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#### THEME:

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and Globalization

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Section D: Economic Growth, Development

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## THE IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBALISATION ON NIGERIA'S DEVELOPMENT

by

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and

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The world has witnessed increased interdependent in the last two decades as a result of globalisation. This has had, and continue to have a very real impact on Africa's development. The paper examines the implications of globalisation for the developmemt process in the typical developing market economy like Nigeria. Against this background, the potentials of the Nigerian economy benefiting from the gains of globalisation are examined. The paper therefore argues that Nigeria has not benefited from globalisation due to monocultural export, inability to attract foreign investors and huge indebtdness. It suggest that Nigeria should adopt appropriate policies in order to compete in the international capitalist system. The paper therefore submit that Nigeria should completely restructure and transform its political economy in order to meaningfully confront the challenges of globalisation. Based on the implications of globalisation on Nigeria's development, recommendations on the development of Nigerian economy to keep pace with consequences of globalisation are highlighted. It concludes that the consequences of globalisation have been unfavourable to Nigeria.

## INTRODUCTION

Globalization constitutes a mega trend in global political economy and has assumed a new phase in contemporary international economic relations. Given the emergent sociopolitical and economic transformation as well as the technological advancement in communication, information, transportation etc, the process seems to be irreversible. Nation states have indeed consistently intensified efforts towards engaging in business across national borders and constructing production and distribution networks on a global scale. Thus, the world today is a "global village" given the unprecedented level of inter-connectedness

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of political, economic, social and technological forces that permeate contemporary international system (Akinboye, 2008:1).

Globalization can be perceived as the most resilient factor in today's world. It implies a drastic reduction of distance both in time and space. In other words, it has greatly reduced the obstacles imposed by spartial reality or interaction between nations. Globalization has thus occasioned a far-reaching assault on state frontiers and a reduction of the communication barriers between states. With this surging socio-economic reality. Anuguwom (2007:114) stated that there has been the spread of influences, goods and artifacts from one end of the world to another. But just like in most other development related phenomenon, globalization has created some unequal partnership between the developed and the developing world. In this sense, the developing world can be seen as more or less the receivers or clients of globalising trends powered or supplied from the developed world.

Globalization as viewed by Ogugua and Oduah (2007:1) is indeed as outstanding phenomenon, quite powerful and a real aspect of our new world system. It is more than economic phenomenon as many think as such one of the most influential forces weaving our new world order and capable of determining the future course and trend of the world. The events in the last decade in the global economy as opined by AbdulRaheem (2003:3) suggest a challenge; the utilization of the opportunity engineered by globalization while at the same time managing the problem and tension it poses, for developing countries particularly Nigeria. Some scholars have argued that globalization opens opportunities, while others express fear about Globalization. No wonder, the meeting of the World Treaty Organization in December 1999 at Seattle U.S.A was interrupted by riot, as a result of the effects of globalization on the people and on the planet felt by the demonstrators. It is in light of the above that prompted Muzaffa (1998:8) to argue thus:

Globalization is just a euphemism for a new type of domination... What is happening is another type of colonialism, another type of dominance, but cloaked and camouflaged in such a manner that it becomes a little more palatable to people... it is a system that is so dependent, not just upon interest rates, but upon the idea of maximization of profits. As a result of maximization of profits in this manner, we have now created an economic system that has legitimized greed.

Since his time, anti-globalization movements have spread across the globe. It is therefore an obvious fact that nearly all countries in Africa have been caught up with the globalization fever. For nearly two decades, the continent has been ravaged with different globalization 'doses' and the unfortunate situation is that instead of the expected upward movement on the continuum of development the reverse has been the case (Alo and Faniran, 2005:162). It is in light of this, that the paper attempts to examine the implication of globalization on Nigeria's development. In order for this paper to achieve this, it gives clarification to the two basic concepts of globalization

and development, it also embarks on the historical excursion of globalization. In view of the broad nature of globalization, this paper is deliberately focusing on Nigeria's development and recommend measures to mitigate their effects.

## GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT: CONCEPTUAL ISSUES

The concept of Globalization has raised a lot of skepticism across the globe. It has generated a lot of debate at local, national and international levels among scholars, governments, corporate bodies and individuals. It has attracted so much of attention and has been perceived in different forms by analysts (*Awosolu and Esugbohungbe*, 2003). Globalization remains one of the most controversial subjects of our time (*Onyeonaru*, 2003:37). The term has come to refer to a series of interlocking trends which means different things to different people and stirs powerful emotions. Whereas some see it as a beneficial process providing opportunities for world economic development and making significant contribution to improving people's lives, others see it as a dangerous force that increases inequality within and between nations, disempowers the weak and increases poverty (*Kiff and Kandirikirira*, 2002:2).

