

Porous Borders, Small Arms Proliferation and Socio-Economic Development in Etung LGA of Cross River State, Nigeria

Emmanuel SUNDAY¹ and Sunny M. PIATE²

¹Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Science, University of Calabar, Calabar NIGERIA

²Department of Political Science, Akwa Ibom State University, Obio Akpa Campus, Obio Akpa NIGERIA

Abstract

The study examines the recurring decimal of crimes associated with porous border, small arms and its impacts on socio-economic development in Etung local government area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The study adopted the social conflict theory. The paper utilized both primary and secondary methods of data collection. Data for analytical purposes are extracted through interviews, direct observation, and questionnaires for the primary method, and textbooks, journal papers, internet materials, and Nigeria's armed crimes bulletin are obtained for the secondary method. The data are analyzed through the application of chi-square. The findings reveal that porous borders with Cameroon and other central African countries is the root cause of small arms proliferation which made it easier for the neighbouring communities to use it and commit various violent land dispute crisis and other related crime in the Etung local government area of Cross River State. The study recommends that border remains a very critical factor in finding solutions to security challenges in Etung LGA of Cross River State, Nigeria. Just like the skin protects the body, the border protects the state and the country from dangerous and unforeseeable criminal elements. It is quite obvious that Etung's borders in Cross River State have become very porous due to years of socio-economic neglect by government of the day. Such neglect has led to the serious security challenges today like cultism, armed robbery, communal land conflict, drugs trafficking, youth unemployment which have degenerated into the worrisome large-scale destruction of lives, properties and economy of not only of Etung LGA but the entire Cross River State, Nigeria. Lastly, there is a need to increase the security network in the crime spot area and strengthen the community boundaries to reduce the recurring clashes among the neighboring communities in the Etung local government area.

Keywords: Corruption, porous borders, proliferation, small arms, socioeconomic development.

Introduction

Like in any clime, development and socio-economic transformation cannot take place in an unstable environment of conflict and insecurity. As Bade Onimode (1995) noted, "A conducive and enabling environment of peace, stability, and social justice is a fundamental precondition for not only economic progress but even for economic survival." As such, the nexus of "securitization of peace" and "securitization of development" is indisputable (Basse et al., 2007). However, there is an increasing global recognition of the linkage between porous borders, arms trade and the sustenance of violent conflict in Africa (Onwuka, 2010:175). This is to say that the issue of porous borders, small arms trade had led to the proliferation of small arms, which has helped in the sustainment and even

acceleration of crisis and violence in the African continent, which has impeded the socio-economic progress and development.

It is imperative to note that if a country cannot regulate and control its borderline, there is every tendency that outsiders will infiltrate and unleash mayhem on the citizens of the political sovereign state and that is exactly what Nigeria is undergoing currently in the hands of bandits, Fulani herdsmen, Boko Haram, Sea piracy and kidnapers. Cross River State and Etung local government area undoubtedly has witnessed numerous gruesome attacks on communities' marketplace, schools and social gatherings from the hands of the deadly monsters who used small arms to attack innocent people in State. According to Dambazau (2007), Trans-border crimes could be attributed to several factors including abject poverty, unemployment and lack of government presence at the border areas which create a veritable ground for unscrupulous elements unleash havoc on their target audience.

Small arms denote weapons made for individual use, such as knives, guns, assault rifles, and light machine guns (UN Department for Pistols, for International Development, 2002). The proliferation of small arms is seen as the transfer and flow of these arms from one individual to another across states, regions, and places through legal or illegal means. In Nigeria, the havoc created by small arms proliferation is immeasurable; this is due to their lethal, efficient nature, easy accessibility, and indiscriminate usage. The problem of small arms proliferation is even worse in the rural areas of Nigeria. These have promoted inter-communal conflicts, cultism, banditry, political thuggery, and farmers and herders' conflict.

