The Globalization Effect: Examining the Nexus of Insecurity and Migration in Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper examines the nexus between globalization and insecurity as well as migration phenomena in Nigeria. The issue of globalization has continued to exert a tremendous negative influence on the nation in the areas of insecurity and migration. This implies that both insecurity and migration challenges in the country are triggered by globalization in order to sustain the Western domination and exploitation of the country's available resources. The influx of non-Nigerian nationals in the country distorted the peaceful and coherent internal structures of the Nigerian communities before the era of colonialism, leading to the present spate of national security threats. Consequent upon this, the emigration of Nigerians to those advanced countries for a better living standard and safety is equally been made possible. The paper aims to interrogate the impact of globalization on insecurity in Nigeria and to examine the extent to which globalization affects migration in Nigeria. The dependency theory and world system theory were employed to explicate the relationship between globalization and the issues of insecurity and migration in Nigeria. The study adopted a qualitative methodology where data were collected from secondary sources. The findings of the study amongst others show that globalization instigates insecurity in Nigeria through the influx of illegal non-Nigerians into the country. It was therefore recommended amongst others that policies that promote inclusivity and social cohesion should be crafted and implemented in order to forestall the indices that have escalated insecurity problems; and government should invest in education and vocational training programs that align with market demands so as to help combat brain drain and enhance local capacity.

Keywords: Globalization, Insecurity, Migration, Nigeria, Security

1.   Introduction

Globalization is not a new phenomenon. It has existed before, during and after the emergence of Nigeria as an independent country (Akinwunmi-Othman, 2017). It is a process that encompasses the causes, course, and consequences of transnational and transcultural integration of human and

non-human activities (Al-Rodhan & Stoudmann, 2006). Globalization has undergone various stages beginning from the era of colonialism when the West first initiated the process of interdependence and inter-connectedness of the Western hemisphere and the rest of the world, particularly Africa and the other Third World countries (Ajayi, 2011). Up till the present, this imperialistic approach has continued to evolve in the form of neo-colonialism.

According to Ekanem (2003), in its new form, imperialism retains its global reach, refines its social and technological forces, transcends colonialism as primitive methodology, and most of all, institutionalizes global hegemony at a higher scale not only by the force of arms and production of neo-colonial elite but also by manipulating the United Nations and its various organs to perpetuate and legitimize its hegemony as systemic necessities. To Ezeanyika (2016), the origin of the problems of Africa began from the most fundamental invasion, that brought about the introduction of European settler societies and their obnoxious activities. This paved the way for the African continent's colonialization which later culminated in today's pervasive political instability.

In support of the above assertion, Nwadike and Nwokike (2023) argued that since the fifteenth century, Africa has been groaning under the knee of Europe and America and the weight keeps crashing Africa's potential and prospects even in contemporary times. Lending credence to this, Offiong (2001) asserts that globalization is today presented as if it were a completely new phenomenon. The goal of globalization has always been the integration of the rest of the world into the Western capitalist economy. Africa was forced into a 'relationship of unequals'. In this forcible incorporation, the West remains the dominant and moving force while Africa and the rest of the Third World have been placed in a subservient status and at a competitive disadvantage.

Hence, migration and insecurity are consequences of globalization. Both are reinforced and influenced by the phenomenon of globalization. Migration is an appendage as well as a subterfuge of globalization packaged by the West for the exploitation of both human and material resources of Africa in general and Nigeria in particular (Zubiashvili, 2017). This phenomenon has instigated the problem of insecurity that has continued to plague the country right from colonial days till the present. The Nigerian nation-state cannot be said to be a stranger to the phenomenon of globalization (Onoja, 2020). Already, globalization has to a great extent integrated the economy of the country into the world capitalist system. Even at independence and after, Nigeria as it were lacks autonomy in all respects except flag independence to forge an independent and sustainable development process.

From the aforestated, this paper explores the intricate relationship between globalization, migration, and insecurity in Nigeria, highlighting how these dynamics shape the country's socio-economic landscape. The paper argues that migration and insecurity problems are directly related to globalization within the context of the Nigerian state. The significance of this study lies in its contribution to the literature by providing theoretical insights into how globalization exacerbates migration pressures and insecurity. Furthermore, it seeks to inform policymakers by identifying actionable strategies to address these interconnected challenges.

