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Assessment of Globalization on Boko Haram Terrorism in Nigeria and Cameroon.

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Abstract

The study examines how, inadvertently, globalization processes have assisted Boko Haram's terrorist activities in exploiting institutional vulnerabilities and porous national borders in Nigeria and Cameroon. The study is founded on Globalization Theory, particularly the Network Society approach to Globalization Theory. The study uses a qualitative study method, which is based on secondary data and literature. The study argues that the interdependence of states in the contemporary world has inadvertently provided Boko Haram with modern and sophisticated tools to transcend local terrorist boundaries. The spread of digital technologies such as the internet and social media has enabled Boko Haram to successfully radicalize its members across national boundaries, to orchestrate highly sophisticated terrorist attacks, and to disseminate propaganda materials effectively. The relaxation of restrictions on the movement of people and goods in the West African sub-region has resulted in porous national borders that have enabled the free transnational movement of terrorists from Northeastern Nigeria into the Far North Region of Cameroon for purposes of acquiring small arms and other terrorist gear. The study argues that the asymmetry between a transnationally connected terrorist group and state actors has resulted in a high level of risk to local and regional actors. The study concludes by arguing that for Boko Haram's terrorist threat to be successfully contained, a holistic and multilateral approach to addressing the global processes driving the terrorist group's violent ideology is necessary.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Cameroon, Globalisation, Nigeria, Transnational Terrorism

1. Introduction

The concept of globalization has been portrayed as the defining feature of our times, bringing distances closer, speeding up time, and knitting a web of interconnectedness between nations (Momoh, 2015). Traditionally, globalization has been associated with economic integration, free movement of capital, and rapid dissemination of information and culture (Scholte, 2005). It has been portrayed as offering developing nations of the world an opportunity to speed up their development, acquire new technology, and find their place in the global market. However, the comforting idea of the global village has been constantly confronted by the harsh reality of globalization allowing security threats to move freely across borders. The negative side of globalization has been evident in the manner in which illegal networks, transnational crime syndicates, and terrorist groups use globalized borders, globalized information networks, and globalized financial systems to conduct their violent activities (Friedman, 2000). This has been starkly evident in the case of the Lake Chad region, where the rise of Boko Haram has impacted the security scenario of Nigeria and Cameroon.

The Boko Haram, officially known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, did not begin as a global threat. Founded in 2002 in Maiduguri, in northeast Nigeria, by Mohammed Yusuf, Boko Haram began as a religious organization intent on resisting Western-style education and government corruption (Adesoji, 2010). Boko Haram's activities were initially localized and related to Yusuf's theological complaints and rejection of Nigeria's secular government. However, in 2009, a heavy-handed response by Nigerian authorities to Boko Haram's activities led to Yusuf's extrajudicial execution and the deaths of hundreds of his followers (Onuoha, 2014), which ultimately led to Boko

Haram's transformation into a terrorist organization. The turning point in Boko Haram's history, which relates to globalization's influence, was its transformation from a localized terrorist organization to a global threat, spreading terror beyond Nigeria's borders, particularly in Cameroon. The almost identical topography of Northern Cameroon and Northeastern Nigeria, coupled with the inherent social, cultural, and economic connections between the regions, provided an environment that would facilitate the spread of the conflict. It is interesting to note that this internationalization of the conflict points to an important fact: globalization has led to the erosion of the Westphalian concept of sovereignty. Borders drawn by colonial powers and guarded by national armies have gradually become permeable not only on ethnic grounds but also on account of globalization-induced dynamics of regional integration. While Nigeria and its neighbors like Cameroon sought to strengthen regional economic integration in line with globalization imperatives, they unwittingly weakened border controls. The insurgents took advantage of this to move men, arms, and captives with ease. While it started as an internal security problem in Nigeria, it has now escalated to a regional crisis on account of globalization-induced dynamics of regional integration.

