Historicizing the age-long newness of globalization and its challenge to Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

The word globalization is an age-long term that became a new fad in 1980s. It is another phase in consolidating and universalizing capitalism and it surreptitiously bind countries in the world to a global capitalist market unhindered by national frontiers and driven by information and communication technology. The proponents of globalization claimed that its entire purpose is to create development, overcome poverty; engender wealth creation and job opportunities. The critics of globalization after all their intellectual scrutiny, declared that the scorecard has been very dismal because it is a means of deepening underdevelopment in Nigeria based on the classical economic notion of the philosophy of comparative advantage. Development will be farfetched in Nigeria if there is no economic revolution via production and industrialization backed by technology in this globalized world. The study maximized multidisciplinary approach in the examination of globalization as age-long phenomenon. The finding of the study revealed that globalization is to universalize the strong cause of capitalism for the development of underdevelopment.

Keywords: Globalization, historicizing, capitalism, development, underdevelopment, etc.

Introduction:

Development has occupied the front burner of Nigeria political economy because it is the sustainable improvements in the living conditions of people that yield the highest possible of satisfaction and fulfillment (Ohale, 2018:1). It is the profound qualitative changes not only in economy but also of the society. It makes it possible for nations to transit from poverty to wealth, from insecurity to security, from low standard of living to high standard of living.

Globalization is the integration of everything in a way that shrinks the world from a size medium to size small. The brain child of globalization was the contradictions that characterized the European economies which reduced the rate of profit and arrested the capitalization of surplus value. Confronted with these adverse economic effects, the organizers of it, highly bent on profit maximization, turned to a new environment in which the process of accumulation would proceed apace. The European bourgeoisies turned to foreign lands, attacked and subjugated them and integrated economies of the third world countries to those of Western Europe. The compelling force behind such movement was the quest for markets as well as opportunities for high returns on investments. These movements of people, technology and goods across international borders have been enormous blessings to the pioneers. Nigerian government in the dire need for development has applied all measures prescribed by the advocates of globalization ranging from Structural Adjustment Programme and international capital borrowing and have fulfilled all unimaginable conditionalities of privatization, currency devaluation, removal of trade tariffs, adoption of western liberal democracy and limited government involvement in economic development, yet no success has been recorded.. All these measures only aggravated hardship, economic confusion, crisis, underdevelopment and dependency. The country is still deepening into unimaginable crises. Hitherto, the neo-globalization is still harping on these measures as the ultimate elixir for Nigerian economic problems.

Globalization and its Challenge to Development in Nigeria: A Historical Reassessment.

The history of Nigeria multifaceted development is rich and diverse and its legacy to world civilization cannot be doubted. The Northern part of Nigeria was the seat of several ancient kingdoms such as the Kanem-Bornu and Hausa States. "Arab

geographers noted the important state of Kanem". In the South West part of Nigeria, the Oyo and the Ife strode majestically in economic and political history. The Ife culture of artistic works (terra-cotta and bronze) and architectural design of potsherd pavement are indigenous cultural expressions of lfe people unassisted by outsiders of any sort (Jones, 2020:50-51). The lfe civilization attracted the attention of scholars most of them of European origin. In 1910-1911, Leo Frobenus, a German ethnographer discovered in lfe, evidence of an ancient artistic tradition (ibid). The Benin Kingdom in the Mid-West stood incomparably in artistic works that marveled the early European adventurers. In the Middle belt of Nigeria was the locus of the gloriously Nok Kingdom (Kaduna State) and its world-renowned terracotta sculptures (Achebe, 2012:1). The findings in Nok Kingdom revealed one of the earliest forms of iron technology in Nigeria. In Igbo axis, the Igbo Ukwu (Great lgbo), have a remarkable culture which reflected settled life civilization and the rise of Nri Kingdoms (Afigbo, 1981:15). "The high level of technical proficiency of artwork found in Igbo Ukwu raised questions about its origin with some historians' theorizing foreign and phantom voyagers, is an attempt to disparage the intellectual capability of the ancient Igbo" (Gbule and Odili, 2013:22). The Niger Delta States with its highly developed state machineries flourished by reason of internal trade while the Orashi Region of Northern Niger Delta fringe were/are skilled agriculturists coupled with the Ogba ceramic industry bestrode in the Egi Region. The European voyagers, scholars, missionaries, administrators etc. who were privileged to have visited African, Nigeria to be inclusive, saw the glorious civilization of the indigenous people, but the fog of ethnocentrism was so high that they were blinded to properly investigate the rich culture of the people they visited and studied. European Hamitic Hypothesis and their Eurocentric writings have been flawed by the contributions of African and Nigerian scholars who utilized oral traditions, archival sources, archeology and social anthropology to unearthing African civilizations in the Pre-European contact. From colonial racial anthropology and psychology, the white scholars argued that African indigenous economies were not altruistic, market-oriented, innovative; very un-monetized, conservative, un-enterprising, risk-aversion, suspicious to change or rigid and behaviour conditioned by particularistic, ascriptive and diffused norms (Ake, 1996:15, Brett,1973:4, Hopkins, 1973:5-9, Zeleza, 1993:13, Orji, 1989:10). This argument has been defused by Afrocentric scholars, noting that Africans were economic men but economic activity was a complex interplay of self-sustaining

