

AN APPRAISAL OF THE POLITICS OF GLOBAL SECURITY: THE EXPERIENCE OF AFRICA SINCE 1960**MICHAEL, B. T., Ph.D****DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND DIPLOMATIC STUDIES, IGNATIUS AJURU UNIVERSITY OF
EDUCATION, RUMUOLUMENI, PMB. 5047, PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA.****Abstract**

This paper examined politics of global security and its implications on the Africa since 1960. The politics of global security in Africa is a complex and evolving landscape that warrants careful examination since a wholesome event here can create a swell effect on the global community. Politics, in its very nature, presents a complex web of issues that are seldom capable of causing a ripple effect on a global scale, particularly, when not handled with caution. Using the primary and secondary sources of data through a multidisciplinary approach to generate the required information, this study provides an overview of the multifaceted nature of Africa's security challenges and the intricate dynamics involving both global and regional actors. As regard theory, the study used the Security Dilemma and Good Governance theories to explain African security issues. The study revealed that Africa has experienced armed conflicts, terrorism, resource competition, and humanitarian disasters over the years as a result of external global influences due to balance of power struggle. The paper argued that that regional institutions like the African Union and ECOWAS has over the years helped to resolve conflicts and maintain peace with numerous challenges due to western influences. The study established that natural resources, particularly oil, minerals, and water, serve as both a source of wealth and conflict, while the rise of extremist groups adds to the region's security concerns due to their external linkages. The study concluded that addressing the root causes of conflicts, promoting good governance, and fostering sustainable development are central to finding lasting solutions to the continent's security challenges and recommended an indigenous mechanism to conflict management as a means to reduce security challenges in Africa.

Keywords: Politics, Global security, Insecurity, Africa, Governance

Introduction

The comprehension of worldwide security has seen substantial evolution over a protracted duration. The conventional bipolar international order, which has traditionally controlled relations between states, has seen substantial reorganization in light of the changing threats, requirements, and expectations of modern nations. Nevertheless, it has been demonstrated to be an inadequate measure for ensuring global peace and security. Currently, the main obstacles to global peace and security largely stem from internal factors inside states, as opposed to inter-state wars. The aforementioned tendency is notably discernible inside the African continent. At now, the issues pertaining to environmental degradation, social strife, poverty, and the incidence of HIV/AIDS may be attributed to inadequate governance. These issues have undergone a

transformation, resulting in noteworthy security apprehensions that are beyond traditional armed wars between states.

The issue of insecurity has inadvertently caused tension between two entities: security systems and institutions, which have largely remained unchanged, and the ever-developing international processes that influence security. The imperative for these structures and organizations to undertake a process of reinvention became evident and pressing. As a result, it became imperative to undertake a thorough evaluation including the identification of growing security risks, as well as the formulation of novel security strategies, military doctrines, and operational frameworks. The objective of this research, thus, is to examine the political processes related to global security, with a special emphasis on the African continent.

Statement of the Problem

According to Seteolu (2004), security governance in Africa has resulted in the rise of unproductive political elites that depend on their control over the state structure to gain economic benefits. Security in Africa has been significantly impacted by a parochial political leadership that prioritizes personal gain over national interests, going so far as to corruptly divert national resources in collaboration with western partners for their own primitive accumulation project (Ake & Onoge, 1995). This detrimental development has greatly impacted the achievement of many security measures for the optimal progress of the African continent. The global politics of balance of power since 1960 and its attendant effects on the continent of Africa in the area of conflicts and insecurity has continued to deepen the instability on the continent. In recent years, the reemergence of politics of balance of power which has culminated to global terrorism and military coups in Africa has compounded the security challenges of the continent. This paper, thus, aim to analyze the politics surrounding global security in the context of Africa.

Methodology

The methodology adopted for the study was qualitative in nature. The researcher made use of primary and secondary sources with a multidisciplinary approach to generate the needed data. The materials were painstakingly cross-checked before arriving at a conclusion. For the purpose of clarification, the secondary sources include; books, articles, magazines, archival material etc., while multidisciplinary data were sourced from and within sister disciplines like, Social Sciences and the Humanities.