Etung local government, which is the focus of this research, is plagued with the issue of small arms proliferation. Etung is located in the central senatorial district of Cross River State. It was created in 1996. Initially, it used to be part of the old Ikom local government area, which has now been split into three local government areas consisting of Ikom, Boki, and Etung. Etung has a land mass of 833.07 square kilometers; she shares an international boundary with the Republic of Cameroon to the East; to the north, it is bounded by Ikom and Boki, and to the South by Akamkpa and Obubra (Cross River State hub 2022). This study investigates and interrogates the impact of porous borders, small arms proliferation on socioeconomic development in Etung Local Government Area of Cross River State.

Statement of the problem The issue of porous borders, small arms proliferation and the devastating impact it creates on society is not new in most of the climes. It is observed that porous borders and small arms proliferation is one of the major security threats currently facing Nigeria, Africa, and indeed, the world. The trafficking and wide communal conflict, political instability, and the availability of these weapons pose a threat not only to national security but also to sustainable socio-economic development. The widespread proliferation of small arms is contributing to alarming levels of armed crimes and militancy (Uwa and Anthony, 2010).

The small arms proliferation and its readily efficient utility have led to several violent communal conflicts and turbulence throughout the Etung local government area ever since the return of civil rule in Nigeria. These have significantly aided upsurges in thuggery and electoral violence, banditry and brigandage, cult war, and inter-communal conflict among the various religions that make up the local government area. For example, in the 2019 general elections, five persons were killed in Bendeghe as a result of electoral violence. Similarly, in 2018, four youths were gruesomely murdered as a result of a cult war, and recently, in March 2023, another killing occurred due to electoral violence.

In the cocoa Estate plantation spanning the local government area that the state government has controlled, there have been a series of unrest and turbulence ranging from banditry, arson, robbery, etc. This has helped impede the local farmers from effectively producing cocoa and evacuating their various farm produce to the town and market for sale. However, against this background, this study intends to investigate and interrogate the impact of arms proliferation on socio-economic development in Etung Local Government Area of Cross River State.

Research question This research is aimed at providing an answer to the question below: How have porous borders and small arms proliferation affected the socio-economic development in Etung Local Government Area of Cross River State?

Objective of the study The central objective of this research is: To examine the extent to which porous borders, small arms proliferation has affected the socio-economic development in Etung Local Government Area of Cross River State.

Research hypothesis The following hypothesis were adopted for this study: porous borders and small arms proliferation have no effect on the socio-economic development in Etung Local Government Area of Cross River State.

Significance of the study This research will be important and valuable for a number of reasons. First, it will address the issue of porous borders and the various security challenges that have been affecting rural communities over time, and more particularly the Etung people, where the availability of porous borders and small arms has created various menace that have served as a cog in the wheel of socio-economic development in Etung Local Government Area.

Secondly, this research will investigate thoroughly why people in rural areas demand and find the possession of small arms a necessity. By so doing, it will enable policymakers, business analysts, and economists to be fully abreast of the ugly issue of arms trade and the debilitating impact it creates in the Etung Local Government Area of Cross River State. The findings of this research will close the existing gap in the literature by contributing greater knowledge on the reasons for the proliferation of small arms in rural areas. They will also add to the knowledge of all peace-seeking individuals.

Literature Review

A literature review is significant in this article; it covers major areas such as identifying what has been said about the recent security challenges and using such knowledge to proffer solutions to interrogate the danger of porous borders and small arms proliferation on socio-economic development in Etung local government area of Cross River State.

Porous Borders, Small Arms Proliferation and Socio-Economic Development It should be noted that most of the internal violent conflict in Nigeria are facilitated by our porous border which allows for proliferation of small and light arms. In fact, the precarious situation of Nigeria's border calls for attention in time like this, because it serves as conduits for illegal transnational traffic of small arms and drugs, and this is exacerbated by limited presence of security and law enforcement officials. This inadequate security agent is in most cases underfunded and poorly equipped and as a matter of fact do compromise to make both ends meet. Some corrupt ones even sell arms to criminals in the borderline. Most of the weapons used by Boko Haram, bandits, cultists, herdsmen and kidnappers were either stolen from Nigerian military stocks or purchased from thriving Central African arms black market owing to the insurgents' source of weaponry, its sophistication and sheer numbers (Shehu, 2009).

