

THE NEXUS BETWEEN GLOBALIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (A STUDY OF MIDDLE EAST OIL POLITICS FROM (1991-2011))

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Abstract

This study x-rays the relationship between the process of globalization and the growing incidence of international terrorism or even agitation by the different ethnic nationalities in the world today. America through NATO champions powerful agenda of relegating other non NATO countries who are less technological and wealthy to mere producers of raw material which they use to manufacture goods for imperialistic and Global tendencies. The north represented by America, and her economic and socio-political preponderance made the south especially the Middle East countries in the guise of globalization second fiddle or even subservient in their own God given oil mineral. The north and America created unequal condition and coercing the south into clients in their own home; forcing them to embrace or be incorporated into the world industrialized economy by un-equal relations whether the incessant and consistent international terrorism in the middle East be linkable to the pursuit of American economic interest and oil in the middle East, wether the imposition of American political, social and economic will and ideology on the middle East countries is likable to violent terrorism in the middle East. This paper is a theoretical contribution to knowledge and addition to the existing literature in the field of global terrorism with a call to third world leaders in the south to end terrorism, local and global.

KEYWORDS: TERRORISM, GLOBALIZATION, NORTHERN AGENDA, MIDDLE EAST, UNDERDEVELOPMENT.

INTRODUCTION

Aina, (1996) stated that since 1980s, there has been increased activities in commercial exchange and the movement of capital, encouraged by the development of new technologies particularly in the area of communication, which is generally referred to as globalization. Aina concluded that of the entire element which defined globalization, the most important is economic. Such transformation has tremendous consequences at all levels of political and social life.

Globalization is motivated by the interest to ensure economic domination and hegemonies. The very essence was to retain power for the advanced capitalist state with the possibility to impose liberal democracy as a norm to manage global politics as the basis for economic domination across the world. Globalization is a phase of capitalist development in which the United State and western industrial societies established political, economic, cultural and industrial hegemony over other countries of the multi-national corporation of the advanced capitalist state.

Globalization intensified exploitation and conflict, especially in the Middle East, the basis for economic dominance especially the monopolistic dominance of the western industrial state over the superior technology which has thrived over the centuries. The failure and possible demise of the Soviet Union from the cold war, was an advantage to the industrial advanced states that leveraged on the exit of the Soviet Union to enhance their hegemonic power status. This gave impetus to the dominance of the capitalist ideology as adopted by the advanced capitalist states. This development created imbalance in the international social order Non-western nations made efforts to develop a more balanced international economic order, but this attracted the wrath of the advanced nations who were afraid of losing their dominance. The effect was international terrorism. This is equally evidence that there is a linkage between globalization and international terrorism. The number of terrorist attacks in the world today has been a thing of concern by many nations especially since the end of the cold war in 1996.

In 1997, over 296 acts of international terrorism and about 204 acts of global terrorism, as a result of Middle East oil resources. Terrorism entails violence principally and not exclusively carried out by organized or non state actors, as well as the state especially designed to instill fear in victims in order to achieve political and economic goals i.e why the gulf oil sounds to be a hotbed for international conflicts. In most of the new states, especially the Middle East, terrorist attacks are seen as political tools against frustrating the efforts of the western globalization.

Globalization on the other hand is a means to exploit the larger process, thereby making poor and impoverished, peripheral countries become even more dependent on activities in "central" economics such as the United States of America, where capital and technical expertise tend to be located. The importance of this information to us is because it is able to point out that there exist an imbalanced relationship in the global structure where peripheral countries are made more dependent on the central economies, thereby creating an imbalance, a dependent countries becoming poor and poorer at the expense of the central power.

According to Longworth (1998) globalization is a creation of global economy which more specifically is a revolution that enables any entrepreneur to raise money anywhere in the world and with that money use technology, communication management and labour located anywhere he or she wants to sell them to customers. According to Luttwak (1999) globalization is the much celebrated unification of puddles, ponds, lakes and seas of village, provincial regional and national markets into a single ocean. This definition acknowledges the fact that greater movement of people, goods, capital and ideas are due to increased economic integration which in turn is propelled by increased trade and investment.

However, O'Connor (2002) stated that globalization integrates people's political and cultural identities with those of the larger global community. O'Connor's definition is in a broad sense. From the above definitions, globalization has taken on a distinctly western orientation. Globalization favours the protection of human rights and democracy over totalitarianism.

