



Africa in the Era of Globalization: Issues and Prospects

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ABSTRACT

Globalization is a recent terminology that has revolved around the stimulated technologies of the late 1980s and 1990s. The aspects of globalization this study adopts revolve around the aptness in the transportation system, the advent of satellite communication, improvement within the banking and telecommunications sectors, foreign investment and market integration, etc. Others include - diminishing state-centric political economy and military rivalries to dominate the international system after the Cold War since national borders cannot stop the flow of information and other technological development. This study discovered that Africa is still far from attaining every necessary index to be part of the globalized era. What Africa contributes to the era presently is raw materials, and further pays heavily to buy from global technologies. The study made use of secondary sources of data gathering to boost the content of the research. The study is of the view that Africa can only benefit effectively from the era of globalization if she effectively develops a home-grown technology, upgrade her infrastructure to meet up with the 21st-century standard, and train her human resources in the science of innovation and inventions, etc. The study believes that - Africa like Japan, China, and Korea can still catch up with the first world if it can look inward and harness its human and natural resources effectively for effective competition in the era of globalization.

Keywords: Globalization; Africa; Dependency; Interdependency; Technology; Underdevelopment.

INTRODUCTION

The word “globalization” is being used to describe the phenomenally rapid expansion of many sorts of global interactions. The most significant change that the international system is experiencing presently is the trend towards globalization. When we talk about the world as a global village or a global market, then we are talking about globalization (Akpuru-Aja 2001). Countries are becoming interdependent, the number of international organizations and their powers is increasing, and global communications have become widespread and almost instantaneous. Thus, globalization is a complex concept but borders majorly on the electro-communication process which brings together, people across the globe in various sectors of society (Giddens 2018).

Indeed, globalization is mostly a modern phenomenon stimulated by technology. The ability of modern transportation to move masses of goods and people quickly over long distances, the virtually instant access to information from satellite communications, and many of the other aspects of globalization technology are brand new relative to the scope of human history (Steger 2017). Globalization thrives through the mass movement across national and regional boundaries of goods and services, by way of trade and investment, and often of people, through migration. It is spurred by the initiatives of individual economic actors, including firms, banks, and people often in the pursuit of profit and usually urged on by the pressure of competition. Increasingly, it is becoming crystal clear that territorial boundaries are less significant in so far as a social activity and relations no longer cease at “the water edge” (Offiong 2001). Globalization according to Akpuru-Aja (2001), is a “self-propellant networking process but not neutral” (p. 142). In other words, it works only in favor of those nations or conglomerates that can influence it with sound networking strategies and technology.

Networking strategies as mentioned above involve a sound intellectual analysis by a particular country, of the movement and direction of globalization forces, to understand how best to adjust to such forces concerning the domestic strength and weakness of the particular country or region (Held 2013). It also involves the possession of high-tech production culture as well as the adoption of strategic trade policies by national governments for their multinational corporations (MNCs). It is in this light that it can be observed, the fact that what a nation gains or losses in the era of globalization depends a lot on the effectiveness of its strategy. This study examines the concept of globalization by way of presenting a brief history of the phenomenon, its relationship with imperialism, and an analysis of its implication and effect on Africa as a region.

CONCEPTUALIZATION OF GLOBALIZATION

Globalization as a term became popular in the 1980s (Offiong 2001). However, a popular and all-encompassing definition for the term is non-existent. The reason for this is not farfetched as globalization covers many aspects of life. Therefore many commentators have offered various definitions; the economic perspectives, social, cultural, and even from a radical point of view rejecting the idea of globalization as the triumph of the capitalist western super powers over other nations especially the third world countries.

Economist generally views globalization rather positively. David Rockefeller of Chase Manhattan Bank once remarked; “broad human interests are being served best in economic terms where free market forces can transcend national boundaries” (Brecher & Costello 1998, p. 15). In a competitive global market, different countries will specialize

in the products they can make best, so goes Ricardo's law of comparative advantage. However, in Africa, it translates to the law of comparative disadvantage in part because specialization and export of raw materials were not voluntary and it is not altogether profitable (Siddiqui 2018). Still, under the perspective of economists, Maria Elena perceives globalization as the change in the way production is organized as required by the general dismantling of trade barriers and the free mobility of financial and productive capital, in the context of accelerated technology change (Akpuru-Aja 2001). This particular definition acknowledges the relevant role of technology in the enhancement of economic relations between countries in the aspect of production and commerce.

