Review of the Imperatives of globalization on social, cultural, political and legal aspects of Nigeria's Economy

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Abstract: **The study seeks to review the imperatives of globalization on social, cultural, political and legal aspects of Nigeria's Economy. Globalization is powerful aspects of the new world system; and it represents one of the most influential forces in determining the future course of the planet. It has manifold dimensions: economic, political, security, environmental, health, social, cultural and others. The study reviewed that the social aspect has led many Nigerians to urbanization as well as changing their mode of dressing and social life. The cultural imperative has led to the creation of council wards, local government areas, states against chiefdoms and emirates that were formally practice. The political imperative of globalization has led to the creation of sovereign nations through trade, capital flows, and harmonization of the economic rules. A legal imperative of globalization has made it possible for increased cross-border transactions and quest for high quality legal services by investors. The theory of world culture by R. Robertson which pointed out the four main actors of globalization as national society, social systems, the individual and humanity. The study therefore concluded that globalization has paved way for people of different nations to have cross boarder experience, interaction and integration socially, culturally, politically and legally thereby changing and modernizing the people from their traditional beliefs and norms.**

Keywords: **Globalization, Social, Cultural, Political, Legal and Economy.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Globalization is a powerful real aspect of the new world system, and it represents one of the most influential forces in determining the future course of the planet. It has manifold dimensions: economic, political, security, environmental, health, social, cultural, and others. Globalization has had significant impacts on all economies of the world, with manifold effects. It affects their production of goods and services. It also affects the employment of labour and other inputs into the production process. In addition, it affects investment, both in physical capital and in human capital. It affects technology and results in the diffusion of technology from initiating nations to other nations. It also has major effects on efficiency, productivity and competitiveness (Intriligator, 2003:1; 7)

Among the features that characterize globalization include interconnection of sovereign countries through trade and capital flow; harmonization of the economic rules that govern the interaction or relationship between these sovereign nations; creating structures to support and facilitate dependence and inter connection; and creation of a global market place (David 1997).

According to Awake (2002) globalization will heighten the level of interconnectedness between and among nations through a systematic integration of autonomous economies into a global system of production and distribution. It should be noted that globalization seek to eliminate trade barriers through unfitted integration and interaction of global capital and labour thereby leading to an unhindered exchange of goods and service across border.

The perception of different people and different groups toward globalization varies from person to person and group to group. For the purpose of this study, we shall review globalization from social, cultural, political and legal aspect and as it affects the Nigeria economy.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF GLOBALIZATION

Social development refers to positive social change. According to Adeniyi (1995) social change is the process through which the patterned network rules and institutions are modified in the course of time. In other words it refers to the process of transformation of the ways of life and structures of society over-time. The transformation or modification should lead to new behaviour which reflects Social and cultural globalization, involving cross-border movement of cultures and openness of media, may also have increased a population's perception of the supposed benefits of foreign lifestyles (e.g. in the form of greater car use, decreasing calorie expenditures) as well as of foreign diets (e.g. which may lead to greater calorie consumption through intake of fast food rich in fats and sugars). The effect of social globalization on overweight may therefore be akin to the effect of urbanization on various technologies potentially associated either with the reduction in energy expenditure over time (Monda, Gordon-Larson, Steven and popkin 2007; Popkin, 1999; Rivera, Barquera, Campirano, Campos, Safdie and Torvar 2002; Swinburn, Sacks, Hall, Mcpherson, Finegood and Moodie 2011), or with more abundant supply and consumption of cheaper, higher calorie foods (Drewnowski and Popkin, 1997, 1999; Popkin and Gordon- Larsen, 2004).

Cohen B. (2006), said urbanization denotes a process whereby a society changes from a rural to urban way of life or redistribution of populations to urban settlements associated with development and civilization. For millennia, urban areas have been centers and drivers of commercial, scientific, political and cultural and social life, having a major influence on the whole countries and regions. The Nigerian society is undergoing both demographic transition (people are living longer) and epidemiological transition (change in population health due to changes in lifestyle) mainly as a result of urbanization. The country is undergoing rapid urbanization with a rapidly growing population. At current growth rate of about 2.8%–3% a year, Nigeria's urban population will double in the next two decades.