According to Neill (2000), labelling any issue security threat has significant implications on the socio-economic, religious, political, cultural, laws, norms and policies of the country in question. According to Dambazau (2007), transborder crimes could be attributed to several factors including abject poverty, unemployment and lack of governmental presence at the border areas which create a veritable ground for unscrupulous elements to unleash havoc on their target audience. Also, the communities around the border areas complaints of lack of basic socio-economic infrastructure like schools, access roads, hospital, water facilities etc., which have not been provided by government at all levels. These inadequacies create tendency for cross border migration to access those basic needs (Chikwanha, 2007). As asserted by Afolayan (2000), the porous nature of Nigeria's borders was responsible for the infiltration of the extremists Cross River state, Nigeria, is located in a largely unstable region with volatile socio-political tensions in countries like Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. Easy infiltration of terrorists from Libya and other North African countries and poverty ravaging large sections of the countries' populations make Nigeria susceptible to terrorist pressures. The combination of these factors explains why the region record highest number of border related crimes (Ajakaiye, 2002).

Development and socio-economic transformation cannot take place in an unstable environment of conflict, insecurity, and violence. This is so because an environment free from fear, anxiety, threat, harm, etc., to citizens, live and property is a sure means to bring about social and economic development". (Monday and Ogayi; 2021:1). Adeleke (2013) sees security as a situation in which citizens of any country are at liberty to go about their normal daily activities without threat to their lives and means of livelihood: safety from bodily harm, disease, and human right violations whatever they may find themselves.

The proliferation of small arms is one of the most immediate security challenges to individuals, societies, States, and the world, fuelling communal conflict, banditry, terrorist activities, civil wars, and organized crimes, causing great obstacles to sustainable socio-economic development. The high rate of small arms in circulation tends to promote civic unrest, which can destabilising the entire region (Mallam, 2014). One of the major security challenges to individuals and communities in Nigeria is the proliferation of illegal small arms. The high level of use of small arms endangers lives and communities' progress, leading to massive death, injury, and the loss of property worth millions of Naira during conflicts and even in the aftermath of the conflicts" (Turkur, et al.; 2020:4),

This is a situation that was made possible by the easy flow of illicit small arms and light weapons through the Nigerian border with Chad, Niger and Cameroon" (Okafor, 2022:6). (Okafor, 2022:6) state that the legal and illegal circulation of SALW has far-reaching effects on ethnic and religious violence and most especially on armed banditry, which is prevalent throughout the national territory"(Nte, 2011:7) asserted that the activities of these armed bandits and kidnapers in the south-south region or other parts of the country do experience this same devastation at intervals - has dealt a dangerous blow on education, food supply, infrastructure development, health service and social development of the area"(Okafor, 2022:7).

Dass and Sulaiman (2023) summarise the impact of small arms and security-related challenges on socio-economic development as low inflow of direct foreign investment into the country even with the introduction of cashless policy, increase in the cost of security precautions, low human capital development; atmosphere of political instability; and finally, social displacement of people. Small arms proliferation has hindered the inflow of foreign direct investment into the country "This problem has been attributed to the

continuous circulation of the Small arms in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria” (Stanley and Dominic, 2018:14). To strengthen this Position, Nioku (2019), observed: that investment activities of the nation economy are no more attractive to potential investors. The cost of doing business, including the cost of taking risks against any security challenges, has gone beyond the imaginary level and has been negatively impacting business development in Nigeria (Stanley and Dominic, 2018:14).

Theoretical Framework

Social Conflict Theory The theoretical framework adopted for this paper is the social conflict theory. Social conflict theory is a Marxist-based social theory that argues that individuals and groups (social classes) within society interact based on conflict rather than consensus. Various groups will tend to attain differing amounts of material and forms of conflict (e.g., the wealthy vs. the poor). More powerful groups will tend to use their power to retain power and exploit groups with less power. (Wikipedia,2020). Proponents of this theory include Karl Marx, Weber, Hobbes, and Coser (1978)..