subsistence and profit-oriented (Schneider, 1977:189-203, Orugbani, 2010:587). According to J.E. Casely Hayfold, he said in 1922 "before even the British came in relations with our people, we were a developed people, having our own institutions and having our own idea of government". Nigeria had viable and superlative economic structures that satisfied human needs and had surplus for exchange which confirmed the economic mind of man's effort through ages or centuries towards the provision and satisfaction of his desires, wants and the sustainability of his material progress and development (Osaih, 2009:1). Unlike the European which had economic crises that prompted for internal adjustments and transportation of capitalism and the transplanting of capitalism from Western Europe to African/Nigeria was accomplished in different ways namely: mercantilism or imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism/post-imperialism (Ake, 1981:19, Okodudu, 2005:259-260).

The mercantilist phase was 1500-1800, which was associated with bullionism, the belief that the greatness of a nation is traceable to the accumulation of quantitative and qualitative metals and the maintenance of a more favourable balance of trade and payment in her economic relationships with the rest of the world (Okorobia, 1999:103). This phase was marked by savage exploitation, looting and plundering of economic potentials of pre-capitalist societies by slave dealers. The main articles were slaves and palm oil.

The second phase was colonial period, which spanned from 1800-1950, typified by the political control of the pre-colonial Nigerian Societies and the transfer of economic surplus. It is also called colonizing imperialism.

The neo-colonial phase was from 1950-1970, which was marked by the transfer of economic surplus through market mechanism and technological transfer. This was only made possible because of British orchestrated handover of power to their Nigerian stooges. According to Kwame Nkrumah, "the essence of neo-colonialism is that the state which is subject to it is in theory independent and has all the outward trappings of international sovereignty. In reality, its economic system and thus its political policy is directed from outside". He further said "neocolonialism is the worst form of imperialism. For those who practice it, it means power without responsibilities and for those who suffered from it, it means

exploitation without redress (Nkrumah, 1960:1). Nigeria as a neocolonial state is tied very much to the apron strings of multinational corporations and foreign capital in league with comprador bourgeoisies. Concomitantly, the socio-economic and political institutions, cultural values and legal systems are the extensions of colonial history that stagnated indigenous social formations. Foreign policies which is wholly a dependent variable from the domestic environment constituted by the political leadership which serves the interests of the metropoles (Alkali, 1996:3). So, a dependent economy plays subservient to the multinational agencies and multinational corporations to the detriment of the general masses.

