Globalization and Security Implications of Cross-Border Migration in Nigeria: Issues and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

The protection of a state's territory against any potential threats depends on the level of its ability or capability to achieve effective border security or control. The basis for this position is that globalization takes its toll on peace and security in Nigeria because the inspired relaxation of boundary enforcement rules appears to have made Nigerians lost much of its powers on transnational crimes including arms importation. The porosity of Nigerian borders has made it possible for unwarranted influx of migrants from neighboring States to enter the country illegally from such countries as Republic of Niger, Chad and Republic of Benin. Therefore, this paper critically examined the issue of border security and national security in Nigeria. The main objectives of this work are to ascertain the effects of poor border security on Nigeria's national security and identify the challenges of effective border security in Nigeria. Theory of transnationalism was adopted as a framework for analysis. This work sourced data through secondary sources and the data were analyzed quantitatively. This paper observed that the problem of achieving effective border security has posed a great threat to Nigerian national security because it has contributed to infiltration of terrorists/ insurgency; loss of government revenue; smuggling or trafficking of illegal goods etc. In addition, it was revealed that the issue of corruption; poor technological gadgets, porous nature of the borders etc serve as strong challenge to effective border security in Nigeria. This paper suggested that adequate provision of funds; use of modern technological gadgets; adequate training of security personnel; strengthening of Multinational Joint Task Force etc, will go a long way in achieving effective border security in Nigeria in order to promote national security and development.
Keywords; Globalization, Border Migration, Security, Terrorism, Insurgency

INTRODUCTION

Security challenges facing Nigeria in this age of globalization is revealed by massive suppliers and importation of small arms and light weapons. Nigeria has no visible trace of substantial arms and light weapon production, yet there are so much of these weapons in the wrong hands. . The presence of small arms and light weapons causes crisis of security among different ethnic, religious and political class. It is so unprecedented that both the security of the state and human security is threatened. [1]. The basis for this position is that globalization takes its toll on peace and security in Nigeria because the inspired relaxation of boundary enforcement rules appears to have made Nigerians lost much of its powers on transnational crimes including arms importation. Though human security is threatened, it is also human security neglect by the institution of the state that created fertile ground for the illegal importation and use of small arms and light weapons. However, it is the position of this paper, that a shift in focus to human security would therefore require understanding sources of threat and the reformulation of strategies towards ameliorating conditions that favor illegal importation and use of small arms and light weapon in Nigeria. This will greatly reduce arms proliferation and its attendant consequences. [2], observed that border security has come to assume heightened importance in the world today as the rate of criminal activities have also increased in scale especially since the end of Cold War and in the wake of globalization. It has become easy for transitional crimes to be conducted such as the moving of money, people and goods across the world because of advancement

in telecommunications, transportation and technology in general. The world has turned into a 'global village' with its own peculiarities as well as problems. Globalization has allowed criminals to move across the borders unhindered and even continue with illicit business with impunity as this affects the socio-economic development and security of lives and property. However, it should be noted that Nigeria is of no exception to this growing phenomenon, hence this brings about the increasingly need for security and protection at our borders.

Statement of Problems

Migration is a highly diverse and complex phenomenon that transcends societies, cultures and races. It is a phenomenon that has continued to impact and contribute to the transformation of the entire facets of various countries changing the racial, ethnic, linguistic and socio-cultural composition of their population [3], [4]. It is a dynamic process which affects every dimension of social existence. Studies have indicated that 97 percent of the world population in 2000 is not international migrants [5] yet, their communities and ways of life are changed by migration [6]. In West African countries such as Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria, became destinations of international migration and Lagos and Dakar as preferred cities with teeming inflow of people from other parts of the sub-region. Nigeria which shares borders with francophone countries has to contend with influx of people from these countries and Lagos becomes the African metropolitan city for the citizens of these countries. The economic boom of the 1970s and 80s brought about by the fortunes derived from the oil sector attracted increased immigrants to Nigeria from the sub-region. The Nigerian border which is porous became easy access especially as members of a single ethnic group hold dual nationalities. As the movement was more of labor inspired, there was not much state reaction. However, Nigeria later started experiencing confrontations along the borders due to the activities of smugglers, traffickers and security challenges by the Muslim extremists who took the advantage of the porous borders to troop to the northern part of the country from Niger, Chad and northern Cameroon. At various times, some of these Muslim fundamentalists had declared holy war in the northern part of Nigeria. In the 90s the Maitasine Muslim fundamentalists and insurgency killed many innocent Nigerians before they were overwhelmed by the state security apparatuses. At other times, in the western part, the menace of traffickers and smugglers who have turned armed criminals posing serious threat to the security of the nation has forced the Federal Government to take draconian laws against the affront. It got to an unbearable height during the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo between 1999 and 2003 that the president had to close the borders with the Republic of Benin at least two times. The persistent and deepened cases of smuggling and trafficking in the sub-region have induced other heinous crime causing serious security and political problems among the states [3].