According to Coser (1967:232): “social conflict (is) a struggle over values or claims to status, power, and scarce resources, in which the aims of the conflict groups are not only to gain the desired values but also to neutralize, injure or eliminate rivals. “Social conflict encompasses a broad range of social phenomena: class, racial, religious, and communal conflicts; riots, rebellions, revolutions; strikes and civil disorders: marches, demonstrations, protest gatherings, and the like. Conflict theorists view conflict as an engine of change since conflict produces contradictions, which are sometimes resolved, creating new conflicts and contradictions in an ongoing dialectic. In the classic example of historical materialism, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels argued that all of human history results from conflict between classes, which evolved in accordance with changes in society's means of meeting its material needs, i.e., changes in society's mode of production. (Wikipedia, 2020).

Critics of social conflict theory argue that it does not adequately account for how much societies are changing at any given time; instead, they assume more rigid relationships that change only under particular conditions (like revolution or war). They argue that many capitalist states have improved the welfare of their workers by implementing reforms and social programs that mitigate alienation and provide increased social stability through Incremental reform (Shasha 2023).

Despite the criticism leveled against this theory, it is still adequate for this study; it explains the rationale behind why the various communities in Etung local Government are always in conflict over the result of the struggle for forest and Cocoa Estate plantation. It explains why the youth are always in a perpetual struggle for survival over scarce resources of their land with their political elite. All these factors have necessitated the proliferation of small arms in the Etung local government area, which has, in turn, sustained the quagmire of insecurity and violence that has impeded socioeconomic development.

Methodological Considerations

Research design Kerlinger (1973) pointed out that research design includes an outline of what the investigator will do from writing the hypothesis and its operational implications to the final data analysis. This also consists of the methods to be used to gather and analyze the data and the strategy for achieving the research objectives and tackling the problems encountered in the research.

This study adopted the survey research design. This approach was chosen to enable the researcher to reach out to a reasonable number of respondents of the population within the available resources. This design was also chosen because it enriches data collection. The research design adopted in this study was carefully planned to obtain accurate and complete information about the research problem being used. Therefore, research design is a logical method of proof that allows the researcher to draw a plan concerning causal correlation among the variables under study (Hyman & Polit, 1999).

Population of the study The population of Etung local government area, according to the 2006 population census, is 87,582, which comprises ten wards, namely, Abia, Abijang, Agbokim, Ajassor, Bendeghe, Efraya, Etomi, Itaka, Mkpote, and Nsofang wards. This is to ensure that first-hand information and data needed for the successful procession of this study are achieved.

Table 1: SHOWS THE TEN WARDS OF ETUNG LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE AT THE POPULATION OF THE STUDY

Wards	Farmers	Traders	Population
Abia	7,250	1,192	8,442
Abijang	5,320	2,066	7,386
Agbokim	10,840	1823	12,663
Ajassor	8,600	1952	10,552
Bendeghe	13,340	1433	14,773
Efraya	4700	2680	7,386
Etomi	3921	3471	7,386
Itaka	4570	1761	6,331
Mkpote	5133	1199	6,331
Nsofang	3850	2481	6,331
Total	67,524	20,058	87,582

Source: 2006 population census

Sample size A sample is a group of items taken from the population so that the needed information can be obtained for analysis. Regarding the characteristics of the research populations and considering the size of the population of the entire chosen location where respondents are to be drawn. However, in selecting the sample size based on the population of the wards, the sample size was determined at % error tolerance and 95% degree of confidence using Yamane's (1967) Formula:

Where n = the sample size
 N = the population size
 E = error of sampling (5%)
 1 = constant

From the study, the sample size is computed as:

$n = 400$

Therefore, $n = 400$ (Sample size).

