

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322686017>

POST COLD WAR WORLD AND CONTEMPORARY SECURITY CHALLENGES: RE-VISITING NEW THREATS TO GLOBAL PEACE

Article · January 2018

CITATIONS

0

READS

6,245

1 author:



Chibuike Obikaeze

RHEMA UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA

3 PUBLICATIONS 0 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:



The Impact of FDI on the Nigerain economy, 1999-2017 [View project](#)

POST COLD WAR WORLD AND CONTEMPORARY SECURITY CHALLENGES: RE-VISITING NEW THREATS TO GLOBAL PEACE

Victor Chibuikwe Obikaeze
Rhema University, Nigeria

&

Ifeanyichukwu Johah Iheke
University of Benin, Nigeria

Abstract

The Post Cold War international system has witnessed new threats to global peace and security. It is a commonplace fact that lethal terrorist activities, contagious intra-national conflicts as well as transnational criminal activities are today pervading global arena. Regrettably, the situation has continued to escalate astronomically despite its devastating effects. Consequently, the study is aimed at providing a “content analysis” of the causes, dimensions and effects of the stated phenomena on the global community. The methodology adopted was that of descriptive, thereby deriving heavily from the secondary sources for data collection, with the theoretical framework of analysis anchoring on “systems theory.” The paper finds out that internal armed conflicts are on the increase especially in most of ethnically polarized and economically challenged nations; that the number of deaths resulting from terrorist attacks after the end of cold war is obviously alarming; and transnational criminal activities have taken different forms and astonishing velocity in the Post Cold War World. To confront the situation squarely, there must be a collective effort towards tackling the present security threats in the world today

Keywords: Post Cold War, Security, Peace, Terrorism, Intra-national Conflict, Transnational Crime

Introduction

The pervasiveness of terrorism, intra-state conflicts and transnational crime has continued to pose a colossal threat to global peace and security in the Post Cold War World. Today, the world has witnessed lethal terrorist activities, contagious intra-national conflicts as well as transnational criminal activities pervading every nook and cranny of the ‘global village’. Muzaffer (2008:44) noted that while classical inter-state wars tend to decrease in the post-Cold War era; there are many other serious threats to international peace beyond the full control of nation-states, most notably ethnic conflicts, religious militancy, terrorism, North-South conflict, and unfair economic competition. In his own reaction, Ekpe (2012:437) posited that the incidence of terrorism has reached an epidemic proportion and terrorism is increasingly becoming lethal. In fact, global terrorism remains a fixture of world politics (Kegley, 2007:432).

Today, religious fundamentalists have in the course of projecting or/and defending one or more ideological beliefs engaged in different forms of terrorist activities, with strong networks across the globe. International terrorist groups such as El Qaeda, Hezbollah, Al-jihad, Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) etc are instructive in this regard. Even Boko

Haram Sect that started in Nigeria has become a global issue as it continues to pose enormous security threats to nations that border with Nigeria. Though terrorism did not start today, it has however been observed that the its dimension as well as number of casualties as a result of terrorist attacks in the post cold war world are alarming and very difficult to imagine. The bombing of the New York World Trade Centre in 1993 by the terrorist group that used cyanide gas was the first noted incident of terrorism after the cold war (Mylroie, 1995 in Ekpe, 2012:437). Another terrorist attack on a high scale was the 9/11 attack in United States which claimed many lives. The attack resulted in the death of more than 3000 people (Goldstein, 2003; Kegley, 2007; Ekpe, 2012:437). Many other terrorist attacks have been recorded after 9/11 attack.

Intra-state conflicts particularly in the developing countries rose astronomically after the collapse of the Soviet Union, as exemplified in the Somalia civil war of 1990 which claimed many lives and led to the absence of central government; the Kosovo crisis which started in 1998 until 11 June 1999; Sierra Leone civil war in 1991 that lasted for 11 years, enveloped the country, and left over 50,000 dead (Wikipedia). There were recorded civil wars in Sudan, Liberian, Darfur, Rwanda. Also, Ivory Coast, Mali, Republic of Guinea etc are nations engulfed with armed conflicts. The incessant internal armed conflicts and their linkage consequences are indicative that global peace is not yet on the horizon. Unfortunately, the armed conflicts in most of the nations are believed to have been politicized by the great powers in the international community. For instance, the Rwanda genocide as lamented by the former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan that “we must remember the victims – the hundreds of thousands of men, women and children abandoned to systematic slaughter while the world, which had the capacity to save most of them, failed to save more than a handful, forever sullyng the collective conscience” (Annan, 2007). The genocide led to the slaughter of between 200, 000 to 500, 000 people (Magstadt, 2007:537), as well as to the upsurge of refugees. All these conflicts and wars are a pointer to the fact that internal armed conflicts, their linkage and multiplier effects have remained a threat to global peace and security since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Kegley and Blanton (2012:237) observed that between 1989 and 2010, internal armed conflict over government or territory has been the most common by far. According to them, in this period, 123 armed conflicts within states took place in comparison to only eight between states. Apart from terrorism and intra-national wars, crimes across national borders have increased astonishingly. This scenario, therefore, suggests that crimes such as human and drug trafficking are prevalent. Money laundering, sexual exploitation, arms smuggling among others have taken an embarrassing velocity. All these issues mentioned above pose a great security threat to both domestic and international communities.

Against this backdrop, the study therefore, intends to examine as have been specified, major security issues that have negative consequences on the global community. The methodology underpinning the study is descriptive, thereby relying heavily on secondary sources for data generation.

Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

The post–Cold War is the period in the international system in which the formal dissolution of the Soviet Union and subsequent end of cold war (ideological war) between the two Super Powers (The Soviet Union and United States and it Western European Allies), in 1991 ushered in new developments in the global system. As noted by Kegley and Blanton (2012) that rapid, unanticipated changes in world politics create uncertainty about the global future. The post cold war world politics has taken a new dimension as various issues and developments have directly or indirectly affected the global community.

Peace has been perceived not strictly absence of conflict. On this promise therefore, it is erroneous to perceive peace as a situation exclusively free from conflict. Ibeanu (2005) however perceives peace as a condition of social harmony in which there are no social antagonisms. Ibeanu argued that an important conception of peace is the non-violent transformation of conflict. In other words, peace is a condition in which there is no social conflict and individuals and groups are able to meet their needs, aspirations and expectations (George-Genyi, 2013:58). In his own point of view, Akpuru-Aja (2007:1) posits that peace is a relative condition of security friendly climate that allows individuals and group relations to progressive order and stability. He, however, argued that peace does not mean absence of conflict or war. Akpuru-Aja, further averred that the main difference between war and peace is that while the former is destructive and disintegrative, the latter is constructive, cooperative, integrative and collaborative. He asserted that peace is the human desired condition and order of coexistence that allows the ruler and the ruled fulfill life obligations with minimum fear or danger on life, liberty and property. Without asking so much, it is pertinent to know that peace is a better choice than war. As Funk in Odia (2014:108) opined that peace is undoubtedly one of the most universal and significant of human ideals, it is however one of the few positive symbols having meaning for the whole of humanity.

Security is defined primarily in terms of each country's capacity to resist armed threats to survival and national values by either foreign or insurgents at home (Kegley and Blanton, 2012:533). According to them, this definition puts the protection of entire states' interest above those of individual people. In contrast, Kegley and Blanton, however, posited thus: "human security" has risen as a recent concept that focuses on protecting individuals from any threat. Human Security Centre cited in Kegley and Blanton (2012) elaborates this new conception that derives from liberal thought, explaining that secure states do not automatically mean secure individuals.

Human security is needed in response to the complexity and the interrelatedness of both old and new security threats – from chronic and persistent poverty to ethnic violence, human trafficking, climate change, health pandemics, international terrorism, and sudden economic and financial downturns. Such threats tend to acquire transnational dimensions and move beyond traditional notions of security that focus on external military aggressions alone (Commission on Human Security cited in UNTFHS:5).

The *UN's Commission on Human Security* argues that the threat agenda should be broadened to include hunger, disease, and natural disasters because these kill far more people than war, genocide and terrorism combined. The conflicting perspectives of security are a by-product of dynamic nature domestic and international realities. However, no matter the "school of thought" one may belong to, the bottom line is that whatever poses a threat to the security of individuals is invariably a threat to national security, *vice versa*. And any security threat to nation-state usually has spillover effects on the international community.

According to Neil (2003), transnational crimes are crimes that have actual or potential effect across national borders and crimes which are intra-state but which offend fundamental values of the international community. Transnational in this case implies criminal activities that are not only international (that is, crimes that transcend across national borders), but crimes that take place in one sovereign nation or more, but their consequences significantly affect another country and the affected countries may also be involved. Among other things, transnational crimes include: computer crimes, terrorism, human trafficking people smuggling, smuggling/trafficking of goods such as arms, illicit drugs as well as illegal animal and plant products and other goods prohibited on environmental grounds such as banned ozone depleting substances. At the end international community suffers as a result of the impact of transnational crimes.

The word 'terrorism' is politically loaded and emotionally charged (Hoffman, 1998:32). According to Hoffman (2006:40), by distinguishing terrorists from other types of criminals and terrorism from other forms of crime, we come to appreciate that terrorism is: ineluctably political in aims and motives; violent—or, equally important, threatened violence; designed to have far-reaching psychological repercussions beyond the immediate victim or target; conducted either by an organization with an identifiable chain of command or conspiratorial cell structure (whose members wear no uniform or identifying insignia) or by individuals or a small collection of individuals directly influenced, motivated, or inspired by the ideological aims or example of some existent terrorist movement and/or its leaders; and perpetrated by a subnational group or non-state entity. Terrorism has been conceptualized and interpreted by various scholars depending on whose point of view and interest is being represented. The concept has been differently described as either a tactic or a reaction to oppression or a criminal activity. For instance, the United States Department of Defense defines terrorism as "the calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear, intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological (Muzaffer, 2008:51). The United Nations defines terrorism as "an anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by clandestine individual, group, or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal or political reasons, where -in contrast to assassination- the direct targets of violence are not the main targets" (Ewan, 2004).

Intrastate armed conflict is the most common form of conflict in the contemporary world today. It is that kind of sustained internal violence that takes place between armed groups representing the state, and one or more non-state groups. Mostly, it is politically motivated violence. Violence of this sort usually is confined within the borders of a single state, but usually has significant international dimensions and holds the risk of spilling over into bordering states (the current conflict in Syria would be described as a intrastate conflict) (Missworld Security, 2012).