Conceptual Analysis
Security

In common usage, security is the lack of threat, and the opposite is insecurity as recently witnessed in Nigeria with a particular reference to the national borders. According to [7], he posits that 'Security rises and falls with the ability of a nation to deter an attack or defeat". [8], see it as 'the ability of a nation to protect its internal values from external threats. [9], reiterates that which threatens or have the potential to bring down or weaken state structures, both territorial and institutional and governing regimes. It can be deduced from these definitions or conceptualizations that security are state centric which concerns itself mainly on military capability to deter external aggression and also favors the traditional meaning of security which is beyond the meaning in this paper. Security has much to do with our national borders, in a state of insecurity; threat can be regarded as flux.

Globalization

Globalization is the process of interaction and integration among people, companies, and governments worldwide, [10]. The term *globalization* first appeared in the early 20th century, developed its current meaning sometime in the second half of the 20th century, and came into popular use in the 1990s to describe the unprecedented international connectivity of the post–Cold War world, [11], Its origins can be traced back to 18th and 19th centuries due to advances in transportation and communications technology. This increase in global interactions has caused a growth in international trade and the exchange of ideas, beliefs, and culture. Globalization is primarily an economic process of interaction and integration that is associated with social and cultural aspects. However, disputes and international diplomacy are also large parts of the history of globalization, and of modern globalization.

Human Security

Although the concept of human security has gained attention recently, the idea is not fundamentally new. The ontological and epistemological assumptions that have underpinned previous orthodox security and policy formation simply did not recognize, include or value it. The specific term "human security" was first officially introduced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its 1994 Human Development Report. The report captured seven dimensions of the human security concept: economic security, food security, health

security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security. [12], identifies two main aspects of human security are identified in the report; safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease and repression, and protection from sudden disruptions in the pattern of daily life, whether in homes, jobs, or communities. The conceptualization of security from the human security perspective represents a paradigmatic shift from orthodox security thinking, which privileges the protection of state power over an approach that accounts for the complex social and economic relations of its citizens. Human security is defined as a freedom from actual or potential threats to human life that may arise either as a result of human actions or in actions, or from natural disaster such as flood, earthquake, famine, drought, disease and other natural calamitous events resulting in death, human suffering and material damage.

