eastern Europe and the dismemberments of Soviet Union, the unification of Germany, enthronement of market-driven



economic system worldwide, the stoppage of apartheid regime in south Africa among others. All these factors interacted towards opening up the geographical space for a 'global village' (p.3).

Globalization as a Tool for Re-colonization of the Third World: Relevant Examples

The above segments of this presentation illustrated what third world is in relations to globalizations. And what globalization is and what it stands for both in origins and manifestations. Both empirical and theoretical submissions are sighted. These segments of the presentation will have demonstrated relevant recolonizing tendencies of globalization of the third world. To this a definition of globalization by Kenichi Ohmae (1990,1995) to the effect that it (globalization) implies a borderless world-a world in which market forces are more powerful than national government (cited in Giddens, 2010). the implications of this statement could be exemplified by the fiscal debacle Nigeria government encountered in early 2015 as global crude oil prices dipped to below \$40 per barrel. All political promises by the new government of suppressing poverty, redistributions in social welfare, infrastructural development, etc. are to be rolled back. The possible and likely options for third world nations is to restore to borrowing (from of course IMF and WB or other global lending agencies like Paris and London clubs. Globalization therefore is saying to Africa and other third world that poverty eradication, welfare for the poor cannot be attained without tacit global/western instrumentalities and economic system approval. Hence, Giddens (2010) assertion that globalization implies national government and politicians within them are increasingly unable to exercise control over the issues that cross their borders-such as volatile financial markets and environmental threats.

An explicit indication of the USA/IMF/WB was provided by Ismi (2004) when he posited:

At Bretton Woods (located in New Hampshire, U.S.), "the decisive factor was the reality of American power." With much of Europe destroyed by the Second World War, the U.S. was economically the world's most powerful country; thus a U.S. vision prevailed at the conference and the World Bank and the IMF were created along U.S. lines. Unlike the U.N. also founded at the time, the World Bank and the IMF were controlled by one dollar one-vote rather than one-country one-vote. Washington alone has a veto over decisions about the mandates and structure of the organizations. This is because the U.S.' voting share is 17.16% in the IMF and 16.41% in the World Bank and in both organizations changes to the Articles of Agreement require 85% of the votes. Japan holds the next highest voting shares with 6.27% and 7.87% respectively. The U.S. also has the unique privilege of appointing the President of the World Bank and is the only country entitled to a permanent place among the Bank's executive directors.

The United States through the WB and IMF is re-colonizing the globe and in a more strenuous form those continents or nations that failed to critic globalization. this is no submission from a pro-liberal scholar and a season international organization trained technocratic turned academics prof. kingsly moghalu. Moghalu in his seasoned book: *Emerging Africa How the Global Economy's 'Last Frontier' Can Prosper and Matter* (2017)



acknowledge that: the “raise” of Africa and the increasing realization by the rest of the world that the continent is a significant market and investment opportunity has been celebrated by authors, columnist and analyst. Africa’s “lions” and “cheetahs” are on the move, armed with blackberry and android device produced in Asia and north America(p5). Conversing the author queried such perceptions, he said: but let us pause and ponder: is this development, in what Africa has come to be regarded as the “last frontier” of the global economy-an inevitable outcome of globalization-really a cause of celebration? Will it lead to the real rise of the continent as an economic power in the mould of Asia or the west? Is Africa engaging the world-and globalization-on its own terms or are we seeing another, more-sophisticated-than-1885-berlin scramble for Africa unfolding before our eyes? A real neo-liberal scholar, Moghalu (2017:9) described globalization in length as follow:

The first is that globalization has two main elements; the economic and the social, with technology as its chief instrument. Think about how small the internet has made the world or how Africa has come to have 600 million mobile phone users, more than the united states and Europe. Second, a more comprehensive definition of globalization must involve both its scope and its motives, going beyond issues such as the extent and geographies, the boundaries of which have been breached by globalization, to questions of who is globalizing and why. This leads us to what has been termed “global intent”, an ambition “to encompass the whole planet”, which leads to the emergence of worldviews and “require technical, mental and commercial breakthroughs to overturn flat earth thinking”. In the world of MBA classes on strategy, it is termed “strategy intent.” Overall, then, globalization is hardly benign in its intent or agnostic in its belief.

The author then posited that:

Economic globalization has hurt Africa. The gains for African countries from opening up to international economic forces without adequate internal preparation have been limited and far outweighed by the adverse impact of the continent’s engagement with globalization. Economic policies enunciated by the Bretton Wood Institutions-International Monetary Fund, The World Bank, And the World Trade Organization-lead to lost decades of development opportunities and outcomes. Structural adjustment and liberalization without the proper foundation as a core condition led to the effective de-industrialization of the continent by weakening the manufacturing sector, increased income inequality, and marked drops on average per capita incomes in many African countries (op-cit.).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Globalisation is viewed as advanced capitalism others hold that it is recolonization in disguise aimed at sustaining Africa as a perpetual Western underdog. Glaring economic indices attest that Africa is today the last moral test to the West. Over \$300b out of \$800b of



Nigeria's crude sold since the oil boom has been siphoned to Western strong banks in connivance with their overlords. Again, benedict (2013) noted that: Falana, a Nigerian based Civil Right Activist, exclaimed that what is today called aids, loans are nothing, but African looted treasury being given to us with interests; with the flagrant fanfare and taints of help. The prevalence and preference to loot Africa blind by its purported leaders stem from an incredible banking system that has been allowed to thrive in Switzerland, where fortunes meant for Africa's next generation have been starved with incomprehensible machinations. The inability of Europe to call to an end this practice shows the state of their conscience in the realm of "business."

The third world countries in order to fit in the era of globalization have no option other than: to improve agricultural production for sustenance and exports; to embark on massive industrialization process even with the help of other advanced third world nations in Asia; to fight poverty, illiteracy, corruption and insecurity; boost foreign reserve and provide employment opportunities; reduce inequality and raise standard of living with deepened infrastructure provision.

As a policy issue, governments of the third world must develop sub-regional, regional and continental strategy in formulating economic policies that will favor them and protect their interest in this era of globalisation. This can be achieved through the framework of integrational policies. The third world countries must as a matter of urgency begin to steal technology to embark on manufacturing projects that will widen the scope of their markets and exports levels.

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