

GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

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Afrika'da Küreselleşme ve Kalkınma

ÖZ

Bu makale, Afrika kıtası için küreselleşme kavramını, tarihini, araçlarını ve sorunlarını incelemektedir. Şu anda küresel siyasetin fizyonomisini değiştiren son gelişmelerden biri olarak tanımlarken, özellikle oyuncuların eşitliği, politika sürecine gerekli girdiler ve kapsayıcı atılganlık alanında özellikle Afrika için zorluklarına, sonuçlarına ve etkilerine odaklanıyor. Bu süreçte, küreselleşmenin sermayenin dünyanın geri kalanı üzerindeki nihai fethi olduğu ve onun “öncülleri” ve “eşitsiz kalkınma tezi”nin tek kollu eşkıyalık ve ahlak anlayışı bağlamında açıklanabilir olduğu tartışılmış ve ortaya konmuştur. Ayrıca, dünyanın siyasi ve sosyo-ekonomik yapısının aşkın homojenleştirilmesi amacına ve insanlığa sağladığı iddia edilen faydalara bakılmaksızın, bunun böyle olmaya devam edeceği iddia edildi. Çalışmamızın temel tezi, küresel köye üye devletlerin güç ve çıkar asimetrisinin yanı sıra oradaki oyunun kurallarındaki orantısızlığın Afrika'ya ve halkına fayda sağlayamayacağıdır. Bu böyledir ve böyle olmaya da devam edecektir çünkü küreselleşme, Afrika kıtasının “neo-neo-sömürge tarzında” yeni bir marjinalleşme ve yeniden sömürgeleştirme düzenidir. Aynı şekilde, herhangi bir inandırıcı alternatif olmaksızın bir 'Mutlak Gerçek' konumuna yükseltilmesinin olduğunu savunduk. Afrika, yirmi birinci yüzyılın zorluklarından kurtulmayı umuyorsa, doğası gereği gerçekten gerçek ve kararlı bir siyasi, kültürel, sosyolojik ve ekonomik yeniden düzenleme yapmalıdır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Küreselleşme, Kapitalizm, Marjinalleşme, Afrika, Kalkınma.

Globalization and Development in Africa

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the concept of globalization, its history, instruments and problems for the African continent. While identifying it as one of the recent developments currently changing the physiognomy of global politics, it specifically focuses on its challenges, consequences and implications for Africa particularly, in the realm of equality of players, requisite input into the policy process and, the encapsulating assertiveness of the global village. In the process, it was argued and revealed that, globalization is the final conquest of capital, over the rest of the world and that its “antecedents” and “uneven development thesis” are explainable within the context the one-arm banditry and ethos of capitalism. Furthermore, it was argued that this will continue to be so, irrespective of its aim at the transcendental homogenization of political and socio-economic structure of the globe and its purported benefits to mankind. The central thesis of our study is that the asymmetry of power and interests of the member states of the global village, as well as the lopsidedness in the rules of the game therein cannot benefit Africa and her people. This is so and would continue to be so because globalization is a new order of marginalization and recolonisation in a “neo-neo-colonial fashion”, of the African continent. We equally argued that its elevation into a position of ‘Absolute Truth’ without any credible alternative is a disastrous entrapment for Africa from which the latter must free itself through a genuine and committed political, cultural, sociological and economic realignment and restructuring that is truly African in nature, if it hopes to survive the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Keywords: Globalization, Capitalism, Marginalization, Africa, Development.

Introduction

Although some may doubt the impact of globalization on the African continent, the process of globalization is not a new phenomenon especially with the industrial goods, according to (Dollar, 2001), but some African countries trace globalization back to the cocoa-boom of the 17th century, broadly globalization is defined as the growing Integration of economies and societies around the world as a result of flows of goods and services, capital, labour and information technology. According to (Narayanan and Gulati, 2002), globalization is all about the concentration on goods, services, capital and technological on small holders, they concentrated on trade liberalization effects. It is generally considered that globalization has intensified during the decades up till the mid- 1990's that has also created the new wave, trade liberalization as a result of negotiations in the general agreements on tariffs and trade and the world trade organization, especially the economic reforms that have liberalized markets in Africa and in some developing countries. Although not all countries have been equally affected positively by the recent wave of globalization. The argument is this study, indicates that globalization have not led to the development of Africa, instead it has caused poverty, under-development, instigated crisis and also caused citizens in African countries migrate to the western countries in search of a better Life, (Clasle, 2000). Globalization is also known as being constituted by a set of process which is intrinsic to the dynamism of modernity as a concept, referred to both to the compression of the world, a new reformed form of imperialism, and the intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole (Okoke, 1999). Significantly, globalization is an economic phenomenon and it's also concerned with the issues of cultural meaning which includes issues of text, representation and identity. As (Smith, 1900) has pointed out, cultural tend to be particular, time-based and expressive of identities which historical circumstances has formed over long periods creating impacts.