2.   Statement of the Problem

The Nigerian state before and after independence on October 1, 1960, till the present, has continued to experience the pervasive influence of globalization in the areas of migration and insecurity challenges. The breaking down of artificial barriers between and among nation states the world over as a result of globalization has created the problem of illegal immigrants that are threats to the national security of Nigeria. To checkmate these abnormal situations, the Nigerian

governments past and present have stiven to ensure that only the authorized movement of individuals for designated businesses, tourism, and refugee resettlement amongst others are allowed into the country. The challenges of migration and insecurity issues in Nigeria have equally given rise to the Nigerian government's imposition of visa requirements, carrier sanctions against transportation companies bringing irregular migrants to Nigeria, interdictions at sea, as well as outright land border closure to detect and prevent the irregular entry of non-nationals and unregulated goods into the country.

Yahaya (2019) argues that Nigeria has about 1,500 routes into the country. At present only 100 are being manned by the Nigerian Immigration Services (NIS) due to the challenge of shortage of manpower leading to ineffective physical presence while the remaining 1,400 are unmanned and ignored, creating a way for illegal/irregular migrants into the country and also exposing the country to security threats. For about two decades now, insecurity problems such as banditry, kidnapping, peasant farmer-herder conflict, insurgency, and the bombing of religious centers have been on the increase due to the influx of these irregular migrants into the country. This view is supported by Adeola and Fayomi (2012) who asserted that international migration activities have brought about insecurity in various countries which in turn has affected international relations and shaped the foreign policies of many countries regarding diplomatic and security matters. It is against the foregoing that this paper aims to answer the following questions:

  i.   How does globalization affect insecurity in Nigeria?
  ii. To what extent does globalization affect migration in Nigeria?

3.   Theoretical Framework

The study is situated within the philosophy of two theories, namely: *Dependency Theory* propounded by *Paul Baran (1957) and Andre Gunder Frank (1979)*, and *World System Theory* propounded by *Immanuel Wallerstein (1972).*

The main assumption of the dependency theory is that the poor countries of the Third World have been shaped by Western domination and exploitation (Prado, 2021). The resultant global inequality is an indication of the exploitation of these poor societies by the rich and technologically advanced nations. With the wave of European colonisation and globalisation of the world by these powerful nations, Africa and the Third World countries have continued to suffer negative consequences. This situation resulted in the dependence of African nations on these powerful and technologically advanced countries of Europe and United States of America.

By implication therefore, this theory explains the fact that globalization either through colonialism and imperialism is an instrument of Western domination and exploitation of Africa and the Third World countries. The phenomenon of globalisation is used by the West to perpetually keep Africa and indeed Nigeria dependent on their whims and caprices. Through colonialism, the Western nationals migrated into Africa in search of both human and material resources to feed their economy to the detriment of the host communities of Africa.

To achieve the capitalist tendencies of the Western bourgeois, these foreign nationals killed, injured and even destroyed the communities that were resistant to their ambitions. The brutal nature of these Western migrants in Nigeria for instance culminated in threats to lives and property of the natives. By the time independence was granted to Nigeria by Britain, the natives had mastered the act of using violence to achieve their individual cum communal, ethnic and religious interests. This situation no doubt, equally precipitates the widespread internal security threats affecting the

country. This issue is made worse by the influx of migrants from other African countries that are shattered by insecurity problems.

 However, up till the present, the West has continued to use its advances in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to keep Nigeria and the rest of the African nations under control and exploitation. Nigerians who have been enticed by these technological advances, improved economic conditions and good governance in Western nations have started emigrating to these countries in search of greener pastures at the expense of their home nation. The increasing rate of insecurity in Nigeria is also a case in point. From the foregoing, this theory provides a better justification for describing the phenomenon under investigation.