The technological aspect of globalization has emerged as an important factor in the sustainability and evolution of Boko Haram. The days of hierarchical structures and door-to-door recruitment are gone. Now, Boko Haram has skillfully navigated the "global information highway" to propagate their version of the story. By utilizing social media, YouTube, and professional propaganda production, they have managed to radicalize people outside Nigeria, orchestrate lone-wolf attacks, and broadcast their atrocities to a global audience to instill terror (Akinola, 2015). This technological globalization has allowed them to circumvent national media and speak directly to the global ummah and other terrorist groups like AQIM and ISIS. The pledge of allegiance to ISIS in 2015 and the subsequent renaming to Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) are examples of how terrorist groups around the globe are utilizing globalization to propagate their cause and localize a global jihadist ideology in West Africa (Zenn, 2018). Economically, globalization influences the environment in which the insurgency thrives. For example, globalization connects the world's economies, but in the process, disparities between some economies grow, leaving some on the fringes. For instance, the Lake Chad Basin, which ranks as one of the poorest places on earth, has been negatively affected by environmental degradation and changes in the weather. Although the factors causing these changes are global, the impact is felt at the local level. For example, the shrinking of Lake Chad has rendered traditional means of livelihood, such as fishing and farming, unviable, and the end result has been the emergence of an army of frustrated and unemployed youth, which the terrorist groups exploit with the offer of money or purpose (UNDP, 2017). To add salt to the wound, the global trade in small arms and light weapons, which the lack of stringent laws in conflict zones has kept alive, continues to fuel the insurgency in the region. The ability of the terrorist groups to trade, kidnap, and engage in other illicit activities to sustain themselves speaks volumes for their integration into the darker recesses of the global economy.

In the case of Cameroon, the impact of this globalization has been felt. Under the leadership of President Paul Biya, the country has had to shift its military attention and energy to the Far North, which has traditionally been one of the more peaceful regions of the country. The country's involvement in the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) speaks volumes for the need for a united front against Boko Haram, which has been born out of the globalization of the terrorist threat (Seignobos, 2015). Yet, the globalization which has created the Boko Haram threat has also been the one factor which has hindered the response to the crisis, with accusations of human rights abuses levied against government forces and spread quickly throughout the globalization network. In conclusion, the security crisis which Boko Haram has unleashed on Nigeria and Cameroon cannot be understood unless the link with globalization is appreciated. The movement of people, information, and technology, which are hallmarks of globalization, has been co-opted by the terrorist organization to spread its influence and reach. Thus, the question of the impact of globalization on the threat of terrorism cannot be seen as an academic exercise, but one which must be undertaken if effective solutions to the crisis are to be developed.

2. Literature Review

The literature on the impact of globalization on Boko Haram in Nigeria and Cameroon has shown the complex interplay between globalization and insurgency. Today, researchers no longer view the Boko Haram insurgency as an exclusively homegrown phenomenon, with many studies using data to demonstrate the impact of globalization on the insurgency. Much of the literature has focused on the impact of technological globalization, particularly the internet and social media, on the evolution of Boko Haram from an exclusively homegrown insurgency to a global terrorist organization. Akinola (2015) examines the propaganda messages posted by Boko Haram on the internet and discovers that the organization has copied the playbooks of global terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS. The conclusion drawn in the study is that the internet globalization of Boko Haram has improved its ability to recruit not just in Nigeria and Cameroon, but also in the diaspora. This internet globalization has created a “virtual caliphate” that transcends the borders of Nigeria and Cameroon. Ogunnubi and Isike (2015) empirically investigate the intersection of globalization and terrorism in Nigeria, arguing that the information superhighway has lowered the recruitment costs for terrorist organizations, which can bypass traditional face-to-face recruitment processes.