The Problem

As the world has entered into the new millennium, the problem of achieving a sustainable development in the new global socio-economic and political dispensation, happen to be one of the major problems facing Africa. The process of integrating the peripheral economies into the global capitalist system. In order to enhance an accelerated development of these economies, has met with a lot of obstacles. As a result of this, many African counties are hovering in the brink of economic disaster and several others have infact collapsed. Globalization, besides knocking down barriers to international trade is endeavouring to demolish restrictions on the operations of the trans-national cooperation. History accounts that many African States or countries have been forced to yield to superior powers, and a lot of them has succumbed, because they lack the technological know-how, political stability, economic efficiency and the ability to retain its own ideas and the logic of its own ideas (Gulati, 1990). The basic interest of Nations are identical and supreme, they consists of persistence, autonomy, sovereignty, external and internal territorial integrity and of cause stability, and nations do no willingly negotiate them away. In this study, we shall observe that the relationship between globalization and development in Africa has affected the sustained improvement in the people's living standard of Africa. Globalization has never led to development in Africa, instead it have provided elements which when applied by Rican countries or Nations, could foster development in the region (Laslie; Sklair, 2000). It can also be argued that there must be an attractive climate for foreign investors. The observers of the Holy sea said the forces of globalization has aggravated

insecurity, associated poverty and vulnerability, and had made developing Nations dependent on developed Nations, indigenous people migrants and have made young people ageing, disabled persons women and family more prone to poverty in Africa. Globalization will continue to reinforce the inter-dependency between different countries and regions. The challenges facing developing Nations and African countries in particular, is to design public policies so as to maximize the potential benefits from globalization and to maximize the downside risks of destabilization and marginalization.

Theoretical Framework

In every research work one is naturally obliged to make use of a specific theory for analysis or and approach, the adoption of although the dependency theory has a Latin American Origin, it is nonetheless relevant to the study of Africa and in fact all third world countries. The dependency school has come to represent a critique of the modernization theory otherwise referred to as the western model of development. Dependency according to Dos Santos means a situation in which the economies of certain countries are conditioned by the development and expansion of another economy to which the former is subject to. Whiles Samir Amin, tried to synthesize the various definitions of dependency which he summarized thus, that the extension of capitalism is intended to bring about modernization of profit on behalf of the central or core economies which hold monopoly over most economic initiatives. Secondly those relations between the center and periphery have contained or continued to be asymmetrical and hegemonic and this constitutes the sole purpose of creating the periphery, the substance of the hegemony. Therefore, the core countries have played a definite role in the internal development of the underdevelopment countries (periphery) which has been severely- curtailed and conditioned by the needs of dominant economies within the world which has today taken the shape of globalization. The political economy approach with reference to the dependency theory will be appreciated for this study because it shows the link between events in internal and external environment with which internal relations ad policies are conducted. It is thus within the context of the above mentioned forms of approach that globalization and the third world and its implication and development for Africa would be examined as well as analyzed in this study.

Globalization: The Salient Features

Globalization has become a major topic of discussion and concern in economic circle since the mid I 990s. Laslie Swair, has refined globalization of the world economy as the integration of economies through trade, financial flow, the exchange of economies and information and the movement of people. Globalization has been well documented from the colonial era up to this present time. Initially, there was mercantile trade which cha kn cev we the essence of capital movement. The capital move across national borders to engage mainly the purchase of exotic materials for consumption from the eloping countries for export to the developed countries. Then moved to the era of colonialization in which the main characteristics was he production of raw materials for export to metropolitan countries of Europe for their industrial production. This trend in the production and trade has continued cha the pro and in terms of world production and trade.