Sampling technique A cluster sampling method was adopted to ensure that the selected wards were covered using the proportionality formula thus:

Where

Q = The number of questionnaires to be allocated to each ward

A = The population of each ward
 N =The total population of the entire ward
 N = the estimated sample size used in the study
 From the study, the proportionality Formula 1s apply thus:

Abia = 8,442
 Abijang =7,386
 Agbokim = 12,663
 Ajassor= 10,552
 Bendeghe= 14,773
 Effraya= 7,386
 Etomi = 7,386
 Itaka = 6331
 Mkpote = 6331
 Nsofong =6331
 Total = 87,582
 Abia = = 39
 Abijang = = 34
 Agbokim = = 58
 Ajassor = = 48
 Bendeghe = = 67
 Effraya = = 34
 Etomi = = 34
 Itaka = = 29
 Mkpote = = 29
 Nsofong = = 29
 Total = 38 + 34 + 34 + 58 + 48 + 67 + 34 + 34 + 29 + 29 = 400

Table 2: REPRESENT THE NUMBER OF SELECTED RESPONDENTS AND THE NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRE ISSUED.

Selected respondents	A	Q
Abia	8,442	38
Abijang	7,386	34
Agbokim	12,663	58
Ajassor	10,552	48
Bendeghe	14,773	67
Effraya	7,386	34
Etomi	7,386	34
Itaka	6,331	29
Mkpote	6,331	29
Nsofong	6,331	29
Total	87,582	400

Source: Field survey, 2023

Method of data collection Data are raw and unprocessed facts that are used for research purposes. "Sources of data collection concerned different areas and ways researcher gather information for making observation. Data can be obtained through primary or secondary sources" (Nwosu and Ogar, 2020:168). The data used in this work

are both primary and secondary. Primary data were generated using structured questionnaires and interviews. Why publications from Media houses, reports, magazines, journals, bulletins, and other credible information from government agencies such as the police and court pertaining to small arms issues in the local government are also consulted and used as secondary data.

Method of data analysis The methods used for analyzing the generated data include simple tables and chi-square for lucid projection and analysis of the data.

Table 3 STATISTICAL DISTRIBUTION FOR QUESTION ONE: POROUS BORDERS AND SMALL ARMS PROLIFERATION AFFECT THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ETUNG LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Respondents community	Yes	No	Total
Abia	20	13	33
Abijang	25	5	30
Agbokim	48	7	55
Ajassor	37	8	45
Bendeghe	53	9	62
Effraya	28	2	30
Etomi	22	6	28
Itaka	17	3	20
Mkpot	18	0	18
Nsofang	23	1	24
Total	291	54	345

Source: Field survey, 2023.

The above table is computed using the chi square formula.

The formula is given as:

$$\chi^2 =$$

The expected frequency is calculated as:

$$E_f =$$

ef 20 = = 27.83	ef 25 = = 25.30
ef 48 = = 46.39	ef 53 = = 52.29
ef 28 = = 25.30	ef 37 = = 37.95
ef 25 = = 23.61	ef 22 = = 23.61
ef 18 = = 15.18	ef 23 = = 20.8
ef 13 = = 5.16	ef 8 = = 7.04
ef 5 = = 4.69	ef 9 = = 9.70
ef 7 = = 8.60	ef 6 = = 4.38
ef 2 = = 4.77	ef 3 = = 3.1
ef 0 = = 2.81	ef 1 = = 3.75

Table 4 COMPUTED CHI-SQUARE ON WHETHER POROUS BORDERS AND SMALL ARMS PROLIFERATION AFFECT THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ETUNG LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

Cell	O	E	O-E	O-E ²	
1	20	27.38	-7.38	54.46	1.98
2	25	27.30	-0.3	0.09	0.03
3	48	46.34	1.61	2.59	0.05
4	37	37.95	-0.95	0.90	0.02
5	53	52.29	0.71	0.50	0.009
6	28	25.30	2.7	7.29	0.29
7	22	23.61	-1.61	2.59	0.11
8	17	23.61	-1.61	2.59	0.11
9	18	15.18	2.82	7.95	0.52
10	23	20.8	2.2	4.84	0.23
11	13	5.16	7.84	61.46	11.91
12	5	4.69	0.31	0.96	0.24
13	7	8.60	-1.6	25.6	2.98
14	8	7.04	0.96	0.92	0.13
15	9	9.70	-0.7	0.49	0.05
16	2	4.77	-2.77	7.67	1.60
17	6	4.38	1.62	2.62	0.59
18	3	3.1	-0.1	0.01	0.003
19	0	2.81	-2.81	7.90	2.81
20	1	3.75	-2.75	7.56	2.016
Total	345	351.81			25.131

