GNOSI: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Human Theory and Praxis
Volume 6, Issue 2, July-December, 2023
ISSN (Online): 2714-2485

Imperialism in Africa: Implications for Development of West Africa

Felix Tabi Okorn
History and International Studies,
University of Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.
Email: felix.okorn@unical.edu.ng

Boypa Oyama Egbe
History and International Studies,
University of Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.
Email: boypeegba@gmail.com

(**Received**: June-2023; **Accepted**: December-2023; Available **Online**: December-2023)
This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License CC-BY-NC-4.0 ©2023 by author (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)

ABSTRACT
The legacy of imperialism and neocolonialism continues to shape the socio-economic landscape of Africa, particularly in the West African sub-region. Despite achieving political independence, many African nations still grapple with the lingering effects of colonial exploitation and domination. This study delves into the implications of imperialism for the development of West Africa and explores potential strategies to counter its negative impact. Employing a qualitative research approach and drawing on secondary data sources, the analysis uncovers the intricate dynamics of neocolonial control in Africa. Economic dominance, political interference, cultural subjugation, and power imbalances are among the key mechanisms through which former colonial powers maintain influence in the region. Additionally, the role of foreign aid, multinational corporations, and international financial institutions in perpetuating neocolonial practices is examined. Despite efforts towards decolonization, West Africa has struggled to achieve genuine autonomy and self-sufficiency. Economic dependence, corruption, and stunted development persist as significant challenges hindering progress. To address these issues, the study proposes tentative strategies and solutions. Promoting fair trade practices, empowering African nations to regain control over their resources and economies, and fostering regional integration and cooperation are among the proposed strategies. Strengthening governance and institutions, along with advocating for a more equitable global economic order, are also essential steps towards sustainable development. By countering neocolonial practices and embracing strategies that prioritize self-determination and equitable growth, West Africa can overcome the legacy of imperialism and realize its full potential. Acknowledging the complexities of neocolonial dynamics is crucial for formulating effective policies and initiatives aimed at dismantling neocolonial structures and fostering sustainable development in the region.

Keywords: Armed conflicts; International Humanitarian Law (IHL); Targeted killing (TK); Security Council reform.

INTRODUCTION

The West African sub-region stands out for its unique historical and contemporary significance (Fisher & Oludemi, 2022). Home to Nigeria, the world's most populous black country, and Liberia, Africa's oldest republic, West Africa has played a pivotal role in shaping the continent's political landscape (Olusakin & Udoh, 2018; Otto, 2023). It was in this region that Ghana, in 1957, became the first African country to achieve independence from European colonial rule, setting a precedent for other nations to follow suit (Okide, 2019; Okide, 2021a; Okide, 2021b). Ghana's struggle for liberation inspired movements across the continent, including Guinea-Conakry's defiance of colonial offers of independence under Charles de Gaulle.

Despite its historical milestones, West Africa has grappled with political instability, characterized by a legacy of military coups d'état. Only a few countries, such as Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire, have managed to avoid direct military rule, while others have experienced frequent changes in government through military intervention (Marc, et al., 2015). This instability has often led to conflicts and civil wars, as witnessed in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea-Bissau, among others. The extended period of military governance in West Africa has not only resulted in significant political instability, but it has also fostered a burgeoning culture of militarism (Conteh-Morgan, 2018; Okide, 2023). This, in conjunction with other factors such as severe economic decline and widespread disillusionment among the youth, has driven several countries in the sub-region into engaging in large-scale warfare. Consequently, Liberia became embroiled in a protracted and destructive conflict subsequent to the emergence of an armed uprising against the autocratic rule of Samuel Doe. Sierra Leone swiftly followed suit, as a faction of its armed forces aligned themselves with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, aiming to loot the nation and inflict widespread devastation upon its population.

In 1998, Guinea-Bissau also had a civil war, which ultimately resulted in the removal of Joào Nino Vieira from his position of authority in May 1999. Repeated violent battles took place in Niger and Mali, two Francophone nations that have seen severe instances of military authoritarianism (Ferreira, 2004). These clashes transpired in the late 1980s and 1990s, involving the army and Touareg rebels who were engaged in a struggle for more autonomy. Certain nations, like Nigeria (which had a civil war spanning from 1967 to 1970), Guinea-Conakry, and Ghana, have occasionally found themselves on the verge of armed conflict and the disintegration of civil society. The two nations that have not had a historical period of direct military governance have also seen instances of authoritarian governance, including instances of personal control. However, amidst political turmoil, West Africa has maintained a vibrant civil society and has been at the forefront of political liberalization movements. The region pioneered innovative approaches to democratic reform, such as sovereign national conferences, and has a rich history of civil society activism, rooted in intellectual and political traditions like Négritude and Pan-Africanism.

Historically, West Africa resisted European colonial incursions through armed resistance, reflecting the region's rich pre-colonial political structures and cultural heritage. Despite colonial powers' efforts to impose control, West Africa's diverse kingdoms and empires fostered strong nationalist sentiments and intellectual currents against colonial rule. This research aims to analyze the implications of imperialism on the development of West Africa, considering contemporary political, economic, and social factors (Udo & Inua, 2020). Key issues to be addressed include population dynamics, food security, poverty alleviation, democratization, human rights, regional cooperation, and the role of external actors like France. The study adopts a retrospective and prospective approach, emphasizing the region's potential for closer integration and sustainable development amidst the challenges of globalization.

In essence, the future of West Africa hinges on navigating between regional cooperation and individual national strategies, with the hope of unlocking the region's full potential through informed policymaking and concerted action.

AN OVERVIEW OF KEY TRENDS AND STRUCTURAL FACTORS IN THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGION

The Demographic Profile

West Africa has 16 states, with the exception of Cameroon, which may be typically classified as part of Central Africa (Thornton¸2020). Undoubtedly, it is one of the most densely populated regions in Africa. In 1998, the population of this region was over 245 million individuals, constituting nearly 25% of the total African population residing on the continent. From 1960 to 1995, the population of the sub-region had a remarkable growth of 130 million individuals. Based on a projected annual growth rate of 3%, it is anticipated that the sub-region would reach a population of around 430 million by the year 2020 (Guengant & May, 2013). This trajectory is not anticipated to be significantly impacted by the rising mortality rates associated with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The population will experience a nearly tenfold growth during a span of less than a century. The exponential growth of West Africa's population is supported by a fertility rate surpassing six offspring per woman, resulting in an average of over three daughters per mother by the conclusion of 1994. By the mid-20th century, these daughters will have transitioned into motherhood.

As of 1990, around 40% of the population residing in the region were concentrated in metropolitan areas, and this percentage is seeing significant growth (Glaeser & Kahn, 2004). The sub-region has significant levels of internal population migration and cross-border population flows. West Africans are widely recognised as highly migratory individuals in Africa, with a significant presence both inside their own countries and beyond the area. Approximately 33% of the rural population in the sub-region does not reside in their original districts. Likewise, 12% of the population in the sub-region residing outside of Nigeria does not reside in their place of origin. From 1960 to 1990, there was a significant increase in the urban population of West Africa, with a five-fold growth seen. Specifically, the proportion of urban dwellers rose from 14% in 1960 to 40% in 1990. The ratio is projected to reach 60% by 2020 (Azubuike, et al 2018). In addition, there is an emerging pattern of movement towards the southern coast, which is already leading to a rise in population density in the region. The average population density in the major coastal settlements of the sub-region is 124 inhabitants per square kilometre. By the mid-1990s, almost 41% of West Africa's population was concentrated in these key coastal centres, which account for 8% of the total land area (Azubuike, et al 2018).