Outside of this digital age, rigorous research has also been conducted on the impact of economic and territorial globalization on conflict, especially with regard to regional integration and border integration. For example, with regard to ECOWAS and CEMAC, when borders downshift with regard to trade integration, it also means that the barriers to containing insurgents and illegal trade are also relaxed. For example, an International Crisis Group study published in 2016 found that with regard to the Nigeria-Cameroon border, where controls were relaxed to facilitate trade, it has ended up allowing insurgents and illegal trade to move more easily. For example, there have been field studies of the Lake Chad Basin indicating how uncontrolled borders have allowed insurgents to move from Borno State in Nigeria to Far North Region in Cameroon and back again, evading military forces. For example, with regard to the border conflict in Nigeria and Cameroon, Asiwaju (2019) found that border policies developed during colonial and post-colonial periods, as well as globalization pressures today, have developed a border that is almost lawless and has allowed insurgent movements to operate with impunity. Overlaying all of this is the globalization of arms trading, which has been a major contributor to the lethality of Boko Haram attacks. For example, research on arms trading to Boko Haram has found a dark web of local conflict linked to international illicit arms trading. For example, Amnesty International (2015) found that arms used by insurgents in Cameroon originated from China, Russia, and Eastern Europe and were smuggled to Boko Haram through illicit arms trading. It is quite evident from all of this that the lack of regulation of arms trading at an international level is what is fueling terrorism in this region of Africa.

However, beneath the surface of this issue, scholars have explored how larger economic forces contribute to the Boko Haram phenomenon. These scholars have demonstrated how global inequality plays a role in Boko Haram’s activity. For instance, surveys by the UNDP in the region demonstrated how people in Nigeria and Cameroon feel marginalized by the world economy and how this marginalization makes it more likely for people in the region to be recruited by Boko Haram. This is in line with Onuoha’s work in which it is demonstrated how Boko Haram benefits from the Nigerian government’s inability to integrate its citizens into the global economy and how it presents itself as an alternative form of government and economics. There is also literature that examines the security side of things at a transnational level. For instance, various evaluations of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) have demonstrated how difficult it is for governments in West Africa to coordinate against terrorism in an increasingly globalized world. For instance, in his survey of border areas in West Africa, Seignobos demonstrated how globalization has enabled terrorists to transcend borders but how states have struggled to coordinate against it due to issues of sovereignty. This “asymmetry of globalization,” whereby terrorists can easily coordinate with one another but states cannot due to issues of sovereignty and bureaucracy, is demonstrated in various literature and is seen as one of the key factors that contribute to the longevity of the Boko Haram phenomenon. On the whole, it is demonstrated in all of the literature that globalization is not only relevant to Boko Haram’s presence in Nigeria and Cameroon

but is actually a key driving force behind its longevity in the region. For instance, it is demonstrated how Boko Haram's longevity is linked to global networks of communication and trade and how local vulnerabilities fuel its activity.

3. Theoretical Framework

To get a better understanding of how globalization affects Boko Haram's presence in Nigeria and Cameroon. There are three theories that provide fresh insights on the issue: World-Systems Theory, Weak States Theory, and Globalization Theory. Although they provide fresh insights on this issue from different points of view, they all converge. According to Immanuel Wallerstein's World-Systems Theory, the world is divided into core nations or countries, semi-periphery nations or countries, and peripheral nations or countries. While core nations or countries are rich and developed nations or countries that control the world economy, peripheral nations or countries are poor and rich nations or countries that are economically exploited by core nations or countries (Wallerstein, 1974). From this perspective, Boko Haram's presence in Nigeria and Cameroon may be viewed as an outcome of economic inequality inherent in global capitalism. While economic inequality is an inherent feature of the Lake Chad region's presence in the world economy as a peripheral nation or country, Boko Haram fills the socio-economic gap. When peripheral nations or countries like Nigeria and Cameroon fail to gain economic inclusion in the world economy, unemployment and poverty increase, thus providing Boko Haram with its membership.

However, the Weak States theory argues that the major factor that explains conflict and instability in the developing countries is the inability of state institutions to monopolize power and provide services to their citizens (Migdal, 1988; Zartman, 1995). In the context of this study, this theory highlights the weakness of Nigerian and Cameroonian state institutions. Although they appear to be sovereign on the surface, they may not have the bureaucratic strength and territorial control to effectively patrol their borders. This creates a governance vacuum that allows other actors such as Boko Haram to establish an alternative system of governance. This theory is especially relevant to understanding how globalization may lead to insecurity: when states weaken, borders meant to facilitate globalization may be used to facilitate other illegal movements beyond state control.