$\chi^2 = 25.13$

Degree of freedom = (R-1) (C-1)

df = (2-1) (10-1) = 9

df = 9

Critical value = 16.92

Alpha = 0.5

Decision rule

If the calculated chi-square value is higher than the tabulated value, reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. If the calculated chi-square is less than the tabulated chi-square, accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternative hypothesis. Since the calculated chi-square value (25.13) is more significant than our critical value of (16.92) at a 0.05 level of significance, we, therefore, reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis, which states that porous borders and small arms proliferation have a significant effect on the socio-economic development in Etung Local Government Area of Cross River State. The evidence is from the field, as it is contained in 3, which includes the statistical distribution for the question: Do porous borders and small arms proliferation affect the socio-economic development in Etung Local Government Area?

Discussion of findings The hypothesis clearly states a significant positive relationship between porous border, small arms proliferation, and socio-economic development in Etung Local Government Area. The finding here is not far from what is obtainable from several literature. As Monday and Ogayi (2021) have it, an environment free from fear, anxiety, and threats to lives and properties is a sure means to bring about social and economic development. Small arms engender security-related problems and serve as a cog

in the wheel of development. The finding also aligns with the complaints of border communities centered on the lack of basic socio-economic infrastructure like access roads, schools, clinics, water facilities, markets, farmland, etc., which the government has not provided at all levels (Chikwanha,2007).

In Etung Local Government, the devastating impact of porous borders and small arms is seen in the ongoing conflict and violence that has ravaged the various communities that make up the local government. This is evident in recent happenings like the 2019 general elections violence in Bendeghe Ekiem, Cocoa Estate brigandage as evident in the Camp 4 estate fracas between the youth of Etomi and Bendeghe Ekiem, Abia versus Bendeghe, cult clashes, and so forth. This observation here aligns with the assertion of Mallam that: “the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is adjudged as the most immediate security challenge to individuals, societies, and States worldwide, fuelling civil wars, organized criminal violence, insurgency, and terrorist activities, causing great obstacles sustainable security and development. Many times, so many insurgencies tend to develop into larger civil wars and possibly destabilize an entire region” (Mallam, 2014:1). Similarly, this view is supported by Turkur (2020), that “one of the security challenges to individuals and communities in Nigeria is the proliferation of illegal small arms. In Nigeria, high circulation and illicit use of small arms endanger individual lives and communities, leading to massive deaths, injuries, and the loss of property worth millions of Naira during conflicts and even in the aftermath of the conflicts (Turkur et al. 2020:4).

Conclusion and Recommendations

Porous border and small arms proliferation are widely acknowledged societal problems. Its negative impact can be felt in a region's social, political, economic, and even peace and security. To curtail this menace is a heinous task, but several social pathologies that wrecked the development of a state must be managed before the successful curtailment of small arms proliferation. These pathologies include corruption, failed government institutions and infrastructure, poor borders, poverty and unemployment, the widening gap between the rich and the poor, etc. Etung Local Government, which is the case study of this work, is not devoid of the menace listed above. It is also a subset of the larger Nigerian society. Whatever significant policy action is taken by the Nigerian state will significantly impact the local level, as in the case of Etung. Therefore, it is hoped that the recommendation that will be provided here guide the Nigerian state and Etung Local Government to the successful containment of the effects of porous borders and small arms proliferation.

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proffered: (a) The government should increase the security network in Etung Local Government by building police stations and checkpoints to manage the proliferation of small arms in rural communities (b) The government should provide job opportunities and empowerment programs to the youth of Etung Local Government to keep them engaged. The number of unemployed will increase rather than being given all kinds of offers for quick livelihood. Susceptibility to all types of offers to quick livelihood. (c) More discipline should be instilled in the security agents to ensure they carry out their public duties effectively and efficiently without compromise. (d) Sensitization programs should be conducted in Etung Local Government and rural areas to shun electoral violence, cultism, and gangsterism. (e) The resources in Etung Local Government should be equitably distributed to benefit the majority of its inhabitants. (f) The government should increase the security in the Ajassor

Mfum border as it is observed that it is one of the significant depots for small arms proliferation and trafficking of humans. (g) The boundaries of the rural villages and the resources in Etung Local Government should be clearly defined to reduce the clashes that frequently happen within the communities in Etung Local Government Area.