Theoretical Framework of Analysis

A system is a pattern of continuous and stable relationship that exists among the parts, which make up the entire system. The basic element of systems theory describes the interrelatedness and interdependence of the major parts of the system. The component units that make up the entire system operate within a boundary. This environment will include both internal and international elements because the entire world has become one integrated mass (Osaghae, 1988). These parts are sufficiently inter-dependent in such a way that when a change occurs in one causes a change in others. Each unit in the system performs important functions, which, therefore, sustains the survival of the system. There are often interactions within the system, and also between the system and its external environment, making the system to continue relate with its component parts. In the process of the relationship, if any part of the system is affected negatively or positively, other parts as well as the system are also affected. In this case therefore, there is every tendency that the system will continue to adjust itself. In this situation, the primary goal of the system is to achieve stability in order to preserve itself, as Osaghae (1988:34) noted that the systems approach is concerned with how order is maintained, because it suggests that the maintenance of the system depends on its ability to maintain order.

It is pertinent to analyze international political system by paying attention to the system and its external environment (i.e. sovereign states). This is important as there is often inherent linkage between the domestic and the international environments. The 'linkage paradigm' is a fact. For instance, the crisis in Syria spills over to other nations (U.S, Europe etc), thereby interrupting international peace and security. In this regard therefore, the

stability and instability in the international system is dependent on how the system manages demands, threats and supports directed towards it. Even though international system lacks central authority to authoritatively allocate values and compel obedience, the maintenance of the system is dependent on the strength of a supranational body or/and a hegemon.

Cold War: A Brief Historical Background

The expansionist actions of Germany, Italy and Japan respectively eventually led to World War II (1939-1945). In fact, the over ambitious desires of the above stated nations whose foreign policies were bent on seizure and occupation of foreign lands provoked Great Powers such as France, Britain, Soviet Union and United States, which finally escalated into military war. Despite the fact that the US and USSR did not share the same ideology they joined forces to defeat Adolf Hitler and his allies. After the end of Second World War in 1945, there emerged two super-powers leading to bipolar world. As noted by Kegley and Blanton (2012:80) that the second great war of the twentieth century, without parallel in the number of participants and destruction, brought about a global system dominated by two superpowers whose nuclear weapons radically changed the role that threats of warfare would play in world politics. The ideological war between these global powers was simply a war between capitalism and socialism. The former promoted free market economy in which governments do not interfere in the market, while the latter defended state control of the market, thereby anchoring on centrally planned economy. Within the prism of ideological orientations, United States and Soviet Union never saw eye to eye in any issue.

There were various contributing factors that eventually metamorphosed into cold war. The origin of the twentieth century's third hegemonic battle for domination are debated because the historical evidence lends itself to different interpretations (Gaddis, 1997 cited in Kegley and Blanton, 2012:80). In his own account, Leffler 2007 cited in Kegley and Blanton (2012:80), the Truman-Stalin contest over jointly occupied Germany that culminated in the 1948-1949 Berlin airlift swept the two superpowers in unforeseen directions they could not manage: "conditions in the international system created risks that Truman and Stalin could not accept and opportunities they could not resist." According to Baylis, Smith and Owens (2008:61), the onset of the cold war in Europe reflected failure to implement the principles agreed at the wartime conferences of Yalta and Potsdam. They further posited that the future of Germany and of various Central and Eastern European countries, notable Poland, were issues of growing tension between the former wartime allies. In the West, there was growing feeling that Soviet policy towards Eastern Europe was guided not by historic concern with security but by ideological expansion (Baylis, Smith & Owens, 2008:61). They averred that in March 1947, the Truman administration sought to justify limited aid to Turkey and Greece with rhetoric designed to arouse awareness of Soviet ambitions, and a declaration that America would support those threatened by Soviet subversion or expansion. Therefore, it is most likely that Soviet ideological expansion in the Eastern Europe was one of the factors that led to cold war.

In his own accounts, Udoka (2012: 388) noted that:

The cold war originated from the disagreement that attended the implementation of the Yalta treaty which spelt out the administration of Germany. After the World War II, Germany had lost her sovereignty as a result of her defeat in the war and Yalta agreement had divided the country into four zones to be administered by the big four powers that won the war namely, United States of America, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Britain and France. The Yalta agreement spelt out the procedure for payment of reparations, arrangements for occupation of Germany, and an agreement in principle that Poland should get territory in East

Prussia and Upper Silesia. President Roosevelt of America and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Britain had deferred final decision on Poland's western boundary to the Peace conference at Potsdam, but Soviet Stalin insisted that a final decision had been taken at Yalta. This was the first real manifestation of disagreement by the two divides.

According to Thompson (1978: 761) the Potsdam Agreement provided for the political and economic frameworks under which Germany as an occupied territory would be governed, reparations claims and procedures for payment, the disposal of the German merchant marine, territorial changes in East Germany, the trial of war criminals, and the orderly transfer of German population. Disagreement followed the conclusion of the Potsdam peace conference and signatories to the agreement refused to implement clauses which worked against their interests (Udoka, 2012:388). For example, as posited by Udoka (2012:388), the framework for the joint occupation of Germany under the Allied Control Council and the Kommandatura which was to regulate the government of Berlin was discarded. They insisted that Germany should be partitioned and its capital, Berlin should be shared among the victorious powers. The crux of the matter was that the two war time allies entered into an "unholy marriage" in order to win the war. Thereafter, they accepted the fact that they were fundamentally "strange bed fellows" divided along opposite ideological lines.

From 1945 till the eventual demise of Soviet Union in 1989, the world was engulfed by uncertainties as the two competing superpowers (USSR and U.S and its allies) were caught in the web of armament of military arms, threats to retaliate in case of any military attack from the adversary, indiscriminate use of veto in the United Nations' Security Council and other measures that posed a big threat to international progress, peace and security. According to Ekpe (2012:441), at that time, most issues that threatened global security were viewed within the narrow prism of ideology. Though the cold war era did not witness any military world war, it is however believed that, the two superpowers fought each other indirectly with the help of allies and by proxy wars. The tension that followed the era cannot be forgotten in a hurry, as some predicted that third world war was possible, especially during the Cuba Missile Crisis of 1962.