Ademola Oyejide (2007) further asserts that globalization refers to the increased integration across countries, of markets for goods, services, and capital. It implies in turn accelerated expansion of economic activities globally and sharp increases in the movement of tangible and intangible goods across national and regional boundaries. It is important to state here that globalization is more than the flow of money and commodities. Thus, the definition of globalization by Jack Lule (2021) is the growing interdependence of world people and activities through shrinking space, time, and disappearing borders. Globalization creates a global village based on shared values.

In this same line of thought, Onimisi (2014) acknowledges globalization as a process integrating not just the economy but culture, technology, and governance. The concept is used to represent the growing worldwide interdependence of people and countries. It was earlier stated in the introductory part of this work that globalization is not an even process. In other words, countries that wish to partake in the blessings of globalization must be ready to play their cards well economically, culturally, socio-politically, and otherwise. This explains why the rich western capitalist nations of Europe and North America are found in the mainstream of world economic and political affairs while poor third-world countries continue to languish in misery at the periphery. It is in this regard that some radical scholars out of frustration have outrightly condemned globalization as an instrument of perpetual domination used by the strong European countries and the United States against the weaker nations of the world.

The definitions of globalization by scholars in this category reflect their grievances towards international economic order obtainable in the era of globalization. Thus scholars like Dan Offiong (2001) conceived globalization as the consummation of the internationalization of capitalism and its associated institutions and the subjugation of the peoples of the globe, which began several centuries ago. Some other radicals viewed globalization as the “triumph of giant European, American and Asian MNCs to create a conspicuous monopoly over world markets, thereby serving the function of agents of neo-colonization to their home governments (Art *et al.*, 2009).

While some of them viewed globalization as Americanization the triumph of Hollywood and the American culture over the world, others held it to mean a race to the bottom in labor standards – exploitation of the working class in the less developed countries with the payment of low wages by the multinational corporations wishing to maximize profit. It may interest you to know that the definitions above represent just a very tiny fragment of the concept of globalization which is very complex and multifaceted. However, the whole definitions share one thing in common; the process that is diminishing or erasing many of the factors that divide the world (Rouke 2005). Furthermore, Otor (2017) in his attempt to conceptualize globalization noted that

globalization is “experienced when virtually when all nation-state becomes part of a larger pattern of global transformations and global flows of goods, people, information, and communication as well as crime...” He is further of the view that “fashion and belief and rapid movements across territorial boundaries are major indices of globalization” (p. 370). Finally, Otoro (2017) is of the view that globalization has diminished state-centric political economy and military rivalries to dominate the international system after the Cold War as a result of the fact that national borders cannot stop the flow of information and other technological development.

Therefore, the era of globalization is witnessing the conspicuous collapse of the political and socio-economic barriers that hitherto impeded large interactions between different peoples of the world. Proponents of globalization as interdependence such as Fukuyama, therefore, see a better world if nation-states would realize and utilize to maximize the opportunities presented by interdependency resulting from globalization. Their beliefs hinged on the premise that interdependency has opened up the world, reduced the abuse of human rights and eradication to a large extent, social and economic injustices by national governments (Ogbonnaya 2013).

Finally viewing globalization from the lance of a political scientist and a historian, Ellah (2017) has noted that globalization is a powerful phenomenon, it is a real aspect of the new world system and it represents one of the most influential forces in determining the future of the globe. It has manifold dimensions in economic, political, security, environmental, health, social, cultural, and other aspects of life. It has significant impacts on all the economies of the world, with manifold effects on their developments. Globalization also affects the production of goods and services, employment of labor, and other inputs in the productive processes. It affects investments in both physical and human capital; it affects technology and results in the diffusion of technology from initiating nations to other nations (Ellah 2017). It has major effects on the level of efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness. Globalization has seriously affected party ideology globally because party ideology is a global problem and it is also the first and most important vehicle that makes the success of a political party/ movement (Ellah 2017).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on two theories: dependency and interdependency theories. The dependency theory as demonstrated by Theotonio dos Santos and cited by (Cockcroft *et al.*, 1972) defines dependency as a situation in which a certain group of countries has their economy conditioned by the development and expansion of another economy, to which the former is subject. The relation of interdependency between two or more economies and between these and world trade assumes the form of dependence when some countries (the dominant) can expand and give impulse to their development, while other countries (the dependent) can only develop as a reflection of this development. Also Paul Baran in his celebrated work titled “The Political Economy of Growth” published in 1957 had argued that the industrial societies of the West were hindering the growth and economic development of the poor societies in the global system, thus making it difficult for them to break out from the clutches of poverty. He believed that the modernizing elite who were supposed to be the catalyst for modernization/globalization was not helping the situation because they were allies of

the bourgeoisie of the Western industrial societies helping to stagnate and exploit their homeland.