Based on the aforementioned demographic traits and trends, it is evident that leaders and policy makers in West Africa will need to prepare themselves for significant policy problems. The first concern pertains to the means by which the substantial population that will inhabit the region within the next five decades will be nourished and supplied with essential resources. These findings have significant ramifications for the overall progress of agriculture, with a specific focus on the formulation of a food security policy. This pertains to the ability of West African governments and volunteer non-governmental groups to offer sufficient infrastructural assistance that is crucial for the attainment of a satisfactory standard of living. This subject is especially pertinent to the southern, coastal population belts of the area, where the majority of the sub-region's inhabitants are progressively clustered. Moreover, considering the ongoing high level of internal and cross-border migration, the rapid development of diverse urban, semi-urban, and rural communities will necessitate a reevaluation of citizenship rights. Currently, the aforementioned rights are predominantly associated with ancestral lineage. However, this conceptualization is likely to face significant challenges as the population increasingly resides in settlements that are not their original locations of origin or birth. In the coming decades, the demographic dynamics of the sub-region will give rise to several political difficulties, with citizenship rights being one of them.

Multiculturalism

All countries within the sub-region exhibit ethnic pluralism, with the absence of ethnically homogeneous nations such as Botswana or Somalia in West Africa. Nigeria is home to around 250 ethnic groups, many of which are further subdivided into many subgroups (Gandonu, 1978). Certain ethnic groups are geographically dispersed across multiple countries within the sub-region. For example, the Yorubas are to be found in Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire; Hausas in Nigeria, Ghana, and Niger; Kanuris in Nigeria, Niger, and Chad; the Wollofs in Senegal and the Gambia; Shuwa Arabs in Tchad, Nigeria, and Niger; Mandingos in Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, and Liberia; Ewes in Ghana and Togo, Akans in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire; Fulanis in virtually all the states in the region, and Tuaregs in Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso. Moreover, it is worth noting that religious diversity is prevalent in the majority of countries within the sub-region. The predominant religions in practice include Christianity (in its different forms), Islam (in its various forms), and a range of 'traditional'/indigenous religions; syncretism is frequently observed. In certain states, there is a higher proportion of Muslims compared to Christians, and vice versa. However, throughout West Africa, there are various ethnic, religious, and other minority groups whose management has significant consequences for governance and national stability.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: DEPENDENCY THEORY

The dependency hypothesis was proposed by Raul Prebisch, an Argentine economist and statesman, during the latter part of the 1950s. Dependency theory has been explored by several authors such as Andre Gunker Frank, Immanuel Wallerstein, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Claudio Katz, Ruy Mauro Marine, Samir Amin, and others. The primary contention put forth by dependency theorists posits that metropolises or affluent nations amass and maintain wealth at the detriment of impoverished or peripheral nations. This phenomenon is attributed to a multitude of implications, including labour and raw material exploitations, unfavourable policies, unequal terms of trade, and exploitative interconnections among economic, social, political, and other factors (Christian, 2022). Developing nations, particularly those in Africa, present cost-effective labour and raw materials on the global stage. Industrialised and developed economies purchase these resources and possess the capability to transform them into final products. Developing nations acquire manufactured goods at exorbitant costs, thereby depleting the cash that ought to be allocated towards enhancements in their productive potential. Andre Munro (2022) posits that the aforementioned outcome constitutes a self-perpetuating loop that sustains the division of the global economy between an affluent core and a disadvantaged periphery. There are two types of dependency: symmetric and asymmetric.

Symmetric dependency refers to a scenario in which there exists a mutual and equal relationship between two or more countries in terms of economic, social, political, and other endeavours. Stefan Linder's Country Similarity Theory provides a more comprehensive explanation of symmetric reliance. According to this theory, countries that share similar levels of development, such as per capita income and technological capacity, are more likely to exhibit a seamless and reciprocal interdependency. Therefore, industrialised nations have a higher degree of symmetrical interdependence compared to emerging nations. According to the MBA Knowledge Base (2021), a significant majority of the United States' trading partners, specifically three-quarters, are of developed economies.

Conversely, asymmetric dependency refers to a connection that is exploitative and lacks reciprocal benefit, resulting in a loss of self-centered capacity and the potential to grow. The link between affluent and developing nations, sometimes referred to as the core-periphery relationship, serves as a prime illustration of asymmetric dependency. According to Immanuel Wallerstein's dependency theory, also referred to as world system theory, the global capitalist system requires the presence of developing countries or regions that can be exploited, even though colonised or peripheral nations can achieve economic progress and ex-colonists can decline. He changed the analysis's focus from a system of dependency and exploitation between countries to a global system. Wallerstein argues that it is inaccurate to concentrate exclusively on individual nations, as global capital and corporations possess greater influence than nation-states and function beyond national borders. According to Karl (2015), the author posits that the global system is characterised by the interconnections among three distinct capitalist zones, namely the core, semi-periphery, and periphery. Furthermore, the author suggests that nations have the ability to ascend or descend the economic hierarchy within this system.

MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY

This essay utilises a qualitative methodology and relies on secondary data sources to thoroughly examine and analyse the impact of neocolonialism on Africa's growth and development. According to Jennifer (2017), this approach will effectively tackle the "how" and "why" aspects of the research issue, facilitating a more profound analysis and comprehension of the experiences, phenomena, and context associated with the study topic (p. 61). This work employs a method of analysis to facilitate a rigorous and thorough assessment of information, hence substantiating the soundness of hypotheses and ascertaining veracity (Sanjida, 2022). The research methodology employed in this study does not entail the acquisition of primary data or empirical research. Instead, it focuses on the examination of existing literature, historical records, and scholarly analysis. The scholars conduct a comprehensive examination of the academic literature, including books, journal articles, reports, and other scholarly materials, pertaining to the topic of neocolonialism in Africa. The aforementioned secondary sources offer essential data and information that facilitate comprehension of the historical backdrop, the ramifications of neocolonial practices, and the obstacles encountered by African nations in their endeavours towards development.

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK: NEOCOLONIALISM MECHANISMS AND METHODS INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMERCE

Foreign help possesses a substantial historical foundation, wherein military support emerged as the prevailing mode of assistance during ancient eras. During the colonial period, European nations committed substantial financial resources to their colonies, with a primary emphasis on enhancing infrastructure and fostering economic development. Following World War II, the Marshall Plan was put into effect and international organisations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund were established. These institutions have been crucial in allocating global funding, establishing criteria for aid eligibility, and assessing the effects of foreign assistance (Williams, 2022). Nevertheless, it is imperative to recognise that foreign aid was also utilised as an economic and political tool to exert control and manipulate developing nations in the aftermath of World War II. According to Williams (2022), the United States, the former Soviet Union, and their respective allies utilised foreign aid as a diplomatic instrument throughout the Cold War in order to cultivate political relationships and acquire strategic benefits. Although the Marshall Plan effectively facilitated the reconstruction of Europe, contemporary foreign aid initiatives have encountered censure due to their disproportionate magnitude and impediment to the progress and advancement of the countries receiving assistance.

Advocates of assistance contend that the efficacy of the Marshall Plan might be emulated in Africa through the implementation of suitable policies. Nevertheless, they frequently fail to acknowledge that the Marshall Plan was a limited and targeted intervention, in contrast to the continuous and unrestricted obligations that currently exist. Long-term assistance promises have the potential to cultivate a perception of entitlement within governments, so impeding the advancement of innovation and growth (Dambisa, 2009). According to Akinola (2012), the provision of financial assistance to governments that are not functioning effectively is likely to lead to the squandering of funds and an escalation in imprudent expenditure. The prevailing approach of providing aid has resulted in a rise in debt, elevated inflation rates, instability in the currency market, restricted appealing investment prospects, and an increased likelihood of civil strife and turmoil in African countries.

According to Kieran (2022), foreign aid has been found to be unsuccessful in mitigating poverty in African nations. Moreover, the provision of foreign aid has contributed to the perpetuation of corruption in nations plagued by widespread corruption. Government officials who engage in corrupt practices have the potential to misappropriate aid monies, procure military weapons, launch initiatives of minimal significance, and augment the government workforce without making substantial contributions to economic growth or development. Aid money, instead of uplifting impoverished individuals and fostering progress, might inadvertently contribute to corruption. According to the African Union, corruption in Africa incurs an annual cost of $150 billion, and international donors frequently overlook the unintentional contribution of aid funds to graft (Adeniyi et al., 2016). Hence, numerous African governments have developed a strong reliance on foreign assistance, resulting in limited progress in human development and negligible per capita GDP (Dambisa, 2009).