Objective of the Study

The very objective of this paper is to explain how the pursuit of economic interest especially oil in the Middle East by the Western industrialized powers namely America and Europe is

linkable to international terrorism world over. The paper also examines how the imposition of American political will and non-liberal ideology on the Middle East is linkable to international terrorism.

Research Questions

The paper seeks to interrogate the follow questions:

1. Can the incessant and consistent international terrorism in the Middle East be linkable to the American economic interest and oil in the Middle East?
2. Can the imposition of American political, social and economic will and ideology on the Middle East be linkable to the violent terrorism in the Middle East?

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

The power theory known as political realism is the best frame work within which our study is premised. The realist approach looks at the world as it is and not as it ought to be. Machiavelli is the father of the realist school. Corroborating this fact Onuoha (2008) affirmed that Machiavelli in the prince written in 1513, offers from the standpoint of renaissance politics, a set of general view of the politics of princedoms as occurring in an area in which the strong take what they can and the few weak give what they must. It is a general understanding that is derived from Machiavelli thus view men as fickle, lying and deceivers by whom it is better to be feared. Morgenthau expounded this theory of political realism in his book) politics among Nations" The struggle for power and peace (New York: Alfred Knopp, 1978).

Globalization ensures the holding of monopolistic power over every country, everywhere but particularly the Middle East oil. The principal factor attracting globalization as well as global capital into the less developed areas, such as the Middle East region is the monopoly position of Europe and America in the region. Much more important, is the spur of exploitation of the oil sector as well as monopoly situation with its associated huge profits. The power position of the industrial nations over the less developed ones was made possible due to their superior technology. The linkage of the integration of the economies of the third world countries into the economy of the advanced capitalist countries through globalization ensures that the nature and character of global production and exchange do not favour the third world.

Motyl (1986) thus asserted that history is a natural objective process and made by men themselves, without the interference of any supernatural forces and men make history not in accordance with their arbitrary desires but on the basis of the material conditions that shape the society. That simply means, that it is not necessity according to the common saying that changes society but available artifacts of culture according to the sociologists.

Globalization is on-going project of the global capital that points to expanding market interconnections in term of investments, financial networks, and trade what will generate prosperity and peace for the advanced capitalist societies and the multinational corporations as well as impoverishment of the third world countries. That means that industrial states enjoys at the expense of the third world countries. Conversely, terrorism is the use of violence by an individual, group, state, whether acting for, or in opposition to established authority; when such action is designed to create extreme fear, inducing effects in a target group larger

or smaller than the immediate victims, the purpose of coercing that group in accessing to the political demands of the terrorist. Thus international terrorism refers to acts of terrorism which transcends the boundaries & states and represents a reaction as well as one of the instrument of the dominated to the intense and extensive exploitation of globalization. The international system has become essentially that configuration of classes due to the process of globalization, and conflict is assumed to be a by - product of the contradictory and conflicting interests of classes. Terrorism is a reaction and resistance by the third world countries that feel intimidated and marginalized by the forces of globalization introduced by the capitalist nations to dominate the less developed nations of the world. That makes international class relations contradictory class relations as well as relations of appropriation. Available Statistics show that the number of terrorist attacks in the world have been rising at an alarming rate especially since the end of the cold war.

HYPOTHESES

In the light of the research questions raised and review of related literature, we hereby raise the following hypotheses to guide our work:

Hypothesis 1

The incessant and consistent international terrorism in the Middle East is linkable to the pursuit of American economic interest and oil in the Middle East.

Hypothesis 2

The imposition of American Political, Social and Economic will and ideology on the Middle East countries is likable to violent terrorism in the Middle East.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

We depended on secondary data for this study. Secondary data were gathered from relevant books, journals and articles, so we mean content analysis.

TESTING OR VALIDATING HYPOTHESIS 1

The incessant and consistent international terrorism in the Middle East is linkable to the pursuit of global capitalist economic interest and oil in the Middle East.

