

Impacts of Globalization on Political, Economic and Cultural Development in Nigeria

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Abstract:

The aim of this study was to determine the effects of globalization on political, economical and cultural growth in Nigeria. This study has portrayed the dynamics in which globalization affects Nigeria both negatively and positively. Globalization has brought many challenges like unfair trade policies, terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundry, brain drain but also opened doors for the country to benefit through exports and imports, technology transfer also inflow of foreign investments. Whether Nigeria likes it or not globalization has come to stay, with effective and efficient resource utilization, sound monetary and fiscal policies, institution reforms and investments in education and agricultural sector of the economy, Nigeria can witness accelerated socio economic development.

Keywords — Globalisation, Development, Nigeria

Background of the Study

There is no universal acceptable definition of globalization as different scholars define it based on their understanding and at certain point in time which makes the meanings far from consistent. Ocampo and Martin (2003) define Globalization as the growing influence that exerted at the local, national, and regional levels by financial, economic, environmental, political, social, and cultural processes that are interconnected in scope.

MacKinnon and Cumbers (2007) define globalization as the growing connections and linkages between people and firms located in different places, which manifested in increased flows of goods, services, money, information, and people across national and continental borders.

Globalization includes different aspects of our existence with all implications engendered (Nikolay, 2017). Globalization

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is multidimensional and affects all spheres of economic, cultural, environmental and social-up to relations between states and nations from the five continents. It includes an intensification of cross-national cultural, economic, political, social and technological interactions. Globalization, in particular tighter trade linkages, has also helped improve social conditions more broadly, such as by narrowing gender wage gaps (Black & Brainerd, 2004), and it may have contributed to a reduction in inter-state wars (Lee & Pyun, 2008).

In the case of Nigeria, despite its large renewable and non-renewable resources, the country is still grappling with mounting economic problems of unemployment, hunger, poverty, external debt burden and decaying public infrastructures. The development challenges facing Nigeria are not of improving one sector or region at the expense of another or of introducing policy distortions and inefficiencies in resource allocations to the benefit of one group, which in the past led to increased poverty for others, but rather to adopt growth and social service-oriented policies that will enable all Nigeria's inhabitants to improve their welfare (Nwaobi, 2004).

With Nigeria, the fact remains that it has become relatively more integrated with the global economic system. As a member of the international community, Nigeria is not shielded from globalization. However, the country is exposed to both the positive and negative effects of globalization. Therefore, this paper analyzes both the negative and the positive impacts of globalization on Nigerian Economy, political and cultural. Against this background, this paper seeks to analyze the implications of globalization on Nigeria's economy. (Etim & Wilcox, 2015)

Problem Statement

Nigeria has been one of the African countries affected by globalization positively and negatively. As its well-illustrated by the global trends, globalization is unescapable, so it must occur no matter what it is termed as an inevitable process. This study will demonstrate how globalization has affected Nigeria in three dimension which are political, economic and cultural. This study helped in identifying the gap that is not address when analyzing globalization and it effects in Nigeria. Also identify how these three dimensions evolve when entangled with globalization and by the end will identify if globalization is more

of good or bad for Nigeria development process.

Significance of the Study

Can we do without globalization? Are all countries getting their fair share (equal benefits and costs or responsibility) of globalization? If no, then why some countries are benefiting more than others? Is Nigeria ready for globalization? If yes, then what is the country doing to benefit from these opportunities to enhance its socioeconomic situation? Does Nigeria have resources and ability to compete favorably on the global stage (to meet the test of time)? If yes, why the country is still underdeveloped? Many scholars, NGOs, Nigerian government and other stakeholders have attempted to look at the opportunities and challenges posed on Nigeria in the era globalization. However, they were unable to critically look at globalization in regard to the impacts on the socioeconomic transformations in the country in the 21st century, hence the significant of this study. It has become imperative for us to critically determine the impacts.

Theoretical Framework

To understand how globalization is understood and believed to have impacted

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the world, the study is built on three theories to explain this. They include the skeptical approach, hyper globalist approach and the transformationalist approach.