Notwithstanding the adverse effects of help on the growth and development of Africa, the inflow of aid persists inside the continent. The allocation of aid is frequently influenced by the political and strategic motivations of donor states, rather than being solely based on the genuine requirements of recipient countries. Consequently, this phenomenon gives rise to a novel manifestation of colonialism. According to Nna et al. (2011), African states experience a state of dependency on donor countries, resulting in a state of indebtedness to these nations. This perpetuates the pursuit of profit maximisation and private gain for the donor countries. The success and efficacy of the Marshall Plan were ascribed to various variables, including as significant financial resources, a well-defined timeframe, favourable market circumstances, and strategies led by the recipients. The primary determinant was the formulation of plans by the receivers, with a specific emphasis on reinstating growth driven by the private sector and mitigating economic volatility (Westcott, 2022), a characteristic that was absent in the African recipient nations.

Foreign commerce, like foreign aid, can exacerbate African neocolonialism by exacerbating disparities in bargaining power, unequal information access, and unjust trade agreements. The phenomenon of commodity trade mispricing enables multinational firms to engage in the undervaluation of commodities or services, resulting in significant financial losses for African nations. Multinational businesses (MNEs) sometimes employ mispricing as a strategy to artificially transfer earnings from countries with higher tax rates to those with lower tax rates, hence diminishing the overall tax liability (Irene & Elisabeth, 2022). African nations are heavily dependent on the exportation of agricultural and raw products, which are sometimes sold at prices below market value, leading to substantial financial losses. Ghana experienced a substantial undervaluation of its gold and cocoa exports, resulting in a loss of about $2.2 billion in tax income from 2011 to 2017 (Irene & Elisabeth, 2022).

In a similar vein, it can be observed that Ethiopian coffee cultivators receive comparatively lower remuneration in contrast to international corporations and investors who generate significantly higher profits from Ethiopian coffee (Rosa, 2020). The perpetuation of a cycle of dependency and hindrance of economic growth in Africa can be attributed to the combined effects of foreign aid and unfair trade practices. The reassessment and restructuring of these methodologies are crucial in order to foster sustainable growth and establish fair economic collaborations across the continent. The significance of recipient-driven initiatives and a concentration on prosperity and stability led by the private sector is underscored by the achievements of the Marshall Plan (Westcott, 2022). It is imperative for African nations to give precedence to self-determined policies that effectively tackle their own issues and efficiently utilise their resources in order to promote sustainable development. Africa may achieve more self-sufficiency and prosperity by tackling the problems of foreign aid and unfair trade practices.

Net Official Development Assistance Received (US$) by Sub-Saharan Africa and Trade (% of GDP) of Sub-Saharan Africa from 1991-2021		
Year	**Net Official Development Assistance Received in Billions (Us Dollars)**	**Trade (% of GDP) of Sub-Saharan Africa**
1991	**17.82**	**38**
1992	**19.24**	**40**
1993	**17.35**	**39**
1994	**19.19**	**41**
1995	**18.64**	**43**
1996	**16.35**	**43**
1997	**14.9**	**45**
1998	**14.48**	**46**
1999	**13.23**	**46**
2000	**13.06**	**51**
2001	**14.29**	**50**
2002	**19.05**	**49**
2003	**24.88**	**51**
2004	**24.49**	**55**
2005	**32.84**	**57**
2006	**41.2**	**59**
2007	**36.17**	**59**
2008	**40.26**	**61**
2009	**44.31**	**52**
2010	**44.36**	**57**
2011	**47.33**	**60**
2012	**46.76**	**60**
2013	**47.7**	**59**
2014	**46.46**	**58**
2015	**44.77**	**56**
2016	**44.32**	**54**
2017	**49.57**	**56**
2018	**50.89**	**58**
2019	**53.08**	**56**
2020	**66.89**	**52**
2021	**62.29**	**57**

Source: World Bank Open Data 2023

This table displays the Official Development Assistance (ODA) received by Sub-Saharan Africa throughout the years. There is evidence to imply that there has been a consistent upward trajectory in the provision of foreign aid to the sub-Saharan African region. The table additionally presents variations in the proportion of trade relative to GDP in the Sub-Saharan African region. The trade percentage exhibited a reasonably consistent trend from 1991 to 2005, followed by succeeding years of growth, reaching its highest point in 2008 and subsequently experiencing fluctuations. This observation implies an increasing dependence on commerce as a catalyst for economic development in the sub-Saharan African region (Dennis & Udo, 2021). The aforementioned data has significant economic implications, including a reliance on foreign aid, restricted economic diversification, ineffective allocation of resources, potential debt concerns, missed prospects for growth, and susceptibility to external shocks.

MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION (MNC)

Lazarus (2001) defines a multinational corporation as a corporate entity that conducts operations in multiple countries and serves as the organisational structure that characterises foreign direct investment (p. 107). The African continent exhibits a proclivity for expediting comprehensive growth and attaining the status of the most affluent continent, owing to its possession of over 30% of the global mineral reserves and around 10% and 8% of the world's oil and natural gas reserves, respectively (World Bank, 2017). Although many African nations possess abundant natural resources, the continent nevertheless faces challenges such as poverty, economic stagnation, and underdevelopment. The inquiry that emerges pertains to the causes that have impeded African nations from efficiently harnessing these resources, as well as the entities that own control over or derive advantages from them.

The examination of individuals inside the continent is a significant contributing component. Regulation is imperative due to the inherent nature and contextual factors surrounding the operations of these corporations in Africa (Udoh, 2016). These corporations frequently act as representatives of their colonial predecessors, resulting in the exploitation of natural resources and the establishment of centralised political control over land and resources that were previously under the jurisdiction of local institutions. This action effectively results in the transfer of concession rights from local communities to the government. According to Oyier (2017), the historical control over natural resources in Africa was mostly held by local communities and the people. However, this control was interrupted by colonial powers who subsequently transferred this authority to the government. Successive African administrations have upheld this framework, wherein the administration of natural resources is under the purview of the state apparatus, with limited participation from the populace.

The failure to include individuals whose means of subsistence rely on the operations of multinational businesses in the deliberations pertaining to natural resources is a matter of considerable apprehension. According to Semata (2019), there is evidence to suggest that specific African governing officials engage in collusion with multinational corporations in order to exploit resources, amass personal wealth, and exploit their citizens through unethical methods. These methods include corruption and the provision of excessive tax breaks to foreign corporations, which ultimately harms local businesses and industries. Multinational businesses partake in illicit acts, such as the act of paying government officials, with the aim of enacting legislation that aligns with their unlawful endeavours. In 2016, the Anglo-Irish oil giant Tullow utilised the United Kingdom's Department for International Development to exert influence on the Ghanaian government, resulting in the successful passage of a new Oil Exploration and Production Bill, as stated by Mark Langan (2018). This legislation granted oil firms the ability to function under a Hybrid System, so circumventing more stringent rules. By securing financial resources, the department received backing from esteemed institutions such the Ghana Petroleum Commission, the

Natural Resource Governance Institute, and the African Centre for Energy Policy. Research has indicated that investors affiliated with multinational firms frequently exhibit a tendency to target countries with insufficient governance in order to enhance their financial gains, circumvent intricate and time-consuming regulatory frameworks, and manipulate legislation to suit their own interests (OXFAM International, 2013).

Multinational firms engage in trade mispricing, tax avoidance, and tax evasion as means to evade their equitable tax obligations. According to a report by UNCTAD, developing nations experience an approximate annual loss of $100 billion as a result of engaging in tax evasion strategies that involve tax havens (UNCTAD cited in OXFAM International, 2015). According to the Oxfam report (2019), around 75% of the wealth owned by affluent individuals in Africa is stored in offshore accounts. This leads to an annual loss of $14 billion in uncollected tax payments for the continent. The decrease in revenue can be attributed to various factors, including the phenomenon of globalisation, elevated levels of debt, instances of tax evasion, and impacts on the global financial system. In Africa, taxation plays a vital role in financing development initiatives and facilitating the provision of essential public services, including but not limited to clean water, energy, transportation, healthcare, social security, and education. Nevertheless, the facilitation of capital mobility within the worldwide financial system and the capacity of multinational firms to use tax law loopholes in order to evade their equitable portion or choose to exclude themselves from the corporate tax system have emerged as significant challenges.