The phenomenon of globalization is a multi-dimensional and multifaceted process that encompasses political, economic, social and cultural dimensions that have been variously explained. Viewed from a general perspective, the notion of globalization is broad and diverse. Our analysis in this paper is focus on its implication for Nigeria's development. It is considered germane however to consider first the multi-dimensionality of its conceptual wages. Hobsbawm (2000:63) captures this, when he asserted thus:

Globalization is primarily based on the elimination of technical obstacles, rather than economic ones. It is the abolition of distance and time... The starting point was the enormous accelerated and global spread of goods transport.

In the same vein, Hakim (2000:21) writes;

Globalization corresponds to unprecedented contraction of space and time through the development of new means of communication and information technologies across the planet.

There is therefore no unanimity of what constitutes globalization; neither is there any consensus concerning the extent of its advancement as a concept. For a thorough understanding of the concept however, there is the need to reflect briefly on the thrust of the discourse which in literature according to Akinboye (2008:2) has been classified into three main clusters—globalization as implying global culture, globalization as the expression of the global political order; and globalization as depicting global economy. Hence as Symonides (1998:28) perspectively submits, globalization is generally "the process of growing interconnection and interdependence in the modern world. It is generated by growing economic, cultural and political cooperation and links, as well as by the need to respond together to global problems which can be solved only on a planetary scale.

Thus, globalization as now obtains impoverishes and marginalizes Africa. A situation which Nyang'oro and Shaw (1998) see as the outcome of an absence of an African viewpoint in the initiation and implementation of the global change processes of Structural Adjustment Programmes and democratization and in different world trade agreement foisted on Africa. The influence of globalization on development can be seen as very prominent since the economic dimension of globalization has been the most influential in government policy determination. In fact, the economic connotations of capitalist have led some writers to posits that globalization is nothing short of the expansion of capitalist hegemony. Be that as it may, such globally propelled economic initiatives, as privatization, commercialization and liberalization, have been instrument in economic policies in Nigeria.

Development on the other hand, is a complex and multi-dimensional concept. It has many facets, social, political and economic and cultural. It presupposes the attempt by people to improve their well being throughout history by conquering the environment (Olaleye, 2004:155). Development, according to Osagie (1995:120) is a more inclusive concept with its social, political and economic facets. It is the qualitative and quantitative positive transformation of the lives of a people that does not only enhance their material well-being but also ensures their social well being, including the restoration of human dignity. While Seers (1969), quoted by Lawal (2005:214) posits that before we talk about development, the following questions must be asked. What has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? What has been happening to inequality? If the three of these have declined from high levels than beyond doubt, this has been a period of development for the country concerned. If one or two of these central problems have been growing worse, especially of all three have, it would be strange to call the result development, even if per capital income doubled. Ogugua (2006:164) also stressed:

Development involves change; the idea implies a process, which could be natural or historical. In the former, the past dies while the latter, the past builds up the present, hence it survives. Development does not and must not imply progress for changing or forms of something does not rightly suggest progress. It was Romanticism that introduced the idea of history as progress.

Development entails the integration and harmonization of the human potential (givens) in various aspects of life in the bid of man to survive this experiment called life and live at this best (Ogugua and Oduah, 2007:18). Development, no matter how it is conceptualized, is people centred. It is about putting human face to human affairs (Oke, 2004:260). Therefore, considering the various view of national development, development encompasses social, economic, cultural and political development. Put differently, national development includes social development, economic development, political development and cultural development (Abdulraheem, 2002).

Development in this paper therefore refers to the improvement of the economy,

often regarded by many as national economic management of a desirable increase in the gross national output and the equitable distribution of output among the entire populace, the attainment of relative stability in general price levels, high productivity and full-employment as well as the maintenance of a healthy balance of payments situation.

## HISTORICAL EXCURSION OF GLOBALISATION

Globalization is not an entirely recent phenomenon, it has been there, hence could not be rightly said to have been weaved by an entirely new forces. To Akindele, et al (2002:5), the era before the first world war was one in which strong globalization tendencies produced a very uneven pattern of global economic development, exposing the limits of global economic integration. For example, the integration of the African economy into the capitalists economy is part of the globalizing tendencies of capitalism. Thus, colonialism provided a legal framework for the dependence of the African economy on the economy of western countries. Thus, the African economy became producers of raw materials for industries in advanced capitalist societies.