World-Systems Theory, on the other hand, espouses the concept of economic interdependence (Dunaway, 2003). This interdependence means that events in one part of the world can have significant repercussions elsewhere, especially between core and peripheral nations. For instance, fluctuations in the global oil market can drastically affect Nigeria's economy, which is heavily reliant on oil exports. With particular reference to thus study, World-Systems Theory can be used to explain the push and pull factors in migration. Push factors are conditions that drive individuals to leave their home countries, such as economic hardship, political instability, and social unrest, while pull factors are the attractive elements of another country, including job opportunities, political stability, and better living conditions (Rosenberg, 2024). In the context of globalization, these factors are often exacerbated by the interconnectedness of global economies (Horevitz, 2009). For instance, in Nigeria, high unemployment rates and political challenges pushes individuals to seek opportunities abroad, where they perceive a higher quality of life. Simultaneously, the demand for labor in core countries serves as a pull factor, drawing Nigerian migrants who possess skills or are willing to take on low-wage jobs. This interplay between push and pull factors is crucial for understanding the motivations behind migration and how globalization facilitates this movement.

Furthermore, World-Systems Theory emphasizes the role of social networks in migration (Kardulias, 2008). Globalization has fostered the creation of diaspora communities that provide support for new migrants (Ortega, 2023). These networks help individuals navigate the complexities of moving to a new country, offering resources such as job leads, housing assistance, and emotional support. In Nigeria, many migrants maintain connections with their families and communities, which can influence the decision to migrate. The existence of established Nigerian communities in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom creates a sense of security for potential migrants, making the decision to leave their home country more feasible. This social dimension of migration underscores that migration is not just an economic or political phenomenon but also a deeply social one, shaped by relationships and community ties that are often strengthened through globalization.

4.   Methodology

Given the nature of inquiry at hand, this paper employed the descriptive design. Data for the study were sourced from secondary sources which include journals, newspapers, magazines and internet materials. Concepts related to globalization, insecurity, and migration are amply explained in order to polish their meanings for better comprehension. Hence, the study is purely exploratory and the analysis qualitatively done.

5. Discussion

i. Globlization and insecurity in Nigeria.

Insecurity is the state or feeling of not being safe. It is a situation where a people, community or nation is not sure of its safety owing to different factors such as war, terrorism, outbreak of epidermis and other situations that raise concern by the citizens (Ajelli 2019). The phenomenon of globalisation came to Nigeria for the first time, not just in the last century, as it is generally thought, but when the Portuguese and the British landed on our shores before the end of the nineteenth century to established new trade link, and to spread Christianity (Oni, 2015). To a reasonable extent, the phenomenon of globalisation fans the embers of insecurity related issues in the country. No doubt, Nigeria has benefited from the process of globalisation, at least through the practice of democracy. It is pertinent to infer that regardless of the gains of the democratic practice in the country, democracy has equally been a source of insecurity in Nigeria.

While the majoritarian principle of liberal democracy may be attractive, there is no doubt that it has been a source of some of the conflicts on the continent in places where minority ethnic groups are repressed by the sheer weight of the political power of the majority groups like in the Sudan, Nigeria, Ivory Coast and in Burundi (Ayamba *et al.*, 2024). According to Akinyemi (2013), with all benefits that globalisation has offered mankind, it becomes difficult if not impossible to overlook some of its negative consequences particularly in the area of crime. Adesina (2012) stressed that global telecommunication infrastructure which includes satellite networks, the internet and wireless phones can be credited to globalisation. This technology has brought major transformation in world communication and without access to these facilities, countries would be excluded from world development. At the same time, it comes with its own problems which nullify other merits derived from such technology. Suffice it to say that information and communication technologies which came with globalization and have also helped to sustain globalization poses some challenges to national security.

Nigeria, for instance, has witnessed security threats posed by the farmer-herder conflict in the North-Central zone, Biafra separatist agitation in the South-East, the Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East, banditry in the North-West, and marine tensions in the coastal states within the South-South zone (Ogbonna, *et al.*, 2003). Though the Nigerian state is bedeviled by both internal and external security threats, the former is a direct consequence of the later. Insecurity challenges with the country are triggered by the external forces of globalization lopsided in favour of the powerful and technologically advanced countries of the world. As Alli (2006) observed, most of these globalization-induced conflicts are communal conflicts in which the people wage war on themselves, their neighbours, their communities, destroying life, their meagre livelihood, their homes and other properties. These conflicts are caused by globalization because as a result of the implementation of the policy prescriptions of globalization, the state began to withdraw from social provisioning, claiming requirements of structural adjustment and economic deregulation which prescribe curtailment of the state's distributive powers. All these measures impose unbelievable pressure on the people, causing deprivations and desperation which leads to violent intrastate conflicts.