Conceptual Review

• Security

The term security has a wide range of definitions and interpretations, depending on the context of its usage. Security measures and strategies can vary greatly depending on the specific context and the threats that need to be addressed. The goal of security is to minimize risks and vulnerabilities, promote safety, and ensure the well-being of individuals, organizations, and nations.

Security is defined as the use of various measures to guarantee peaceful coexistence and overall growth (Adedoyin, 2014). Security encompasses safeguarding fundamental human rights and ensuring the fulfillment of essential human necessities that are vital for the process of societal transformation. Ensuring proper security provides assurance of stability and organization for both living and non-living entities in their natural or artificial relationships. According to the Collin Dictionary (n.d), the term security refers to all the measures that are taken to protect a place, or to ensure that only people with permission enter it or leave it. This implies that security entails measures that are put in place to guide either a place, or a group of people. Also, Sorgwe (2005) defined security to mean when there is the “assurance of safety or a situation/condition that something would not be lost or destroyed”.

Security according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary (n.d), is the “quality or state of being secured, freedom from danger, freedom from fear or anxiety, and the freedom from the fear of being laid off. Corroborating the above, Similarly, Wikipedia.com (n.d) defines security as the state of being safeguarded or resilient

against possible damage or unwelcome compulsion inflicted by external entities, hence limiting the freedom of such entities to engage in certain actions. The recipients of security, known as referents, might encompass individuals and social collectives, items and establishments, ecosystems, or any other thing or phenomena that is susceptible to undesired alterations.

According to Burke (2002), security is a paramount human necessity that provides undeniable assurance of safety, well-being, economic stability, social cohesion, and the opportunity to live a life free from fear and adversity. In the same vein Bouzov (2010), defined the concept of security to encompass several social entities, including individuals, social groups, organizations, society, and humanity as a whole.

Aja (2009) argued that security encompasses more than only firearms, but also includes provisions such as access to food, social cohesion, well-being, and comprehension of political structure. From an analytical and historical standpoint, security is a comprehensive and inclusive concept that encompasses all policies, laws, and institutional arrangements aimed at providing citizens with a sense of psychological assurance and freedom from the fear of losing fundamental and cherished values, both internally and externally.

- **Politics**

According to Lasswell (1936), "Politics is who gets what, when, and how." This perspective emphasizes the practice and study of how societies make collective decisions and allocate resources. Weber (1919), sees the concept as "the art of the possible" and considers it as the domain

where individuals and groups strive to exercise authority and control over others.

In his definition, Booth (2005) defined politics as a scholarly discipline concerned with the observation and analysis of governmental activities, with the aim of advocating for and comprehending the nature and conditions of the state, including its fundamental characteristics and many modes of progression.

Burke (2002) asserts that Political Science examines the dynamics of power throughout society, encompassing its fundamental characteristics, foundations, mechanisms, extent, and outcomes. The central point of interest is in the examination of a political scientist who directs their attention towards the endeavor to attain or uphold authority, exert control or influence over individuals, or resist the execution of governance.

- **Global Security**

According to Wikipedia (n.d), Global security refers to the measures and strategies aimed at ensuring the safety, stability, and protection of the world as a whole or a significant portion of it. It encompasses a wide range of issues and challenges that impact the safety and well-being of countries, regions, and the global community.

According to Osisanya (2015), the concept of global security has emerged as a result of the increasing demands placed on states by nature and various activities, particularly globalization. These demands exceed the capabilities of any individual national security apparatus, necessitating the collaboration of multiple nation states to effectively address and manage them.

According to Kaldor (2013), Osisanya (2015), and Sotirović (2017), the concept of global security involves the analysis and

establishment of security measures within a global context. This framework is based on the notion of functioning within socio-spatial domains and relies heavily on behaviors related to territorial boundaries. In summary, the concept of global security encompasses a variety of measures, actions, and tactics that encompass a wide range of military, conflict resolution, and preventative diplomatic approaches during times of peace. The ultimate objective is to guarantee and sustain worldwide peace and stability.