Mba, P. (2008) stated that the disintegration of Soviet Union and the emergence of unipolar world introduced uneven march of globalization. The Western world's interest is to pursue an overriding purpose in order to expand and strengthen the world community of market based on democracies. America's interest was to build a new world order based on America's domestic Values to the world at large, and that led to the subsequent imposition of its political and economic will as the only super power with the capacity to intervene in every part of the global world. The temptation created at the end of the cold war was that the international system was recasts in Americas image with the consequent effect of imposing their political and economic interest on the world, especially the domination of the middle East oil, using their superior military force to implement their political and economic interest thereby dictating the global agenda. It is based on that, that the current intensification of global terrorism emerged to challenge the capitalist expansion interests in the absence of any other Super power. It is equally based on the defeat of Socialism/communism by capitalism that led

to more intensified American interest in the Middle East oil. Globalization therefore, is seen as the intensification of economic political, social and cultural relations across international boundaries.

Asobia (2002) asserted that the United States of American government is currently doing everything possible to assist American Capitalism to penetrate those areas of the world including Iraq, where hither to it has not been able to penetrate unassisted but with intensified resistance through international terrorism; such American penetration has not been so successful because of the attacks against the west, so many political authors agreed that Globalization started over 430years ago traceable to the European mercantilist approach, enslaving able bodied men and shipping them to Europe and America through the trans-Atlantic slave route to west indies. It, was such international obnoxious trade on black Africans that accounts for over 200 million.

Africans living in America today, the trade decimated the population of Africa and according to Walter Rodney (1972] Europe under developed Africa for 500 years. The process increased the foreign debts of developing 3rd world Countries by accelerating the plight of financial and intellectual capital of developing nations to western industrial nations. The effect was reinforcement of international terrorism because according to Karl Marx in his theory of capitalism, Capitalism shall sow the seed of its own destruction. This is because the tool used by developing countries' agitators used to fight back through international terrorism, is what the west used to defeat socialism. For the sake of oil interest in the Middle East, United Nations undermines democracy for the threat of terrorism against their interest.

George Bush (Snr) prosecuted war in Iraq in 1991 to defend oil interest. After the sacking of Saddam Hussein in 2003, the U.S government awarded contract for the reconstruction of Iraq to the oil grant Halliburton Company for about two billion dollars [Vanguard, Sept 16, 2000] The situation intensified terrorist attack against the United States and its allies across the world. There has been recorded statistics of attacks against the U.S and its allies.

Mba, Peter (2008) recorded that in 1996, there were 296 acts of international terrorism against the U.S and Its allies and 314 died while 2,912 were injured. In 1999 there were 304 acts of international terrorism and 221 people died, while 693 were injured, all the terrorist attacks targeted U.S owned pipelines and most of the attacks consist of bombing of multinational oil pipe lines.

The above evidence justifies hypothesis I, which stated that the incessant and consistent international terrorism in the Middle East is likeable to the pursuit of American Economic interest and oil in the Middle East.

VALIDATING HYPOTHESIS II

The imposition of American political, social and economic will on the Middle East countries has a link with terrorism in 1990; Kuwait was annexed while Iraq was invaded in 1990. This brought about recurrent theme in the international relations and politics of the Middle East after the second world war

The 1991, Gulf war started in January 16, 1991. It was a war that other nations believed would bring about a new world order, just like after the demise of the former Soviet Union and the introduction of unipolar world, controlled by the United States of America

Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 accusing Kuwait of mining oil in territory under dispute between the two Countries. After the invasion, Iraq annexed; Kuwait as its 19th province, claiming that Kuwait had been part of Iraq (Echezona, 1993).

In December, 1989 United State accused panama of drug charges, invaded panama, seized its President General Anthonio Manuel and brought him to United States to answer drug charges. America demonstrated in more than 15 American cities Just to create trouble that will lead to war and possible domination of the less economically developed nations, especially the control of the Middle East oil. When it became obvious that united states and its allies will attack Iraq, Iraq adopted a defensive strategy of holding Americans and nationals of countries in Iraq, as united states would not attack and destroy it own citizens. This will enable them have enough time to prepare for the impending war.

What America did was to send groups to Saudi Arabia, not less than 250,000 men as a gun boat diplomacy claiming to be protecting the holy land against external evasion.