The fourth phase was the Post-imperialism 1970 to date. This period is characterized by transfer of economic surplus through debt peonage and comparative advantage. The ball game of economic globalization is self-interest and economic development of the class that pioneered it. Economic globalization wasn't a humanitarian, altruistic, charity and father Christmas endeavour or a civilized mission as so argued by white scholars but a avowed doctrinaire configuration of exploitation of human and natural resources which would have been used to develop Nigeria was transferred to revamped their ailing economy (Osaih, 2009:1). It was purposefully a consistent repatriation of surplus produced by Nigerian labour and resources to the mother country (Rodney, 1972:62). It was really a unequal exchange that only created enclave development to enable them realized their racketeering and capitalist bid. Zeleza (1993:5) said that European business in the third world regions which Nigeria is part of, is a history often frozen into an unrelenting saga of deepening underdevelopment. Critics of capitalism called the dependentists argued that capitalism is exploitative, creating a dog-eat- dog relationship with grotesque inequality and heavy taxation. The quest for profit recapitalization of surplus engendered brutality and misery of workers, underpaid by capitalist employers. Neo-classical paradigm countered the above criticism by pointing that the wholesale acceptance of western ideas, and institutions crushed primitivity and barbarism. The theses of J.J. Rostow (The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto, 1960), Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations (1776) and other scholarship were ahistorical, mere abstractions, wizardry rationalization and intellectual legitimation of the capitalist system (Zeleza, 1993:8). This aura of scientific objectivity and ideological acceptability is What Professor Claude Ake called Social Science as Imperialism.

Globalization is not a new process, for over past centuries firms in economically developed countries extended their outreach through trade and production (Martin, 2000:1). This process was intensified in the colonial days and super-intensified in the new millennium. Globalization is conceived as a theory of development as well as underdevelopment. Globalization is an advanced stage in the expansion of the fundamentals of capitalist economic activities, trade and productive investments. Globalization whether old or new, is an ideological revolutionary expression aimed at the development of a worldwide market for the free circulation of goods and services, unhindered by national frontiers and driven by information and communication technology. Globalization refers to the process of intensification of economic, political, social and cultural relations across international boundaries (Eze, 2010:92). Globalization is characterized from its push of free market dynamics and liberal democracy in order to overcome the scourge of poverty as existing barriers to markets would be removed and production would soar, leading to creation of wealth, job opportunities and infrastructural facilities (Naanen, 2015:24, Osaih, 2011:2).

The term globalization gives the impression that a given phenomenon has transcended the border of a country. This concept globalization can be seen as the newest term for an oldest phenomenon. The Bible calls it an old wine in a new wineskin. For instance, we heard the stories that the Israelites (God's own people) had their origins in the Ur of the Chaldeans or the diaspora of the sons of Jacob to Egypt during the severe famine recorded in history. Again when Herod was diligently searching for the young child saviour to kill him, the saviour was taken to Egypt. All these cases, expressed one thing. Looking for what you need in another man's territory. Whether what you seek is food, safety or glory, the undeniable truth is that you could and are able to get them wherever they can be gotten from either through the use of force, tricks, atavism, diplomacy, barter, interdependence etc. Globalization is a clear indicator that human minds and thinking have developed sophisticatedly so that out of man's continuous interaction with God and nature, there has emerged innovations and technological breakthroughs. Sometimes, human innovation is the result of trials often associated with profuse errors and then retrials, which end up in constant experimentation with things and thought. Surprisingly, globalization is a curse to those who lack thought, a blessing to those who think and a benefit those who has