Globalization Theory, especially in the works of Castells in his Network Society series, is all about how our social structures are being rewired and reconnected in this age of information and digital technology. It is about moving away from a state-focused, spiraling upward concept and into a world of horizontal connections and information-based power and networking. In terrorism and counterterrorism, this theory is useful in analyzing how Boko Haram evolved from a small militia to a globalized terrorist franchise. It is about how the internet, finance, and transnational identities allow this and similar groups to operate beyond any nation-state's borders. Of the three theories, this research chooses to adopt and utilize Globalization Theory, especially in its Network Society variant, as its main theory of reference and analysis. This is especially pertinent to this research's main inquiry into how globalization is affecting insurgency in this part of the world. While the two other theories provide a useful background and environment in which terrorism is allowed to thrive, this theory provides a useful tool in analyzing the mechanics of terrorism itself. Why this theory is especially pertinent to this research is that it is about and directly addresses our independent variable of interest: globalization. With this theory, this research is able to look beyond and move past the basic and simplistic causes of terrorism such as poverty and poor governance (which are both present in this case, anyway), and instead delve into and analyze how globalization is changing Boko Haram's methods and operations. Castells' concept of a "space of flows," or how Boko Haram is using the internet to recruit and spread its ideology, is especially useful in this regard. This is where Globalization Theory comes in handy since it captures the international dimension of this conflict. The conflict is no longer just a Nigerian crisis; it has become a "global" crisis, which means it is local issues mediated and amplified through global channels (Scholte, 2005). By using this theory, we are able to analyze the impact of shrinking space and time on the spread of Boko Haram into Cameroon and beyond traditional borders. We are able to

analyze the technological, ideological, and logistical links that sustain this group in this globalized and connected world.

4. Assessment of Globalization on Boko Haram Terrorism in Nigeria and Cameroon

The modern world is at a curious crossroads: more connected than ever before, and yet more prone to worry and vulnerability through that very connectedness. Globalization, with its uncanny talent for compressing time and space and moving capital, people, and ideas across borders at ever-increasing velocities, has fundamentally altered what it means to be a sovereign state. Markets open and economies integrate, offering promise of growth and progress, but in opening borders globalizers have inadvertently created an ideal breeding ground for threats that know no borders. A quintessential example of the darker side of globalization can be seen in sub-Saharan Africa, where Boko Haram's rebellion in Nigeria and Cameroon has blossomed into a formidable international terror organization. From its origins as a local religious sect in Maiduguri, Nigeria, Boko Haram has leveraged the tools of global connectedness to spread its influence and wage its war against a broader world. To understand how globalization affects Boko Haram, it is essential to understand how technological connectedness, economic globalization, and the declining role of state authority combine to fuel a crisis that threatens to engulf an entire region around Lake Chad. Globalization is not merely in the background here; it is actually a force multiplier for Boko Haram (Castells, 1996; Akinola, 2015).

The internet and social media have opened up more voices and allowed them to speak for themselves, rather than just those affiliated with traditional state media. Boko Haram has exploited this digital wave quite skillfully. In their initial days as an insurgency, they made rather amateurish productions and sermons. Under Abubakar Shekau and later through their association with ISIS, their productions have become more refined and sophisticated, akin to those of major terrorist groups around the globe. This is again due to globalization, which has hastened the transfer of ideas and ideological toolkits around the globe. With YouTube, Twitter, and messaging apps, they can disseminate their violent activities to a global audience and have a psychological impact beyond what their military capabilities warrant. The digital wave has also changed their recruitment strategy. They are no longer confined to recruiting from Islamic schools and can now use cyber-radicalization to reach disillusioned youths in Nigeria and Cameroon, promoting an ideology that portrays them as part of the larger universe fighting against Western domination. The ability to instigate "lone wolf" attacks or coordinate over long distances without physical meetings is again part of our connected information universe.

