

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE
DIMINISHING SOVEREIGNTY OF MEMBER STATES: AN
ASSESSMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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ABSTRACT: This study examines the controversy of diminishing state sovereignty associated with being member of International Organizations. The study focuses on the European Union as an international organization. It is an indisputable fact that these international organizations have contributed immensely to the reshaping of the international system and to a large extent, the reduction of war and conflict vis-à-vis the promotion of peace and security, economic growth and development and the advocacy of alternative dispute resolutions in the face of international crisis. The study adopts qualitative research method to elicit data. With the use of context analysis, the research found that the European Union, as a regional international organization, strengthens the sovereignty of its member states rather than diminishing it. The strength and powers of the EU is derived from the collective authority pledged by its member states. It further found that the EU protect, the integrity and sovereignty of its member states by giving them the prerogative to reject or accept any of its polices by domesticating it by its national parliaments. The study recommendations and stated that, the process of the European Union policy formulation and decision making should be made transparent and democratic enough to command the confidence of citizens in EU countries to avoid disengaging and agitations from member states of the Union.

Keyword: Diminishing Sovereignty, International Organizations, European Union, Member States

INTRODUCTION

The Study of international organizations has often been identified with the analysis of various international organizations as the number has drastically increased over the last seven decades. But while the growth of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is central to the study, having an insight of how international politics is organized entails the examination of interest groups, international bureaucracies and formalized intergovernmental exchange (Christensen, 2021). The great burgeoning of international bodies has come in recent time owing to the numerous challenges in the system which has created its usefulness. While they have an obvious recourse to the conferences, non-permanent association, international public unions, and other nineteenth century ventures, their root is traceable to the advent of Westphalia treaty of 1648. Proto type of today's organizations as contained in ancient and medieval history and the modern international organization evolved ever since the Nation State System emerged several years ago, with the congress of Westphalia of 1648 (Goldstein, 2020). The 20th Century witnessed an increase in the cordiality among states which has resulted in the groupings among Nations. Although there exist other organizations before 1928, such as congress of Vienna of 1815, the London conference of 1830, the Paris congress of 1856 and Berlin congresses of 1878, and later 1884 and 1885 (Krasner, 2019). Remarkably, the congresses of 1884 and 1885

which were chaired by the then German Leader Otto Von Bismak, provided a “peaceful” platform for the sharing/ balkanization of the African Continent among European powers who were hitherto quarrelling among themselves over who gets what part of Africa (Efebeh, 2020). Furthermore, it is believed that such cooperation/conferences can minimize conflicts or better still create an avenue for peaceful settlement of conflict. Among the organizations that were set up are: The European Commission for Danube (1856), the International Geodetic Association (1864), the International Bureau of Telegraphic Administration (1868), the Universal Postal Union (1874), and the International Office of Public Health (1903). However, the League of Nations stands as the foremost that has arguably a universal coverage.

Today, the United Nations Organization (UNO), an offshoot of the League of Nations, stands as the only supranational body with a broad spectrum of membership cutting across the entire universe with lesser specialized agencies which equally has a broad membership but with limited specialized functions; Among them are: International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, International Criminal Court of Justice (ICJ) etc. There exist, also, those known as the Regional Organizations (regional integrations) whose membership comprises of independent states within a particular regional bloc. Those regional organizations include European Union (EU) African Union (AU) and Organization of American States (OAS). There are also other existing outside the United Nations that are specialized in their activities and functions. Example is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), WARSAW PACT, ECOWAS, to mention but a few numerous and active specialized intergovernmental organizations (Cooper, 2016). Large regional and sub-regional organizations like the European Union and the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) have worked extensively to promote economic cooperation, others, such as the African Union and Organization of American States have worked to control and manage conflicts in their own various regions. Consequent upon the scores of the Inter-governmental Organizations concerned with almost every conceivable sector of State relations are hundreds of private or Non-governmental Organizations (NGOS) like the Red Cross, Amnesty International, and Transparency Incontrovertibly, International Organizations, Governmental and Non-governmental have contributed immensely in reshaping Inter-State structure to enhance the peaceful relations and hostility vis-à-vis the sustenance of peace and security, economic advancement and the advocacy of Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR) amidst International Crisis (Russet & Kinsella, 2020). It is important to state that although all attempts to settle or resolve disputes outside of the Courts are “alternative dispute resolution” in the literal sense, but its technical legal term, ADR is the process whereby an attempt is made to reach a common middle ground through an independent mediator as a basis for a binding settlement (Severine, 2016). These international organizations especially those with regional orientations or integration, has as a matter of necessity, developed strong economic and socio-political ties to galvanize sustainable economic advancement through the abolition of all trade barriers to facilitate commercial cooperation (Reinicke, 2020). Many other regional organizations also cooperate in other functional areas for betterment of the region at large.