The End of Cold War

Change in the structure of international community became possible in late 1980s when the 40th American President, Ronald Reagan (1981-1989) was elected as president of the United States of America. On June 12th, 1987, President Reagan made a challenging speech which inspired Mikhail Gorbachev (former president of USSR). In his speech, Reagan stated thus: "Tear down this wall" which is known as the Berlin Wall Speech. Responding to the speech, President Gorbachev was willing to put the past behind, in an attempt to end the Cold War and unite the Eastern and Western Germany that were separated along ideological divides. As noted by Ekpe (2012:427), that the first event after the collapse of the Soviet Union was the dismantling of the Berlin Wall which was an eloquent testimony of East-West ideological polemics. The historic collapse of the Berlin Wall on 9th November 1989 introduced new hopes, and this subsequently led to the convening of Malta Summit in 2nd and 3rd December 1989. In the summit, Gorbachev assured the newly elected President of the United States, President Walker Bush, that he would never start a hot war against the USA, marking the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union (Nye, 1992:155). According to President Mikhail Gorbachev (1985- 1991), "The Berlin Wall was a mark of contradictions in the world, and it became a mark of radical changes in the world which touched the majority of humankind ... But the way towards abolishing it was long and painful" (Architect of peace) (Namaganda, 2014:6).

Actually, beyond public speeches made by the two leaders, the more fundamental truth remains that the level of economic hardship experienced by the members of the USSR and other social factors contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union, and subsequent decomposition of communist regimes of the union.

Intra-National Conflicts

Before the end of cold war, strong central authority which was used for administrative purposes kept tenuous intergroup unity through the use of rewards and sanctions (Taras & Gangaly, in Ekpe 2012). Apart from this, the policy of containment made it possible for most countries to receive military and economic aid from the hegemonic powers (Ekpe, 2012:435). He opined that with this, ethnic pressures were easily curtailed. Thus the cold war had provided a temporary stop-gap to the coming anarchy because the two Super Powers provided aid and support to their allies in a bid to fight communism and capitalism (Kaplan, 2000:2). This presumably suggests that with collapse of Soviet Union and its resultant end of cold war, there was no need to continue the good gestures by the contending superpowers. As a result of the new world order, the suppressed inter-ethnic conflicts, inter-religious crisis in some of the nations in Europe, Asia and Africa suddenly erupted. By this end, the post cold war world experienced inter-ethnic rivalries and civil wars. The contagious effects of these conflicts have remained a big puzzle to some analysts, as the pervasiveness of intra-state conflicts has taken a devastating dimension, thereby having linkage and spillover effects in the entire global community.

The major significant indications of intra-national conflicts were related to civil wars in Rwanda (1994), which escalated to genocide when the Hutus attacked and killed the Tutsis. In reaction, the Tutsi militia group retaliated against the Hutus. This led to the slaughter of between 200, 000 to 500, 000 people (Magstadt, 2007:537). An estimated 5-10 percent of Rwanda's population was then killed between the second week of April and the third week of May, 1994; one of the highest casualty rates of any population in history from non-natural causes (Prunier, 1995:261). In Darfur, intra-state conflict manifested itself between the anti-government rebel groups and militias supported by the government. The effect of the conflict was devastating, as noted by Prunier (2006:3) that an estimated number of 300,000 people have been killed, thousands have been raped, and 2.5 million refugees fled their homes.

Although the ending of the Cold War clearly increased the willingness of governments to work through the United Nations and other international channels to resolve conflicts and keep peace around the globe, several new threats have emerged in the post-Cold War era that are, indeed, beyond the full control of nation-states, even major powers (Muzaffer, 2008:48). According to him, one of the greatest threats, in this regard, is the prevalence of intra-national conflicts - conflicts occurring within the borders of states. He further observed that a fresh cycle of ethno-political movements have re-emerged recently in Eastern Europe (including the Balkans), Central Asia, Africa, and many other parts of the world. While wars fought among sovereign countries are increasingly the exception to the norm, intra-national conflicts have account for over 90 percent of the major armed conflicts recorded in recent years worldwide (Daniel, Taft & Wiharta, 2008). The civil wars in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Mali and Republic Guinea, Somalia, Republic of Congo, among other, are a pointer to the fact that intra-national conflicts have characterised the post cold war era. Also, the Tunisian, Egyptian, Libyan revolutions of 2011 showed the ever-infectious and pervasive consequences of intra-national wars.

In Tunisia, its authoritarian president left the country in early 2011 and a first free election was held in October 2011 to introduce and experience democracy. In Egypt, a pro-American regime was changed through a wider protesting movement, while there still are continuing

conflicts between security forces and protesters. In Libya, contrarily, one potential anti-American militant leader was killed by revolutionary men and with military intervention of NATO in October 2011. (B.B.C News, 2011; The New York Times, 2012).

The current internal armed conflicts in Yemen, Syria, Bahrain, among others are also instructive to know that world is not at peace due to refugee crisis particularly caused armed conflict between government and anti-government forces in Syria. Beyond Africa, Magstadt (2007:586-587) encapsulated post-cold war ethnic rife in other parts of the world thus: A few of the most prominent discontented ethnic groups include the Sikhs and Muslim in India, the Volga Tatars in the Russian Republic, the South Ossetians in Georgia, the French speaking Quebecois in Canada, the Kurds in Iraq and Turkey, the Tamils in Sri Lanka, and the Timorese in Indonesia.