In the view of Ogugua and Oduah (2007:6) globalization started earlier than the quest for commercial empires engineered by the balkanization of Africa after the Berlin conference of 1884. It rather started with slaving, warring or trading events, which were precolonialism. While Akindele, et al. (2005:5) were of the opinion that the process of globalization had started in a small way in the nineteenth century. This was when capital moved from Europe to open up new areas in America and Australia, mostly in the building of rail road systems and agriculture that would be central to the expansion of capitalism. When capitalism became the dominant force of social organization, people made incursions into Africa that triggered European's invasion of the continent in the manner locusts invade farmland.

Globalization was in the womb of time during the great depression of the late 19th century which knew the rapid movement of capital; this led to foreign participation of corporations. In the 1970's the globalised production and delocalized production too had impacts, and we can hold that this arrangement involving the North-South is the first form of globalization of production. Even though, the pre-eminence of globalization as championed by America was interrupted by the Cold War era, with effective end of the latter in 1990, the West no longer need to compromise as before, its ideology of globalised culture on the account of communism. Consequently, the global economy continued to experience some fundamental changes in nearly all ramification including "even the language of global discourse. This trend is currently being pursued with rigour by the now acclaimed instruments, of globalization.

However, globalization as understood today is quite a new phenomenon, irrespective of the fact that it has long history; for it has new set of players who plays a new game and with rules. One can say without fear that the monetary system organized

in Bretton-woods arrangements, the great decade of the markets, and the technological revolutions have given nod to globalization. In this epoch of money imperialism and internationalization, individuals and states are vulnerable. (Akindele, et al, 2002:5). There is no doubt that the influence of political calculations and trajectories, economic calculations and practices (evolutions) and the behaviour of individuals in response to these global changes are the root causes of the emergence of global space.

#### **GLOBALIZATION AND NIGERIA'S DEVELOPMENT**

Globalization is a very uneven process with unequal distribution of its benefits and losses. This imbalances according to Obadan (2001) leads to polarization between the development countries that gain, and the developing countries that lose out. In this regard, the place of Nigeria in the globalization agenda requires some indepth study. To begin with, we shall first of all examine its implication on Africa's development as a whole and Nigeria in particular.

The Human Development Report, 1999 points out that globalization offers enormous potential to eradicate poverty in the 21st century. It has therefore widened the gap between the haves and have-nots while global wealth has undoubtedly increased. It has become concentrated in fewer hands and fewer countries. As a result of globalization, the network of the 200 richest people on earth now exceeds the combined income of 40 percent of the people who lives on the planet 2-4 billion people. And while wages continue to rise in wealthy countries 80 pauper countries have actually seen a decline in average income over the past 10 years (*Dickson*, 2005:277-278).

Another basic worry is the economic globalization that is fueled by market forces which has placed much interest in profit making than in the protection of the planet. Nigeria is economically weak due to inadequate domestic economic capacity and social infrastructure needed to boost the country's productivity, growth and competitiveness. Also, the Nigerian economy is made weaker by monocultural dependency and unfavourable terms of trade in its export trade as well as excruciating debt and debt service burden. In addition, before 1986, economic regimes were regulated and the country pursued expansionary fiscal and monetary policies in its development efforts (*Obadan*, 1998). These problems as viewed by Onwuka and Eguavoen (2007:47) were exacerbated by political instability and corruption. As a result, investment choices were distorted, which eroded the confidence especially of foreign investors.

The globalization of money market also introduced another destabilizing factor in which international investors sink huge sums of money into developing countries but later withdraw their capital suddenly when the economic outlook worsen. Such massive withdrawal plunge the country into economic crisis, e.g. the current crisis in the Nigerian capital/money market (*Dickson*, 2005:278). Following globalization trend, Nigeria has been liberalizing its economy. But the real sectors have had to function under

conditions of unstable macroeconomic management, inadequate technology and credit facilities. These have proved to be an obstacles to strengthening the productive base, especially of agriculture and industry, in order to make them export-oriented. Thus, in spite of the openness of the economy, external trade performance has not been encouraging.

The effect of globalization is the fear of uncertainty and volatility on capital formation and productivity growth with its negative consequence on economic growth. It should be noted that this problem of uncertainty is not from within but external generated. Nigeria as a developing country has not evolved a mechanism that can absorb the shocks generated by the effects of globalization. The types of domestic policy response but in place by the government have increased the negative impact of these shocks in Nigeria and the people are worse off. The income of the people of Nigeria is low and they are living below poverty line (CBN, 2000).