money. Those who championed the idea are the principal beneficiaries while those who participate in it are either losers or minimal beneficiaries. When economies are increasingly integrated through trade, financial flows and investment, the term is referred to as globalization, the movement of people (labour), knowledge (technology) and goods(manufactures), money (capital) across international border for the purpose of profit with the same market forces that have operated for centuries at all levels of human economic activity-village markets, urban industries or financial centres. When transnational companies transfer several branches of their industries to another sovereign country and have legal existence to do business in such a foreign country, then globalization is making progress. Thus, German industries are in Congo, producing buses, trucks and bicycles. These bicycles are sold in Germany, America, Nigeria and London. When these locomotives need repairs, experts from Germany are flown in to effect the repairs or Nigerians might travel to Germany to learn how to repair bicycle. In similar vein, Sisals and cotton produced in Northern Nigeria are sold to marketing board who in turn sold them to British merchants. The British merchants then transport them to Lancashire where the cotton wool is turned into fabrics and clothing. These clothing are sold in America, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt and Australia. Multinational Companies such as Toyota, General Motors, Nissan, Microsoft, Shell, Chevron, Texaco, Yamaha, Total E & P Nigeria Limited, etc. All transnational corporations treat the whole planet as their field of activities and regard humanity at large as potential and actual clients. All these companies have their base in Nigeria and their parent company abroad. For instance, Total E&P Nigeria Limited is in Rivers State, Egi land in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area exploring and exploiting oil to the detriment of the indigenous economy and the people and the concomitant poverty it spawned. Crude oil is taking to Europe to refine and separated out and it yields three basic products such as: gas and gasoline, middle distillates and fuel oil. Out of creativity, phones, microphones, kerosene, motor and aviation fuels, diesel, aerosol, insecticides, waxes, asphalt or bitumen for roads, waterproofing, roofing, roofing materials, lubricants and feedstock for petrochemical industry are got from crude oil. These goods are transported to and sold in Nigeria and other developing countries at outrageous and exorbitant prices. The reason for these explanations and instances is that, it cannot be global, if it is only bilateral. What we can understand is that, it is a worldwide process of economic, cultural, social and political expansion.

Christianity, the spiritual wing of imperialism, is a form of cultural globalization. Democracy is a form of political globalization. The use of English Language is a form of cultural globalization and so it is with the clothes we wear and our new patterns of marriage. No wonder, Mac-Ogonor described globalization, considering it uncontrollable spread, as the march of capital to all corners of the earth in search for profit. It is process of consolidating and universalizing capitalism. The only reason these movements are made was/ is to acquire profit. Profit, the driving force for globalization makes the globalists to use all kinds of methods to ensure the acquisition of territories, mandates, trustees, concessions and the likes. From 1884/1885, formal colonialism became an effective pattern of acquiring and monopolizing markets, the European did not take chances in forcing their rivals out. It is the effort to perceive self-reliance production for the development of the home market rather than by the value of the conquered territory's national currency, and free-market drives that interstate trading, restriction on foreign capitalist rival, disagreement of industrialization in Nigeria, excess taxation on agricultural export from Nigeria and other developing countries (Osaih, 2013:3), are devised by the globalizers. But, apart from profit alone, a historical process have already been developed to separate those who have globalizable commodities (machines, cars, firms, money) and those who do not. The people of the weaker world like Nigeria have to look modern by imitating and looking up to the people at the advanced world. Weaker States like Nigeria have to depend on the stronger ones for most of their needs. The only source of strength is industrialization, backed by technology for the realization of national interest. National power is therefore measured by industrial capability to manufacture things for sale and the technological competence to do so. Globalization is nothing more than the process of expanding a certain form of capitalist economic practice and hence culture to all corners of the globe on terms and conditions arranged by and favourable to leading capitalist countries, organizations, institutions and individual capitalist. It creates a permanent situation of dependency from which Nigeria and developing countries cannot hope to escape unless they embarked upon a political, economic and social revolution (Osaih, 2013:4). The most remarkable character of globalization is that it spans from one country to another but in the service of and for the benefit of one partner who initiated and supervised the process of interaction. For instance, when slaves were sold, the profit was accruing to the white men who bought the