An instance illustrating the manner in which multinational corporations exploit tax havens and engage in tax avoidance in Africa is the Associated British Foods case. This company, which operates in Zambia, faced allegations in 2015 of non-compliance with tax obligations in Zambia, despite its local subsidiary, Zambia Sugar, generating profits amounting to $123 million. The Zambian government's revenue lost to tax havens was tenfold higher than the educational subsidies provided to Zambia by the U.K. In Nigeria, the Shell Group, specifically its subsidiary Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria, entered into a unique sharing agreement with another subsidiary, Shell Petroleum International Mattschappij BV. This arrangement enabled the Shell Group to remain unprofitable for a duration of eight years, leading to a financial deficit of £20.09 million in tax revenues for the Nigerian government.

The U.N. Conference on Trade and Development has identified several factors that contribute to the susceptibility of numerous African nations to tax avoidance. These factors include the prevalence of intra-company trading, the lack of transparency surrounding foreign investment activities, the existence of loopholes in treaties, and insufficient resources to adequately address the outflow of wealth. In the year 2022, The Conversation The phenomenon of tax avoidance and the establishment of tax havens can be attributed to disparities in economic connections, trade agreements involving multinational firms and their Western counterparts, antiquated tax treaties, and the enduring effects of colonialism. As a consequence, Africa has experienced a disparity between the benefits it receives and the aid it receives. African economies in the process of development have been convinced to implement deregulation and privatisation measures in order to attract international investment. Although this approach may appear rational in terms of securing essential inward investments, its efficacy has predominantly favoured multinational firms. The ongoing exploitation of impoverished African states persists due to the ongoing financial gains that rich nations derive from their self-proclaimed status as tax havens. The strengthening of the rule of law and effective tax administration in Africa is contingent upon the implementation of tax law reforms. According to Gugu (2021),

> have long histories of low tax payments in Africa through unequal economic partnerships, trade terms, and benefits from colonial regimes. Tax avoidance effects are more pronounced on the continent because many African countries still have the unequal bargaining power to effectively reform their tax

> regimes, authoritarian incumbents who benefit from brokering special secret deals with businesses, and weaker tax administration capacities to investigate and enforce tax compliance properly. The result is that Africa loses more money through unequal and outdated tax treaties and trade terms than what it receives through aid.

Bretton Woods Institutions

The establishment of the Bretton Woods institutions, including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and the International Trade Organisation (later renamed the World Trade Organisation in 1995), was primarily supported by the United States and the United Kingdom through the Bretton Woods Agreement of 1944. The accord implemented a novel monetary framework, thereby establishing the U.S. dollar as the prevailing global currency in lieu of gold. The United States, being the sole nation capable of producing currency, emerged as a dominant force in the global economy (Amadeo, 2022; Peet, 2009). The primary objective of the Bretton Woods Institutions was to facilitate the reconstruction of the European economy in the aftermath of World War II. Nevertheless, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund gradually redirected their attention from providing loans to economic development initiatives in developing capitalist nations. The establishment of the World Bank and IMF was portrayed as a mediocre endeavour to revive the worldwide economy following World War II. Furthermore, it played a significant role in promoting and safeguarding capitalist interests and ideology within developing nations, while simultaneously opposing socialist initiatives in those regions.

The African economies were adversely affected by the Structural Adjustment Programme, which was founded on the principles of the Washington Consensus. This consensus primarily advocated for free-market policies, including stabilisation, trade liberalisation, privatisation, currency devaluation, deregulation, and less government intervention. According to the Bretton Woods Project (2019), the Bretton Woods Institutions were able to exercise influence over the economies of developing nations, with a particular focus on Africa. The perpetuation of poverty in Africa can be attributed to the adverse consequences of the Structural Adjustment Programme. Fatton (1992) asserts that the Bretton Woods Institutions exerted influence and dominance over African nations by means of the loan terms and repayment obligations. The majority of African nations enacted the reforms not due to their necessity for their progress, but rather as a prerequisite for receiving help. The ineffectiveness of the Structural Adjustment Programme might be attributed to its primary objective of exerting control over the economy, rather than its professed purpose of providing help. According to Thomson (2010), the implementation of the reforms resulted in a fall in export prices, an increase in import costs, privatisation of national industries, hindrance of local investment, and alignment of agricultural and nonagricultural sectors with foreign demands, leading to increased dependency.

Logan (2015) posited that the assessment of the efficacy of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) in the context of African development was conducted by considering two key factors: effectiveness and necessity. Initially, Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) were regarded as efficacious in rectifying inefficient economic policies and fostering a more inclusive and heterogeneous market, hence facilitating economic expansion. The imperative of making adjustments was perceived as essential in order to address the issue of African debt and foster political stability by means of collaboration and dependency. Subsequently, the efficacy of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) was deemed inadequate due to the escalation of debt and economic stagnation in African nations. Internal issues such as civil wars, the colonial legacy, sickness, and drought were attributed as the primary cause, while inept, reckless, and corrupt African governments were mostly blamed. The inability of African states to repay loans renders SAPs necessary but ultimately ineffectual, hence indicating their potential unsuitability for the African environment. The ineffectiveness of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) non Africa can be ascribed to the necessity for customised solutions that are specifically designed to address the unique circumstances of the African setting. Academics have presented many viewpoints regarding the causes of this failure, with certain individuals ascribing it to the ineffective execution or absence of dedication by African leaders.

However, Heidhues and Obare (2011) argue that the main problem stems from the insufficient competence and aptitude of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) to successfully facilitate market and institutional growth in Africa. This exemplifies the significance of taking into account cultural, economic, and political variables when executing development initiatives across diverse geographical areas. The issue of governance within the Bretton Woods Institutions is a subject of considerable apprehension, mostly stemming from the enduring power disparities between the global North and South. The enduring impact of colonialism has led to a situation where rich nations possess an imbalanced level of control over international trade and finance regulations, frequently placing their own interests above those of developing nations. The governance structure of the World Bank and IMF exhibits inherent flaws and lacks democratic principles, resulting in restricted representation of developing nations in the decision-making process. Although there have been revisions, the appointment of leadership positions is still mostly carried out by the United States and Europe, and the voting power is significantly biassed towards developed nations, particularly the United States and the European Union. The global South, comprising 75% of the worldwide population, possesses a minority of voting power, resulting in unequal distribution. Consequently, the typical individual in the North wields greater influence than the average individual in the South. Furthermore, these establishments sustain racial bias, intensifying disparities in power and inequities throughout the worldwide economy.

According to Jason Hickel (2020), the voting power of individuals from racial minority groups is significantly lower compared to that of white individuals, which is considered the norm. Occasionally, the disparities among nations are notably pronounced. Bangladesh and Nigeria, both of which were under British colonial rule, deserve consideration. In the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the value of a British individual's vote is currently 41 times more than that of a Bangladeshi vote and 23 times greater than that of a Nigerian vote. The allocation of voting power in the World Bank is determined based on the financial shares of each country. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) typically bases its evaluations on gross domestic product (GDP), while also taking into account a country's level of market openness. Consequently, the nations that amassed wealth during the colonial era now possess significant influence in shaping the regulations of the worldwide economy.