References

- Abdulahi (2016). The State of the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Sub-Saharan Africa: Regional, State and Local Causes. *International Journal of Business & Law Research* 4(3):22-36. July-Sent. 2016, 2016.
- Adam, Heyes (2022). Conflict Theory Definition, Founder, and Examples. <https://www.investopedia.com>
- Afegbua (2018). Small arms and light weapons Proliferation in West Africa: Implication for Sub-regional security. *CJOPAA*, ISSN:1595-0107.Vol. No. 1
- Afolayan, A. (2000). *Trans-border movement and trading, in Trans-Border Studies*. No. 13 Ibadan.
- Alimba (2017)\. Controlling The Proliferation Of Small Arms In Nigeria: Emerging Issues And Challenges. *Global Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences* Vol.5, No.10, pp.40-51.
- Anthony Obbeshall (1978). Theories of social conflict. *social*. 1978. 4:291-315.
- Ayara (2012). "Research methodology" in Bassey and Oshita (eds.) *political science and introductory reader*. Lagos: concept publication.
- Bassey, et.al (2007). *Conflict Resolutions Identity Crisis in Africa*. Lagos: Malthouse press.
- Biereenu-Nnabugwu, M (2024). *Research Designing in the Logic and Methods of Political Inquiry*. Awka: Fab Educational Books.
- Carmen-Christina (2015). Illicit small arms and light weapons: EPRS European Parliamentary Research Service.
- Chinedu, A. (2019). Migration and national security: A study of Nigeria's porous borders. *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies*, 12(1), 17-28.
- Chikwanha, A. (2007). *Benin crimes and criminal justice issue paper, Enhancing the delivery of security in Africa*. <http://www.africareview.org/docs/benin/beninissue>
- Coser, L. (1967). *Continuities in the Study of Social Conflict*. New York: ree Pres
- Coser. L. (1956). *The Functions of Social Conflict*. New York: Free Press, 188 PI'
- Coulibaly. (2008). "From Moratorium to a Convention on small arms: a change in politics and practices for the 15 member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)". Oxfam international.
- Cross River State. Cross River State hub. (Retrieve 2023 - 10-0 s)
- Dass and Sulaiman (2023). Security Challenges and the Proliferation of Small & Light Arms in Nigeria: Implication for National Development. *Khazanah Hukum*, Vol. 5 No. 1:45-58
- Dambazau, A. (2007). *Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books.
- Diakwa, Haruna (2010). "Conflict research: Social science perspective" in Bassey and Oshita (eds) *Governance and Border Security in Africa*, Lagos: Malthouse Press limited
- Mallam(2014), Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation and Its Implication for West African Regional Security. *Journal of International Humanities and Social Science* Vol. 4, No. 8; June 2014
- Monday and Ogayi (2021). Security Challenges as Threat to Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies* ISSN: 2787-0367
- Carmen-Christina (2015) Illicit small arms and light (June, 2021) e-ISSN:2787-0359,p- Studies (AJPAS) Volume14, Issue (June,20 weapons: EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service.
- Muomenam and Okafor (2020). National Security and the Proliferation of Arms and Light Weapons in Nigeria 2010-2022. *ZIK Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*: July 2022 volume 5: 31-53
- Stanley and Dominic (2018), Challenges in Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Nigeria: A Human Security Perspective. *Journal of African Foreign Affairs (JoAFA)* ISSN 2056-5658 (Online) 1SSN 2056-564X (Print
- Nte (2011). The changing patterns of small and light weapons (SALW) proliferation and the challenges of national security in Nigeria. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/22144849>.