Apart from “saving the future generations from the scourge of war” which is the basic or fundamental principle of UN, it has worked with other organization which are herein address to be regional organizations and other non-governmental organizations, and has gone beyond the preamble or cardinal purpose for forming the UNO to enhancing better and qualitative livelihood for all human being irrespective of age, race, tribe, gender, nationality, or religious affiliation (Wood, 2018). To a reasonable level, it has been achieved with the Universal Declaration of Human Right (UDHR) of December 10, 1948 desired to Champion the

conferment of the fundamental rights to all human being without discrimination. The acceptability of other programs and policies of these bodies are anchored on its collective agreements (Wood, 2018). Formulation of any policy action or resolutions as deemed necessary becomes binding on members of such International Organization after passed into law. Membership of International Organizations, which for this research is also referred to as International Government Organizations or Intergovernmental Organizations, which cuts across Supranational Organizations like the United Nations, Regional Organizations, and those specific functions like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). WARSAW PACT etc are all made up of independent sovereign states with international recognition and acceptability (Hirst & Thompson, 2020). Activities and operations of these international organizations in contemporary times have gone beyond national boarder and territorial boundaries in the actualization of their aims and objectives and also in its quest for better socio-economic benefits of the region or group in general (Goldstein, 2020). These penetrations of national boundaries cover both periods of hostility, peace, human rights violation, natural disasters etc. These international organizations that have been identified play a vital role in cementing relationship across borders and among its component units (Goldstein, 2020). Their importance and usefulness cannot be overemphasized with respect to the amount of peace and collective security it has helped to foster from the days of its inception (after World War I and II) till date.

International organizations have served as a veritable tool or a platform for collaborating ideas and seeking enquires into the cause of issues, problems and challenges confronting mankind and the Planet Earth with a view to providing lasting solutions to it; save guarding its wield and aquatic life against extinction and providing ways of making life easy and comfortable through research and scientific inventions (Manwaring, 2021). Through the support and funding by international organizations, its specialized agencies and associations have been able to carry the vision and mission of these international organizations to remote areas of less developed or developing countries within its membership (Manwaring, 2021). This study will therefore seek to investigate the actual processes and ways through which international organizations performs these crucial functions across national boundaries and boarders bearing in mind the sovereignty and independent status of its member states. European Union, as an international organization, shall be the centre of this research work.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine whether being members of European Union has affected/impacted the sovereignty of member states.

The specific objectives are to:

1. examine the importance of European Union to its members;
2. examine how states have fared with the exercise of their sovereignty as members of international organization (EU); and
3. examine whether or not European Union diminishes state Sovereignty

Theoretical Framework

Many theories abound in analysing international organization. Theories which are set of rules, principles, norms, laws, for understanding of phenomenon, have been very crucial in appreciating the works of social science phenomena. European integration is the process of

industrial, political, legal, economic, social and cultural integration of states in totality or partially in Europe (Abiodun, 2015). This research work uses Neo-functional theory as its theoretical framework. Neo-functionalism as a theory of regional integration consolidated on the functionalist principle. Neo-functionalism itself, espouses a transformative ontology as it is assumed that both the actors and the games that they play will change significantly during the course of integration itself (McGomani, 2007). Among the main European integration theories in international Relations, is Neo-functionalism which was propounded by Ernest B. Haas in 1958. Neo-functionalism is an improvement of the functionalist theory which was further investigated in 1963 by Leon Linberg. Majority of the argument by Neo-functionalism and (Liberal) Inter-governmentalism are still vital in assimilating the European Union. The crucial question the Neo-functionalists seek to put across is: does cooperation in specific economic policy sectors lead to greater economic integration in Europe and then to an enlarged Political Integration? This question is suitably absorbed with much reliance to the notion of “spillover” which takes two perspectives. First, helping in the explanation of how functional spillover in one area of integration can lead to another functional area. An example was the coal and steel which transcended into more functional areas, thereby creating pressure in another functional area like currency exchange rate, taxation and wages were also influenced. More also, Political Spillover can be adopted to clarify the importance of Supranational and Sub-national actors In the Pursuit of their interest. According to CIVITAS institute for the study of Civil Society (2015), neo-functionalist sees European Integration as having the Capacity to create Policy areas for itself with it, centre in Brussels. Acceptance to Stone and Sandholtz (1997), Neo-functionalism describes and explains the processes of integration in regions to how three Causal factors interact. These interactions include:

Growing Economic Interdependence between Nations

Organizational Capacity to resolve disputes and build International Legal Regimes and

Supranational Market rules that replace national regulatory regimes.

The proponents of Neo-functionalism are: Ernest B. Haas, Wayne Sandholtz, Alex Stone Sweet, and Leon Linberg among others. Functionalist holds that Integration is an inevitable outcome of development that has propel States to co-operate with international functionalist institutions. Neo-functionalists hold that integrating members create institutions that drive it further. Neo-functionalists argue for the immediate establishment of international organization and giving them independence and adequate resources so that they can address political issues with the proclivity to foster greater cooperation amongst states in the international system.

Neo-functional, with regard to this study, maintains its explanatory power and discussions of “spill-over”. Its relevance is evident in the extent that it became Associated with, the explanation of how EU members engineer greater mutual Interdependence within the EU resulting to more functional areas. The Theory at its formulation stage was aimed at explaining economic and political Integration with EU as a perfect March. (Cini, 2004). Neo-functionalism provides the lens to better X-ray the rate of understanding between members in the European Union.

The Essence of the European Union as an international Organization

In investigating the essence of the EU as an International Organization, it precisely means unveiling the intrinsic nature or indispensable qualities which determined the characteristics of the European Union as an International Organization. There have been various characteristics of an international Organization by various scholars. Obi (2021) wrote that every International Organization must have what he called “Irreducible characteristic” which are broadly three in number. First, it must have a membership which must comprise of at least two sovereign states. Secondly, it must pursue the collective aspirations or interest of its members as spelt out usually in the aims and objectives of the charter of such Organization. Thirdly, it must have a secretariat and administrative structure to cater for the daily activities of the Organization. Sequel to the premise above, we shall discuss certain features of the European Union that shows its state as an international Organization. They include:

Organization Treaty

The union upholds the rule of law as one of its tenets. This, by implication, means that all it does is contained in the collective agreements signed democratically and voluntarily by its member state. These treaties are unifying agreements among the European Union members as it stipulates in clear terms the objectives, rules and processes of decision making for the (EU) institutions. Among the cardinal treaties signed by the European union members include the treaty of Paris which ushered in the European coal and steel community in 1951; the treaty of Rome, establishing the (EEC) and EURATOM of 1957 and effective from 1958; the single European Act treaty; the Amsterdam treaty was signed in 1992 but effective from 1993; treaty of Nice; treaty of Lisbon, among others.

Composition and membership

The European Union just like other intergovernmental organization has as its members- sovereign state. The slight divergence in the (EU) is mainly because it is a regional based international organization in composition to the (UN) known as a universal organization; its membership is restricted to Sovereign Countries within the European Continent. A Country is permissible to be part of the EU provided they are willing to go by the dictates and contents to its treaties. There have been various enlargements in the EU, many of which have seen the admission of Eastern European Countries into it.

Administrative Headquarter of the Union

Unfortunately, the European Union has no official headquarter. It does not really have one main building where all the seven institutions are located. However, Brussels in Belgium is considered the official headquarters given its host to some key institutions of the EU. Among the institutions located in Brussels include: the European Commission and the European Council. However, the European Central Bank (ECB) is located in Frankfurt Germany while other institutions like the council of ministers, Praline (Secretary), Court of Justice and Court of Auditors are located in Luxemburg. This decentralized nature has existed as far as its creation given it a peculiar nature. Other institutions of the EU are located differently within the continent.