In the view of Dani (1992), the social effect of globalization is that since globalization is associated with instability of output and employment. Majority of the people in Nigeria derived their income from labour in Nigeria any thing that affects their job is socially disrupted and thus bring tension to the fabric of the society. This may create industrial conflict.

In relation to public administration in Africa, Nsibambi (2001), highlighted some of the effects of globalization as follows:

Overstretched capacity to regulate and protect the environment:— The capacity of most African States to handle issues such as production of harmful chemicals, global warming, depletion of natural resources destruction of organic agriculture, dumping of nuclear waste is still limited. However, as global actors invest and expand their activities, especially related to industrial, agricultural, mining, forest exploitation and fishing, the regulatory capacity of public administration in African countries, which is already limited in many respects is becoming overstretched. The state is getting caught in the middle of its need to speed development through industrialization, agricultural modernization, exploration of natural resources, etc and the pressure of local and global environmentalist groups.

Undermining the power of the State. Most African governments are finding themselves in a situation of "fait accompli" when it comes to making certain policies and decisions. International agencies such as the World Bank, IMF, the United Nations World Trade Organization, etc. take decisions which are binding on countries. This could be looked at as eroding the sovereignty and power of the State. We must add that this is not only the case in Africa. The poorer the country, the more chance of power erosion for the State. this would be minimized if the voice of Africa's State was increased and strengthened in the world bodies. Stronger African regional bodies would also help in this respect, provided these bodies were represented in the world bodies at the same time.

Undermining the democratization process. There is an ongoing democratization

struggle in Africa. Some African countries began the process of democratizing their governments, political systems and societies sometime back. However, the international partners they are working with in this globalized world are hardly democratic. While the democratization process would require that the people of the country in question get involved in the taking of decisions and policies that concern them, some of the big decisions affecting Africa today are more or less imposed by the globalization players such as the World Bank, IMF, the World Trade Organization, e.t.c There is a discrepancy between the rhetoric from these bodies concerning the need for democracy and the way the same bodies arrive at decisions of great consequences.

Overstretched capacity to handle international and computer-based crime. The African State and its forces of law and order were used to handle "traditional crimes". However, with globalization there has been an increase in crimes 9drugs, pornography international corruption etc.) that had been at lower magnitude. In addition, progress in information technology has facilitated the emergence and growth of computer-based crimes, especially fraud. For this the law and order forces have not been well prepared. The increase in these crimes across borders makes the forces of law and order look helpless, unhelpful and incapable. This tends to erode the confidence of the public in the State, thus weakening further its legitimacy.

Making the task of poverty eradication more difficulty. As global actors pressurize African governments to open up more and more maximize foreign investment and capital inflows, and as big multinationals and local enterprises utilize this environment to cater for their interests, the government is having less and less room to pay attention to the abject poverty amongst its poor people. Evidence that shows the widening gap between the poor and the rich both in country and between countries is increasingly becoming abundant. The African State will have to be encouraged to pay more attention to the fate of its poor than to the fate of big global actors. The big global actors can talk for themselves with little problem. The issue is: who will talk for the poor?

Debt accumulation and the debt burden. The phenomenal debt burden of African countries is well known. Most of the accumulation of this debt over time was as much a result of the incapacity of the borrowers to pay it back as it was of the ease with which the lenders gave money to the countries. This was, and still is, facilitated by the context of globalization. The paradox about this is that the governments borrow in the name of poverty reduction, while their social spending that would go towards alleviating poverty remains very low.

Drain on the human capacity of the State. Globalization has opened borders and relatively freed labour movements. But for African countries this has aggravated the problems of brain drain, which has existed for a long time. Although most African countries with appropriate financial policies receive remittances from their nationals working abroad, it is not clear whether the contribution of some of the most qualified to the process of developing their countries would not be more

than the remittances they send back home from "exile", this human capacity in some instances is frightened away by brutal regimes rather than being attracted by globalization forces as such.

Globalization of public expectations and social demands. The interaction between local socio-political- economic forces and global actors has generated new and or different demands from African societies and this has increased pressure on the public administration system to re-adjust to these demands constantly. Examples of such demands include; the demand for transparency and accountability, democracy, a clean environment, gender equality, human rights and freedoms, poverty eradication, competent leadership, effective service delivery and applying New Public Management approaches in public administration. These demands require that public administration systems and practices accordingly re-adjust consistently. In most cases, these demands are expressed by the cost of what it would take to meet them.