According to Echezona (1993) twelve United Nations security resolutions were passed without veto, all asking Iraq to comply with United States resolutions. The last 678 gave Iraq an ultimatum to withdraw from Kuwait on January 16, 1991. Echezona (1993) stated that at the expiration of the ultimatum, united state leashed their venom on Iraq, releasing cruise missiles, squadrons and bombarded Iraq, spear headed by America and the western states. It meted high and large casualties including some civilian enclave. The objective of the war was not just to protect Kuwait but to have access to Iraq and the Kuwait ails. The United States adopted the theory of: MIGHT is right i.e. using war and force to get whatever they want. This was demonstrated by the United States mobilization of five hundred thousand men in the coalition to manifest its hegemonic position in the new world order, to control the resources in the gulf estates. The presence of United States' military bases in south Arabia, United Arab Emirates Yemen, Kuwait etc. (Middle East states) has direct bearing on the process of globalization and economic domination of the area. The effect was the high rate of international terrorism by the disgruntled Islamic group who felt intimidated and neo-colonized in their own God given resources. For example, the destruction of the world trade center in America in September, 11, 2001, in Malaysia, in Pakistan, in Turkey, Kenya, Morocco etc. since the end of the gulf war in April 6, 1991, and international terrorism was intensified by the Middle East radical Islamist group against the west and United States. As a result of such international attacks on America and its European allies, America again evaded Afghanistan and Iraq in 2001 and 2003 respectively. All these invasions by American earned them more hatred and intensification of international terrorism across the world.

In January 2003, the United Nations evaded Iraq. The U.S identified the axis of war. In which they identified North Korea withdrawal from the nuclear arms non-proliferation treaty. The United Kingdom and the united nation drafted a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq (resolution 144 on Thursday march 20, 2003, the united state and its ally's first

strike against Iraq. Saddam Hussein rejected the 48 hour ultimatum given to him and other members of the ruling Baath party to go on exile to Britain for Asylum. Full scale war was declared by the United States and its coalition forces killing thousands vulnerable children and defenceless civilian. Later, town after town fell under the superior weaponry of coalition forces but Saddam Hussein held on to power and was not killed. Later the chief United Nations nuclear weapons inspector stated after due investigation that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction. In December 2003, Saddam was caught hiding in a hole in a village near Trkrit, his home town. He was later executed in 2007 after series of trials. The United Nations told the world that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. In spite of the declaration by the United States, chief weapons officer that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction. The inconsistency or contradiction implies that the United States had a secret Agenda. The use of force to ensure cheap oil supply is linkable to international terrorism. The pursuit of oil interest and economic domination through globalization has led to the intensification of terrorism in the world and also generated hatred for American and its related countries of Europe and the entire West-ALQUEDA NETWORK AND AFGHANISTAN WAR; The Islamic fundamentalist popularly known as the radical Islam was a deliberate thought of the United States foreign policy aimed at flourishing Islamic fundamentalism prompted by the former United States national security adviser to president Jimmy Carter, Zbigniew; Bizierski

in 1980s as a strategy for the control of central Asian countries. The United States funded it in Afghanistan after a revolution that ushered in communists into power hence the soviet involvement ensured the success of one side of the ruling faction represented by Babrak Karmal. About 3 million refugees entered Pakistan from Afghanistan. A good number of them were elements, opposed to the communists who had been cast out in the [power play in Kabal prior to the entry of soviet forces.

This group consists of using fundamentalists who engaged themselves in fighting soviet forces and the regime of Kabal. Afghanistan was thrown into a civil war between Najibakregime in Kabal and Afghanistan Challenges. However, it is pertinent to note that Afghan fundamentalists in the Arabian Wahabbi variety. Saudi Arabia co-operated closely with the United States and made financial contribution to mujahedeen and distributed funds directly to the ISIs. It was Saudi and U.S that sponsored Wahabbi fundamentalist climate where Osama bin Laden found his Afghan Niche. It was equally there that Osama built his Al-Qaeda network. The United States had neo-globalist policy of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries pattern of Neo-globalist policy of imposing United States disk tat on all nations and preventing the developing states from pursuing independent policies. After the Gulf war, American troops continued staying at Saudi Arabia with their soldiers. We should remember that Saudi Arabia is the holy land of Medina and Mecca.