Common Interest of Members

Despite the above features, it is fundamental to state that common interest of members is among the cardinal Characteristics of an international organization. The efficiency or the level of collective or common interest among European Union members makes the EU distinct among other international Organizations. The EU has certain unique features which makes it unique among international arrangements. These features among others include:

Common Currency

The European Union enjoys a monetary Co-operation among its member states. Although monetary Co-operation is functional among 19 out of the 28 member states; the 19 countries that makes use of the Euro as its official Currency are called the Eurozone, this monetary co-operation after referred to as economic and Monetary Union, involves the strict harmonization of fiscal and economic policies, a common monetary policy and the Euro as the common currency. The Euro was officially launched on January 1, 1999 for cash-less payments and accounting purposes while its banknotes and coins were introduced January 2002. The unification of currency in the Eurozone has reduced the stress and has facilitated modalities of doing business (Cameron, 2019). The single Currency has also eliminated the huddles of custom duty, exchange rates and exchange cost which make business more stable for economic rapid growth.

Unrestricted Movement of Goods, persons and capital: Unrestricted access or movement for citizens of the EU as well as goods and capital, stands as a huge achievement of the Union. It was encapsulated by the treaty of Maastricht in 1992. Freedom access and residency especially for workers may also include in the policy. They all make up the economic freedoms as contained in article 45(Ex 39 and 48) stipulating the functions of the EU in the treaty. This free movement policy has seen the fading out of boundaries among the EU members who have subscribed to the Schengen agreements. It has more also, paved way for citizen as part of their rights in EU to reside without restriction in any of its part and enjoy full rights and privileges Therein.

Unified Judicial System: The European Court of Justice (EJ) is the apex court in the land for cases pertaining to EU laws. The ECJ has as its mandate the duty of ensuring equitable appliance of the EU laws to all members. Established in 1952, the ECJ is based in Luxemburg and is comprised of 28 judges (One Per State). The ECJ ensures as its responsibility the strict compliance, interpretation and application of the various EU institutions and enshrined in any of its treaties. The ECJ has the competence to annul any application on cases presented before it by national court on EU Laws.

Promoting International Peace and Socio-Cultural Development through the European Union

An examination of functional groupings or integration the World over proves that the European Union stands out among all because of its distinct characteristics. It is arguably the foremost or prototype of regional integration and has caused other regions to see the necessity to collaborate their efforts and resources in achieving set goals and objectives on some functional areas in their various regions. These international (regional) organizations through its collaborative efforts, has strived in the endorsement for peace and socio-cultural development. Before and

after the “Peace of Westphalia” of 1648, Europe has always been described as a theater of War. Various Powers, Kings, Authorities and letter Sovereign states have all fought for dominance and supremacy in Europe. The devastating consequence of war and hostilities in Europe prompted the need for the League of Nations in 1919, and subsequently the united nation Organization in 1945. Ezuruike (2016), wrote that members and signatures to the UN charter, acknowledging the importance of collective effort, included the intention of the UN in chapter I, article I and number three as: to achieve International Co-operation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, Language or Religion.” More also, Nte (2020), said the acknowledgement of collaborating effort in enhancing peace, was instrumental to the creation of the United Nation which as at then was the Paramount response to the second World War. Another importance of collective effort in Combating Conflict is also embedded in the preamble of the United Nations was set up to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of War (Nte, 2020; Efebeh, 2020).

Since 1950, Europe has enjoyed relative peace devoid of large-scale hostilities and was as experienced during the classical and post classical era (the World War I and II). States and territories under the European Union can be ascribed as a safe haven of peace, prosperity and security as compared to most regions. Cameron (2019) recounting its development assert that the European Union has rebounded from previous Crisis and often leveraged adversity to move on the next height of integration. An example of this is the failed attempt for a European defence community in 1954 gave rise to the formation of the European Economic community (EEC) three years later, the crisis of the ‘empty chair ‘ of 1965 led to de facto acceptance of qualified majority voting (QMV) and letter de jure acceptance because of the 1986 single European Act, the currency tribulation of the 1980s led to the European Monetary System and ultimately the Euro, and the disintegrating of communist system in Europe led to agreement on establishing a unified security and foreign policy and it’s the widest enlargements in the (EU) history.

The union has multiplied its effort in resolving conflict and advocating for peace in Europe, within its neighbouring continents and afar. An in-depth focus of the (EU) peace building initiative striving forwards the possibility of a security government by involving in conflict management, prevention and mediation, post conflict stabilization. It has dived into more normative aspects as human right, civil and security protection. It facilitated the Kosovo and Serbia negotiation including Northern Ireland and Cyprus. It has also coordinated the stoppage of hostility between Serbia and Montenegro and constantly deploying machinery for the ever-volatile Israel – Palestine crisis. The contributions and efforts of the (EU) have earned it a place in the committee of regional organization and global recognition as agent of peace and development. This is evident with its award of the Nobel peace prize in 2012 by the Norwegian Nobel committee.