The conclusion here is that globalization has posed enormous challenges for the African public administration systems. It has put demands on their capacities (institutions, structures, skills, knowledge, networks, technology, facilities, equipment, etc.) which as everyone knows, has always been very weak, the systems themselves being still nascent.

Globalization can be of immense benefit to Nigeria and so could help the country's development. The enabling framework would include measures to ensure the entry of Nigeria's non-oil exports into the core markets without discriminations. In this regard, the diversification of domestic production is imperative. The unsustainable debt, which weighs the country down economically also needs to be tackled with faster and deeper debt relief by developed nations, while expanded development cooperation with them would strengthen the productive base of the Nigerian economy (Onwuka and Eguavoen, 2007, 2007:50). The international financial architecture also requires to be broadened and deepened through global solidarity that would see increased inflows of foreign investments into the country. This accomplished, globalization would contribute to enhancing the living standards of Nigerians as the country joins the league of nations enjoying the benefits of that process.

## THE WAY FORWARD

The wholesale acceptance of globalization as the "absolute truth" in Nigeria and other African countries has been likened to that of a moving train which Africa and Africans must keep pace with, regardless of whether the latter has similar destination in mind, because, Africa has no choice. This analogy, is especially pernicious when we takes a close look at the debilitating effects of globalization itself. Nigeria and Africa have a choice. One of the choices is the creation of a blockade on the "path of the train". In other words, Nigeria and, indeed, African countries could conceivably create Regional Economic and political blocks equal in magnitude and potency with

that of the European Union (EU), to effectively challenge and influence the trajectory of the globalization train (*Ugwueye*, 2007:107). For Nigerians to get out of this entrapment, it needs to decline its dependency on the western powers. They must sever the apronstrings of domination by the developed world by categorically and practically resisting the inequality inherent in a globalized world. Nigerians must cease to be onlookers who are either cowards or traitors on issues affecting our economic, political and socio-cultural well-being.

Nigerians should look towards countries such as South Korea, India, and China to see how they have been able to industrialized in the recent past and adopt some of their strategies to enhance our own industrial technological growth. Finally, the advanced capitalist countries, especially the G8 must also be ready to share both their technology and their wealth, for globalization to work in the interest of all. In order for Nigeria to take the maximum benefits of globalization, government must ensure good governance by ensuring that public resources are judiciously managed and used and must be ready to fight corruption and fraud vigorously.

In addition, there should be greater investment in human capital. Higher levels of education with more flexible skill acquisition of high scientific and technical expertise are needed. This as a result of the new technologies in the industrialized world where knowledge and skill are required intensive intellectual capital is therefore of a great importance in the new era of globalization.

Government should provide conductive environment for an efficient operation of a full market economy, reliable legal system, honest, credible and transparent administration and accountability in order to be able to woo foreign investors. Ajayi (2003), stated that while Foreign Direct Investment is important and brings new technology and managerial know-how corruption can severely hamper the ability of a country to attract foreign investment.

For a successful globalization, it is required to Nigeria government to redefine its role by developing the quality and quantity of infrastructure and social services as it is also essential that they are delivered effectively.

Government should harmoniously work with the private sector as partners for rapid economic and cultural development of the country.

Also, there is need to improve financial system by injecting the blood of efficiency into it. According to Ajayi (2003), this is essential to openness and competitiveness. Unless the above recommendations are put in place and are jealously addressed with utmost sincerity and determination, our quest for rapid development will be jeopardized.

#### CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have examined the new globalization as a reality, which typical developing countries like Nigeria cannot ignore. Effort must therefore be made in order to face this reality squarely. Globalization is all about interconnectedness of the

world into one. It is a multi-faceted business undertones. It carries risk for some countries and appropriate measures must be taken in order to minimize or totally eradicate such risks. Indeed, it is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for solving all Nigerians economic problems. It has come to stay regardless of the wish of any nation. It has to be embraced by all as it offers both opportunities and threats to every nation. Nigeria is still at the receiving end and is not yet ripe to reap the full benefits of globalization. Indeed, she is at the embryonic stage of globalization process (Lawal, 2005:225).

Unless its one-arm banditry is understood, concretely discerned and checkmated, globalization will lead Nigeria to increased penury. This can better be understood in the context of the fact that, the heavy burden of foreign debt has greatly eroded their capacity to run their own affairs and respond to the demands of the people.

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