It was in 1991 that America camped their solders and their superior war equipments in the Holy land in the guise of helping Saudi Arabia defeat Saddam Hussein. After the defeat of Saddam Hussein, the American troops stayed in the land Kabba (sacred state of Islam in Mecca)

Osama Bin Laden wrote letters severally telling America to withdraw their troops from the Holy land as their continued stay was desecrating the holy land sites, and equally complained to them that their soldiers are turning his people into clients in their own land.

Following no positive response from America, Osama Bin Laden formed the Al-Qaeda net work as a world terrorist organization with the objective of killing members of American military stationed in Saudi. Yemen, Somalia and elsewhere and killing American civilians worldwide in order to influence negatively through terrorists rots the foreign policy of the United States in the Middle East. The terrorist attacks are anti globalization insurgencies which end up perpetuating western civilization. It was due to this contradiction that one of the greatest terrorist attacks was carried out on September 11, 2001. The attacks were carried out by the AL-Qaeda net work led by Osama Bin Laden himself. The attacks crashed high air planes into the world trade center located in New York and Pentagon in Washington D.C. The terrorists killed themselves and almost 3,0000 people mostly Americans. The United States in reaction accused Osama Bin Laden and his AL-Qaeda net work and therefore used all means and elements of international power to go after Osama and his AL-Qaeda net work.

Asogwa (2003) stated that President George W. Bush described the situation as the new war. In October, 20, the United States launched a military attack against the Taliban government which had for years labored radical Islamist and AL-Qaeda net work. They joined forces with the Allied countries to defeat the Taliban government of Mullah Mohammed Omar and killed some Al-Qaeda leaders or detained them.

All efforts by the United States to capture Osama alive failed as his whereabouts was unknown. However terrorists' attack against the United States and its allies was intensified worldwide. We have validated hypothesis 2, which states that the imposition of American political social and economic will on the Middle East countries has a link with terrorism in the Middle East.

CONCLUSION

Walter Rodney (1972) observed that Europe and the Western world under-developed and impoverished Africa by enslaving the able bodied men in Africa for 500years. He noted that within that period, Africa remained underdeveloped, impoverished and a dark continent. Mba, P, (2008) stated that for six Centuries, Western Europe and America sallied from their homeland to explore, loot and exploit the rest of the world. According to him, the relation between the degree of destitution of people of the less developed countries and the length and nature of the exploitation had to endure during the early expansion of foreign capital and the introduction. Colonialism across the world is evident.

Today by the current process of globalization, America and Europe has replaced colonialism with the new technology as the latest means for exploitation and domination. What we mean is political, social and cultural domination made possible through the complex and powerful computers internet and other electronic products.

In 1999, America and its allied countries of Europe invaded Iraq in the last Gulf war, conquered and divided up the region among themselves with the veritable purpose of controlling the middle East Kuwait oil.

It was this wicked practice that necessitated the attack on America and its allies by the Islamist soldiers such as AL Qaeda network etc. they mounted resistance against American domination of their land economically, politically and so on especially American interests and control of the Middle East oil. It was such resistance that American described as international terrorism.

The American introduction of globalization in the Middle East succeeded in interfering with Islamic culture and religion. The powerful centers of Islamic religion such as the holy land of Mecca and Medina have been desecrated by the American soldiers who partook in the pretext of protecting the holy land against external evasion whereas their interest was to keep watch on the Kuwait oil. Globalization, therefore, has made the Islamists clients in their own God given oil mineral resources. That was why Osama Bin laden after several threatening letter to the western powers leashed his venom using the Al-Qaeda network to air crash the world trade centre killing Millions of people.

Findings/ recommendations

From the above research work based on “content analysis” and reviews of book, and journal publications relevant to the topic we observed that we have answered the hypothesis 1 which states that international terrorism can be linked to the global capitalist oil interest of the western world, in the Middle East. Americans’ imposition of their will and ideology on the Middle East countries which were resisted through terrorist attacks; the western values and imposition of their ideologies on the Middle East countries made the people hate them and reacted through violent radical terrorism.

Finally, we recommended that African leaders especially the *South* who are relegated to the second middle by the Northern Agenda of becoming rich and richer at the expense of the impoverished southern leaders who are made poor and poorer by that agenda should work hard to free and liberate themselves from that agenda. Leader of the south can only be liberated if they can match their own technology with that of the North. The south is so much dwarfed technologically and should work hard to be free.

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