slaves for manual labour on their plantations and farms in Europe and America. When agricultural commodities were produced, they were bought cheaply, transformed into manufactured goods and sold back costly to the Nigerian people. When foreign investment came, they merely came to Nigeria to extract profit and thereafter left their host communities poor, exploited and impoverished. When trade came along, they introduced measures that will make it cumbersome for Nigeria and developing countries to benefit from the trade. High export duties for developing countries' products, high demurrages, high custom duties, and high exchange rates were the major bottlenecks. On the issue of international finance that globalization finds Nigeria very weak. Nigeria is heavily indebted not because they borrowed much, but the little they borrowed keep being recapitalized and new interest regimes added to compound the burden. How would any country explain the use of loans to start its business operations only to have the loan's terms changed without the knowledge of the borrower country in favour of the lender who imposed more interest rate? Weak countries like Nigeria without competitive economy could hardly be expected to be the hero of globalization. A nation must be able to produce in order to sell. The age-long problem of Nigeria is production and its notoriously unchanging mono-economy. It is based on the above that Nigeria cannot negotiate, trade and interact from a position of strength. This commerce right from the mercantile era to colonialism and neocolonialism, Nigeria is not in scheme of things in economic diplomacy and the politics of globalization. To understand how this inexorable integration of markets, nation-states and technologies to the degree never witnessed before in a way that is enabling individuals, corporations and national states to reach round the world farther, faster, deeper and cheaper. Globalization projects an ideological condition of economic liberation that subjects states and individuals to more intense market forces. Naanen (2015:24) said "as globalization held sway, the neo-liberalism and neoclassical positions, is that governments should free up the economy by reducing deficit spending, limiting subsidies, reforming tax law to broaden the tax base, removing fixed exchange rates, open up markets to trade by limiting protectionism, privatizing state-run businesses, allowing private property, backing deregulation, providing security to life and property, good governance, the regulation of the activities of private economic actors through requisite policies and laws, adoption of policies that would engender social development". The essence of all these intellectual maze of vacillations, is to add to their wealth and

removing from the wealth of another. Nigerian leaders in their gullible state, has applied all measures prescribed by the advocates of globalization as a panacea to overcoming the scourge of poverty but all no avail. All measures applied only aggravated hardship, chaos, economic confusion, dependency and underdevelopment. Hitherto, the neo-globalization is still harping on those measures and the stringent conditionalities of limited government involvement in economic development, removal of subsidies, trade liberalization, liberal democracy etc. as the ultimate elixir to Nigerian economic and technological development (Osaih, 2011:vi). Despite several years of Nigeria managing its economy and seeking to develop, it has remained largely underdeveloped with serious repercussions for the country and the masses. All we have seen from their development planning and efforts is grinding poverty, unemployment, infrastructural deficit, monumental corruption, competitive looting, and high level of insecurity, political warfare and massive election rigging, kidnapping, terrorism and adversarial rather than collaborative relations between the different ethnic groups, primordial politics, entrepreneurially void, collapsed social institutions, worsening and dying educational system, epileptic power supply or no power supply at all, hunger and malnutrition. A country grappling with all these internal crises cannot be a hero in globalization.

Conclusion:

Globalization is an age-long phenomenon but gained currency in the 1980s as a new phase in capitalist incorporation process that is designed to create a global market inequality. Nigeria brings to the market place those primary products in which they possess comparative advantage in exchange for economically developed countries manufactured goods. The end product of globalization in Nigeria is external debt burden, economic crisis, and unfavourable terms of trade against primary commodity producers in the world economy. Nigeria as a weak, and mono-economy, with lack of entrepreneurial class and development consciousness and without industrializing evidence, cannot in any way be a hero of globalization, but losers. Globalization is a two-edged sword that creates the world of winners and losers. Nigeria is a great toddler in development and that is why has reaped the benefits of globalization because of several weaknesses. Globalization mainly benefits the developed world while the developing world which Nigeria is part of, is badly affected with financial crises, debt and economic

slowdown, thus diluting further the rate of success of the South in integrating in a world economy. The weakness of Nigeria internationally and domestically is the major reason why development is toddling. Economic weakness, weak and decaying infrastructure, low export prices, terms-of-trade decline as well as debt crisis and the burden of debt servicing and the policy conditionalities attached to loan rescheduling packages have really militated against the recovery of many countries. Nigeria's lack of bargaining and negotiating strength in international relations and lack of control of the major international institutions and organizations such as IMF, World Bank, WTO, UN and OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) coupled with economic mismanagement, insecurity and rentier economy and the decision-making processes of international bodies are being controlled by the economically developed countries are also some of the reasons hampering the development process of Nigeria.. The economically advanced countries in their dominant positions and the control of global bodies used these means to further the control of the global economy. For Nigeria to rise out of this state of underdevelopment, she needs quality and purposeful leadership, appropriate policy direction and vision, being inward-oriented and learn from those who led Singaporean development.

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