Globalization has intensified this trend in all directions. The process has produced a differentiation in the production process from material production to the service sector. Impotent among which is the financial sector. For instance, between 1965 and 1990, trade merchandise more than tripled. During this same period, globe trade service increased by more than 1,300 percent.

Financial flow have become the dominant element in the current trends. For instance, in less than 24 hours period, more than one trillion dollars move around the globe in search higher returns, indicating the high dramatic levels that finance capital flows now reached in world economic relationships (UNDP, 1996). In a single year 1994/1995, Foreign direct investment by fewer times a relatively few countries. In terms of assets, size, the biggest one hundred MNC's are based in developed countries. Thirty of these MNCs are based in the United States of America alone. Japan shares in these MNCs is twenty. The highly dramatic leap in trade and services is accounted for mainly by the impact of digital-based information technology on globalization. The enormous cost-reducing impact the new information technology has enabled MNCs globalize further production and financial markets by taking advantages of the lower cost of production. Computers now cost more than 100% of what they cost 25 years ago. These opportunities have assisted the MNCs to communicate much faster and better. Since 1976 the capacity of digital based information (IT) had increased over one million times. Nearly 40 years ago, there were some 50,000 computers in word. Now, the number of computers worldwide as at January 2013 has increased astronomically to more than 25 million. In 1960 a transatlantic telephone cable had a capacity of 138 simultaneous calls. Now a fiber-optic cable has a capacity of 1.5 million simultaneous conversations. There is a doubling of internet users yearly with the invention of ipads, black berry phones, i-phones etc, with its present users level standing at more than 300 million worldwide. These phenomenal IT Development have played no small role in enhancing development. During that past decade, world trade has been growing twice as fast as world input, (Olisa, 1990) For the same period, foreign direct investment has been increasing three times as fast as world input. Daily trading in foreign exchange has exceeded 81.5 trillion. Since 1970, for the African states economy, international transaction in bonds and equities have catapulted from 3 percent of GDP to approximately 150 percent.

The Challenges of Globalization on Africa

It must however be argued that globalization as a concept originated from the more developed western countries, as they argued that the economic backwardness of the world in general and the developing countries in particular was a product of the isolation of the developing countries from the world economy, (Claude Ake, 1996; 13). This backwardness recorded in Africa can only be remedied by greater global economic and cultural integration. The inequality of nations challenges the theory of globalization as a world system, it is common knowledge that African countries are regarded as under-developed, if we examine the structure of an under-developed economy, typically such economy is an importer of capital and technology as well as consumer goods from the developed world, (Echezona, 1998). These imported capital and economy play a crucial role in its development. Domestic substitution for foreign technical know-how is a very costly affair often indeed impossible. This is true whether we think of replication or genuine substitution allowing for the different needs of a poorer country for most African countries, the export sector is the leading sector which sets the pace for development and shapes the rest of the economy, both the pattern and pace of growth, (Claude Ake, 1996). Typically, size by size, the poorer the country, the more dependent it is on foreign market, and foreign sources of supply. If the export sector stagnates, so that the flow of resources from abroad is constrained, the pace of growth and rate of structural change respond accordingly, (Kalu, 1997). These factors are highly sensitive to such decline in the availability of foreign resources. The term on which the developing countries can obtain foreign exchange, capital and technology reflects the relationship between the rich and poor countries in the world economy, (Giddens, 1990). In the face of the existing distribution of economic power, it is the rich countries who determine the terms,