Theoretical Framework

International Migration Theory has been at an impasse for several decades [13]. The field of migration studies has remained a surprisingly under-theorized field of social inquiry. This is unfortunate, as we can only develop a richer understanding of migration processes if we do not conceptually separate them from broader processes of social change of which they are a constituent part. Much thinking on migration remain implicitly or explicitly based on simplistic push–pull models or neo-classical individual income (or 'utility') maximizing assumptions, despite their manifest inability to explain real-world patterns and processes of migration. Although prior migration theories have been rightfully criticized for their unrealistic assumptions, researchers have generally been better at debunking such theories than at coming up with viable theoretical alternatives. International migration has continuously forged and reforged societies and states since time immemorial [14], [3], [5]. However, much as its importance can be appreciated by some, many, including governments are scared by immigration when it is not clearly defined. The reason being that in modern times, international migration has brought with it serious security issues which continued to affect international relations and shape foreign policy legislations, diplomatic and security matters. The Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences defines migration as "the movement of people over considerable distances and on a large scale with the intention of abandoning former homes." [15], on the other hand, defines it as broadly as a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence. No restriction is placed upon the distance of the move or upon the voluntary or involuntary nature of the act, and no distinction is made between external and internal migration. The problem with the former definition is the abandonment of homes for a permanent one. The focus of this paper is not so much abandonment or movement of people over considerable distance rather, the ability to move from one country to the other which may even be of short distance such as cross-border movement between Nigeria and Niger Republic or Nigeria and Benin Republic. Such migration is more often motivated by economic opportunity or criminal intentions (trafficking and smuggling) and so our definition for the purpose of this paper is the movement of people on a long or short distance involving crossing from one country to the other and for a short or long period but usually on a short period but with high frequency for the purpose of seizing economic opportunity or perpetrating economic, political or social crime [3]. This definition will not be complete without making analogy to differentiation of migration [5], which states that most countries do not simply have one type of immigration, such as labor migration, refugee or permanent settlement but a whole range of types at once. Typically, migrating chains which start with one type of movement often continue with other forms, despite government efforts to stop or control the movement. Cross border migration between Nigeria and her surrounding neighbors may start with one motive and end up with another. As remarked by [15], the difference between both in terms of economic and amenities become heightened especially between Nigeria and her neighbors. Again, as [6] observed, the growing politicization of migration resulting from domestic politics, bilateral and regional relationships and national security policies of states are increasingly affected by international migration. In effect, the security implications are these days dictating foreign policy directions of most countries all over the world. Globalization has complicated migration issues in security terms in such a way that state security has become a deciding factor in shaping the direction of diplomatic and foreign policy of countries in the sub-, region. Africa has been described as the continent with the world's most mobile population [16]. One of the greatest migrations in human history was recorded in sub-Saharan Africa involving the Bantu people who left the area now encompassing Nigeria and Cameroun and formed settlements throughout the entire southern half of the continent [6]. Migration is increasingly driven by economic, political and social changes. In West African sub-region migration can better be explained theoretically from economic standpoint, other factors do play a role but economic remain outstanding. The neo-classical links migration to movement from low to high income area or more specifically, to fluctuation in business cycle. The approaches are known as push-pull theories [6]. The "push factors" include lack of economic opportunities and political freedom among others and "pull factors" demand for labor, good economic opportunities and political freedom. In West Africa, the trend of migration has generally followed this pattern. The mere existence of economic disparities between various areas should be sufficient to generate migrants flow [17], [18]. This form of movement has been typical in Africa as a whole; migration tending towards economically buoyant and prosperous

region from weak economic areas. However, on the international front, between certain factions may reduce intervening obstacles to migration. With reference to Nigeria and the surrounding francophone neighboring States, which view Nigeria as metropolitan state from all perspectives, increasing technology plays an important role in diminishing intervening obstacles [15], communication become easier and transportation relative to average income cheaper. Even if there were no change in the balance of factors at origin and destination, improving technology alone should result in an increase in the volume of migration. Migration to South Africa has been basically economic or labor motivated; people from various parts of Africa migrating to South Africa to seek employment.

[19], observed that the push-pull factors also imply movement from densely populated areas to more sparsely peopled regions. We found such movements take place from the large populated countries. We see such examples from the largely populated countries such as migration from Nigeria to Ghana, Togo, even to Cameroun. There is also migration from Cameroun to Gabon, Central African Republic among others. In contemporary times, the "push-pull theories of the neo-classical can no more be sufficient to explain migratory movements in Africa, especially in respect to migration and international security. In this respect, there is the transnational theory which cannot be over looked. One aspect of globalization is rapid improvement in technologies of transport and communication. This has made increasingly easy for migrants to maintain close links with their area of origin or operations as the case of international chains of criminals' networks. This facilitates the growth of circular or temporarily mobility, in which people migrate repeatedly between two or more places where they have economic, social or cultural linkages [6]. Trafficking and smuggling resulting from transnational migration network [20] are carried out with ease and in rapid frequency along the porous borders. Between Nigeria and Niger Republic, a customs officer put the number of illegal borders entry points at 921. Alongside criminally prone migration is the importance of transnational business communities [21], which can either be large scale enterprise or small ethnic entrepreneurs; also, the political and cultural communities.