The movement of people and goods, the basic heartbeat of globalization, has had a remarkable and even contradictory impact on the conflict. Regional groups such as ECOWAS and CEMAC have for many years been promoting regional integration through the liberalization of borders. The intention was obvious: increase regional trade and cultural exchange, and forge the region into even more unity and cohesion. In reality, however, these actions have been eroding the borders and territories of the affected states. To illustrate, let's look at the Nigeria-Cameroon border, which is over 1,600 kilometers long and passes through ethno-linguistic groups with historical and cultural affinities and even pre-existing trade relationships that predate colonialism and the demarcation of borders (International Crisis Group, 2016; Seignobos, 2015). Globalization has revitalized these pre-existing relationships and has made the border more accessible than it has ever been. This has been Boko Haram's biggest advantage so far. Terrorists are able to move effortlessly between Borno State and the Far North Region of Cameroon, taking advantage of the difficulty that security forces are facing in controlling such expansive territories. Whenever the Nigerian forces try to put more pressure on the terrorists, they cross over into Cameroon or melt into the vast Sambisa Forest, and the same is happening on the other side. In short, the dream for a borderless West and Central Africa, which is the vision for globalization, has sadly turned into a nightmare for regional security. The proliferation of weapons is another major aspect which is fueling this war. Small Arms and Light Weapons are available in abundance as markets around the globe are becoming more free and free markets are flourishing. Reports have shown that Boko Haram is receiving supplies from around the globe. Guns made in China, Russia, and Eastern

Europe are being smuggled into the region through complex networks. The wars in Libya and Sudan are fueling this arms trade into the region, which is being facilitated by international crime syndicates who are not afraid of being caught and prosecuted in this global village we live in. The availability of assault rifles, RPGs, and IEDs to this terrorist group is making them a formidable force, and they are able to hold their own against regular armies in battles.

The availability of this firepower has everything to do with the global economy and the demand and supply of illicit products. Hence, it is not just the zeal of this terrorist group which is making them deadly; it is also the global arms trade which is fueling them (Amnesty International, 2015; UNODC, 2020). Economic marginalization, which is brought about by the uneven winds of global capitalism, is part of the reason why Boko Haram is able to exist. The effects of globalization have caused wealth disparities between the centers of wealth and the outer regions of the globe. In Nigeria and Cameroon, it seems as if the cities are riding the wave of globalization and economic integration into the global economy, while the rural Lake Chad region is being left behind. The region is being ravaged by environmental degradation, climate change, and economic stagnation. The drying up of Lake Chad, which is an environmental disaster of global proportions, has destroyed the fishing and agriculture-based livelihoods of those who live in this region. Without means of earning a living, Boko Haram has filled this vacuum as an alternative means of employment and livelihood. This is evident in both countries. In Cameroon's Far North region, there is high poverty, which has made this region vulnerable to the charms of Boko Haram (UNDP, 2017; Wallerstein, 1974). The uneven distribution of wealth in a globalized economy, where wealth is concentrated in the centers of wealth and power and is leaving the outer regions to wither away, is part of the reason why there is social decay and terrorist groups are able to thrive. It is an irony of global proportions that it is this same global system which has brought about great wealth and prosperity that has also brought about great poverty and terrorist groups which feed on it (Migdal, 1988; Zartman, 1995).

The spillover of Boko Haram's insurgency into Cameroon offers a remarkable example of the extent to which state authority can be stretched in the face of the demands of the globalized world (Onuoha, 2014). For Cameroon, which has traditionally been considered a haven of relative calm in the midst of turmoil, the Boko Haram insurgency came knocking in 2014 when the terrorist group kidnapped the vice prime minister's wife and began its rampage of attacks on villages and military installations (Akor et al, 2017). This marked a turning point, as the country recognized the limits of borders in the face of the terrorism threat. The country's actions, which included stepping up militarization in the Far North and engaging the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), highlighted the need for cooperation in the face of the Boko Haram threat. However, such cooperation has been hindered by the forces of globalization. Boko Haram, being the nimble and decentralized organization that it is, has been able to adapt and change direction quickly, while state actors are hindered by the inflexibility of their bureaucracies and the rules of engagement on the international stage. The MNJTF, which draws its personnel from the armies of Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Chad, and Benin, represents the laudable attempt at cooperation in the face of the Boko Haram threat (Akor et al, 2017).