Arguably, poor governance fuels ethnic, religious and regional animosity in Nigeria. The Nigerian government, however, has continued to associate security challenges with foreigners especially migrants who enter the country without proper documentation (Ogbonna *et al.*, 2023). He further argued that the terrorists, killer herdsmen and bandits are non-Nigerian who have discovered a haven to operate in Nigeria due to state fragility and collapse in other African nations, permeable

borders, ungoverned spaces among other factors. The influx of West African neighbouring migrants most especially the undocumented migrants, has been one of the major concerns in raising security questions in the country.

Thus, globalisation has aided the spread of insecurity in Nigeria. The criminal elements that pose security threat to the Nigerian State make use of advanced gadgets which are the products of the contemporary improvement in Information and Communication Technology. Hence, the National Security Adviser (NSA) of Nigeria, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, according to Onani (2024), alerted the public to the fact that terrorists now use social media and other networking platforms to disseminate false information/narratives, and appealed to vulnerable segments of the society to take the necessary precautions.

ii. Globalization and Migration in Nigeria

Migration is an age long phenomenon which has taken different forms in different societies (Ottong 2006). Yahaya (2019) supporting this assertion stressed that migration is part of human history. Migration can be traced as far back as the existence of man most especially when man desired to go in search of food during various famine seasons; and the desire of separating from the crowd as well as the seeking for independence (Ebri, 2017). Migration in the territory that is now Nigeria dates back to the 15th century during the transatlantic slave trade in which about 12 million slaves were exported from West, West-Central, and Eastern Africa to European colonies in the Americas. The Harvard economist Nathan Dunn noted that Nigeria lost about 2 million people during the 500-year period.

Globalization has emerged as a significant force influencing migration patterns worldwide, and Nigeria is no exception. For example, with the arrival of the British migrants during colonial era, urban areas began to emerge. The development of urban areas in the country by the colonial masters, and the European missionaries led to the influx of people from the rural areas to these urban areas in search of greener pastures. Rapid globalisation, industrialisation, and urbanisation, along with associated migration patterns, are compelling people to relocate in quest of better economic opportunities, according to Ranjana (2015), who argued that migration has emerged as a major challenge in the modern era.

Globalization has contributed to both internal and external migration in Nigeria. The interconnectedness brought about by globalization has altered the socio-economic landscape of the country, leading to increased migration, both internally and externally. The liberalization of trade, advancements in technology, and the proliferation of information have facilitated the movement of people across borders. As a result, many Nigerians have sought better opportunities abroad, driven by the pursuit of economic stability, education, and improved living conditions. The migration phenomenon in Nigeria can be understood through various lenses, including economic, social, and cultural dimensions, all of which are profoundly affected by globalization.

Economically, globalization has created a paradox for many Nigerians. While it has opened up new opportunities for trade and investment, it has also led to increased competition and economic instability. The influx of foreign goods and services has made it challenging for local industries to thrive, resulting in job losses and economic disenfranchisement. According to Adepoju (2005), the economic challenges, compounded by corruption and poor governance, have propelled many Nigerians to seek better prospects abroad. This economic migration is often characterized by a search for more favorable employment conditions, higher wages, and improved quality of life, particularly among the youth. As the global economy evolves, the aspiration for upward mobility drives many Nigerians to leave their homeland in search of greener pastures elsewhere.

Socially, globalization has facilitated the establishment of transnational networks, enabling migrants to maintain connections with their home country. This phenomenon has led to the emergence of diaspora communities that play a crucial role in the socio-economic development of Nigeria. Many returned migrants bring back skills, knowledge, and financial resources that contribute to local development. For instance, the remittances sent back home by Nigerian migrants are a significant source of income for many families and communities, stimulating local economies (World Bank, 2020). However, while these connections can be beneficial, they also create a sense of dislocation for some individuals, leading to a dual identity and challenges in reintegration for returnees.