- **Governance**

According to Owoye and Bissessar (2010), the concept of governance is commonly perceived via two lenses: good governance and bad governance. Good governance ensures the continuation of a democracy where citizens actively participate, the law is upheld, transparency and accountability are prioritized, effectiveness is achieved, and societal and national resources are distributed fairly. Effective governance is an essential prerequisite for achieving the objectives for which the state is established. Conversely, bad governance refers to a government that is ineffective and inefficient, lacking transparency, unresponsive to the people, unaccountable for its actions, biased towards the elites, non-participatory, disregarding the rule of law, and lacking policies that are based on consensus.

Oni (2014) defined governance as the set of procedures, activities, events, and occurrences in society that can either improve or hinder the delivery of services. It improves the various approaches that societies employ to allocate authority and oversee public resources, with the goal of promoting the welfare of the population. Similarly, Areo (2014) saw governance as

encompassing not just the formal rules, but also the power dynamics and norms that determine the creation and content of rules, as well as their practical implementation.

In *"Defensive Development, Combative Contradictions: Towards an International Political Sociology of Global Militarism in Africa,"* Abrahamsen (2019) uses her notion of combative contradictions to examine how adaptable global actors are. Her claim is that modern militarism prioritizes military principles and order over development and humanitarianism, even among its most adaptable practitioners. By fostering mutually advantageous relationships between military actors seeking legitimacy and reach and development actors pursuing risk reduction and depoliticized programme efficiency in "non-permissive" environments, this enables a "feel-good" militarism. As this type of militarism reorganizes and recalibrates the connection between the African state and contemporary organized force, contradictions emerge. SSR interventions provide useful illustrations. Although the goal was to increase civic democratic control over security institutions, military and defense players have progressively diverted the subject in the name of counterterrorism goals. Although the designs of SSR programmes show varying tendencies towards military authoritarianism or democratic governance, the results of SSR frequently bolster the repressive capabilities of largely compliant African political and military elites under the guise of combating and averting violent extremism. As a result, Abrahamsen contends that even well-intentioned, technically focused capacity-building initiatives fall short in taking into consideration past trends of elite and executive dominance over African security

forces, despite their long-term goal of enhancing democratic accountability.

Aradau (2014) contended in "*Security and the Democratic Scene: Desecuritization and Emancipation*," that the Nigerian state's militarized oil extraction practices in the Niger Delta are essential to maintaining high production levels for multinational oil corporations, private security players, and their geopolitical counterparts. Even though the state holds regular, official democratic elections and emphasizes to the world community that it supports civilian supervision of its security forces, in reality, the latter continues to use oppressive methods that encourage the emergence of armed movements that blur the lines between organized crime and political resistance. Although Islamist insurgent movements operating in the northeastern regions of the country do not make the same political claims as armed groups from the Niger Delta, the Nigerian government and military continue to refer to the former as terrorist groups and have similarly targeted local communities they believe to be the armed groups' base of support. Through the regional security group G5-Sahel, we may extend a similar reasoning to the bulk of the repressive institutions of Sahelian governments. This young organization focuses more on aligning its members' military counterterrorism efforts with France, other Western nations, and international organizations than it does on pursuing policies that align with its original goal of being a mostly development-oriented organization.

Gardiner et al. (2010) in "*Climate Ethics*," posited that the fortuitous alignment of nations and states lacks the necessary coherence to substantiate a robust defence of the state in a conceptual

sense or on the basis of communitarian principles. They stressed that the discourse of realism duly recognizes the inherent limitations of state boundaries, which have been arbitrarily imposed through the process of colonisation. Furthermore, it does not overlook the existence of communal structures that transcend both the state and sub-state levels. This discourse, unfortunately, fails to furnish us with the necessary resources to adequately grapple with the specific duties that certain states possess in addressing global issues stemming from their capabilities or historical obligations. They posited that embracing a skeptical mentality towards the intentions of one's counterparts and engaging in preemptive military measures would inevitably heighten the probability of widespread conflict, particularly if such behaviours were also embraced by other entities. The concept of the self-fulfilling prophecy can be applied to the realm of global security management. It is noteworthy that the pressing need to safeguard the immediate interests of a nation and its citizens can inadvertently hinder the proactive measures required to effectively tackle these security challenges.