While certain individuals may argue in favour of the imbalanced power distribution within these institutions as a means for larger economies to exert greater influence over global economic determinations, it runs against to the fundamental ideals and values upheld by the World Bank and IMF, which claim to advance democratic principles. This is the reason why these organisations have successfully executed detrimental neoliberal structural adjustment initiatives in the global South, thereby favouring multinational firms and Western investors while adversely affecting the South. The implementation of a Double Majority system, which would necessitate the participation of both shareholders and member-states in crucial decision-making processes, has been disregarded despite the appeals made by civil society and political leaders in the global South to democratise the World Bank and IMF (Hickel, 2020). The violation of regulations by the World Bank and IMF is evident in their support of dictatorships for the sake of their political and economic objectives. In 1982, Erwin Blumenthal, an official from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), authored a study regarding the administration of Mobutu in Zaire. In this report, Blumenthal cautioned foreign lenders about the potential risk of non-repayment during Mobutu's tenure. Despite undergoing four Paris Club rescheduling steps between 1976 and

1981, the Zairean government incurred a debt of 2.25 billion dollars and borrowed 5 billion dollars. Despite Mobutu's gross economic mismanagement and misuse of loans, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) persisted in providing help, and in some cases, even increased it. Mobutu's dictatorship served as a strategic ally of the United States and other influential nations inside the Bretton Woods Institutions throughout the Cold War. During the 1990s, there was a decrease in World Bank assistance because to the perception that Mobutu's regime had lost its perceived value (Bretton Woods Project, 2020).

Media and literature

Media and literature play a significant role in the process of socialisation within modern society, exerting considerable influence over individuals' views and interpretations. When employed in a proficient manner, they have the potential to foster the establishment of harmonious relationships within society. Nevertheless, when employed improperly, they possess the capacity to manipulate public perceptions and contribute to societal dysfunction. Throughout the era of colonialism, various colonial agents, including missionaries, merchants, and bureaucrats, disseminated detrimental notions and portrayals pertaining to the African continent. Presently, this phenomenon is sustained through media and literature, as Western news agencies and international cable networks allocate a substantial portion of their reporting to developing nations, specifically Africa. Africa is sometimes shown as a uniform entity afflicted by war, human rights infringements, corruption, sickness, poverty, and violence, devoid of any historical or cultural background. It is typically described as a barren wilderness and a region afflicted by famine and malnutrition (Michira, 2002).

The unfavourable impression and prejudices surrounding Africa can be traced back to its historical connection with slavery and colonialism, which resulted in the perceived cultural, intellectual, political, and technological inferiority of Africa and its people (Benson, 2016; Benson, 2018; Benson, 2020a). The notion of Western cultures being better to those of emerging nations is frequently perpetuated by Western journalists, editors, and academics that engage in writing about Africa. In her 2008 work, Nana Bonsu contends that Western media frequently utilise a broad categorization of Africans when covering events involving individuals from African nations, such as Ghana and Senegal, while correctly recognising inhabitants of Italy or Portugal as such (Benson, 2020b).

Moreover, African news is often eclipsed by adverse occurrences, as highlighted by Ama Biney (1997), who observes that the dissemination of false information about Africa has become widespread in Western societies. The Western media frequently employs analogies and euphemisms, such as the use of black-on-black violence, in their coverage of events in Africa, while neglecting to utilise comparable language when reporting on analogous incidents in Western nations. The media functions as a neocolonial instrument that selectively covers Africa, highlighting crises while disregarding African accomplishments, progress, and contributions to the global society. There has been a compromise in the ideals of journalism, namely objectivity, accountability, credibility, fairness, and impartiality. The Western media frequently depicts Africa, a continent encompassing more than 10,000 ethnic groups, 2,000 languages, and 54 countries, as a unified entity, so presenting a distorted representation of Africa as a continent plagued by failure, instability, economic underdevelopment, famine, disease, and cultural primitiveness. The Western media coverage neglects to acknowledge the historical backdrop and the Western influence in Africa's lack of progress. The African continent holds significant importance in the context of global economic growth and development. It is responsible for the production of more than 20% of the world's petroleum, 50% of diamonds and gold, over 50% of cocoa and palm goods, and the computer chips that propel the high-tech economy (Hawak, 1992; Olujobi, 2006). In accordance with the aforementioned perspective, Rod Chavis (1998) asserts
"The media portrays a negative image of Africa, focusing on its problems and

ignoring its contributions and significance to the world. This perpetuates the belief that Africa is an inferior and underdeveloped continent. The media also fails to acknowledge the importance of African resources to industrialized nations and the profits generated from the exploitation of African art and culture. The media is primarily controlled by Western corporations whose primary motivation is profit, leading to a skewed representation of Africa in the global community. The lack of recognition of African achievements and the exploitation of African resources further perpetuates this negative image."

Paul Johnson's 1993 statement in the New York Times Magazine regarding the promotion of a new manifestation of colonialism, based on practical and moral justifications, particularly in Africa where governments are disintegrating, presents a sophisticated colonial perspective that obscures the actual circumstances in Africa. Although Africa has had and continues to experience corrupt and incompetent leaders, this perspective fails to acknowledge the root causes of the breakdown of African states. These causes can be attributed to the collaboration between the West and corrupt African elites, who exploit African economies through the implementation of neo-liberal economic reforms forced by the West. According to Chavis (1998), there are compelling justifications for the concealment of reality, as it poses a threat to the preservation of prevailing local and international power dynamics. The U.S. operation in Somalia in 1992 was driven by a concealed objective, which contradicted the media's depiction of a humanitarian mission devoid of bias. Prior to the ousting of the pro-US administration under the leadership of Siad Barre in 1991, the allocation of oil production rights was bestowed onto Conoco, Amoco, Chevron, and Philips are American companies that were acquired by Barre's administration.

During the crisis, the media disregarded the fact that these corporations had the potential to benefit from extensive oil reserves (Amy, 1997). In the 1970s, UNESCO launched the New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO) initiative to tackle the unequal allocation of communication resources that benefited industrialised nations, the imbalance in information flow from North to South, and the dominance of transnational corporations. However, the industrialised North (particularly the U.S., U.K., and Singapore) opposed and undermined this initiative by withdrawing their membership from UNESCO. This resulted in a significant decrease in UNESCO's budget, as they were its primary financial backers. Consequently, the NWICO debate came to an end (iResearchNet, 2019; Uloma, et al., 2019). The allocation of significant resources and efforts by the Western Media has been directed towards portraying the continent of Africa in a negative manner. Africa is often portrayed as a continent that has experienced failure and poverty, necessitating aid and development help from Western nations and their allies. This portrayal serves as a means to conceal the excessive exploitation and economic interests of these entities in African resources, which are crucial for Africa's development and economic progress.

THE IMPACT OF NEOCOLONIALISM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF WEST AFRICA

The concept of pseudo-sovereignty

Since achieving independence, West African nations have not encountered genuine or actual sovereignty. Despite possessing legal independence in terms of juridical sovereignty, the economies and political systems of these entities are subject to external control by forces from the Global North, primarily through the provision of aid and development assistance (Udo & Archibong, 2019). According to Thapa (2020), governments that are subject to the influence of neocolonialism possess a theoretical state of independence and possess all the legally recognised characteristics associated with international sovereignty. Nevertheless, in actuality, the economic and political institutions and policies of these entities are subject to external manipulation and direction. Certain researchers, such as Brown (2013), present a counterargument to the notion that foreign powers are encroaching into Africa's sovereignty. They argue that the assistance relationship does not pose a risk to the governance rights of African governments. Although this statement may lack factual accuracy, the argument posits that African leaders consistently find themselves in a predicament or challenging predicament where they must prioritise foreign interests over the well-being of their inhabitants, leading to the deprivation of genuine sovereignty.

Nations such as France continue to exert authority over former colonies by means of coerced colonial agreements, wherein leaders who choose to comply are subjected to punitive measures, while those who acquiesce are granted rewards. Consequently, the attainment of African independence is merely symbolic and illusory. According to Mark (2018), critical academics contend that external factors undermine authentic, verifiable, or de facto sovereignty. African elites and political leaders frequently encounter a predicament wherein they are compelled to relinquish genuine decision-making authority to foreign benefactors or alternatively, reject foreign aid and enforce austerity measures on already impoverished populations (ibid., p. 210).

