GLOBALIZATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

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Abstract
The new world order branded globalization has generated a lot of heated debates more especially in the current contemporary political discussion. In this academic exploration, we shall be looking at the concept of globalization to find out what the concept is all about. This write up will employ global functionalist theory to accord the write up theoretical direction. This work will consist of an analysis on the effects of globalization on their world countries which is the main pendulum of this academic enterprise. In doing this we shall look at both the negative and positive effects of globalization in third world countries. Lastly we shall make a safe landing by proffering possible solutions that would go a long way to help the third world countries to find their fit in this new world order.

Introduction

Hawley (2001) defined globalization "as the name given to the social economic and political process, that has taken together, produced the characteristics conditions of contemporary existence". In particular the concept refers to the ways in which the previously distant part of the world have become connected in a historically unprecedented manner, such that development in one part of the world are now able to rapidly produce effect on the geographically distant localities, this infact has made the world to be viewed as a global village linked by a wide array of technological, economic, social and cultural forces. Globalization could also be defined as a value-free, innocent, self determining process. It is an international sociopolitical economic and cultural permeation process facilitate by policies of government, private cooperation international agencies and civil society organization, it essentially seeks to enhance and deploy a country's organization (society's or organization's) economic, political technological, ideological and military power and influence for competitive domination in the world.

In fact over the past decade, globalization has become an ubiquitous term in a wide-range of academic and popular discourses. It is a concept that has now been used to describe almost any every aspect of contemporary life, from the complicated machinations of contemporary

capitalism, to the erosion of the nation-state system and the rise of transnational organization and cooperation, to the threat posed by global culture to the local cultures and traditions to the communications revolution introduced by the new technologies such as the internet, the terms seems to capture a genuine sense of the dizzying changes that have transformed the world.

It is important to emphasize that globalization though refers to the present, but it is imperative to highlight that the phenomena it describes are hardly new. For instance, there has been discussion about the possibility of a global economic system, a world culture or a world literature. In the wealth of nations, Smith (1976) identifies the global character of western capitalism form as the "mutual communication of knowledge" and "an extensive commerce form all countries to all countries that would be of benefit to all parts of the globe.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its own line of thinking sees the concept globalization as the rapid integration of economies worldwide through trade, financial flows technology-spillover, information networks and cross cultural currents. The World Bank on its own side contends that it is about the increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, it's about 'international trade investment and finance that has been growing far faster than National income. It is all about technologies that have already transformed our abilities to communicate in ways that would have been unimaginable in far years ago. It is all about our global environment, communicable disease, crime, violence and terrorism. It is about workers of all countries to develop their potentials and to support their families and job created by the greater economic integration. But it is all about workers in the developed countries who fear losing their jobs to low-cost countries with limited labour right. And it is about workers in developing countries who worry about decisions affecting their lives that are made in far away head offices of international co-operations.

Globalization is the intensification of the domination of the economic, political, security, military and social cultural affairs of the world by the industrial capitalism, aided and facilitated by the electronic and telecommunication resolution under the hegemony of the United State

of America and its allied in Europe as well as Japan. In other words globalization is a new world order which imposes common global references dictated and managed from Europe and America through international institutions such as the United Nation and its agencies. In this direction many view it as another form of colonization but in a different fashion, it is on this premises that one could contend without been prosecuted that globalization is another form of new expansion of Eurocentrism and its imperial tendency, in order to make the entire world unified according to European standards.

However, it is very crucial to point out that the whole ideas behind this concept are very dangerous for the third world countries, this is as a result of the fact that participation in any international affairs in this new world order is just like a wrestling competition where the stronger world always show the weaker one way out of the ring either in life and death.

Conceptual Clarification

Two major concepts in the work will certainly need clarification i.e Globalization and third world.

What is globalization? Globalization is essentially the Universality of Capitalism, in its speculative variety. (Asobie, 2002) contemporary globalization is synonymous with the emergence of highly mobile, speculative capital that is global in its operations.

Soro (2000), defines globalization as the free movement of capital and the increasing domination of national economics by global financial markets and multinational corporations. He observed that under the influence of globalization, the character of our economic and social arrangement has undergone a radical transformation. The ability of capital to go else undermines the ability of the state to exercise control over the economy.