In his seminal work titled "*Institutionalizing Unsustainability: The Paradox of Global Climate Governance*," Stevenson (2012) presented a compelling evidence that the prevailing approach to climate governance, characterized by a state-centric framework coupled with market mechanisms, inadvertently perpetuates rather than addresses the issue of unsustainability. Contrary to its intended purpose of transforming the underlying political, economic, and cultural factors driving excessive emissions, this approach inadvertently reinforces the status quo, thereby exacerbating the problem at hand.

Prominent scholars in the field of earth system sciences are concurrently cautioning that the prescribed upper limit of a two-degree rise in global temperatures, as embraced by the European Union and the Copenhagen climate conference, may inadvertently instigate intricate feedback mechanisms that culminate in an alarming escalation of four degrees Celsius, thereby engendering catastrophic consequences. Although the current state of international collaboration on climate change may be influenced by the growing adoption of an international security discourse, it is imperative to acknowledge that such an approach lacks the capacity to facilitate truly impactful global initiatives.

Puja (2016) asserted in her "*Global Security Essay*" asserted that the security of state in the modern world maintains its control and determines the way people live in accordance with the neoliberal order through the use of advancing "technologies of power" such as biometric identification, physical and electronic surveillance techniques, and crime records. The neoliberal state utilises the opportunity to redefine and separate individuals in order to further the interests of global capital. Within the global neoliberal system, the methods of establishing borders are undergoing transformation. As a result, individuals are categorised into two groups: conforming modern subjects and non-compliant "banned" individuals. Additionally, there are authority officials who have the power to secure territories and capitals from these "banned" or "othered" individuals who are considered abject. This reconfiguration is occurring due to the restructuring of the state, its functions, and its sovereign powers. There is a widely held belief that the authority of a sovereign state is absolute, supreme, and

without question, and that the state has the power to determine life and death.

Theoretical Framework

- **Theory of Security Dilemma**

The notion of the security dilemma was initially proposed by Herbert Butterfield and John Hertz, in 1949 and 1950 respectively. Both Butterfield and Hertz identified a security dilemma "as a scenario in which a state's efforts to enhance its security result in reactions from other nations that ultimately undermine, rather than enhance, the state's security. Scholars argue that such a security problem has significant importance as a primary catalyst for conflict within the realm of international politics. Both Butterfield and Hertz, contend that within the global context, there exists no recognized exclusive authority over the use of force, consequently, each nation is responsible for safeguarding its own security and ensuring its continued existence. Thus, the paramount objective of states is to optimize their own security.

Even if nations prioritize this objective exclusively and harbor no intention of causing harm to others, several activities undertaken by states to enhance their own security, such as acquiring weapons and advancing military technology, would inevitably diminish the security of other states. The act of diminishing the security of other entities does not inherently position the state in a dilemma. However, due to the anarchic nature of the international system, if one state chooses to arm itself, it is likely that other governments would also pursue similar actions.

- **Good Governance Theory**

The notion of good governance has received support from several scholars and international organizations, particularly the

United Nations (UN), as well as other corporate companies and individuals. The concept of global governance advocates for the creation and improvement of international organizations and mechanisms with the aim of efficiently addressing global security issues. This perspective highlights the importance of international cooperation and the implementation of rule-based systems, which have significantly contributed to the progress of the concept of effective governance. The United Nations (UN) and its related organizations have emphasized the need of good governance in achieving wealth, peace, and stability in many nations around the globe.