Corruption

The purpose of foreign aid is to enhance the quality of life for the population and bolster its institutions and legal framework. However, the situation in Africa is the opposite. The African economy has been rendered ineffective and corruption has been fostered among African politicians due to the creation of an environment where foreign aid may be abused for personal benefit without any kind of accountability. The deficient governance structure in Africa has additionally played a role in this phenomenon. For instance, there is a deficiency of robust institutions and efficient processes to guarantee the appropriate utilisation of aid for its designated objectives. This situation provides a potential avenue for dishonest officials to misappropriate a portion of the revenue for their own personal benefit. In the year 2011, there were indications that a significant sum of money, originally designated for the Somali government and contributed by Arab nations, had become unaccounted for. A following inquiry conducted by the United Nations. According to Ibrahim (2017), a significant proportion of development money allocated during the period of 2009-2010 were mismanaged, with a majority of the funds stored in the Somali Central Bank being misappropriated for personal enrichment. In Angola, allegations have been made against the President's family and close friends for utilising their authority over state-owned enterprises and financial institutions to divert funds from foreign aid and oil income (Krawczyk, 2020).

Mispricing in Commodity Trade

The phenomenon of mispricing commodities, such as oil, metals, plant proteins, cereals, and others, in Africa is a substantial economic challenge, leading to financial losses for governments and exacerbating global trade imbalances. The exploitation of natural resources in developing countries by multinational businesses and developed nations is characterised by the practice of paying low rates for these resources and subsequently charging higher prices in developed countries. This phenomenon leads to a transfer of wealth from developing countries to developed countries. This phenomenon can manifest itself through trade policies that exhibit a bias towards industries in rich nations, hence exerting an impact on commodity pricing in developing nations. The situation is further exacerbated by mispricing arrangements, such as misinvoicing and offshore money transfers. Commodity mispricing has had a significant impact on several African countries, namely Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Algeria, and Angola. According to Irene and Elisabeth (2022), the countries mentioned are Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad, and Benin. In order to effectively tackle this matter, it is imperative to implement equitable pricing procedures, mitigate the potential for exploitation by companies and wealthy nations, and undertake measures to prevent mispricing arrangements.

Excessive reliance and the accumulation of debt

Foreign aid has become a growing source of funding for the budgets of African countries. Neocolonialism fosters excessive reliance and the accumulation of debt in Africa through several means. One approach involves the implementation of trade policies that exhibit preferential treatment towards established nations while simultaneously constraining the economic growth potential of developing countries. Consequently, emerging nations are compelled to depend on exporting raw materials to rich countries instead of focusing on the growth of their own industries. Based on the research published by the African Development Bank, there has been a notable rise in Africa's reliance on the exportation of primary commodities in recent decades. Primary commodities constituted approximately 60% of Africa's exports in 1980, whereas in 2017, they constituted approximately 80%.

African countries are becoming more dependent on exporting raw resources and crude minerals instead of focusing on industrial development (AFD stated in UNDP, 2016, p. 10). Moreover, wealthy nations can leverage their economic and political influence to shape the policies of developing countries, resulting in the adoption of economic measures that favour industrialised nations while disadvantaging emerging nations. For example, African countries are obligated to meet specific conditions as a prerequisite for obtaining loans from international financial organisations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) under Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs). These programmes frequently necessitate nations to reduce government expenditures, depreciate their currencies, and liberalise their economies to attract foreign investment, hence prioritising foreign investors over native businesses and excessive dependence on the exportation of raw materials. Therefore, due to the underutilization of resources for the purpose of fostering economic growth in Africa, African governments rely on borrowing as a means to fund their development initiatives. This phenomenon gives rise to a scenario in which emerging nations are unable to maintain the stability of their economies, resulting in a significant reliance on foreign help and loans.

The reliance on foreign aid and loans can result in a recurring pattern of indebtedness, as developing countries are compelled to seek loans in order to satisfy their fundamental necessities. According to a research published by UNCTAD in 2019, Africa exhibits the most elevated proportion of external debt relative to its Gross Domestic Product among all regions globally. In 20-19, the average external debt as a proportion of Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) stood at approximately forty-five percent (45%).

The phenomenon of environmental degradation

The phenomenon of neocolonialism contributes to the deterioration of the environment by exploiting resources in Africa for the benefit of industrialised nations. The phenomenon of over-exploitation results in the exhaustion of resources, the decline of biodiversity, and the degradation of ecological systems. Foreign oil firms have been producing oil in Angola and Nigeria for many years, resulting in pollution of the air, water, and soil, as well as damage to animals and the destruction of habitats (Baumüller et al., 2011). Moreover, neocolonial economic policies exhibit a tendency to prioritise economic expansion at the expense of environmental preservation, hence resulting in the exacerbation of pollution and various other environmental perils. Moreover, neocolonial power systems can curtail the capacity of colonised populations to champion and safeguard their territory and other ecological assets, resulting in their deterioration. Foreign corporations in Ethiopia are leasing extensive tracts of land for the purpose of commercial agriculture, resulting in the displacement of local inhabitants and the destruction of natural habitats (Asebe, 2020).

The decline and subsequent downfall of indigenous industries and investment Multinational firms operating in Africa leverage their economic and political influence to exploit essential resources and labour for financial gain, frequently resulting in detrimental consequences for indigenous industries. Consequently, numerous indigenous industries experience a collapse, leading to employment losses and the marginalisation of local businesses. Multinational corporations (MNCs) employ strategies such as dumping, getting subsidies, exerting control over supply chains, and exerting influence over regulations, so exacerbating the decline of local industries. In addition, they engage in the extraction of natural resources without adequately compensating local communities or taking into account the environmental consequences, so exacerbating the decline in the sustainability of local enterprises.

Uniformity of culture and coerced integration

Neocolonialism resulted in the homogeneity of cultures and the imposition of dominant cultures on less developed nations through trade agreements, foreign aid, and media. Consequently, there is a loss of customary cultures, values, and sentiments of isolation and weakness. Traditional societies in Africa have experienced the imposition of Western fashion, beauty standards, and education systems, resulting in the devaluation of indigenous cultures and languages, as well as feelings of alienation among students.

Violation and abuse of human rights

Neocolonialism has also led to the exploitation or infringement of human rights. The utilisation of economic power by industrialised and imperialist nations to exploit the resources of less developed African countries has resulted in the perpetuation of poverty and limited access to essential goods and services for the indigenous population. In the context of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), it has been observed that international corporations have engaged in the exploitation of the nation's extensive mineral reserves, including cobalt and coltan, without providing sufficient recompense to the indigenous populace. Consequently, there has been a pervasive prevalence of poverty and violations of human rights, such as coerced and underage labour (Ida, 2022). In addition, influential Northern nations have utilised their political clout to bolster authoritarian regimes in less influential nations, resulting in violations of human rights such as political suppression and acts of violence against political adversaries. During the 1960s, the United States provided backing to the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), despite his extensive violations of human rights, because to his perceived role as a stronghold against communism. This assistance played a crucial role in sustaining his government for several decades, resulting in extensive violations of human rights and a severe economic downturn (Stephen, 2014).

Conclusion

This scholarly article delves into the issue of neocolonialism in present-day Africa and its ramifications on the progress of the continent. The essay posits that notwithstanding the cessation of formal colonialism in Africa, external entities persist in exerting power over numerous African nations via economic and political mechanisms, hence perpetuating the state of poverty and inequality.

The foreign powers' influence over Africa's natural resources has had profound adverse consequences on the continent's advancement, resulting in resource depletion and environmental damage. Moreover, the use of foreign aid and loans to manipulate African economies has led to a dearth of economic progress and development. Furthermore, the economic development of Africa has been impeded by trade policies that favour industrialised nations, resulting in the degradation of its agricultural and industrial sectors. Africa's social, cultural, and political development has been greatly affected by the enduring consequences of colonialism. This has resulted in the suppression of indigenous languages, cultures, and traditions, as well as a dearth of representation and accountability within the political institutions imposed by the colonisers. Notwithstanding these challenges, several regions of Africa have achieved notable advancements in development, suggesting the possibility of achieving sustainable and equitable growth through appropriate policies and assistance. The essay posits the importance of acknowledging and confronting neocolonial practices that impede the progress of Africa by ceasing the exploitation of its resources and endorsing policies that foster equitable commerce and alleviate debt burdens. Furthermore, it is imperative to grant African nations the authority to assume authority over their resources and economies in order to attain sustainable and fair economic development.