Religious Militancy and Terrorism

Presumably, religious militants and terrorist groups are two twin forces reinforcing each other as well as posing a colossal threat to global peace in the Post Cold War World. The rise of religious fundamentalism has taken a new dimension and has regrettably elevated to lethal terrorist activities on the global stage. As noted by Huntington (1993:40-45), religion discriminates sharply and exclusively among people ...as people define their identity in ethnic and religious terms, they are likely to see an “us” versus “them” relation existing between themselves and people of different ethnicity and religion. In his Clash of Civilizations thesis, Huntington referred to religion as a strong element in world developments. Huntington posited that religious and cultural commonalities even form economic cooperation among countries. This explains why some analysts of international affairs noted that, the new world order should be understood in the context of rivalries and conflicts between religion-based civilization, and not between nation states (Palmer, Colson & Kramer, 2007:1099). Based on this premise, Muzaffer (2008:50-51) asserted that:

Many religious militants are strongly committed to the direct use of violence in pursuing their mission. There have been numerous widely publicized examples, such as the massacre by a Jewish zealot of two dozen Muslim worshippers in Hebron, the explicit blessing of violence by both Serbian Orthodox and Croatian Catholic Christians in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, and the July 2005 bombings of the London subway in which so many innocent people became victims. Religiously-driven violent intolerance can also be connected to terrorism in many cases. In fact, some of the world's most dangerous terrorist organizations today, like Islamic Jihad and El-Kaida, are ideologically fed by religious fundamentalism. Most people in such organizations strongly believe that direct use of violence in the name of religion is obligatory. They are also convinced that if they die in their “holy struggle”, they will be rewarded in the next life; they will directly go to heaven. This belief removes fear or guilt feeling, making killing and dying much easier consequently.

Although terrorism has been perceived as the weapon of the weak against the strong in reaction to oppression, it has also been argued that terrorism is the act of wickedness against humanity. Though terrorism is not a new phenomenon in the international system, it has however, taken a new dimension after the cold war. As noted by Ekpe (2012) that first the incidence of terrorism has reached an epidemic proportion. Second, terrorism is increasingly becoming lethal. Global terrorism remains a fixture of world politics (Kegley, 2007:432). The implications of the unprecedented terrorist activities on the global stage are enormous, as both internal and international peace and security have been elusive. The number of casualties resulting to terrorist attacks in the post cold war world is alarming and very difficult to imagine. For instance, the bombing of the New York World Trade Centre in

1993 by the terrorist group that used cyanide gas was the first noted incident of terrorism after the cold war (Mylroie, 2005, in Ekpe, 2012). Another terrorist attack on a high scale was the 9/11 attack which claimed many lives. The attack resulted in the death of more than 3000 people (Goldstein, 2003; Kegley & Blonton, 2011; Ekpe, 2012). In that terrorist attack, it was believed that Al Qaeda terrorist group led by Osama Bin Laden hijacked four commercial jet airliners. Two of these planes were crashed into the World Trade Centre Towers; one was similarly crashed into the Pentagon and the fourth into a field Pennsylvania (Ekpe, 2012). In his own point of view, Kegley (2007:435) averred that what arguably made that attack a historic watershed ushering in a new age of global terrorism is that it marked the advent of new rules for a violent of old game by the weak against the strong, now conducted by ideological terrorists without a territory acting transnationally to transform international status quo. In fact, after the September 11, Al Qaeda attack on the US, there have been other terrorist attacks.

For instance, attacks occurred in Bali, Indonesia (in 2002), in Casablanca, Morocco (in 2003). Again, there were similar terrorist activities in other places. For instance, in 2004, a Madrid commuter train in Spain was bombed and 96 lives were lost and more than 1,400 persons were wounded. In 2005, there was also a terrorist attack on buses and subway train in London where 52 persons died. There were further attacks in Lebanon, Algeria, Pakistan, Yemen, Iran, and even Nigeria where a UN building was destroyed by a suicide bomber and more than 23 persons were killed and 129 others injured in 2012 (Ekpe, 2012:437-438).

The United States belief that the establishment of democratic governance as 'democratic peace theory' claims in some of the Islamic nations as well as terrorist flash spots such as Iraq and Afghanistan would bring peace and reduce the lethal nature of contemporary global terrorist activities. However, this has not come to be as international terrorism has continued to escalate instead of abetting. State sponsored terrorism has not been abetted. It has been proven that the unilateral war against terrorism by the United States in the post cold era has not really yielded the expected results. This, therefore, proves that relying only on military option in the fight against terrorism could be counterproductive in the actual sense. The reason is that the global network of terrorist groups in the international system is so strong to be defeated only by physical military action. The wave of globalization has left the national borders of sovereign states porous, therefore, made it difficult if not impossible to effectively fight against terrorism in the post cold war global system. As noted by Homer-Dixon, in Ekpe (2012:439) that post-modern terrorism is expanding due to the globalised international environment without meaningful barriers. Kegley (2007) attributed high level of terrorism in the world today to the rapid spread of new weapons technology and their easy transportation across borders. This development, therefore, provides good opportunities for the terrorists to practice their heinous crimes through various and unpredictable means. Due to globalization which makes communication and transportation easy, transnational terrorists have a variety of new tactics and strategies to wreck havoc at their targets. Beyond globalization, the free movement of goods, services and persons form one border to another has also provided a leeway for the movement of weapons across national borders.