The idea of good governance encompasses several core elements and principles, including transparency, accountability, adherence to the rule of law, active involvement, and responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of the population. The notion of good governance is closely intertwined with democratic principles and the safeguarding of human rights. Moreover, scholars like as Francis Fukuyama have examined the importance of political institutions and effective governance in the formation and sustainability of proficient and stable societies, as seen in his work entitled "Political Order and Political Decay." The concept of good governance has significant importance in academic discussions as it highlights the possible influence of "good governance" in promoting peace and stability of a state. Situating this study in Africa, it can be said that the lack of efficient governance plays a substantial role in the development of instabilities and vulnerabilities within and between governments in the region. These challenges possess difficulties that transcend the confines of the African

continent, exerting influence on the global world.

Dynamics of Politics and Global Security

The discourse around global security has been unduly narrowly focused on a small number of security concerns since the start of the "wars on terrorism" and has remained firmly rooted in traditional conceptions of security. This contrasts with the post-Cold War era and the years leading up to the September 11 attacks, during which a broader conception of security had progressively gained recognition in the context of policymaking, despite this understanding being rarely translated into actual laws. It was common practice at the time to develop a security strategy that gave priority to using force, as seen by the invasion of Iraq and support for preemptive war. Nonetheless, the reactions from other nations were distinguished by a more complex and unclear position. The European Security Strategy declaration, for instance, called for increased defense spending and the reconfiguration of the European Armed Forces to make them more mobile and adaptive, even though it acknowledged that none of the emerging threats are exclusively military in nature and cannot be effectively addressed through military means.

In the past, military tactics have been seen as essential to maintaining security, and security has often been seen as closely linked to the possibility or use of force. This point of view would have been more relevant in historical settings when the main actors in the battles were different nations. However, this kind of conflict has been less and less common in recent decades. Conventional methods to International Relations have failed to explain or predict the collapse of the USSR

in 1991, which has led to a debate about its legitimacy. This debate has been substantially shaped by a neorealist paradigmatic perspective (Roe, 2016). The issue also challenges the prevailing conceptions of "traditional security," which are grounded in a positivist, materialist epistemology and a statistical-ontological viewpoint. In addition to the conventional concepts of power and interests that were evident during the Cold War, the contemporary global environment also seems to be impacted by a complex interaction of ideas, economics, and transnational movements (Roberts, 2008). There is a good reason to thoroughly reevaluate the core tenets of international security in light of the end of the Cold War and the change in international relations that followed. This has created space for the creation of cutting-edge ontological and epistemological frameworks that subvert accepted wisdom. These frameworks consider the lasting effects of colonialism and integrate cutting-edge approaches.

Given the ontological enlargement of global security, post-Cold War scholarly discourse has enabled a new "broadening" of the security notion. In doing so, the old paradigm's materialistic epistemology will be called into question since the range of topics falling under the purview of "security" will be expanded beyond military concerns. The focus of current academic study has been broadened to include a wider range of dangers, which are characterized as elements that might jeopardize "security." Furthermore, as noted by Booth and Wheeler (2008), there is a stronger focus on taking into account a larger range of referent objects. The constraints of using military power to achieve political goals during the Cold War have cast doubt on neorealist views about

the critical role that military security plays. As a result, the idea of global or international security has changed, and a number of concerns that are considered to be very important in terms of security have been identified. Fundamentally, insecurity is the possibility of something bad happening to something that you value (Barnett, 2016). The world community was forced to reconsider what it considered to be a "threat" and decide how best to respond when the existential danger of mutually assured destruction no longer existed. The collapse of Cold War hegemony has led to an extension of the dominant ideologies and tenets to encompass areas of international security beyond blatantly military ideas.

Africa and the Global Security Order

The interconnectedness between global security and Africa is significant, given that the continent encounters diverse security concerns that pose a wider threat to the peace and security of the world. In recent years, it might be argued that terrorism and violent extremism provide the most significant security challenges in Africa. There exist local organizations in East, West, and Southern Africa that have established connections with international terrorist networks. The activities undertaken by these entities contribute to the exacerbation of local disputes and facilitate the operations of organized crime syndicates, hence, causing destabilization within political landscapes that are already characterized by fragility. Meanwhile, years of government-led security force incursions, many sponsored by U.S. and European countries, have not evicted the militants. In the absence of comprehensive policies that encompass non-kinetic counterterrorism measures, the endeavors undertaken by

many African nations and regions to combat violent extremism are likely to fall short in achieving enduring and reputable peace.