Nevertheless, the organization has had to contend with the limitations of coordinating the efforts of diverse forces in the face of the Boko Haram threat, which has created divisions of interest in the region. The disparity between the globally connected Boko Haram and the state actors has been the defining feature of the Boko Haram insurgency, placing the latter at a significant tactical disadvantage. With globalization of human rights discourse and international media presence, a new level of complexity has been added to this war (Scholte, 2005). Amnesty International and similar groups have documented atrocities committed by both Boko Haram and government security forces. When this information reaches a global audience, it creates pressure on both governments to respond to this international scrutiny. Yet, it also creates a level of ambiguity in counter-terrorism efforts. If a government is concerned about being held accountable in an international court or facing sanctions, it may not engage in a full-scale military assault. It also risks being criticized domestically if there are civilian casualties in a counter-terror operation. Boko Haram also seeks to utilize this international media to tell their side of the story, exaggerating atrocities committed by government forces in order to

gain sympathy and recruit members from the diaspora. This battle for hearts and minds is being conducted in a global arena, and information management is as important as any military strategy.

This is a direct result of globalization, where those not on the front lines can influence the narrative of this war. Money flows that sustain Boko Haram are another example of the pervasiveness of globalization. The group started as one that financed itself through local robberies and extortion. However, it has since become more involved in international criminal activities. The kidnapping business has become a lucrative venture, and it involves expatriates in the region. The money is transferred through complex international financial networks, which can even extend to cryptocurrency. This is an example of how terrorist financing is integrated into international financial systems. The group's involvement in regional drug trade and other illicit financial flows connects them to a huge underworld of criminal activity. The global financial system, which is supposed to facilitate legitimate trade, has many dark corners that can be exploited by Boko Haram. The financial system is what keeps the group afloat despite losing territory because it can draw from decentralized sources of revenue that do not require it to occupy space (Financial Action Task Force, 2021).

In Cameroon, the narrative of globalization meets history namely colonial and post-colonial history that has defined the way the nation relates to the rest of the world. The border with Nigeria is more than just a line on the map; it is both barrier and bridge (Freedom House, 2022). The Anglophone crisis is yet another dimension of weakness, overstressing security forces even though it is a different issue from Boko Haram. Boko Haram finds its opportunity here, thriving on the tension (International Organization for Migration, 2018). In Cameroon, globalization is also evident in the Anglophone Crisis, with the diaspora playing a role in advocacy and fundraising for the cause, just as Boko Haram does on the global stage. The nation is also home to hundreds of thousands of refugees from Nigeria, and this is a humanitarian crisis that has global implications. In such conditions, there is potential for radicalization and for Boko Haram to establish a base among these refugees. The humanitarian side is also linked to globalization, with refugees displaced because of conflict but subject to international law that is often poorly funded and overstretched (International Organization for Migration, 2018). As the war goes on, the death toll keeps rising. The instability creates a situation of food scarcity and widespread malnutrition among the inhabitants. The world is sending aid, but the instability that is causing all of this is also preventing aid from reaching those in need. This is a paradox in which the world is trying to globalize aid but is failing because of the power of the opposite of globalization, which is represented by the instability. The people of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, and the Far North of Cameroon are paying a human cost for all of this. This is a generation of kids growing up out of school, scared, and traumatized. The cycle of violence is continuing because of a lack of jobs and education – the promise of globalization that was never fully delivered (World Bank, 2021).

An analysis of Boko Haram with the globalization framework indicates the need to be cautious and adapt to the changing environment (UNEP, 2019). The conventional Westphalian state with its monopoly over the use of force in clearly demarcated territory cannot be effective against an enemy like Boko Haram, which thrives on its connections and linkages (World Bank, 2021). Boko Haram's advantage comes from its ability to marry local issues with global best practices, utilizing local ethnic and economic issues on the one hand and global technology, finance, and ideology on the other (Cronin, 2013). What Nigeria and Cameroon need to do to contain Boko Haram is not to retreat to the conventional notions of state sovereignty and borders, which globalization has rendered redundant, but to think outside the box and harness the positive dimensions of globalization, such as better cooperation and development, while effectively mitigating the negative dimensions, such as more effective border control, cyber warfare, and financial control (Zenn, 2020).