Also, the (EU) has always ensured its continuous desire in enhancing global tranquillity through the rule of law, regards for rights of all humans, natural understanding and willingness to express oneself freely. It has also taken international cultural relation as part of its duty as a global actor to promote diversity (Obi, 2021). The union has achieved this by supporting others in the third world and the numerous cultures of its members through cultural diplomacy. Consequently, from the cultural perspective, the (EU) has offered the world tremendously through artistic development a productive creative industry etc. and has benefited from the

growing exchange with other parts of the world. This joint communication outlines the contributions the union already makes to global cultural relationship. Asoguna (2021), while writing on the theories of regional integration, placed the (EU) formation of the theory of Neo-functionalism. Recounting the tenets of Neo-functionalism, he wrote that “ while cooperation should commence from one social or economic issue (functional) area there should be a spillover to other issue areas”, in respect to this, there is obviously nothing to argue about by saying that over the last 50 decades, the (EU) has gone beyond its basic purpose of integration which was basically economic to other functional areas. It has achieved significant progress as a spillover effect to other areas like peace and security, politics, capital and human resource management, sports and also socio-cultural development; these were achieved in collaborations with other Regional and Sub-Regional organizations like the African Union and Economic Community of West African States to promote peace, trade and the values that sports preaches and stands for, (Efebeh, 2020b). The EU was also very alive to its responsibilities during the lockdown occasioned by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, as it provided logistics and health and safety materials to members and non-member nations alike (Efebeh, 2020c).

The European Union and its adherer on the sovereignty of its member states

Having known the (EU) like any other intergovernmental organization (IGO) has as its members a collection of sovereign countries, it will be important to know how these sovereign states or countries cooperate among themselves and especially to understand their height of exercising sovereignty within a unique institutions like the (EU). Recalling explanations by Abiodun (2019) as cited in the chapter two of this research study, state sovereignty to be the absolute power of a country with a defined territory, constituted authority and power where its sovereignty is upheld also create avenue for association with other states. He also classified sovereignty into internal and external sovereignty. Internal sovereignty means the legitimate or absolute power of the state inside its boundaries while external sovereignty is the right to judicial equality and territorial integrity in the global area which is anchored on the acknowledgement by other states. A critical look at the above definition and sovereignty in general, brings to mind the residing of absolute powers and authority within a particular geographical entity on the state. This however, means that no other actor can meddle into the decision-making process of the state. This presupposes the absent of another authority in the global system to supersede its authority and the state can therefore, organize social life as it wishes within its territory. A state loses a great chunk of its sovereignty instantly when it begins to share a little of these prerogatives. This absolute nature of sovereignty leads to the exposition of European Integration as grave digger and killer of state sovereignty (Saurugger, 2018). However, Sovereignty understood this way and not structure any longer. This is arguable given the fusion of some state institution with the (EU) institution (Saurugger, 2018). Constitutionally, a significant transfer of law-making authority and competence to the European level from the state has resulted to a great shift of control and influence from national parliaments. National laws have further been weakened by pre-eminence of the (EU) laws. This has created enforceable judicial restrictions on the ability of national parliaments to always put into considerations (EU) laws when exercising their remaining judicial powers. Sovereignty among states in the (EU) is said to have been transformed by handing over sovereignty authority to the council of Europe. Part of the council function is dealing with human right related matters. By being a signatory to the European convention of human rights, individual is at liberty to sue a signatory to international courts in cases of any violations. Umozuruike (2019) said the major flaw of the international law is the absence of overarching authority to legally sanction defaulting countries because going contrary to sovereign command

is usually accompanied by sanction. Consequently, this high regard for national sovereignty is limited considering the status of the European court of justice (ECJ) which is adequately empowered to sanction defaulters. It also has the capacity to overturn decision of national court on issues pertaining (EU) laws. More also, the Economic and Monetary Union, where it involves in the harmonization of both fiscal and monetary policies, pose another challenge to the sovereignty of EU member country. Member countries have been deprived the sole right to formulate or administer national currency for themselves. Also, important to mention is the treaty Maastricht of 1992 and its stipulation for unrestricted movement of capital, goods, service and labour within the Eurozone as enshrined in the Schengen agreement in Europe. This indirectly removed state boundaries and weakened immigration policies of countries within the Schengen arrangement. Proponents of this free movement opined that it would bring about an end to exchange rate, payment of custom duty and elimination of duty barrier (trade barriers).