According to Fawole and Ukeje (2005), Africa's position in the global security environment is disadvantaged due to its shaky financial, scientific, and technological power, which has made it challenging to keep an eye on the existing issues with global security and to forecast potential dangers with accuracy. Africa has an abundance of natural resources, but it lacks the science and technology to convert these riches into useful goods or sources of worldwide influence. Africans, therefore, struggle to identify the goals and issues of security and to provide the necessary solutions to them. The continent has seen many different kinds of security challenges, from issues with government to the effects of climate change and the existence of transnational criminal networks. The problems have led to serious security disruptions, intrastate and interstate disputes, and appalling living conditions for the local populace. For instance, there have been many interstate conflicts, five regionally significant civil wars, over 40 successful military coups, and illegitimate transfers of power since gaining independence in the 1990s. Long-lasting separatist and rebel wars, as well as many coup attempts, have also afflicted the region. In the twenty-first century, the area has seen five successful military takeovers and several more cases of illegitimate changes to political systems. Nonetheless, it should state here that Africa, since the period of cold war era, have been the epicenter of violent conflict, as such, the security dilemma in the continent, have been characterized by power politics between the Capitalist West and the Socialist East.

The birth of this rivalry just after the end of Second World War, polarized many parts of the world, with Africa being the theatre of global politics. Thus, the drive to pacify/woo African states by the major powers, created problems within the continent, as armed groups were sponsored and encouraged to destabilize national governments that was/were aligned against their interests. In places like Congo, the Sudan, Liberia and even Nigeria, Cold war politics and alignments created divisions, caused coups and civil wars, which impacted greatly, nation-building efforts in these states.

However, with the fall of the Soviet Republics Cold War Rivalries reduced significantly. Thus, African states began to enjoy some sort of political stability. Notwithstanding, with the growth of Russia and China, the balance of power politics seem to have been altered and cold war rivalries renewed. This can be seen in the recent realignment of Francophone countries with Russia, and the surge in coup d'états across West Africa. For Africans, thus, security dilemmas in their continent is an offshoot of cold war politics which seeks to benefit the military industrial complexes of the West on the one hand and the East on the other.

Another point to note here is that, although Cold war rivalries created problems for many national governments in Africa, the upsurge of insurgent groups further exacerbated the security landscape of the continent. For instance, the years following the 9/11 attack on the United States, gave rise to several insurgent groups, many of which are sponsored by Western governments, with the aim of forging their national interest, while confining their exploitation of the African continent. By arming mercenary groups super power

nations succeed in creating security challenges that most often overwhelm the African people.

Challenges and Prospects of Global Politics and Security in Africa

The following, notwithstanding, are some of the key challenges Africa face as regards to global security concerns. They includes:

- **Armed Conflicts:** Africa has been subjected to a number of military conflicts and civil wars, resulting in significant regional and global security implications. These wars, have resulted in the displacement of millions of people, the emergence of humanitarian crises, and has increased the possibility of international terrorism and transnational crime in the region. Conflicts in countries like South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia have resulted in widespread violence and instability across the region and the world at large.
- **Environmental Security:** Environmental concerns, including deforestation, desertification, and climate change, are significant challenges that warrant attention across the African continent. Climate change has the potential to result in limited availability of resources, forced migration, and heightened tensions and disputes. The deterioration of the environment has the potential to worsen pre-existing security issues and have far-reaching consequences for the overall stability of the world
- **Human Rights and Governance:** In certain African nations, violations of human rights and governance-related problems have led to instability, radicalization, and worldwide attention.

Human rights issues that affect the entire world, and instability in Africa can have an effect on international security.