- i. ***The Skeptical Approach.***The skeptics do not observe any changes in the globe. The approach that was a view of Grahame Thompson and Paul Hirst claim that what we refer to as globalization is really just regionalism. To them, the world is still the same and not much has changed. The skeptics also question the effectiveness of trading blocs and according to them, they consider that most of the global trade exchanges take place at the regional level rather than global. Their argument is that global trade has been in existence for a long time among nations for centuries and it is not a new phenomenon. (Held.et.al, 1999)
- ii. ***The Hyperglobalist Approach.***The approach holds the view that we are living in the era of the “end of history” and “end of nation-states”. As compared to before where the State was the main actor, today, it’s the global capitals and the corporate world that decide and influence the

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globe in terms of power and wealth distribution and how the world is being driven. (Rosenberg, 2005) The hyperglobalist view is that this is a true global era that is and has threatened the state as the main unit of political organization. To them, this is a legitimate historical process that has led to a world order based on supranational institutions and the marketplace. (Held.et.al, 1999)

iii. ***The Transformationalist Approach.***

This approach has a balanced approach towards the globalization phenomenon. It was coined by David Held and Antony McGrew as they tried to find a middle ground between the skeptical and the hyperglobalist approaches. They agree with the hyperglobalist on the view that global interconnectedness has increased. They however do not agree with the idea that it is a historical process with contradictions. They explain the contradictions of globalization by pointing out the idea of core and periphery which should not exist if the world is really globalized. The core represent the developing countries while the periphery

represents the underdeveloped. (Upali, 2017) To them, there is no way of telling whether the state is going to “disappear” or whether they will remain powerful over all the affairs happening around them. They look at the past years of the creation of nation-states and slavery equating those eras with today’s struggles such as terrorism and the cropping up of MNC’s that have power struggles but now they are conditioned by time-space compression of modernity and what modernity brings. The transformationalists do not try to oppose the existence of global trends but it tries to face the challenges it brings. (Held.et.al, 1999)

The three theoretical views work well together to explain the positive and negative impacts of globalization politically, socially and economically in Nigeria.

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Political Globalization

This refers to the amount of political cooperation that exists between different countries. Political globalization is what has turned states into competition states by making states make changes in the way they do things as a nation to adopt a global approach. Political globalization therefore does not involve interactions at the state level, but rather it takes place at a multilayered institutional playing field. It involves reshaping political practices and institutional structures in order to adjust and adapt to the growing deficiencies of nation-states as perceived and experienced. (Omotola & Journal, 2019)

The increasing and deepening number and power of human associations and institutions have now come to be the powers that influence governance at continent and regional levels. They include World Trade Organization (WTO), World Bank (WB), ECOWAS, and African Union (AU) among many others. Political globalization can be

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traced back to the western colonial period where most developing states majority being African lost their power to the European countries. It is thought that being a member of these organizations places the state at a better position to prevent conflict, trade internationally with ease and interact easily with other nations globally. The existence of all these organizations have helped in increasing political globalization not only in Nigeria but also in most countries globally. (Development, 2012)

These interconnectedness have changed how issues are solved globally and therefore, countries no longer have to single handedly make decisions and set new policies as they have given that power to institutions that either influence their decisions or negotiate on their behalf. This increase in interconnection has affected everyone globally and have also led to massive changes in terms of relations among states in the international scene.

Globalization politically is also determined by how democratized a country is. Democracy is assumed to be measured using the structure, behavior and the attitude foundation of the state. Most countries in Africa, Nigeria included are however seen to be far from achieving this kind of political

globalization. Nigeria has in many occasions been faced with democratic legitimacy crisis. (Omotola & Journal, 2019) This is because elections in this country is a heavily contested process that result into boycotts either or the election process or the rejection of the outcome by the opposition. Elections in most cases are rarely free, fair and competitive. The political process in Nigeria is characterized by disempowering of the popular forces in the country while working towards extending their tenure beyond the two statutory term of four years each. (Development, 2012)

Cultural globalization

In examining the impact of globalization on Nigerian culture, it is important to realize that strictly there may be a more appropriate term. Prior to the end of the 19th century, the name Nigeria did not exist and the geographical region now referred to as Nigeria was inhabited by disparate ethno-linguistic groups such as the Oyo Empire, Kanem-Borno Empire, Benin Kingdom and Sokoto Caliphate. During the colonial era, Britain forcefully welded them together as one country for administrative convenience (Adedimeji, 2006).