Culturally, globalization has influenced migration patterns by exposing Nigerians to different cultures, lifestyles, and worldviews. Through media, education, and travel, individuals have become more aware of global opportunities, leading to a shift in aspirations and values. The desire for a better life, coupled with exposure to international norms, has motivated many young Nigerians to migrate. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2019), this cultural shift often results in a brain drain, where highly skilled individuals leave Nigeria for better opportunities abroad. This trend has significant implications for Nigeria's development, as it loses valuable human capital that could contribute to national progress.

The impact of globalization on migration in Nigeria is also evident in the challenges faced by migrants, particularly those who embark on perilous journeys across the Mediterranean or through other dangerous routes. Many Nigerians, driven by desperation and the allure of better prospects, often fall victim to human trafficking, exploitation, and abuse. The UNODC (2021) highlights that vulnerable populations, including women and children, are particularly at risk during these migration processes. The intersection of globalization and migration thus raises critical concerns about the need for comprehensive policies that protect the rights of migrants and address the root causes of forced migration.

6.   Conclusion

In synthesizing the findings on the impact of globalization on migration and insecurity in Nigeria, it becomes evident that these phenomena are intricately linked through the dynamics of economic, social, cultural and political transformations. The Dependency Theory and World Systems Theory provide a robust framework for understanding the ways in which global capitalist structures contribute to the marginalization of Nigeria in the global arena. As the country grapples with the repercussions of globalization, it faces significant challenges such as economic instability, social fragmentation, and increased insecurity. The interplay between globalization and migration highlights the dual nature of this phenomenon; while migration can offer opportunities for upward mobility, it also underscores the vulnerabilities faced by individuals seeking better lives amidst deteriorating conditions at home.

Moreover, the consequences of globalization are not uniformly experienced across different social strata. The elite may benefit disproportionately from globalization, while marginalized groups bear the brunt of economic and social dislocation. This disparity exacerbates existing inequalities, leading to heightened tensions and insecurity. As more Nigerians migrate in search of better prospects, the resulting brain drain further hampers national development, leaving behind a workforce that is increasingly ill-equipped to address the challenges posed by globalization. Consequently, the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to managing migration and insecurity becomes paramount.

Lastly, the complexities surrounding globalization, migration, and insecurity in Nigeria necessitate a multifaceted response that acknowledges the interconnectedness of these issues. Addressing the root causes of migration and insecurity requires a concerted effort from government, civil society, and international partners to create an environment conducive to sustainable development. By fostering economic opportunities, promoting social cohesion, and protecting the rights of migrants, Nigeria can navigate the challenges posed by globalization and harness its potential benefits for national progress.

7.   Recommendations

Based on the above discussion and conclusion, the following recommendatins are made:

1. **Comprehensive Migration Policy Framework:** Developing a cohesive migration policy that addresses both legal and illegal migration is essential. This policy should focus on safeguarding the rights of migrants, providing pathways for legal migration, and ensuring that returnees have access to reintegration programs. By collaborating with international organizations, the government can share best practices and create a supportive framework for migrants, thereby reducing the risks associated with irregular migration.

2. **Investment in Education and Skill Development:** To combat the brain drain and enhance local capacity, Nigeria should invest in education and vocational training programs that align with market demands. Emphasizing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields, as well as vocational skills, can equip the youth with the tools they need to succeed in a globalized economy. Partnerships with private sector stakeholders can also facilitate internships and apprenticeships that provide practical experience.

3. **Promoting Social Cohesion and Community Development:** Addressing the social dimensions of migration and insecurity requires initiatives that promote inclusivity and social cohesion. Community development programs that focus on conflict resolution, cultural exchange, and inter-community dialogue can help mitigate tensions and foster understanding among diverse groups. Engaging local leaders and organizations in these efforts is crucial for sustainability and effectiveness.

4. **Enhanced International Collaboration and Partnerships:** Nigeria should strengthen its collaborations with international organizations and neighboring countries to address the transnational nature of migration and security challenges. Engaging in regional frameworks like ECOWAS can facilitate joint strategies for migration management, security cooperation, and information sharing. Additionally, seeking assistance from international development partners in the form of technical expertise, funding, and capacity-building initiatives can enhance Nigeria's ability to navigate the complexities of globalization effectively

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