In other words, globalization and Boko Haram are closely connected, and the connection has significant implications for the playing field. Globalization has provided the infrastructure for Boko Haram to begin as a local rebellion and grow into a regional threat. Globalization has provided Boko Haram with the ability to acquire communications technology, advanced weaponry, and financing to continue operations, all while undermining the ability of national governments to respond to the threat. The conflict in the Lake Chad Basin makes it obvious that, in a globalized world, no nation is an island;

the security challenges facing one nation are everyone's problem. The international community must understand Boko Haram for what it is: not just a local problem, but a global manifestation of a disordered world that requires a global solution that seeks to address the root causes of marginalization, just as it seeks to dismantle the global connections that empower Boko Haram. The future stability of Nigeria, Cameroon, and the Sahel will depend on whether national governments can take back control from these global networks and harness globalization for development, not destruction.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

Within this research, the multifaceted impact of globalization on Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria and Cameroon has been critically assessed and revealed as a force multiplier of terrorism in the two nations. Based on the research findings, it is evident that globalization is not only a contextual background of terrorism in Nigeria and Cameroon but also a key actor that has significantly impacted Boko Haram terrorism. An in-depth examination of the technological, economic, and socio-political dimensions of globalization and terrorism in Nigeria and Cameroon reveals that globalization has provided Boko Haram terrorism with state-of-the-art tools that enable it to transcend its local boundaries and attain a transnational threat status. First, this research reveals that technological globalization, as portrayed by the emergence of the Network Society, is a pivotal aspect of Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria and Cameroon. Boko Haram's ability to effectively utilize the internet and social media in disseminating propaganda and information to its members and sympathizers has enabled it to establish a virtual caliphate that transcends the geographical boundaries of Nigeria and Cameroon. Second, this research reveals that Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria and Cameroon is also influenced by economic globalization and regional integration. In essence, the various regional economic integration strategies and treaties, such as those established by ECOWAS and CEMAC, that are aimed at facilitating free movement of persons and goods in Nigeria and Cameroon have, in effect, increased border porosity that enables the free transshipment of arms and the free movement of terrorists. As a result, Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria and Cameroon has transformed the border regions into a sanctuary of terrorists, thus complicating counter-terrorism efforts in Nigeria and Cameroon. The evaluation process also reveals the prevailing socio-economic paradox in the context of globalization in the Lake Chad Basin region. On one hand, globalization has created wealth in urban areas; however, it has concurrently led to marginalization in peripheral areas, resulting in environmental degradation and socio-economic decline in the region. Boko Haram has successfully capitalized on such socio-economic disparities in the region and offered itself as an alternative means of providing security and socio-economic opportunities for marginalized youth in the region.

Therefore, it is evident that the sustainability of Boko Haram's insurgency is not only driven by extremist ideologies but is concurrently linked with the socio-economic deficiencies of a globalized world that has marginalized the Lake Chad Basin region in particular. By and large, it is evident that for Boko Haram to be successfully countered in Nigeria and Cameroon, there is a dire need for a paradigm shift in countering the threat of Boko Haram and its extremist ideologies. For instance, it is apparent that the inflexible structures of the states of Nigeria and Cameroon often fail to counter Boko Haram's extremist ideologies successfully. Therefore, it is only through recognizing and addressing global flows that empower Boko Haram that the states of Nigeria and Cameroon can successfully dismantle its networks and achieve stability in the region. (a) Nigeria should establish a cyber-intelligence task force whose primary role will be to keep tabs on and interfere with Boko Haram's use of social media and cyber networks in the recruitment and coordination of the insurgency. (b) The Nigerian government should enhance its bilateral intelligence-sharing cooperation with the government of Cameroon to enable joint operations against the insurgency movements operating in the border regions. (c) Nigeria should undertake targeted socio-economic development programs in the Lake Chad Basin with the aim of providing vocational training to the youth of the region to curb the socio-economic desperation that often drives the insurgency. (d) Cameroon should establish a biometric border control system in the Far North Region to effectively control the movement of persons

and goods across the borders. (e) The Cameroonian military should invest more in the enhancement of the mobility of its rapid intervention battalions to enable the effective and swift response to the insurgency attacks in the remote border regions. (f) Cameroon should enhance the laws on the administration of international humanitarian aid to ensure that refugee camps are not used as havens for the infiltration of the insurgency.

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