Issues and Challenges in Nigeria Border Security

The study discovered in details the challenges to border security as it could be observed that Nigeria lacks border protection and much importance has not been accorded to our national borders as evident in the vulnerabilities of threat posed at our national borders such as trans border activities and the prevalent terrorist attack that befall the country resulting in the unrestrained influx of migrants through the routes. The challenges are discussed below:

1.   Porosity of Borders

The porous borders contributed and continue to encourage the cross border crimes and instability in the region. Also, it promotes the increasing number of illegal trade such as smuggling of contra banned goods, adulterated drugs, stolen cars including cars that have exceeded the permissible age limit prescribed for use in Nigeria and other goods like shoes, poultry products and many more. [22]. However, there are indefinable corridors or regions that served as a route to these illegal migrants, thereby posing a serious threat to the country and the national borders. For instance, it has been discovered that Nigeria has 1497 irregular and 84 regular routes as movements were done through the illegal routes. (Nigeria Immigration Service). There are so many outlets for smuggling of various goods across the border.

2. Corruption

The corrupt practices of the security operatives at the borders pose a serious challenge to the border security. The corrupt and inept attitudes of border officials resulting in the numerous check points also contributed negatively to the border insecurity. [23], observed that criminals easily infiltrate the borders as smugglers bribe their way into the country. It also explains why we have many criminals involving in trans border activities and terrorists in the country as criminals move in arms and ammunition and thousands of innocent Nigerians have been killed and many more die in the hands of Islamic sects with the influx of weapons in the country as smugglers continue with their business without being punished.

3. Inadequate Manpower and Logistic Support

Another problem related to border security in Nigeria is the inadequate manpower or personnel which has a negative impact on the security of our national borders. It makes it difficult for the security operatives to adequately manage the national boundaries and effectively patrol these several corridors that lead to the country. The inadequate manpower does not allow for adequate patrolling of these illegal routes as criminals use the illegal routes as a means of entry into the country. Also the criminals sometimes outsmart the security operatives at the borders due to inadequate personnel and logistics problems. [24]

4. Poorly Patterned Borders

Nigeria borders are artificial creation from colonialism which continues to pose a serious threat to the country. The demarcation of the borders were done by the colonial masters without considerations to the culture of the people as can be seen in the cultural ties of marriages, celebration of religious festivities, language and many more. It should be noted therefore, that boundary delimitation affects the cultural and ethnic homogeneity of the border communities to the extent that one cannot differentiate a Nigerian from Nigerian due to culture and linguistics in which communities with homogenous culture and language are found at different sides of the borderline, hence makes it difficult to put in place immigration laws when members can just change their identity when they feel like, [25].

5. Institutional Framework

ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of People, Goods and Services was established by the ECOWAS Member States in 1979. [22], opined that the main aim of this Protocol is to facilitate the free movement of people, goods and services within the West Africa without Visa; this simply means that any ECOWAS citizen who poses valid travelling document and International Health Certificate can transverse the entire region without a visa. All member states abolished the use of visa in order to ease the movement of people in the region. However, in spite of the positive pronouncement of this protocol, it has its own negative effects. This protocol allows the movement of criminals to move across the border and also engage in cross border activities under the pretext of this protocol. It is important to note that; border has become a safe passage for people without identities as ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement has been abused to mean an entry without valid documents.

These following factors poses a serious threat to the internal security of lives and property in the country, as the infractions at the border calls for enforcement of reforms of the border control system. While terrorists move from in and out of the country, smugglers of all kinds of contrabands continue with their business. For instance, the recent security challenges in Nigeria, there are speculations that these groups are also from neighboring countries, this would not have been possible if there were adequate security at our national borders.

Globalization and Challenge of Border Security: Implications for National Security

Here, it is important to trace the implications of globalization on national security. [26], view national security as closely connected to the preservation of the border of a state. He looks at the concept of security closely connected to the protection of the national border of a state, and seen as an important aspect of any political institution, in a state of insecurity, threat is regarded as flux. The emergence of globalization that come with new information and communication brings about new threat to national security and challenges the traditional approach to national security as being obsolete and inadequate to combat the new threats..