Globalization is not simply a process, it is programme of action a strategic plan by the authors of the plan. According to Asobie (2002) these are multinational corporations, based in Europe and America. The plan of multinational corporations, is to build an integrated world economy and ultimately a global human community and a universal polity as an instrument for the modernization of profit. They entertain a

vision of a prosperous world without borders (Barnet and Muller, 1974), and of world peace through world trade. Globalization, in its current phase, is therefore, a technique of ideological making, it was devised by global entrepreneur primarily to counter arising trend in the underdeveloped world (Asobie, 2002).

Countries are classified into three different world viz 1st world consisting of developed countries of the west 2nd world-socialist countries of the Eastern bloc and lastly third world countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Third world countries are under developed countries. The features of these countries are as follows: low per capital income, high mortality rate, high rate of illiteracy; technological backwardness; political and economy vulnerability, lastly most of their economies are agrarian. Most of these countries experienced colonial domination and exploitation. All the aforementioned features impacted negatively on their abilities to co-exist comfortability and independently in global interactions. Particularly in our contemporary globalised world.

Theoretical Frame Work

To properly have a direction and understanding of the topic the researcher intend to analyse the functionalist theory of integration. According to the theory of functionalism, the integration of the global economy which the proponents of globalization consistently advocate is a veritable solution to the perennial problem inherent in the very nature of the inter-state system namely, the inevitability of violent conflicts.

Contemporary globalization could be defined as the integration of the activities and practices of human societies around the globe. It is presented as both the vertical and horizontal integration of the global economy, involving increasing volume and complexifying variety of transnational capital flows; in human migration, and through a raid and wide spared diffusion of technology (Mussa, 2000). By the logic of the functionalist theory, globalization is therefore expected to result in an unprecedented outbreak of world peace. But evidently, this has not happened.

To properly understand the existence of third world countries and in a globalize world; the effects of globalization on such countries the theory

of under development and dependency will be employed. In a nutshell, the basic thesis of underdevelopment and dependency theory is the unequal relationship existing between developed countries of the West the protagonist of globalization and underdeveloped countries of the third world. This unequal relationship was brought about as result of colonial domination and exploitation of the later by the former. Secondly, there is dependent relationship. This dependency led to the vulnerability of third world countries to the political and economic vagaries of the western capitalist nations. With this type of relationship, globalization will mostly benefit developed nations more than the third world countries. However, globalization has its positive impact on third world.

The Effect of Globalization on Third World Countries

The main nitty-gritty of this academic mission is on the effect of globalization on the third world countries, but before we step further it is very important to highlight the basic fact that implementation of the global tenets are not done in a vacuum, it is carried out by some agencies and organizations such as the world bank, IMF World trade Organization, and other United National Agencies and Multi-National Cooperations and other private organizations, world leaders etc these are the pipes through which the concept globalizations are carried out.

Negative Effects

The developing countries are taking the concept as a dangerous process of exploitation which is making the rich countries richer and big international corporations are getting bigger and richer at the expense of the poor ones. However it is probably more important to be clear about the negative aspect of globalization and the fact that its benefit are very unevenly shared and its costs are uneven when seen in the light of developing countries. Both in concept and in practice, for every positive aspect of globalization, there is negative side: while globalization has positive, innovative, dynamic aspects, it also has negative, disruptive marginalizing aspects (UNDP) Human Development Report (1999:25).

Globalization in real sense has set new global rules that have further marginalized the third world countries in taking decisions on policies

that concerns them, some of the big decisions affecting the developing nations are more or less imposed by the globalization players such as the IMF, World Bank, W.T.O etc. Drain on the human capacity of the state Globalization has borders and relatively free labour movement, this has aggravated the problem of brain drain, which has existed for a long time although most countries with appropriate financial policies receive remittance 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 home from exile. The opening of borders has also make it absolutely impossible for own people to grow in their chosen professions, this is as a result of the fact that most of the multinational cooperation has not seen our people as been competent, rather they rely on the so called expatriates, take for instance what is happening in the oil industries most of the key jobs are handled by the expatriates to the detriment of our own.

As culture interact some countries are being diluted and or destroyed at the expenses of others and negative values and orientations are being spread all over the world, globalization has also encouraged illicit trade in drugs, prostitution, pornography, human trafficking, national cultural identities are also under threat thanks to the spread of satellite T.V. and internets, international media networks and increased personal travels.