SUGGESTIONS

Strategic Development

In order to attain sustained economic progress and empirical sovereignty in Africa, it is imperative to implement deliberate planned development initiatives spearheaded by African governments and communities. This entails the execution of research, formulation of strategic goals, and the execution and evaluation of progress over a period of time. By addressing specific local needs and issues in a culturally acceptable and sustainable manner, indigenous knowledge and technology have the potential to greatly advance sustainable development and counteract neocolonialism. Conventional agricultural methods and water management strategies have the potential to enhance soil fertility, boost crop productivity, preserve water resources, and save the environment.

Integration at the regional and continental levels

The promotion of regional and continental integration in Africa has the potential to mitigate the effects of neocolonialism, enhance self-reliance, and foster development through the establishment of a broader market for African goods and services, the facilitation of resource and expertise sharing, and the enhancement of infrastructure development. Consequently, this can result in heightened commerce, capital infusion, and diminished operational expenses in Africa.

Industrialization through the process of selective import substitution

The economic policy of selective import substitution industrialization seeks to foster domestic production and consumption of commodities while restricting the importation of specific goods. Implementing this measure has the ability to mitigate neocolonialism and enhance economic progress in Africa. The implementation of policies such as import taxes or subsidies can effectively mitigate reliance on foreign enterprises and foster economic self-sufficiency by safeguarding home industries. Moreover, the promotion of domestic production has the potential to mitigate the outflow of resources and capital, so fostering sustainable development by ensuring the retention of wealth inside the nation.

Economic diversification

The process of economic diversification in Africa entails the mitigation of dependence on a singular commodity or industry through the establishment of novel sectors such as technology, renewable energy, and tourism, alongside the facilitation of investments across a broader spectrum of industries. Prominent instances encompass the technology sector in Kenya, Rwanda, and South Africa, the investment in renewable energy by Morocco and South Africa, and the flourishing tourism business in Egypt, South Africa, and Tanzania. One potential strategy for enhancing the resilience of African economies to fluctuations in international or global commodity prices is through the diversification of exports.

Afrocentric Education

Afrocentric education is a pedagogical method that prioritises the viewpoints and lived experiences of African individuals, with the goal of questioning and countering Eurocentric prejudices prevalent in conventional educational systems. The process entails including additional African-focused material into the curriculum, employing teaching methods that prioritise African culture, and fostering a strong sense of self-esteem and pride in African heritage among pupils. The objective of this method is to enable students to assume the role of catalysts for transformation within their communities. Its purpose is to serve as a supplementary and complementary component to conventional educational institutions, rather than a substitute for them.

Achieving Self-Sufficiency

Africa can derive numerous advantages by achieving self-sufficiency in fundamental necessities such as defence, food security, water, and energy. Kenya, South Africa, and Senegal have made substantial investments in renewable energy and have enacted laws aimed at diminishing reliance on fossil fuels. Tunisia and Egypt have enacted measures aimed at enhancing water efficiency and diminishing reliance on external water resources. The countries of Ethiopia, Malawi, and Rwanda have enacted policies aimed at enhancing domestic food production and mitigating reliance on imports. Enhancing self-sufficiency in these domains can facilitate Africa's attainment of more autonomy, self-sufficiency, and resilience, which are pivotal measures in surmounting the enduring impact of neocolonialism in Africa.

REFERENCES

Adeniyi, O., Opara, N. M., Adeyemo, T., Ekeria, A. I., & Faith-Lois, B. (2016). African Union and the Challenges of Development. *Journal of African Union Studies*. 5(2/3), pp. 67 89.

African Union. (1995). *Africa: A Century after its Division in the Berlin Conference, 1885*. African Union Commission.

Akinola, A. O. (2012). Foreign Aids in Africa: From Realities to Contradictions. *Global Advanced Research Journal of Social Science*. 1(1), pp.12-17.

Amadeo, K. (2022 May, 26). *Bretton Woods System and 1944 Agreement*. The Balance.

Asebe, R. (2020 November, 11). *The Ethiopian Path to Development Land Grabbing, Displacement, and Internal Migration*. Federal Agency for Civic Education. https://www.bpb.de/themen/migration-integration/laenderprofile/english-versioncountry-profiles/318392/the-ethiopian-path-to-development-land-grabbingdisplacement-and-internal-migration/

Azubuike, S. O., Muirhead, C., Hayes, L., & McNally, R. (2018). Rising global burden of breast cancer: the case of sub-Saharan Africa (with emphasis on Nigeria) and implications for regional development: a review. *World journal of surgical oncology*, *16*, 1-13.

Benson, R. M. (2016). Obolo and Ogoni Economic Relations in the Eastern Niger Delta. *International Journal of Novel Research in Humanity and Social Sciences*, *3*(6), 43-46.

Benson, R. M. (2018). The Historical Relevance of Obolo Women Crafts since the Pre-Colonial Period. *Port Harcourt Journal of History and Diplomatic Studies*, 335-348.

Benson, R. M. (2020a). Market System and Inter-Group Relations since the Pre-Colonial Period in Rivers State Nigeria. *LAPAI Journal of Humanities*, *11*(4), 307-318.

Benson, R. M. (2020b). The Roman Civilization. *Major World Civilizations*, 114-136.

Biney, A. (1997). The western media and Africa: issues of information and images. *Journal of international affairs*, *2*, 1-21.

Bretton Woods Project. (2019 June, 4). *What are the main criticisms of the World Bank and the IMF?* Bretton Wood Project. https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2019/06/what-

Bretton Woods Project. (2020 April, 90). *World Bank and IMF Support to Dictatorships*.

Brown, W. (2013). Sovereignty Matters: Africa, Donors, and The Aid Relationship. *African Affairs*. 112(447), pp. 262 282.

Byju. (2023). *Differences between Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment*. Byju Commerce.

Chavis, R. (1998 October, 02). *Africa in the Western Media*. University of Pennsylvania –

Christian, F. (2022). *Dependency Theory*. Study-Smarter.

Conteh-Morgan, E. (2018). The Military, Militarism and State Integrity in Africa. *Contemporary Issues in African Society: Historical Analysis and Perspective*, 83-105.

Dambisa, M. (2009). *Why Foreign Aid Is Hurting Africa*. Wall Street Journal.

Dennis, O., & Udo, I. L. (2021). Suicide: A Betrayal of African Communalist Personhood. *Meta: Research in Hermeneutics, Phenomenology, and Practical Philosophy*, *13*(1), 220-240.

Enemugwem, J. H., & Sara, R. B. (2009). Obolo (Andoni) Women in Overseas Trade and Traditional Politics, 1400-1800. *African Research Review*, *3*(2).

Ferreira, P. M. (2004). Guinea-Bissau: Between conflict and democracy. *African Security Studies*, *13*(4), 44-56.

Fisher, A. O., & Oludemi, S. A. (2022). Reassessing Regional Integration in the West Africa Sub-Region: Ecowas's Prospects and Challenges. *Britain International of Humanities and Social Sciences (BIoHS) Journal*, *4*(1), 140-150.

Friedrichs, D. O. & Friedrichs, J. (2002). The World Bank and Crimes of Globalization: A Case Study. *Social Justice*. 29(1&2), pp. 87-88.

Gandonu, A. (1978). Nigeria's 250 ethnic groups: realities and assumptions. *Perspectives on ethnicity*, 243-79.

Glaeser, E. L., & Kahn, M. E. (2004). Sprawl and urban growth. In *Handbook of regional and urban economics* (Vol. 4, pp. 2481-2527). Elsevier.

Guengant, J. P., & May, J. F. (2013). Africa 2050: African Demography. In *Emerging Markets Forum: Washington, DC, USA* (p. 60).