[21], observed that globalization makes the mode of communication easy and new innovations in the conduct of relations between and among countries of the world. Despite the positive effects, there are still some negative consequences which continue to threaten the survival of states in international system. Transnational crime is a criminal activity that transcends beyond national borders as it has become easier for criminals to engage in these clandestine activities through globalization, money, goods and people can easily be moved across the national borders without restrictions and thereby, difficult to track down these criminals due to the advancement of technology. With all the benefit that globalization has offered mankind, it becomes difficult if not impossible to overlook some of its negative consequences particularly in the area of crime. Also, the emergence of computer and the internet facilities makes it possible for these criminals to engage in cyber crimes as locally called 'yahoo yahoo or yahoo plus' in which they can easily tap into one's account and do away with all the money.

These crimes not only pose security threat but also dent the image of the country in which citizens are subjected to harassment in abroad, deny the country of foreign investors and also fear to do business with the Nigeria. In this context, terrorism, banditry and other incursions at the borders are main concern for states with its highly complicated characteristics as the global world is now faced with an immediate threat. Furthermore, when states are much connected and interdependent, it becomes a threat to international security as this is a turning point for all states

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The result of our findings revealed that globalization; especially the subjective dimensions affect human security in Nigeria. The emerging concerns in the above result point to the existence of a correlation between globalization and proliferation of weapons in Nigeria. This, ideally, is understood in the growing tendency to discuss contemporary human security challenges in the logic of globalization, as a phenomenon describing the

revolutionary structural changes in contemporary world of increasing interdependence and denationalization of clusters of political, economic and social activities in which people, capital images, ideas and values enjoy free and speedy flow across collocated national boundaries [27]. While the wave of economic globalization has given rise to increase internationalization of economic activities, it has equally opened the door for weapons proliferation to flourish. This subjective dimension of globalization beyond interlacing individuals and groups who are now increasingly aware (consciously and unconsciously) if the globalize world, provide s the premise upon which the nexus between globalization and human security finds easy comprehension. The regular interception of illegal arms trafficking across the borders by security agencies reveal the worrisome dimension that weapon proliferation has recently assumed in Nigeria. The media is awash with frightening reports of sophisticated small arms and light weapon being seized by security operatives either at ports, borders or highways. In August, 2010, security agents in Maiduguri arrested a commercial driver carrying 25AK-47 riffles allegedly smuggled into the country from Cameroon. These arms according to [28], were destined for Jos in Plateau state where ethno-religious conflicts have caused serious devastation to human security.

However, the abysmal and exacerbating governance failure in Nigeria resulted in poverty, unemployment, death tells dearth of basic services. This observation is corroborated by [28], who had earlier stated that: The prevailing economic situation, with declining fortunes and bad government exacerbated to the extent that many Nigerians lost confidence in the government's ability to deliver essential services. It is in the midst of this lamentable array of unfulfilled expectations, confusion, dislike and distrust for government that the people now see the former as the problem to be resolved; rather than the solution.

CONCLUSION

In the current world environment in which the realities of globalization are literarily facing the breakdown of borderlines, low intensity conflicts in which small arms are crucial, and widely used, are threatening the non-negotiable core-value of human security, especially, developing countries of African and indeed countries of the ECOWAS sub region. In Nigeria, life is brutish, nasty and short. The danger is apparent. Every Nigerian is faced with danger posed by the presence of small arms and light weapons. The fluidity of the international supplies and weakening controls on arms poses serious challenge to human security in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above results and findings, the study suggests the following policy actions in order to address that trade in arms across the nation's border, and perhaps recover existing ones.

i.   The custom officers and other security agencies that guard the nation's borders should double their effort at combating struggling at the borders.

ii.   The signed security bilateral agreements with neighboring countries should be made practical and effectives.

iii.   The Nigeria's firearms Act, enacted in 1959, reviewed in 1990 should be amended to contain the emergence of new trends in the use, repair, importation and penal provisions to stop these problems. In this Loopholes in all legal instrument dealing with this matter, specifically section 5()3(1);7 (2);8(3);12,20,29,30,32,(2); 33, 34, 35 and 36(2)

iv.   The adoption of South African Gun amnesty collection and seizure programme and the US, collection, Amnesty and destruction programme where good gesture is given the return of arms will help for the recovery of those in circulation in the country. This approach works well when dialogue is employed. Poverty and under development of the country should be tackled to avoid fertile ground that enhance terrorism.

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