- **Trade and Economic Security:** The economic growth of Africa and its commercial links with other continents hold considerable importance. The presence of economic instability in Africa has the potential to exert an impact on both global commerce and economic security. Efforts to strengthen Africa's economies and trade relations are thus, intertwined with global economic security.
- **Migration and Displacement:** Africa has a high rate of both internal and cross-border migration, driven by a variety of factors such as economic opportunities, environmental stressors, and war. The control of migration is a complex issue with broad implications for global security, particularly with regard to the migration routes that travel via the Mediterranean to reach Europe.
- **Poor Conception of Security:** Many years after the political independence of most African republics, there is still a lingering influence of the old concept of security that was inherited from the colonial state and military era. Previously, the state's understanding of security was confined to the narrow scope of protecting the state from both external and internal dangers, disregarding the crucial element of human security. In the 21st century, although democratic rule has been established, several African states have not yet fully adopted the democratic principles of welfarism, human security, justice, rule of law, and equity. Experience in several regions of Africa has demonstrated that rather than taking

proactive measures to address the root causes of conflict in order to prevent the escalation of such conflicts, the government often resorts to a retaliatory strategy. The result of this is a culture of militarism in Africa, which further intensifies the inclination to rely on weapons and violent conflicts as means to achieve objectives, rather than engaging in conversation and consensus building (Nnoli, 2006; cited in Nwizu & Alozie, 2018).

- **Arms Smuggling and Proliferation:** Another security concern in Africa is the proliferation of light and small weaponry as a result of arms smuggling. States and non-state entities buy a lot of weapons to protect themselves when there is an armed conflict and increased instability. However, the existence of these weapons frequently thwarts demobilization initiatives and has a detrimental impact on the stability of nations that have just emerged from hostilities. When they are in the hands of private persons, especially criminals, they frequently add to the severity and expansion of criminal activity that occurs during peacetime, such as murder, hijacking, and armed robbery. Some argue that despite the widespread belief that tiny guns play a major role in armed conflicts, no scientific study or analysis has demonstrated how small arms contribute to the start, continuation, and intensification of civil wars.

However, the UN admits that it is disturbed by the destabilizing and destructive effects of the illicit arms trade, particularly for the violation of human rights and the internal situation of affected States. It is a reality that organizations looking to overthrow or

violently challenge the state do careful calculations on their prospects of success before to taking any action. Whether or not they are able to obtain the weapons required for the intended action is one of the elements that eventually impact their decision. Thus, these organizations' capacity to use violence would be severely restricted if they were unable to get weapons.

- **Transnational crime and terrorism:** Transnational crimes represent a significant concern within the context of global security, particularly when examining the African continent. Throughout the African continent, a range of transnational criminal activities has been seen, predominantly carried out by militant factions. These activities have had significant implications for the stability and security of several national governments. The collaboration between traffickers, insurgent movements, and criminal organizations can engender detrimental dynamics that have the potential to incite civil upheaval. Two scenarios may be used as examples to demonstrate this point, one that is often perceived as 'real' and the other that is considered 'hypothetical'. However, both provide significant security issues in the region. For instance, the actions carried out by Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) throughout the Sahel-Saharan region of West Africa have become an issue of global concern in the international system. Many national governments continue to grapple with the challenges posed by these militant groups in the region. AQIM, for instance, employs violence and militant tactics to intimidate their subjects (mostly tourists and travelers in the Sahel region), while

exploiting the name of Islam for their own selfish purposes.

- **Poor Border Policing:** According to Nwizu and Alozie (2018), the issue of border porosity and extensiveness continues to pose a significant security risk to numerous states worldwide, particularly developing countries. This problem has been exacerbated in some cases by the arbitrary determination of boundaries during the Berlin conference of 1884 – 1885. The issues arising from the arbitrary delineation of boundaries by European powers persistently hinder the progress of African countries in achieving efficient border management and control. The significance of porous borders, together with the diverse composition of border communities in terms of ethno-religious divisions, should not be overlooked. The fragmentation of a homogeneous ethnic group into multiple nations along territorial boundaries poses challenges in determining the citizenship of individuals inside a specific country. Identifying trans-border communities consisting of individuals from the same kinship group becomes challenging in this scenario (Adedoyin, 2014). The pervasive level of conspiracy within border communities hinders their willingness to provide crucial information to security officers, since they frequently participate or collude with criminals at the frontiers, so facilitating or supporting illegal activities.