Consequently, the EU uses a common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). In these policies, member states adopt common policies, undertake joint actions and pursue coordinated strategies in certain areas which they can reach consensus. What this means, is an obvious existence of certain joint areas in foreign policy. The EU has continuously maintained partnership with global key player on mutual benefit and interest. These over seal relations are in area like education, the environment, security and defence, crime prevention and human rights. Contrary, Tokar (2018), in a sharp disparity to the picture above, wrote that despite the common complaints and views about a massive and non-transparent Brussels with its level of bureaucracy, the realities and fact are different. First, the authorities and powers of the EU are derived majorly from the member states which are off-shoot of multiple multilateral agreements signed. Furthermore, the EU has never questioned or disapproved sovereignty as the prerogative of the state and owned by it. For issues falling under the common foreign and security policy, EU member states collectively accepted to cooperate among all 28 member countries before it scales through. Thus, discretionary powers are allowed as a member reserves the power to vote a decision. According to Tokar (2018), EU membership does not mean they have mortgaged their sovereignty. This is because belonging to it is usually an action well thought over by member countries. The same goes also to signing of its treaties and subsequent domestication of the EU laws by national institutions. A typical example is evident in the adoption of the EURO which is accepted by 19 countries among the 28 members of the EU. Same scenario is applicable in the Schengen Agreement as only 22 countries among the 28 members accepted the free movement policy of labour, capital, goods and services. Consequently, with regard to the legislative procedures of the EU laws, never has it been the sole responsibility of any European Union institution to enact EU laws. The EU law making procedures takes various stages. Importantly, member states play significant role in the formulations of EU laws. Corbett (2013) wrote that the treaty of Lisbon provides for national parliament scrutiny. It stipulated for the submission of all legislative and budgetary proposals to national parliaments eight weeks before council deliberation thereby giving them much time to scrutinize the proposals. Lisbon treaty gave for the first time the right for state parliaments to question any laws they feel is unnecessary. More so, if more than half of national parliaments are still displeased with the explanation, a majority member of European parliaments (MEP's) can insist that the draft be dropped in its totality. In achieving this balance in law formulation between the members and the EU institutions, representatives of states in a variety of EU institutions of law promulgation must work in synergy with their various national parliaments to avoid conflicting positions or interest.

Challenges of Integration for the European Union

The European integration arrangement which is the best form of regional integration given its level and scope of integration which has covered vast area of cooperation is not without challenges or problems. These challenges stem from dissatisfaction on some policies of the union and its institutions. Member States have received certain levels of national crisis resulting from a perceived erosion of state powers and authority (sovereignty) to the supranational organization or a perceived federation of European states. This cry became worrisome to nationalists as state borders have been vanished with the launch of free movement arrangement in the “Schengen arrangement” between 22 out of the 28 members in the EU. Again, the single monetary policy in 1999 which saw the introduction of the Euro came with its little challenges. The struggle to stabilize the currency in the Eurozone, received a setback with the 2008-2009 global recession. This significantly affected the Eurozone debt crisis and the European economy at large which saw a decreasing growth and increasing unemployment in many European countries. Greece, among few European states here badly hit as they struggle to offset their debt despite the imposition of unpopular austerity measures in a way to off-set budget deficits and public debt. Greece has after this continued to face a long road towards economic recovery and the threat of Greece leaving the EU (Grexit) still lingers. These crises have placed a strong question- was the European union really ready for the Eurozone? The Eurozone crisis, if not properly checked, will see the pulling out of strong economics in the Eurozone as they are most likely not going to be able to survive the economic leakages ensuring from the servicing debt crisis by another country within the Eurozone managed by the European central bank (ECB). Migratory pressures, few years back (2015-2016), has thrown up another face of a significant migration and refugee crisis experienced in Europe which saw hundreds of thousands fleeing poverty and crisis areas of Syria, Africa, Iraq, and southern Asia. Greece and Italy have stood as the foremost point of arrival and transit points. A lot of displaced persons attempted to travel to the northern part of Europe to seek asylum and also assess better welfare benefits. Strong efforts were made to arrive at Germany and Sweden for such envisaged benefits. This era witnessed the crash of various initiatives by the EU to curb the migrant flow. Many however, criticized EU for lacking coherent immigration policies. The quest to safeguard national sovereignty and to limit foreign integration into its national identity also restricted or deepened the migrant crisis. The flow created huge disaffection and splitting up in the EU. Greece and Italy which were more like the frontline States expressed dismay at the inadequacy of European solidarity. Alternatively, effort to ensure a reallocation and resettlement program for equal distribution of their migrant was perceived to be controversial. There were also fears from EU states in the north as a lot of the migrants are Muslim. They fear it might distort their traditional religious identity. Consequently, this migratory pressure now places a strong question to the EU as: to what point can they hold the entry of people from Arabic regions that are crisis prone? Such anxieties are always on the increase with the increase’s reports of criminal activities and sexual assaults allegedly committed by most of the migrants and asylum seekers. Many believed some of the terrorist attackers in Europe are connected to some extremist of Muslim background, born and raised in Europe.