because in the short run, the developing countries in Africa need the products and services of the developed countries much more than the latter needs the output of the former, (Ake 1996). Recent statistics obtained have intact confirmed that Africa shares in the total world trade in just about 1%. This can be appreciated if we take a look at the international commodity and market factors, African countries are mainly price takers until every recent trade negotiation and trade policy formulation, - .NW). This dependency of African countries on developed countries/western countries has far reaching consequences for the development prospects of the former, (Goldbath, D, Megrew, A and Peraton J., 1997). The existence of such great disparities and one sided dependence has placed a moral question on the concept of globalization. Poverty in African counties also reflects essentially the technological gap between them and the rich countries, (Eze, 1999). Even the oil rich countries are to exception in this regard. This result in the developing countries ability to produce by themselves goods which require modem technical know-how and even less to develop an alternative technology substitute, (Okolie, 2000). The trade patter of African countries show that they usually export crude or processed agricultural or mineral based products. These countries have pwn countries the technological development that have occurred In rich countries. This is another fact that we are confronted with that has tended to negate the principles of globalization vis a vis the development of Africa. Although the division of the world into developed and under-developed countries is an over-simplification, vast differences in natural endowment, economic conditions, cultural heritage, social organization and political radical are factors that have also tended to broaden the inequalities that exists between the developed countries and Africa in particular, hence globalization ah exacerbated "global poverty" particularly in these African countries, (Claude Ake, 1996) The difference in the material conditions of people living in various parts of the world is reflected graphically in two socio-indicators that rate the national literacy and the per capital energy consumption rate.

Together these two indices provide a telling measure of sophistication of the production structure of a nation, and they are much significant than indicators based on the sectoral origin of gross domestic products (GDP). Literacy in African countries are considerably lower than that of developed/western countries as is per capita energy consumption, (UNESCO). This structural characteristics of the economy reflects the inability of African countries to exploit their economic potential and also to enjoy the so called "benefits" of globalization. In fact about 40 African countries fall within the preview of the poorest countries in the world, (United Nations) The global economic turmoil of recent wears has affected developing countries with particular sovereignty.

In Africa, the free working of market force in no way enable countries to counterview the constraints of globalization and multinational capital. The proponents of globalization must recognize that only global redistribution can ensure the development of Africa and that the developing world's primary needs are far more social rather than private capital accumulation, which globalization entails, (Ikein, 1990) Another dimension to the issue of globalization vis a vis the development of Africa is the activities of multinational compares (MNCs), these MNCs are agents of developed nations who are advocating a greater role for the free Delay of factors within these African Nations, (Kein, 1990). As a result of these factors, Africa stands the risk of distorted development, (Claude Ake, 1996). The calamities which this "new world order" is visiting on billions of people around globe, particularly African Nations, cannot be quantified. As a matter of fact, globalization has led to a situation whereby the top 20% of humanity now controls 84% of the whole wealth, while the bottom 20% makes do with shade of over 1% of world's wealth, (Gilpin, 1987).

Susan George a Harvard trained economist, in the Lugar-no Report (2003). By the way Lugano is a town located in Switzerland and sometimes in 2003, a group of intellectuals down from all continents in the world) gathered in the resort town to brainstorm about the world's problem. They came out with what is now referred to as the Lugano report in which the documented the "evils" of globalization vis a vis the developing nations and particularly Africa in which the summarized that the main beneficiaries of globalization are it's proponents and the more developed capitalists/Western Nations, and that in order to sustain it through the next century and beyond, a sustained strategy needs to be vigorously pursued and implemented. These has already started, it includes the reduction of population in African countries through the Population Reduction strategy (PRS) which includes the promotion wars, and e curtailment of humanitarian assistance to victims of hunger, Famine, epidemic and other natural and unnatural tragedies. The purging of the UN of nations like human rights, and the equality of nations, the systematic degradation of the quality of Mood and medicine sent to Africa or third world countries. Etc. In conclusion, it is imperative to remind those who control and direct the free market globalization, that what Africa really needs for development is GLOBAL REDISTRIBUTION, and not presently skewed globalization. It is this global redistribution that can bring about greater global peace and in Africa.