Prospects

- **Economic Growth:** A number of African nations have had notable increases in their economies recently, which bodes well for future stability and security. More robust economies have the potential to alleviate poverty and

promote social development, both of which are critical to national security.

- **Regional Organizations:** Regional institutions such as the African Union (AU) and sub-regional entities have to assume pivotal responsibilities in effectively resolving security concerns. Efforts should be made to engage in conflict mediation, facilitate peacekeeping endeavors, and effectively coordinate security measures among African states.
- **Youth Engagement:** Africa possesses a demographically youthful population, hence presenting an opportunity to effectively channel the vigor and ingenuity of its young populace into constructive transformation. The enhancement of security prospects can be achieved by empowering young individuals via education, employment, and civic involvement.
- **International Support:** It is imperative for international stakeholders, such as the United States and Western states, to extend financial, logistical, and diplomatic assistance to African nations in order to effectively tackle security concerns. These collaborative alliances have the potential to enhance and strengthen endeavours aimed at promoting peace and security.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** The significance of environmental sustainability and the mitigation of climate change is growing in prominence within the African context. The implementation of measures aimed at addressing environmental concerns has the potential to improve long-term security prospects.

Recommendations

The politics of global security in relation to Africa involves a myriad of interconnected issues ranging from conflict resolution and peacekeeping to resource management and regional cooperation. Here are some aspects and recommendations to consider:

- i. **Conflict Resolution:** Addressing the root causes of conflicts in Africa is crucial. This involves supporting diplomatic efforts, mediation, and peacebuilding initiatives to mitigate tensions and resolve disputes.
- ii. **Peacekeeping and Security Operations:** Enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions and security operations in Africa requires international cooperation and support. Encouraging collaboration between African nations, the UN, AU, and other regional bodies is key.
- iii. **Resource Management:** Natural resources often play a significant role in conflicts. Encouraging transparent and equitable management of resources, especially in regions prone to conflict, can help prevent disputes over control and access to these resources.
- iv. **Counterterrorism:** Collaboration among nations and organizations to combat terrorism in Africa is essential. Building capacities within African countries to address radicalization and extremism while also addressing the socio-economic conditions that breed them is vital.
- v. **Effective Border Surveillance:** Due to the porous and poorly defined nature of African borders, there has

been an ongoing increase in cross-border crimes, as well as the illegal trade and transportation of weapons and ammunition. It is now crucial to accurately define and digitally map African borders, while implementing rigorous surveillance measures, in order to effectively combat criminal activities and prevent smuggling across these borders.

- vi. **Addressing socio-economic challenges:** The escalating menace to human security in Africa, which has diminished the populace's trust in the government, necessitates a tangible and decisive response. In the majority of African nations, the state's inability to effectively tackle issues such as hunger, youth unemployment, malnutrition, diseases, inflation, food shortages, environmental pollution, and climate change has consistently worsened the intensity of civil unrest, sectarian uprisings, armed revolts, and civil wars.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the politics of global security in Africa is a dynamic and evolving landscape, influenced by a wide array of factors. Addressing the security challenges in Africa requires a combination of diplomatic, economic, and military strategies, involving both global and regional actors. Moreover, addressing the root causes of conflicts, promoting good governance, and sustainable development are essential components of any long-term solution to the continent's security challenges. Africa's security situation is deeply interconnected with the broader global security context, and cooperation among nations is crucial to finding effective

solutions to the continent's many challenges. It is important to note that the security landscape in Africa varies greatly by region and country. While many challenges persist, there are also opportunities for progress and cooperation. African nations, regional organizations, and the international community continue to work together to address security issues and promote stability and development in the continent.

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