From the above analysis, it is clear that the dominant countries (Britain, USA, France, etc) in the era of globalization are capable of dynamic development responsive to their internal needs whereas the dependent ones (Countries of Africa) have a reflex type of development, that is, one both constrained by its incorporation into the global economic system and which results from its mere adaptation to the global requirement of the expansion of the dominant countries. In the era of globalization dependency has conditioned African underdevelopment, and indeed, that of other poor countries or nation-states. It has been so because the nation-states in Africa lack technology and are not industrialized. So the tendency of catching up with the West in terms of technology and industrialization is bleak. Besides, underdevelopment is not an original state as modernization theorists want the world to believe. For instance, the basis of African underdevelopment in the era of globalization to some scholars is traceable to the slave trade and colonial imperialism. According to Offiong (2001), not surprisingly, dependency asserts that some countries have been rich because others have been poor. This complex process which began centuries ago with the onset of global commerce is still alive today and is growing worse, in the case of Africa.

On the application of the interdependency theory to this study, Keohane and Nye Jr (1973) published their influential *Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition*. In that study, the article interrogated the concept of interdependence and made it analytically useful. For the authors, interdependence is simply defined as a mutual dependence resulting from the types of international transactions cataloged by trans-nationalist flows of money, goods, services, people, communications, etc. the demonstrated that interdependence exists when there is reciprocal effects effect among countries or actors in different countries. There is in other words, sensitivity in country X to what is going on in or emanating from country Z. Although there are costs associated with interdependence, as it is by definition restricted autonomy, benefits to either or both parties may outweigh these costs. Thus, interdependence is not necessarily only a matter of country X vulnerable to country Z, which is the realist perspective. But Keohane and Nye Jr (1973) fully recognize the importance of fully vulnerable interdependence such as when one country can manipulate the flow of oil to other countries, while their interest lay elsewhere.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GLOBALIZATION

The 15th century A. D. was indeed a watershed in the world history of globalization (Offiong 2001). It was in this century that the world took its first step towards globalization. Through the voyages of discoveries by Vasco da Gama (1498), Bartholomew Dias (1488), Christopher Columbus (1492) (Akpuru-Aja 2001), through the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope and the sea route to India respectively. Bartholomew Dias and Vasco da Gama offered the European man a long-anticipated opportunity to travel to the Far East in a bid to have access to the East Asian spice rush. These discoveries established in no small measure, trade and cultural contact between Europe and Asia. By this time, however, contact had already been established with Africans by the countries of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal).

Having learned that the world is spherical in structure and shape, Christopher Columbus sought to establish a shorter transport route to the East Indies through the

West Indies. It was in this process that America was discovered and Europe immediately established contact and interaction with the people of the New World – the Red Indians. Ultimately, between 1519 and 1522, Ferdinand Magellan circumnavigated the globe. With these landmark discoveries, there came a large integration of peoples and cultures formerly divided by large oceans and mountains, thereby solving the geographical barriers that hindered communication in the past (Rouke 2005).

In the aspect of communication, the invention of the printing press in 1454 and many other innovations increased global communications but the process greatly accelerated later with the creation of telegrams, the radio, telephones, television, satellite, communications, and the internet. Highly motivated by their achievements so far, the European moved out to conquer and enslave other peoples who would work as slaves on the large European plantations in the New World. Accordingly, Africans were forcefully carried away from their native lands, condemned to eternal subjugation and a life of misery in the large plantation fields. Little wonder African scholars are left with negative impressions about globalization, eternally suspecting it to be a grand plan towards the integration of the rest of the world into the western capitalist economy. Some scholars maintain that the enslavement of Africans by the Europeans remains the foundation of the troubles suffered by Africans to this day.

Globalization, until the latter half of the 1800s, might be termed “creeping globalization” (Grigory, 2020, p. 67). There were changes, but they occurred very slowly. Since the 1800s, the pace of globalization has increased exponentially. The 18th-century phenomenon – the Industrial Revolution, gave birth to technology as a prime mover of globalization. The transport system became faster with the invention of steam engines which were built into ships, trains, and much later aircraft. The euphoria of the industrial revolution facilitated multiple growths of factories in Europe, where raw materials became scarce while manufactured goods became surplus. These factors amongst other issues led to the establishment of colonial territories in African and other third world countries by the European superpowers. It was at the Berlin Conference of 1884/1885 that European nations divided and shared out African territories amongst each of them, meanwhile, those territories would serve as sources of cheap raw materials and absorbers of surplus manufactured goods from Europe at expensive prices. This is another major source of African grievances against the idea of globalization and its present status in world affairs.