- Nwosu and Ogar (2020). *Interdisciplinary method of research in management science, education, arts and social sciences*. Calabar: University of Calabar press
- Nyiayaana (2021). Post Cold War Africa And The Proliferation Of Small Arms: The Niger Delta Experience. *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AAJPAS)* Volume 14, Issue 11 (December, 2021) 14-35e-ISSN: 2787-0359, p-ISSN: 2787.
- Obiefuna (2011). Conflict Theory and the Analysis of Religious Experience. *An International Multi-Disciplinary Journal, Ethiopia* Vol. 5 (1), Serial No. 18, 2011 ISSN 1994-9057 (Print) ISSN 2070-0083 (Online) January, 20
- Odu (2007). *Introductory statistics and research methods in education and social sciences*. Calabar: Ojies and Ojies production P.M.B.1115, Calabar.
- Ogele et. al (2020). Farmers/Herdsmen Crisis and Sustainable Food Production in Nigeria Farmers/Herdsmen Crisis and Sustainable Food Production in Nigeria. <https://www..researchgate.het/publication/342947132>
- Okoro, (2018). Border Porosity, Small Arms Proliferation and the Challenge of insecurity In Nigeria. <https://www..researchgate.net/publication/344927225>
- Olapeju, et.al (2020). Arms Proliferation Security Challenge and Electoral Violence In The 2019 Rivers State Governorship Election. *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (Ainas)*. 13(2): December 2020
- Omitola and Awitayo (2016). Arms Proliferation And Challenges of National Security And Sustainable Development In Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa* (Volume 18, No.2, 2016) ISSN: 1520-5509
- Onwuka, Onyika (2010). "Territorial, arms trade and sub-regional security" in Bassey and Oshita (eds) *Governance and Border Security in Africa*. Lagos: Malthouse Press
- Salihu and Ozden (2020). The Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons the North East Nigeria: The Role of The United Nations. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343655925>
- Salisu et. al (2021) The Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Nigeria: Corruption a Major Challenge. <https://doi.org/10.17576/juum-2021-29-10>
- Shehu, A. (2009). *Drug trafficking and its impact on West Africa*. Paper presented at the Joint Committee on Political Affairs, Peace and Security/NEPAD and Africa Peer Review Mechanism of the ECOWAS Parliament.
- Soetan (2017), Proliferation of Arms and Security Challenges in Nigeria. *International Journal of History and Cultural Studies (IJHCS)* Volume 3. Issue 3, 2017, PP 33-38 ISSN 2454-7646 (Print) & ISSN 2454-7654 (Online)
- Tabi and Etim (2020) Trans-Border Crime and Security in Nigeria: A Study of Ajassor (Mfum) 0367 Border (1999-2020). Volume 7 Issue 3 | ISSN: 2349- 6002
- Temitope, Abiodon (2018). Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation and Its Threats to Nigeria's Internal Security. *Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation and Its Threats to Nigeria's Internal Security*
- Tukur et. al (2020), The Impact of Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Nigeria's National Security: A Case Study of Kogi State (2015- 2018) *KIU Journal of Social Sciences Kampala International University* ISSN: 2413-9580; 6(4): 51- 66
- Ude and Nnanemerem (2019). Local Government Autonomy and Socio-Economic Development of Rural Areas in Nigeria. <https://Researchgate.Net/Publication/334710559>
- Uwa and Anthony (2010) Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Proliferation and Problem of National Security in Nigeria: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/361889222>
- Vendley and Ali (2020) *Small Arms and Light Weapons: Africa A Resource Guide for Religions for Peace*.
- Wikipedia (2023) Conflict theories. www.Wikipedia.en.com Small Arms and Light Weapons. International Peace Bureau Disarmament For sustainable development (2023).

Biographical Note

Emmanuel SUNDAY is a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Calabar, Calabar, NIGERIA. His area of specialization and research

interest is Political Economy, Comparative Politics, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Marxism, Research Methodology, and International Security. Email: emmanuelapochi254@gmail.com

Sunny Mene PIATE, *Ph.D.*, is the Head of Department, Department of Political Science, Akwa Ibom State University, Obio Akpa Campus, NIGERIA. His areas of specialization and research interest are international relations, peace, conflict studies, and comparative politics. Email: sunnypiate@aksu.edu.ng