Another factor that serves as threat to the European integration is the rise of Euroskeptics. The people lack hope and assurance in the EU and its institution. They are most disgruntled with the entire integration arrangement and are seriously pushing for the collapse of the EU. The Euroskeptics also known as anti- European Union advocates for a proper reform and a looser or weaker EU where by the members retain greater sovereignty while others call for an end to the Eurozone or even the EU itself. These Euroskeptics are fast paving way into various

political parties inside Europe and when not properly checked, will drive deep into the consciousness of EU members. For the EU, the implication of this is better imagined than experienced. The United Kingdom (UK), before now is considered as one of the leading Euroskeptical state in the EU. A lot of people are becoming extra vigilant and mindful about ceding too much sovereignty to Brussels (i.e., the EU). To this effect, the Eurozone (the use of a unified currency) and Schengen Agreement (for free movement) and chose to participate in some functional areas like home affairs and judicial policies. The UK referendum of June 23, 2016 saw the UK voters voting in favour of brevity by a narrow margin of 51.9% to 48.1%. This resolve by them to exit the EU is mostly to spark a chain reaction among other dissatisfied member states in the EU. The UK is within the EU the second with the largest economic and a strategic country in its security strategy. The EU must make amends to the queries of the UK to discourage other member states and Euroskeptics from contemplating a break with the European Union. Archick (2017) identified managing a resurgent Russia as another challenge of the EU. He wrote that the annexation crime in Ukraine by Russia in March 2014 brings to mind the dark days of World War II the EU must be forced to re-evaluate its rapport with Russia in view of enhancing European security and stability. The EU must condemn in totality the actions of Russia and urge it to stop supporting separatist force in the south and east of Ukraine, (Efebeh & Okereka, 2020).

The Significance of the European Union to its Member States

The birth of the EU has seen the seizure of hostility in Europe for over seven decades. Before the EU was created, European states have been at logger head among themselves over territories, struggle for supremacy or defence for state sovereignty. Most wars have been fought for some trivial matters like “the war of Jerkins ears” involving Great Britain and Spain (Nte, 2020), the war got its name from Robert Jerkins whose ear was slashed off by a Spanish coast guard in 1713. Europe have consolidated and healed the division among them which exposed them to two major wars and hospitality in the twentieth century that promoted tremendous political stability in Europe which has been enjoyed through the help of the EU. The significance of the encouragement of peace earned it a Nobel Prize for peace in 2012. It also encouraged and further championed the human right of citizens within Europe and beyond. The EU acknowledged that human right is better achieved under the atmosphere of peace. Member states in the EU have enjoyed tremendous economic growth since the commencement of single market policy in January 1st 1993, the policy which covers the free movement of capitals, labour, goods and services, has increased trade, industrial activities and human capital development. To a large extent, custom duties and trade barrier removal, reduced the cost of business and also trickled down the cost of goods and services. Europe is now seen as a save heaven for investors, owing to its large market with over 60 million people.