Colonialism destroyed the African culture and traditional religion, in addition, to forcefully amalgamating peoples of different cultural and historical backgrounds into the same territorial enclaves (Offiong 2011; Offiong 2016; Egbe & Okoi 2017). This to a large extent represents the bedrock of the present status which the African nations find themselves today even after independence, as they have continued to fight civil wars and tribal wars. The invention of machines, therefore, resulted in a lot of changes that by and over the nineteenth century, European countries and the United States were able to control huge new stores of energy and manipulate large amounts of materials at near incredible low costs (Ellah 2018).

Surplus capital in Europe was often more profitably invested overseas, where cheap labour, limited competition, and abundant raw materials made a greater premium possible. The major difference between the early processes of globalization and the present one is the all-out effort by the United States and its Western allies to use the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to consummate the process

(Offiong 2001). Thus, as colonialism started with Berlin Conference, present globalization started with the formation of international organizations after the World Wars.

Tariffs and other trade barriers have decreased significantly since the end of World War II, and investment across national borders and monetary exchanges has grown very rapidly. Huge multinational corporations (MNCs) now dominate global commerce, and the economic prosperity of almost all countries is heavily dependent on what they import and export, the flow of investment in and out of each country, and the exchange rates of the currency of each country against the currencies of other currencies (Ella 2018). The European Union (EU) has even largely abandoned traditional currencies, such as the French franc, in favour of the common EU currency, the Euro.

People around the world are increasingly dressing alike, listening to the same kind of music, and availing themselves of the cuisines at fast-food restaurants such as MC Donald's and KFC. Also, for good or ill, English is increasingly the global lingua franca. In the aspect of governance, the rapid growth of international interchange has engendered a broad range of global and regional International Governmental Organisations (IGOs), such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Funds, the World Bank, and the European Union, to manage the process of globalization. These organizations require at least some levels of authority and many analysts believe that they might, and perhaps should diminish the authority of the traditional central unit of governance – the state (country) (Rutkowski 2007).

GLOBALIZATION AS A NEW FORM OF IMPERIALISM

Just as imperialism connotes the scrambling and competition for world territories by the European superpowers for economic and political benefits, globalization today represents the intense competition amongst capitalist nations for world markets. Rather than fostering a sense of common interest in the global village, neo-liberal economic practices are bringing the world back to the Darwinian jungle of the survival of the fittest in which everything exists in a perpetual state of fierce competition in pursuit of self-interests (Ogbonnaya 2013).

In this fierce race for world economic supremacy, nations commonly take part by manufacturing industrial goods of international standard. A good example of this phenomenon in recent times is the ongoing trade war between the United States and China over the accumulation of world markets for the sales of their technology. The tech giants – the multinational corporations (MNCs) in solid partnership with their home governments are now involved in what Aja Akpuru Aja (2001) identified as industrial targeting. Industrial targeting refers to a course of conduct involving elements of government/industry cooperation to assist industry to become dominant or firmly established in one or more export markets. In this regard, the imperialist powers are targeting one another by the effective employment of strategic trade policies to promote national interests and the investment interests of their firms.

Thus, while China concentrates on flooding and bombarding the U.S domestic and foregoing markets with Tecno mobile smartphones, for example, the U.S in turn seeks to covet the Chinese technology markets by flooding it with Apple's iPhone. It is however necessary to note that globalization is not just about the competition (151). It is also a matter of cooperation; whereby national governments are involved in balancing national interest (protectionist laws in favour of domestic firms) with external interests

in the form of reducing barriers to foreign investors since those foreign investments still serve some economic benefits to the country's GDP. Therefore, the U.S must allow Tecno smartphones from China to enter her domestic markets even though it constitutes a trade threat to her own indigenous MNCs -Apple. Consumers are now left with the freedom to choose based on the taste and financial capability of each individual. China on her part must reciprocate by liberalizing her trade policies to allow foreign investments, to ensure the free flow of capital across national economies.

In this complex network of trade interactions between national economies, the government of each nation especially the developed countries, do support their MNCs in the manufacture of more productive technology to make for more exports towards ensuring balance of trade. It is quite regretful that the less developed countries especially the African nations have nothing to offer in all these international trade configurations. The reasons for this assertion shall be revealed under the analysis of the status of African in the era of globalization.