The Islamic world has often perceived United States foreign policy as anti-Muslim world, therefore, has been willing to challenge the hegemony of US. Based on the fact that nations in the Islamic world do not have the military capacity to directly confront America, various anti-America groups have threatened it security through other means (terrorism), as typically exemplified in the 9/11, 2001 terrorist attack of United States which was estimated to have claimed not less than 3000 people. This monumental and lethal terrorist attack and its consequences were believed to have challenged existing world system and ushered in new

world order. Those attacks are perceived to symbolize thus: First, the attack was perceived to be a retaliation of military wars against Muslim world spearheaded by the United States. Second, it was assumed to have signaled the “clash of civilizations” (Huntington, 1996) and “the coming of anarchy” (Kaplan, 2000). Third, it was an attempt to challenge the unipolar world structure in which US is the only global leader. Fourth, it was also targeted at America to question its imperialistic posture and penetration. Fifth, it was reaction to the United States support of the Israeli regime which strengthened opposing waves in the Muslim world.

Most of the Islamic countries are geographically located on the earth’s middle latitudes including ‘the heat belt from Indonesia in South-east Asia to Morocco in North-east Africa (B.B.C News, 2011). Accordingly to B.B.C., approximately one-fourth of the world’s total population practice Islam. This comprises about 1.57 billion people who are living in more than two hundred countries across the globe, about 95% of the total number of Muslims in the world are living in Asia (with 60%), the Middle East and North Africa (with 20%), and Sub-Saharan Africa (with 15%) while about 3.4% of them in Europe and the Americas (Saeid & Jayum, 2012). They noted that although the highest percentage of Muslim majority states are located in the region of the Middle East and North Africa, this region comprises only 20% of the world’s total Muslim population. In this respect, India, with more than 161 million Muslims has the third-largest Muslim population in the world; Russia’s Muslim population is more than the combined Muslim populations of Libya and Jordan, and China’s Muslims outnumber those of Syria (Saeid & Jayum, 2012).

It is significant to note that the most important wars which have been launched by the United States took place in Islamic countries and resulted in a strong anti-American wave in the Muslim world. In the view of Fukuyama (2004), this was the direct consequence of what the United States did. There is this view that the Gulf War of 1991 revealed the formation of an anti-US front among the Muslim population, although most Muslim countries supported the UN position. This view sees “the rise of Islam as a world political force” (Taylor, 1992), and is a reminder of the “Clash of civilizations” thesis that emphasizes the confrontation of the Western and Islamic civilizations in the new era. Perhaps, the September 11th attacks were the most crucial events to refer to this confrontation. Although President Bush declared that it was not a clash between civilizations (Bush, 2001a), those attacks, as O’Tuathail (2006) noted, aimed at “two symbols of globalization and American power”. The main target was the US as representative of the capitalist world and the challenge was against the US legitimation and its world power (Saeid & Jayum, 2012).

The war against terrorism cannot be won by a single actor; rather the US as a hegemon should not be mistaken to be an ‘omnipotent’ entity that has the capacity to do all things with or without the assistance of other global actors. The present international system integrated by the unprecedented wave of globalization which has reduced the sanctity of states sovereignty should be acknowledged. The level of international network maintained by terrorist groups is an indicative that there must be a collective responsibility, as their activities would continue to have linkage effects on the globe. In this scenario, no nation or individual can truly be safe.

Transnational Crime

Although transnational crime is not new in the international system, but the scope and dimension upon which it has contagiously affected global peace and security calls for adequate attention. The magnitude of international crime in the post cold period has been reinforced by globalization. Arguably, globalization has almost eroded the physical borders and sovereignty of nation-states making nations vulnerable and unsafe. The trend which

transnational crime militates against national development and international community in general has provoked scholars, policy makers and political leaders to continually initiate policies in order to preserve and protect their national borders.

There are many activities that associate with international crimes as to determine the scope of transnational crime appears difficult. However, there are major organized crimes in the post cold war world. According to Viotti and Kauppi (2009:274), some of them include:

- i. Sexual exploitation and forced labour;
- ii. The dramatic expansion of international money laundering;
- iii. Trafficking in nuclear materials in Europe;
- iv. Drug trafficking;
- v. The sale of pirated and counterfeit products, copyrights, trademark and patent infringement and other forms of intellectual property right violations; and
- vi. The rise of criminal organizations in Russia and other areas of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Hitherto, organized criminal activities were regarded as exclusive domestic business of national government affected; today the trend has changed as their multiplier effects are felt by nations across sovereign states concerned. The borderless world is instructive in this regard. In the final analysis, crimes such as human trafficking, arms smuggling and drug trafficking in one nation invariably pose a security threat in other nations due to their linkage nature. For the purpose of this study the above stated phenomena are examined.

Human trafficking

Human trafficking is defined as the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving persons for the purpose of exploitation, by using or threatening force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, or abuse of power against them, or by giving or receiving payment or benefit to those who control them (United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network, 2010). In a 2005 report for the International Labor Organization (ILO), globally over 2.5 million people are either sexually or economically exploited as victims of human trafficking (Belser, 2005). According to him, within this estimate, 1.4 million people are believed to be victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and 1.1 million are victims of other forms of economic exploitation. According to a 2006 UNODC report, main destinations include the United States, Canada, the European Union, Japan, and Australia (Haken, 2011:8). Other main destinations include Saudi Arabia and Turkey, and further complicating matters, China, India, Pakistan, Poland, and the Czech Republic are frequently reported as both origin and destination countries (UNODC, 2006). After the study, Belser estimated that 70 percent of sex trafficking victims and 38 percent of people trafficked for economic exploitation are destined for Asia and the Pacific. The majority of the profit made by traffickers end up in the realm of organized criminal activities such as money laundering, drug trafficking, forging of documents, and bribing government officials (US Department of State, 2006). Regrettably, human trafficking is not only criminal but it has also linkage relationship with other forms of crimes and corrupt practices. The worrying aspect of the whole matter is the ever increasing destinations where the trafficked persons are being transported to for exploitation and abuse.

Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Small Arms Survey 2010 estimates that there are around 900 million SALWs in circulation around the world (www.smallarmssurvey.org/weapons-and-markets), and that the legal international trade in SALW (including parts, accessories, and ammunition) is valued at approximately \$3 billion (Small Arms Survey, 2009). The illicit market is about 10 to 20

percent of the licit market (UNODC, 2010:129). At this rate, the annual value of the illicit arms trade can be estimated at around \$300 to \$600 million (Haken, 2011:25). According to the Small Arms Survey, twelve of the top fifteen manufacturing countries are known to have exported over \$100 million in SALW in a single year. These twelve countries are Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States (Haken, 2011:26). According to Haken, many of these weapons can trace their origins back to the end of the Cold War. As noted by UNODC (2010), that the dismantling of the Soviet Union and the downsizing of military budgets left many countries in the former Soviet bloc with “large stockpiles of aging, but still functional, arms and ammunition. Ukraine, for example, once home to 30 percent of the Soviet military industrial complex, currently holds a stockpile of 7 million small arms as well as larger weapons (UNODC, 2010). The most worrying aspect of the whole scenario is that in the highly fluid and unpredictable transnational market controlled by the twin forces of demand and supply, these small arms and light weapons are usually and most likely go into the hands of organized criminals, armed bandits, insurgents and terrorists, thereby posing enormous threats to human, national and, at large, global security.

Drug trafficking

According to the 2010 World Drug Report, the illicit drug market can be divided into four main categories: cocaine, opiates (heroin and opium), amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), and cannabis (Haken, 2011:3). Of these four categories, “most of the long-distance trafficking involves cocaine and heroin,” (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2010). According to UNODC, cocaine and opiates are produced almost exclusively in developing countries—cocaine in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia; opiates in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Mexico, and Colombia. According to Haken (2011:3), it is widely understood that groups engaging in drug trafficking also engage in other sorts of violent and criminal enterprise, from mass murders and human smuggling in Mexico, to the funding of militant insurgents and terrorists such as Al Qaeda, the FARC in Colombia, and possibly Hezbollah in Lebanon. Trafficking of drug remained a big threat peace. This is because individuals involved in drug trafficking also engaged in other criminal activities beyond one national border. For instance, those that are involved in the business are believed to be doing not necessarily limited within the shore of a particular nation. Evidence has shown that drug dealers have agents that market their product. The implication of this has always been incessant crimes from one nation to another.

Conclusion

Systems theory provides greater coherence and deeper perspective by viewing international relations in terms of a pattern of global interdependence (Lieber, 1973:122). In fact, the linkage and contagious effects of civil wars and other criminal activities are indicative that they are indeed global issues. This is possible as there is interaction, interrelatedness and interdependence among various national political systems within international community. That is why systems theory attempts to provide analytical framework of understanding the interdependence of nations in their economic, political, cultural and security interactions. There is a linkage relationship of actions taken in the domestic border of national governments. Rosenau (1969:11) explains the influences, pressures and strains that the international environment wields on the national local political scene. This, therefore, means that external behaviour or influence has greater impact on the domestic behaviour of nation-states vice versa.

The Post Cold war international system has witnessed cooperation, interdependence and conflicts. The traditional inter-states wars have almost been forgotten in the

contemporary global system. Today, it is a commonplace fact that the upsurge of terrorism, intra-state conflicts, and transnational crime has remained identifiable interrelated and reinforcing forces posing a colossal threat to global peace and security. The fight against these forces requires collective efforts. The upsurge of refugee crisis in Europe as result of intra-national conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Bahrain etc, is a pointer to the fact that there is a linkage, and by extension, we are in an integrated world. Therefore, no nation of the world is spared in the current security challenges confronting post cold war international system. In this regard therefore, for hope to be on the horizon there must be a collective effort towards tackling the pervasive security threats in the world today, and only a 'supranational body' in collaboration with a world leader (hegemon) that has the leadership capacity to effectively lead others (nations) in the fight against intra-state conflicts, terrorism and transnational crimes. Therefore, the world with many leaders is unnecessary and undesirable.