The Negative Impact of Globalization on African Environment

"Globalization" is a term that describes the growing interconnectedness of nations through trade and communication. It has both positive and negative effects in social, political and economic term. It also has an effect on the environment, which is a complex issue with many contributing factors which has led to the under-development of the African continent, (Ejifor, 2001: 32). Mitigate the negative environmental effects of globalization will continue to be an important issue as globalization increases. This is evident from the fact that oil exploration has negatively affected the environment of most oil producing African countries (e.g. Nigeria) the Niger Delta Region, and the Ogoni people in particular, leading to the worsening socio-economic situation for the people of Africa who have mineral resources. In fact more than two million Barrels of oil are explored from the Niger Delta daily (Human Rights Watch, 1999). Concretely put, despite the immense contribution of the Africa Nation or countries like Nigeria, Libya, Cameroon etc to the fiscal basis of the globe capital, these areas or countries remains basically underdeveloped due to deliberate neglect and eclipsing From the rational policy agenda of the African states. Some areas n these African countries like the Niger delta Region continuously lack basic infrastructural facilities such as good road, school, electricity, communication, hospitals, and so on. In addition oil spill have drastically affected the supply of portable water, leading to the high level of prevalence of water-borne diseases. Also, the impact of exploration and extractive activities)f these forces of globalization, shall, whose operation in Nigeria alone accounts for 14% of its total global operation, Mobil, Agip, Chevron, Texaco, Total etc have basically affected the social Organization of the people and the Niger Delta and Africa at large. These multinational companies who act as forces of globalization hire the citizens of their host country and make them Laborers, while their own citizens are made managers and directors, and are paid in foreign currency (Osigwe, 2001). A manifestation of these negative impact is the replacement of the traditional economy that was founded in fishing, farming and hunting for economic substance with a petrol dollar economy. Thus, as world bank (1995) noted, the impact of oil exploration in the Niger Delta Area by the forces of globalization as decreased agricultural productivity and fishing in the Area, adding to the prevalence of poverty which was put above national average, (Ogbonna, 199: 32).

Electronic Waste

Another major challenge of globalization on Africa is that of electronic waste (e-waste). Electronic waste or e-waste may be defined as all secondary computers, entertainment device as television sets and refrigerators, whether sold, donated, or discarded by their original owner. This definition includes used electronics which are destined for reuse, resale, salvage, recycling or disposal (Ouefeck; Vntures, 2011).

According to Achim Steiner, (2007) UN under-Secretary General and executive director of the UN Environmental programme stated that “Globalization is triggering a massive rise 1 electronic wastes, some of which is dumped in Asia and Africa. One investigation indicates that at least 100,000 computers arrive at the point of Lagos alone each month. Up to three quarter of the imports which also include old televisions and mobile phones with end up in an African rubbish tip or open air incinerator. In other words, the computer manufacturers competing intensely in terms of innovation, the raw processing power of computers is rapidly increasing, resulting in a large number of machines becoming obsolete in increasingly short periods of time and also due to ongoing technological advancement, many electronic products become obsolete within a very short period of time creating a large surplus of unwanted electronic production (Okeke, 2002:2).

As a result of lower environmental standards and working conditions in most African countries without any concern on the negative environmental impacts as well as the negative. Impact on the health of the African people. When handled improperly e-waste presents significant human health and environmental risks due to the toxicity of materials used in many electronic products. Many of their electronic product which are obsolete are imported into the country by business men who are out to make their profit. They sell these electronic items as “Tokumbo” or second hand items, (Ogbonna, 2001). Many Africans buy these items because they are believed to be cheaper than new ones and are purportedly imported and better than the new items that are manufactured within the African countries. Also some foreign organizations and agencies source these electronic materials or gadgets from Western developed countries through donations and send them down to Africa to be used in schools, hospitals and other places.

Some of these gadgets are sometimes unusable and beyond repairs. Domwatch, an anti-dumping group in Africa, in a report said that a UK-based organization once offered to donate 10, 000 computers to 5 African countries to help African NGOs, but only 2, 000 of the computers were found to be functioning properly and in a reusable condition (PARC. 2009).

Subsequently, the electronic gadgets that are unusable and unserviceable have to be dumped in dumpsites constituting health hazards in Africa and Asia. These dumpsites are mostly visited by women and youths who are scavengers, who are in search of metals that can be sold for various uses. The ruminant are usually burnt, resulting to toxic emissions and air pollution thereby compounding health problems and also adding to the depletion of the Ozone layer. An estimate of 53, 000 metric tonnes’ of e-waste are dumped annually in Lagos Nigeria, which includes 860, 000 computers, 5300, 000 printers, 900, 000 monitors and 480, 000 television sets (LASEPA, 201). E-waste is considered a crucial environmental issue due to its rapid growing volume and hazardous content which may leak into the environment if it is not properly disposed of and cause adverse effects on human health and the environment. Environmental pollution caused by both oil exploration and e-waste has caused a lot of damage on the African environment. It has negative health consequences such as leading toxins into the soil air and groundwater which later enters into the crops. Developed and western countries have

discovered Africa to be their dumping site, and this has caused a lot of health problems to the African people.