AFRICA IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

The era of globalization has seen Africa and most poor countries of the third world stocked in the cage of poverty and frustrations. Africa is too far from globalization because macro-economic indicators reveal negative trends in domestic savings, physical infrastructure, productive technology, public and private discipline, and external debt burden and security climate for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (Kondo 2011). Africa in the era of globalization cannot boast of any productive technology. Africa does not manufacture goods but only engages in buying and selling in the global system. In the war-stricken African continent, meeting with the pressures of trade liberalization, market-orientated policies, fiscal restraints, and more efficient state machinery is too difficult and frustrating.

Africa in the era of globalization is still consuming largely what it can produce and export. There are high negative interest rates that are a result of economic mismanagement, corruption, and high inflation rates. External debts have become the order of the day, posing a big challenge to African economic growth. There is political instability across the region alongside high corruption. African leaders are docile about the whole economic crisis since they are not the ones to bear the burnt but the poor masses. Furthermore, African indigenous cultures are being neglected as more Africans embrace the western way of life which encourages extravagance and high consumption. These and a whole gamut of issues not mentioned here are hindering African growth and integration into the world economy in the era of globalization.

NIGERIA IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

Nigeria is fast losing its pride of place as the “giant of Africa”, there is no gainsaying the fact that in this age of globalization, technological advancement is a major yardstick in the determination of a country's independent status (Ekanem and Ogar 2007; Ekpo & Offiong 2020). But it is quite painful that Nigeria as a country amid bountiful mineral resources still lacks the scientific and social climatic conditions necessary for technological development (Offiong 2016b; Betiang *et al.*, 2018). There is no political will to lead the country in the direction of technological advancement. The intellectual disposition of the leaders is not broad enough to comprehend the complex nature of technology and its development. Technology makes input into the solutions of several

problems such as economic, social, and environmental or even the specific issues like poverty alleviation, job creation, wealth generation, inadequate human capital among others. As a result of the lack of technology, the country lay prostrate to European capitalism in the name of technological transfer. But technology is culture-specific; hence the idea of transferring technology stands on faulty logic. The technology of Japan, America, Europe, Israel, Russia, Taiwan, etc. is different because each developed its technology according to its cultural experiences and needs. You don't borrow technology but you steal it because the western nations will never reveal the secret of their trade to anyone so easily.

Onyekpe, 2003 in Igwe Dickson's article "Nigeria in the Age of Globalization" (2013), acknowledged that years of military rule in Nigeria that coincides with the oil boomerang witnessed the worst wastage of public funds by the military in power; some on nonproductive projects while others were snatched out of the country and lodged into foreign accounts where it is bettering foreign economies at the expense of the home economy. National Science and Technology Fund had been established as a great step towards improving the country's technological base. But an assessment or investigation about how far NSTF has gone will only reveal the depth of moral decadence in Nigerian society.

The scene is that the fund managers are political appointees of the ruling class. Such appointments are seen as political settlements and rewards because they are not based on merits. Professionals are not being allowed to manage the funds; rather you have mediocre, who reflect square pegs in round holes. Even the foreign loans and aids meant for this purpose are all split into foreign accounts of the individuals that make up the NSTF and their political masters. These and other self-afflicted predicaments are the major hindrances to the integration of Nigeria into the global economic mainstream.

WHAT AFRICA MUST NOTE ABOUT GLOBALIZATION

In this era of technological race, Africa must sit up if it must register its relevance optimally in the international system. Japan, China, and South Korea in the era of globalization are very clear examples of countries that can be emulated by Africa for their successes. The significance and most interesting stories about these countries are that most of them have no natural resources at least in comparison to the most deprived and resource-poor countries in Africa. Another interesting fact about this great country is the extent to which they have risen over time to fit in and contain the challenges of globalization. For instance, Japan has in the era of globalization lived above the American atomic shock in World War II to rather become an economic rival to America.

In 1985, Japan surpassed Great Britain as the largest foreign investor in the United States with a \$4 trillion-plus market and continues to pour billions of dollars into the American economy (Akpuru-Aja 2001). North Korea and Albania were underdeveloped as late as the fifties. The reason they have been able to register the most outstanding economic progress is clear; opting out of the primary production of raw materials for the so-called world market and diverting their resources towards the development of materials and technological base internally (Rodney 2010). Nevertheless, with a cue from Japan, China, and South Korea, this stud is of the view that indigenous technology can help Africa diversify towards the promotion of exports to improve her economies.