Although the disparate groups co-existed peacefully, there was no evidence that they

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actually wanted to unite into one entity. Centuries after they were brought together as one, a national culture is yet to emerge because each of the numerous ethnic groups has jealously guarded their cultures. This is why English language is still the country's lingua-franca. There have undoubtedly been clearly observable changes in Nigerian cultures over the decades. The negative aspects of these changes have been aptly captured by various commentators on the issue. Peculiar Nigerian cultural values, like languages, are being eroded by the pop culture brought about by globalization. Greeting norms, cuisine, custom, occupations, religion and cultural components are giving way to the suppression and subjugation of African culture, a tragic way that is fast destroying the original cultural complexion of not only the budding generation but even the adults.

Africa has consequently changed from a land of culture, nature of tradition and rural setting where the cockcrow signals the dawn of a new day. The worship and belief of gods and goddesses has been washed away by belief and worship of the "one God." Are we to go back to the worship of gods and goddesses long after the world has recognized the existence of one supreme-

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being just so that we will be seen as maintaining our culture? Globalization has been blamed for all that is presently wrong with our way of life in Nigeria. The negative effects of globalization seem to be more conspicuous and alarming among the youths. Nigerian youths are rapidly losing touch with cultural values and that this could be seen in the alien culture which they portray; their bizarre dressing, dancing and language and so on which invariably affect other aspects of social life.

African cultures generally and Nigerian cultures have been refined as a result of contact with the western world. There was a time in Nigeria when twins were considered a taboo and were killed, people that were afflicted by sicknesses that could not be diagnosed were taken to evil forests and left to die unattended because it was believed that they were experiencing the wrath of the gods, people were buried alive with kings under the erroneous impression that they will continue to serve the kings even in the beyond. All these stopped when the missionaries came to our country.

Beyond these issues, Nigeria has benefited tremendously from globalization in other spheres of life. Our culture as far as mass

communication is concerned was to use town-criers who are equipped with nothing but their voices and a gong. The demerits and limitations of this mode of communication are obvious especially when compared with we can achieve with the internet or a digital phone today.

In conclusion one can state that globalization, as a double-edged sword, has impacted both positively and negatively on the Nigerian cultures to the extent that one cannot convincingly prove that its net effect is negative and to state also that the negative effects came as result of Nigerians copying what was wrong in foreign cultures of their own freewill. Therefore, Nigerians should take much of the blame for the extinction.

Conclusion

The study finds that developed countries that have strong institutions stood to benefit the most from the effects of globalization such as free movement of goods, capital, services, and technology advancement. These states have well-functioning sound macroeconomic policies, abundant resources, developed financial markets, well-functioning manufacturing industries and technology that is highly advanced. This is one reason why developed countries reap

the most benefit out of globalization compared to developing countries such as Nigeria.

The study also found that Nigeria is a country endowed by mineral resources such as oil, coal, natural gas to mention but a few and rich agricultural resources boasting of cocoa, palm trees, fish, maize, yams among many others. These resources have the potential to propel the country to economic prosperity just like the developed countries.

Politically, Nigeria has paved way for democracy since the late 1990's which has helped in improving and encouraging reforms economically, politically and even on the institutions of the country. The country has pursued reforms such as improving macroeconomic stability, improving the efficiency of public institutions and the ease of doing business, privatization of failing government companies among many others. The Nigerian economy has grown significantly earning it the lower middle-income status in

2011 from the World Bank. The country is now one of the largest economies in Africa after South Africa and the largest in West Africa.

The study finds that despite globalization bringing certain benefits, it has also contributed to challenges such as brain drain, unfair trade policies, dependency, terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, increased crimes among others. Therefore, the country is still underdeveloped despite the many opportunities due to issues such as bad governance, corruption among institutions, poor infrastructures, neglecting the agricultural sector and the lack of industries to process their raw materials.

Finally, globalization is a phenomenon that will exist for a long time and Nigeria should utilize the benefits and opportunities that globalization offers to make reforms both economically, politically and among institutions to maximize on the benefits.

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