References

- Andreatta, F. (2008). "Italian Foreign Policy: Domestic Politics, International Requirements and the European Dimension," *Journal of European Integration*, 30 (1), 169-18.
- Akpuru-Aja, A. (2007). *Basic Concepts, Issues and Strategies of Peace and Conflict Resolution: Nigerian-African Conflict Case Studies*. Enugu: Keny and Brothers Ent.
- Anna, K. (2007). Message to Symposium on the Media and the Rwanda Genocide, in P. Allan (ed) *The Media and the Rwanda Genocide*. London: Pluto Press.
- Baylis, B., Smith, S. and Owens, P. (2008). *The Globalisation of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, (4th ed). New York: Oxford University Press.
- B.B.C News. (2011). Egypt violence: Cairo clashes go into fourth day. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-16243609>.
- Belser, P. (2005). "Force Labor and Human Trafficking: Estimating the Profits," A Study for International Labour Organization.
- Daniel, C., Taft, P. & Wiharta S. (2008). *Peace Operations: Trends, Progress, and Prospects*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.
- Ekpe, A. (2012). Major Developments in International Relations After the Cold War, in A.E. Ekpe, M.B. Abasiattai & O. Akpan (eds), *An Introduction to International Studies and World Politics*, Yaounde: Book House.
- Eminue, O. (2012). The International System and its Actors: An Appraisal in A.E. Ekpe, M.B. Abasiattai & O. Akpan (eds), *An Introduction to International Studies and World Politics*, Yaounde: Book House.
- Ewan, H. (2004). *The Post-Cold War International System*. New York: Routledge.
- Haken, J. (2011). Transnational Crime In The Developing World. A Program of the Center for International Policy, Washington, DC: Global Financial Integrity.
- Hoffman, B. (1998). *Inside Terrorism*. Columbia University Press.
- Hoffman, B. (2006). *Inside terrorism*, (2 ed). Columbia University Press.
- Huntington, P. (1996). *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remarking of World Order*. New York: Simon and Schuster.
- George-Genyi, E. (2013). Good Governance: Antidote For Peace and Security in Nigeria, *European Journal of Business and Social Sciences*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp 56-65.
- Goldstein, J. (2003). *International Relations (5th ed)* Delhi: Pearson Education Inc.
- Ibeanu, O. (2005). "Conceptualizing Peace" in S.B. Gaya (ed) *Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies in West Africa*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books.
- Jason, D. (2009). Italy-US Relations since the End of the Cold War: Prestige, Peace, and the Transatlantic Balance, *Bulletin of Italian Politics* Vol. 1, No. 2, 2009, 289-308.
- Kaplan, D. (2000). "The Coming of Anarchy: Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War in Comparative" *Review of International Studies*, No. 2.
- Kegley, C. (2006). *World Politics: Trend and Transformation (11th ed)*, Boston: Thomson Higher Education.
- Kegley, C. and Blonton, S. (2011). *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*. Boston: Suzann jeans.
- Lieber, R. (1973). *Theory and World Politics*. London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd.

- Magstadt, M. (2007). *Understanding Politics: Ideas, Institutions and Issues*. United States: Wadsworth.
- Missworld Security (2012). Definitions: What's the difference between Intrastate, Interstate & Extrastate? <http://missworldsecurity.com>.
- Muzaffer, Y. (2008). "The New World Order": An Outline of the Post-Cold War Era. *Alternative Turkish Journal of International Relation*, Vol. 7 No. 4 pp. 44.
- Namaganda, A. (2014). United States after the Cold War and its Foreign Policy of the New World Order, Linnaeus University Institutionen för Statsvetenskap.
- Neil, B. (2003). "Transnational Criminal Law?" *European Journal of International Law* 14: 953, 967-77
- Nye, J. (1991). Why the Gulf War Served the National Interest. *The Atlantic Monthly*, 268(1), 56-64.
- Nye, J. (1992). "What new World Order?" *Foreign Affairs*. 1/2 83-96.
- Odia, A. (2014). Social Studies as an Instrument for Global Peace: Analytical and Prescriptive Perspectives, *Review of Public Administration and Management* Vol. 3, No. 5. Department of Public Administration Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria and Zainab Arabian Research Society for Multidisciplinary Issues Dubai, UAE.
- Osaghae, E. (1988). *Political Analysis*. Ibadan: University of Ibadan External Studies Programme.
- Palmer, R. Colson, J. & Kramer, L. (2007). *A History of the Modern World since 1815*. Boston: McGraw Hill Companies.
- Prunier, G. (1995). The Rwanda Crisis 1959-1994: History of a Genocide. London: Hurst.
- Prunier, G. (2006). "The Politics of Dearth in Darfur", *Current History* Vol. 12 No. 2.
- Rosenau, J. (1969). *Linkage Politics*. London: Macmillan Press.
- Saeid, N. and Jayum, A. (2012). Geopolitics of the Islam World and world leadership in the post-Cold War geopolitical developments, Paper Presented in the International Conference on "Leadership and Social Science Change in the Muslim World: Prospects and Challenges" in International Islamic University Malaysia.
- Small Arms Survey (2010). "Small Arms Survey," <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org>.
- Small Arms Survey (2009). "Shadows of War." Geneva: Graduate Institute of International Studies, Oxford University Press, <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org>.
- The New York Times, (2012). Tunisia. Retrieved from <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news>.
- Thompson, D. (1978). *Europe Since Napoleon*. London: Penguin Books.
- Udoka, I. (2012). The Cold War and its Aftermath, in A.E. Ekpe, M.B. Abasiattai & O. Akpan (eds), *An Introduction to International Studies and World Politics*, Yaounde: Book House.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, (2010). "World Drug Report," <http://www.unodc.org/documents>.
- UNODC, (2006). "Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns," <http://www.unodc.org>.
- UNODC, (2010). "The Globalization of Crime: A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment," <http://www.unodc.org>.
- United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network, (2010). "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Supplement of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime," 2000.
- UNTFHS (2009). Human Security in Theory and Practice: An Overview of the Human Security Concept and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security. New York: Human Security Unit, United Nations.
- US Department of State, (2006). Trafficking in Persons Report <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization>.
- Viotti, R. and Kauppi, V. (2009). *International Relations and World Politics*. London: Pearson Educational International.
- White, B. (2005). "Diplomacy" in Baylis, J., Smith, S. (ed), *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Woodward, B. (2002). *Bush at War*" New York: Simon & Schuster.
- Yilmaz, E. (2008). The New World Order: An Outline of the Post Cold War Era, *Turkish Journal of International Relations*. Vol. 7 No. 4.