In the area of environmental degradation, most third world countries environment are in serious threat, dumping of dangerous waste and depletion of the environment by the multinational corporation is not encouraging, the activities of most oil companies in Africa ahs affected Agriculture production, most of the companies are not meeting up with their social responsibilities, gas flaring, poor waste management has done more harm than good to most of the third world countries, and this ahs encouraged youth restiveness, a clear case study is in Niger Delta Areas of Nigeria.

Globalization has also set new global rules that have further marginalized developing countries and people, especially in areas of trade. Most of the countries in the developing countries cannot compete

favourably with the global prayer, our product are seen as fake or substandard product that has no international recognition thereby hampering the rate of our export and also dealt with our local currencies. As a result of these, globalization has turned the developing nation as a dumping ground for all sorts of goods from Europe and America, the world trade organization is not helping matters, the organization has not given enough room for the developing nations to participate in making policies that affect the international body.

Globalization affects the sovereignty of a state, it is an eye opener to everybody in the developing countries that our leaders do not act indecently, and rather their policies and programmes are teleguided by the western world. No state in developing countries takes any international decision without seeking approval from the international players such as America, Britain, and France etc.

Globalization breeds conflict and increase social divide in Developing Countries, even as the proponents speaks of increased prosperity and investment confidence, the process of globalization breeds violence and conflict when it continues to produce inequality, poverty, environmental destruction an unprecedented concentration of economic power for a few while the majority are marginalized and excluded. The developing countries are victims of this sad phenomenon of globalization.

Positive Effects

Globalization has brought good Governance in most third world countries. One of the most durable effects of globalization has been the growing recognition across many African and Asia, and Latin American countries that good governance at all level is the essential starting point for economic progress. Globalization has helped many developing countries to better appreciate the importance of their democratic rights and to aspire to proper functioning democratic system that respect human right and the rule of law. There is therefore a strong push to develop political systems that promote representative and honest government, press freedom is growing along with the overall level of political activity established. Standard of good governance arising from globalization are progressively taking hold in most of the developing countries.

Globalization has also eased international trade and commerce, facilitated foreign investment and the flow of capital. in the area of information and communication technology. Globalization has turned the world into a global village, many of the developing countries are embracing the global system on telecommunication; indigenous computer firms are springing up e.g (Zinox computer in Nigeria), developing nations are begging to appreciate what they never had before, globalization has freed labour across boundaries and facilitated industrial development; take for instance the development in most of the Asia countries refers to as the Asian tigers, most of the things we use in Africa are produced in Asia countries as Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Singapore, South Korea, India etc. This is as a result of globalization which propelled development in such countries.

Another positive effect globalization is its impact on Education. Developing nations are increasingly recognizing that countries which have benefited from globalization have invested significantly in Education. While most countries still lack the resources to establish a robust education infrastructure, there is greater awareness of the role that education must play for the future and of the standards that must be achieved. The internet and other advance, in information technology have opened up opportunities to improve the quality and content of Educational programmes.

Globalization has brought about the increase rate in private sector participation in socio-economic development in most third world countries, as we know that private sector are the main engine in development processes. Take for instance some companies that are operating in Nigeria, in the telecommunication sector, MTN, Celtel, Globacom are owned and controlled by private individuals, the India firm (Ispat group) handing the Ajaokuta Steel Complex and the Henieken Investment in the Nigeria breweries are all organized private sector and all these are made possible as a result of globalization.
In the area of health, globalization has brought about increase in life expectancy. In general life expectancy in developing countries has risen at an astonishing pace in the late 1940's life expectancy for men in India was 28 years, for women 32, but in 2003 it was 63 for all India adult, in

China between 1960 it was 36 years and by year 2000 it had risen to 71 years. (Krueger, 2001).

Conclusion

Globalization whether the third world countries appreciate it or not has come to say, we cannot do anything to alter destiny of this new world code, for us to survive in this new order require vision, appropriate knowledge, skills, economic reforms, wisdom from our leader. It also requires sensitivity, willingness, a change of attitude and the right technical assistance from global actors such as the United Nations and its agencies.

Effort should therefore be geared towards the promotion of regional integration this will go a long way in helping us to have a strong bargaining power in the international arena. NEPAD initiative is thus a welcome development. In this direction there should be a strong trade partnership between Asia, Africa, and Latin America. All obstacles to free flow of trade and investment should also be dismantled entirely.

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