The social cohesion funds which are been invested into weak economies in Europe has also paved way for the reduction of regional disparities. Poor countries like Island, Portugal and Spain have all made significant growth, economically, since their entrance into the EU. Free movement of labour has also encouraged the increases of productivity as citizens under the Schengen Arrangement can move freely to eliminate deficiency of labour in any component of the EU without bureaucratic bottle neck of visa application. Culturally, the EU encouraged the conservation of national cultures; these national cultures are kept exclusively to be the right of member states. Presently, there is no one official language of the EU. This aimed at marking each member state to feel at home in the committee of European states.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study looks at International Organization, its essence and significance in the pursuit and sustenance of peace and the acknowledgement of the usefulness of collaborative labours in the actualization of human, natural and socioeconomic development. This interdependence among countries and its array of usefulness were x-rayed with special assessment of the European Union. The advent of international organizations is a reflection of the drastic reduction of wars and other hostilities globally and Europe in particular after playing host to two major wars (World War 1 and II respectively). This newly found interdependence gave rise to the establishment of the League of Nations and later the United Nations Organization (Now United Nations). In Europe, this cooperation is evident in the European Union from an initial economic integration of European Coal and Steel Industry to a union of 28 member states. However, despite its collective efforts, it became imperative to assess the European Union amalgamation vis-a-vis the degree of sovereignty possessed by its members bearing the Westphalia perception of sovereignty at heart and its recognition of the state as the major dominant claimants of the status of sovereignty. Modelling the European Union to be a standard for functional regional integration, has received criticisms from outside and within the EU with the Shengen Arrangement, the EU institutions and over concentration of powers on the EU which many Euroskeptics believed has diminished the sovereignty of member states. The European Union has since witnessed lots of improvement in the union and has signed numerous treaties which some have been adjusted or modified at the entry or enlargement of the union by new members. It has created avenues to ensure an all-inclusive union as member states send in representatives in the various institutions of the union. The power of the union is dependent on the pulled authority pledge or surrendered by various member states to bring about advancement, unity, strength and sustenance of the European Union.

A holistic analysis of international organizations and diminishing state sovereignty with a special assessment of the European Union has shown the usefulness of European Union as a supranational organization and also demonstrates the significance of a regional integration. International Organization like the European Union is a merger of equal sovereign states that have come together to collaborate or integrate economically of which its success has spilled over to other functional areas like education, agricultural, sports, science, politics, technology, cultural, judiciary, etc. It is fundamental to state that sovereignty which we have identified to include internal and external sovereignty, are both inherent in the European Union (EU) member states. Member states enjoy in totality internal sovereignty which covers matters of security, ability to make domestic laws and also exercise absolute authority within its territorial boundaries, and also external sovereignty which is interplay of how it deals with other countries and membership of the European Union. Consequently, it is imperative to wrap up that the European Union, as an international organization, strengthens the sovereignty of its member states rather than diminish it. This is because the powers and authority of the European Union is the outcome of the collective authority pledged by its members through the agreements and treaties signed. Most resolutions of the European Union are anchored on the agreement of member states and discretionary powers are allowed because member can vote a decision. The signing of the Lisbon Treaty of 2009 recognized and empowered national parliaments in policies formulation. The European Union, most importantly, acknowledges the sovereignty of its member states and fight vehemently to guard its integrity as a sovereign state by giving member states the prerogative to reject or accept any of its policies by domesticating it by its national parliaments.

Recommendations

To ensure the continuous survival of the European Union, with less skepticism from its members, the following recommendations were made:

That the process of the European Union policy formulation and decision making should be made transparent and democratic enough to commend the agitations of member states in the union.

The Eurozone, as the pride of the union, must be checked in other not to suffer crisis. Strong fiscal policies should be implemented to reinforce the worth of the Euro in order to compete favourable with other world currency and even gain prominence over other currencies and economies

The European Union must uphold its treaty and principles of respecting the sacrosanctness and sovereignty of independent member states. The European Union must strive to achieve this feat because of the envisaged resurgent Russia. The European Union must uphold the quality of all member states regardless of the capabilities or strength of the erring member.

Migratory problems should not be left for only countries with first incursion to the migrants or the front-line countries but be treated as a problem of the union and amicable placement should be made among the member countries to avoid over boarding on few countries.

Mass orientation and sensitization should be championed by the European Union and executed by the different state governments within the European Union on the importance of the Shengen Arrangement/agreement which encourages free movement of capital, labour and other material resources within the Shengen compliant countries. Its usefulness should be made clearer as against its perceived disadvantages of breaking national boundaries and limiting/diminishing state sovereignty.

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