Educational policies must be used as strategic tools towards the actualization of national goals. Japan in her days of humble beginnings made education a priority (Mgbada 2004). Japanese students were sponsored by her government to school abroad and to return to Japan later to communicate the western knowledge they had acquired to the younger generation. Arithmetic and physics should be taught with the local language to aid comprehension in Africa. In essence, African culture must be encouraged in a way for African to develop in their original style. The future of Nigeria and Africa depends largely on the greater empowerment of the private sector so that the indigenous bourgeois class would feel able to compete with foreign investors from a position of relative strength rather than weaknesses. Political stability and social harmony are security assistants for a fruitful Foreign Direct Investment in Nigeria and Africa in this era of globalization.

Even if every citizen of Africa should possess an internet address, a personal computer, a palm pilot and a cell phone, if the institutions through which these people would have to operate to generate growth and interact with the global system are corrupted and corroded, then all the gadgetry in the world won't make a dime worth of difference. African leadership must be made to understand that the little secret about globalization is not just about, reading, writing, and arithmetic. It is still not about churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques, etc. But that it is about technological development, innovations, the rule of law, good governance, institution building, free press, and a process of democratization. If these fundamentals are gotten right, then things will work out naturally for economic progress/advancement in Africa.

Nevertheless, Africa must begin to see the bad side of foreign aids in that; foreign assistance serves no other function than creating a new class of consumers in developing countries. Foreign aids have overtime subjugated Africa the more without her knowledge. The worst of it is that the aids collected were never put into good use but only embezzled by greedy African leaders and their surrogates. Those leaders are dormant because they are not the ones who bear the brunt but the poor masses. In essence, Africa must allocate more and more resources to education, research and development (R&D), improvement and support for the local industries, and lastly a quest towards regionalization. More could be achieved if African countries agree to come under one economic umbrella like the EU is doing today and adopt one currency as the Euros. Regionalization will reduce trade barriers/ issues and then increase the local market base in Africa to make the European markets play second fiddle.

Human rights and the rule of law will also go a long way in sustaining the political stability needed for economic growth. Political stability is not just important for the local industries but will also encourage foreign investors to invest capital in African countries which will, in turn, lead to significant growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). African leaders must encourage their citizens to patronize local industries. The African elites must eliminate the ostentatious culture of lining up the fleet of imported cars as a show of affluence and opulence. The citizens are quick to copy the lifestyle of their leaders; therefore the use of foreign products as a show of financial superiority must stop. There is a need for African to eat and use African Products. Africa's natural resources should be explored towards the development of the continent. Nigeria as a country has no less than 33 strategic solid mineral resources, virtually untapped (Akpuru-Aja 2001). It is also quite amazing to note that it was the uranium mined in the Zairian Province of Shaba that fueled the American bombs which leveled Hiroshima and

Nagasaki (Offiong 2001). The significance is that God has blessed the continent with such minerals but ironically only one country in Africa could produce a nuclear bomb – South Africa is wrong.

African leaders must also bear in mind that the industrialized societies are fast evolving alternatives to the mineral resources they get from Africa which is Africa's selling commodity. This explains why the price of crude oil continues to crash in world markets since other sources of energy like solar are being developed. Sir Winston Churchill once said that “healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have”, this goes to say that African governments must invest in their citizens' welfare (human resources), by ensuring the eradication of hunger and the establishment of an efficient healthcare system. This will in no small measure increase the patriotic and innovative spirits of the African people which will, in turn, reflect in the development of Africa. These are possible solutions that can yield unimaginable results quicker than expected. What is needed for African growth in the era of globalization is the right attitude, approach, and orientation, which the educational sector will provide if it is based on the right kind of philosophy.

CONCLUSION

This study attempted a presentation of a clear analysis of what globalization is all about while exploring its pros and cons through constructive arguments. The place of Africa and the third world in this era of near-instantaneous communication between peoples across the globe was carefully examined. The study also attempted a brief history of globalization and how it has survived into our contemporary world. Such survival as explained was largely influenced by technology, thus leaving those countries without productive technology at the periphery of the international economy.

Whatever the case may be, globalization still presents the disadvantaged countries with the opportunity of re-integration into the global system, only if they can apply some fundamental tactics which have been analyzed in the body of this study. Africa and other less developed continents must therefore relate their actions to their concrete experiences and must not give way to metaphysical hopes and wishes, hoping and wishing that the monster that has been after them throughout their history will someday change into a lamb.

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