Conclusion

In the light of our major findings, it was concluded that globalization and development has led to the underdevelopment of African Nations, through the crude of manipulations of the IMF, World Bank and WTO. These Agents of globalization who represent the interest of their initiators (Western Nations) have in one way or the other caused very disastrous effects on Africa's Economy, culture, political and Environment. The study revealed that the idea of globalization of the world Economy was fashioned and packaged by the west and enforced on the third world. However, in as much as the idea of globalization has a lot of negative implication on Africa, it equally has a lot of benefits to derive from it, in as much as the African countries make productive and effective policies that will make them fit in properly into the globalization train. In this study also, it was observed that African countries has liberalized trade and opened up their economy extensively but lacks the competitive advantage to reap maximum benefits from the trends of globalization, mainly because of their dependence on the developed Nations, oil sector and lack of diversification of the economy.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions from this study, the following recommendations have been considered.

i). Economic Development paradigms, models, strategies, and policies. As has already been made clear, Development strategies and policies followed by African countries are increasingly those formulated by outsiders, which are then uncritically imposed on African countries as a condition for aid, investment, trade access and political and military support. Not surprisingly, these strategies and policies serve more the interests of external forces rather than those of the African people they claim to be assisting. In articulating a new approach to the economic development of Africa, emphasis should be placed on the question of the nature, ownership, management, allocations, utilization and distribution of resources. It is therefore our hope that this study shall not end up in the archives, it should be critically read and applied by all and sundry, so that Africa would benefit from the trends of globalization.

ii). improve the democratization process: There is a democratization struggle in Africa. Some African countries began the process of democratizing their government, political system and societies sometime back. However their international partners they are working with in this globalized world are hardly democratic. While the democratization process would require that people of the country in question get involved in the making of decision and policies that concerns them, some big decisions affecting Africa today are more or less imposed by the globalization players such as the World Bank, IMF, the World Trade organization etc. This has been the case for example with the liberalization and privatization policies in Africa.

iii). Making the task of poverty eradication more indigenous: As global actors pressurize to maximize foreign investments and capital inflows, and as big multinationals and local enterprises utilize the government to cater for their interests, the government is having less and less room to pay attention to the abject poverty amongst the poor and rich both in and between countries. The African states will have to be encouraged to pay more attention to the fate of its poor populace than to the fate of

big global actors. The big global actors can talk for themselves with little or no problem. The issue is, who will talk for the poor African populace.

iv). Avoid debt Accumulation and debt burden: The phenomenal debt burden of African countries is well known. Most of the accumulations of this debt over time was as a result of the incapacity of the borrowers to pay back as it was of the ease with which the lenders gave money to the African countries. This was and still is, facilitated by the context of globalization. The paradox about this is that the government borrows in the name of poverty reduction, while their social spending that would go towards alleviating poverty remains low. In the same way, the rich countries that lend money rarely allocate their financing towards social goals.

v). Improve the over stretched capacity to handle international and computer- based crimes. The African states and its forces of law and order were used to handle traditional crimes. However, with globalization there has been an increase in crime, (drugs, pornography, international corruption etc) that had been at lower magnitude. In addition, progress in information technology has facilitated the emergence and growth of computer based-crimes, especially fraudster. For this, the law enforcement agencies have not been well prepared. The increase in crimes across borders makes the force of law and order look helpless, unhelpful and incapable.

vi). Improve and not undermining the power of the African states: Most African governments are finding themselves in a situation of “fait accompli” when it comes to making certain policies and decisions. International agencies such as the world bank, IMF, United Nations, World Trade Organization etc, take most decisions which are binding on African countries. This could be looked at as eroding the sovereignty and power of the state. We must add that this is not only the case in Africa. The poorer the country, the more chance of power erosion in the state. This would minimize if the voice of African states were increased and strengthened in the world body. Strong African regional body would also help in this respect provided these bodies were represented in the world bodies at the same time.

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