Gugu, R. (2021 October, 13). *Lessons from the Pandora Papers: How the World's Elite Keep*

Heidhues, F. & Obare, G. (2011). Lessons from Structural Adjustment Programmes and their

Hickel, J. (2020 November, 26). *Apartheid in the World Bank and the IMF*. ALJAZEERA Opinion. https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2020/11/26/it-is-time-to-decolonisethe-world-bank-and-the-imf

Ibrahim, B. A. (2017 May, 24). *How Foreign Aid Hurts Famine Relief in Somalia*. Foundation for Economic Education Stories. https://fee.org/articles/how-foreign-aidhurts-famine-relief-in-somalia/?utm_source=zapier&utm_medium=facebook

Ida, S. (2022 July, 14). *Child Labor and Human Rights Violations in the Mining Industry of the Democratic Republic of Congo*. Human Right Watch.

Irene M. & Elisabeth B. B. (2022). Countering Commodity Trade Mispricing in Low-Income Countries: A Prescriptive Approach. *Journal of International Economic Law*. 25, pp. 447 463.

Jennifer, A. C. (2017). The Qualitative Orientation in Medical Education Research. *The Korean Journal of Medical Education*. 29(2), pp. 61-71

Juliet, J. (2015 March, 26). *International Development Patterns, Strategies, Theories & Explanations*. Penn State College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. https://www.eeducation.psu.edu/geog128/node/719

Karl, T. (2017 September, 19). *Modernization Theory*. Revise Sociology.

Kieran, M. (2022 February, 7). *Foreign Aid By Country: Who Is Getting The Most And How Much?* Concern Worldwide U.S. https://www.concernusa.org/story/foreign-aidby-country/

Krawczyk, W. J. (2020). Aid, Governance and Public Finance Fraud: Evidence from Angola.

Politeja, 17(69), pp. 19 50.
Kwame, N. (1965). *Neocolonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism*. Thomas Nelson & Sons.
Lazarus A. (2001). *Multinational Corporation (MNC)*. Columbia University Research Blog.
Marc, A., Verjee, N., & Mogaka, S. (2015). *The challenge of stability and security in West Africa*. World Bank Publications.
Michira, J. (2002). *Images of Africa in the Western Media*. Teaching Literature.
Munro, A. (2022). *Dependency Theory*. Britannica. https://www.britannica.com/topic/dependency-theory
Nana B. A. (2008 November 06). *Representations of Africa*. Makhanda: Rhodes University.
Nna, N. J., Taylor, T., & Igwe P. I. (2011). Globalization, Foreign Aid and African Development. *Journal of Social and Policy Issues*. 8(1), pp. 158-168 Northrop, D. (2012). *A Companion to World History*. Willey Blackwell.
Nwagbo, O. G., & Okide, U. J. (2017). LINGUISTIC IDENTITY AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION OF HAUSA COMMUNITY IN IDIARABA, LAGOS STATE. *Interdisciplinary Journal of African and Asian Studies*, *1*(3).
Okide, U. (2021). Perspectives on Cultural and National Development as Reflected in Two Igbo Poems. *Lagos Notes and Records*, *27*(1), 96-113.
Okide, U. J. (2019). Inter-Female Hostility as a Cultural Behavior in Freud's Theory of Aggression. *Culture, Precepts, and Social Change in Southeastern Nigeria: Understanding the Igbo*, 113.
Okide, U. J. (2021). Igbo feminist consciousness originated from western feminism: Debunking the falsehood. *COOU JOURNAL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES (CJAH) FORMERLY ANSU JOURNAL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES (AJAAH)*, *5*(3).
Okide, U. J. (2022). Child Abuse In The Igbo Family: An Analysis of Osuagwu's Nwa Ngwii Puo Eze. *Nigerian Journal of African Studies (NJAS)*, *4*(1).
Okide, U. J. (2023a). Cultural Views of Wealth in Traditional and Contemporary Igbo Society: Perspectives from Maduekwe's "Ego na-ekwu". *NIGERIAN JOURNAL OF AFRICAN STUDIES (NJAS)*, *5*(2).
Okide, U. J. (2023b). Cultural Views of Wealth in Traditional and Contemporary Igbo Society: Perspectives from Maduekwe's "Ego na-ekwu". *Nigerian Journal of African Studies (NJAS)*, *5*(2).
Olujobi, G. (2006 November, 29). *The Africa You Need to Know*. Truth Dig Platform. https://www.truthdig.com/articles/the-africa-you-need-to-know/
Olusakin, V. A., & Udoh, M. (2018). African and Christian Theology of Environment as a Model for the Control of Global Warming.
Otto, D. (2023). The Ethical Implications for Anthropocentric Causes of Environmental Warming and Flooding. *Alkebulan: A Journal of West and East African Studies*, *3*(1), 101-107.
OXFAM International. (2019). *A Tale of Two Continents: Fighting Inequality in Africa*. OXFAM GB Publishers.
Oxford English Dictionary. (2022). *Colonialism*. Oxford United Press.
Oyier, C. (2017). Multinational Corporations and Natural Resources Exploitation in Africa:
Peet, R. (2009). International Organizations. In Rob Kitchin, & Nigel Thrift, (Eds*), International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, (pp. 536-547). Elsevier.
Romney R. (2022 November, 13). *International Trade*. Britannica Encyclopedia.
Rosa C. (2020 June, 26). *Neocolonialism: How Western Corporations Are Exploiting Africa*. Illumination.https://medium.com/illumination/neocolonialism-how-westerncorporations-are-exploiting-africa-d0e197af1950
Sanjida, S. (2022 December, 28). *Analytical Research: What is it, Importance, and*
Saturnino, M. B., Ruth, H., Ian, S., Ben, W. & Wendy, W. (2011). Towards A Better Understanding of Global Land Grabbing: An Editorial Introduction. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*. 38(2), pp. 209-216
Saylor, M. J. (2011). *Ethnic Groups in Africa*. Washington, DC: Saylor Academy Resources.

Semata, F. (2019 October 18). *Geopolitics: Why Multinationals Are Exploiting Africa*. BusinessWeek.https://www.busiweek.com/geopolitics-why-multinationals-areexploiting-africa/

Serequeberhan, T. (1998). Philosophy and Post-Colonial Africa. In E. Chukwudi Eze (ed), *African Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 9-22). Blackwell Publishers Ltd.

Statistica. (2023). *Number of People Living Below the Extreme Poverty Line in Africa from 2016 to 2027(In Millions)*. Statistica. https://www.statista.com/statistics/1228533/number-of-people-living-below-the-extreme-poverty-line-in-africa/

Thomson, A. (2010). *An Introduction to African Politics, 3rd Edition*. Taylor & Francis.

Thornton, J. K. (2020). *A history of West Central Africa to 1850* (Vol. 15). Cambridge University Press.

Udo, I. L., & Archibong, E. I. (2019). The Oddity of Time and Time in African Worldview. *Journal of African Studies and Sustainable Development*, *2*(8), 40-49.

Udo, I. L., & Inua, U. (2020). Hobbes' social Contract Theory: Implications for Citizens Cum Government Relationship in Nigeria. *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *18*(3).

Udoh, M. (2016). The nature and scope of philosophy. *Philosophy and logic for beginners. Robertminder international limited.*

Uloma, O. V., Mbonu, C. N., Onuorah, A. C., Mbarah, G. O., Anyacho, E. O., Orji, M. B., ... & Eucharia, O. E. (2019). *Culture, Precepts, and Social Change in Southeastern Nigeria: Understanding the Igbo*. Lexington books.

UNCTAD. (2019). *Trade and Development Report 2019*. United Nations Centre for Trade and Development. https://unctad.org/system/files/officialdocument/tdr2019ch4_en.pdf

UNCTAD. (2021). *State of Commodity Dependence 2021*. United Nations.

UNDP. (2016). *Primary Commodity Booms and Busts Emerging: Lessons from Sub-Saharan Africa*. United Nations Development Programme – Regional Bureau for Africa.

World Bank. (2017). *Extractive Industries*. World Bank Group. http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/extractiveindustries/overview (pp. 183-199). Academic Press.