According to cohen (2006), Urbanization is a major public health challenge of the 21st century as urban populations are rapidly increasing, but basic infrastructures are insufficient and social and economic inequities in urban areas have resulted in significant health inequalities. In this sense, therefore, urbanization in a way is similar to globalization which can be seen as a structural social determinant of health that can challenge the aspirations of equity due to tendency of accumulation of wealth and power among urban elites. Today, most cities in Nigeria have undergone urban decay because of lack of or breakdown in basic services; potable water supply, electricity, efficient city transport services, affordable housing, and waste disposal systems. This is largely as a result of authorities coming to terms with the "tempo" of rising urban needs. These phenomenal transitions are not without health challenges to the population in urban areas and cities. These prompted this review as there is an obvious need to assess how these demographics can enhance our understanding of the current urban trait in Nigeria and its challenges. Urbanization is integrally connected to the three pillars of sustainable development, economic development, social development, and environmental protection, [Washington DC, New York 2015] and as urbanization proceeds in Nigeria, the pace and scale of urban population growth will generate important public health challenges for town planners and governments. This is more so since urbanization has not been associated with sustained industrialization and socioeconomic development across the country. Urban poverty and the growth of slums and shanty settlements which are critical challenges to urban health have grown remarkably. Thus, the "health for all will not be achieved for all Nigerians without re-orienting the system to deal with urban health problems." Systematic search of published literature in English was conducted between 1960 and 2015.

The researcher therefore, wish to inferred that globalization has made some Nigerians to copy the American's and European's social interactions such as non verbal communications which include: facial expressions, eye contacts, postures, gestures, hairstyling, dressing styles, movements, slants etc.

IMPERATIVES OF GLOBALIZATION ON CULTURAL ASPECTS IN NIGERIA

Culture has been defined as the programming of the mind which distinguishes the members of one human group from another the interactive aggregate of common characteristics that influence a human groups response to its environment

(Adler 1983); the way of life of the members of a society, the collection of ideas and habits which they learn, share and transmit from generation to generation (Edewor 2003:195); that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society; and the set of tangible and intangible elements-things like diet, tools, technology, language and values-that gives shape and meaning to everyday lives of a particular group of people (Kanagy and Kraybill 1999). The concept of culture consists of the values the members of a given group hold, the norms they follow, and the material goods they create. It refers to the way of life of the individual member of groups within a society; how they dress, their religious ceremonies and leisure pursuit (Oni 2005:9-7). From the definitions above it is clear that culture is a very broad concept that generally encompasses basically every aspect of human life.

People consider culture to be important for several reasons. Firstly, it is seen as defining peoples' identity and consequently, it has been argued that a people without culture is a people without identity. By defining peoples' identity, culture helps to distinguish between or among peoples of different societies of communities. Summing it up, Adedirneji (2006:10) declares that "to be removed from one's culture is to be deprived of one's identity. To lose one's identity is to be tossed in the wind fluttering along like a leaf separated from its tree." Secondly, culture is considered to be very important in ensuring the survival and development of a community.

(Norberg-Hodge 2006) have observed that "perspectives on globalization have mainly tilted from its advocates to its opponents. While supporters of globalization see it as a welcome and veritable phenomenon bringing about improved trade, networking and collaboration among peoples regardless of their geographical locations, opponents of globalization see it as a new form of colonialism that further enriches the rich and the powerful Nigerians belong to the latter category.

In examining the impact of globalization on Nigeria culture it is important to realize that strictly there may be a more appropriate term. Prior to the end of the l9th century the name Nigeria did not exist and the geographical region now referred to as Nigeria was filled with ethno-linguistic groups such as the Oyo Empire, Kanem-Borrio Empire, Benin Kingdom Caliphate. During the colonial era, Britain forcefully welded them together as one country for athninistive venience (Adedimeji, 2006). From Adedimeji's view one can compare the mode of dressing, eating, preaching, building have drastically changed from the Nigerian traditional way and are now more refined, all thanks to globalization which has really impacted on the culture of the Nigerian people. Now globalization has lead to the creation of council wards, local government areas and states instead of the former which is chiefdoms, kingdoms and emirates. Globalization has put and end to the culture of killing twins, even mode of worshiping and preaching has changed. Even style of dressing in Nigeria has greatly changed due to influx of other international cultures, like the English wears, Indians wears, South Africans wears etc which has triggered importations of and exportations between Nigeria and some these countries.

IMPRARATIVES OF GLOBALIZATION ON POLITICAL ECONOMY

From a political economy perspective, corporate globalization involves "a set of structures and processes that build the private wealth of a very few people" (Sumner, 2005:126). Kwanashie (1998: 34) shares this view and asserts specifically that globalization is a process of creating global market place in which all nations are increasingly forced to participate. The key elements of this process include the interconnection of sovereign nations through trade and capital flows; harmonization of the economic rules that govern relationship between the sovereign nations, and the creation of structures to support and facilitate dependence as well as the creation of a global marketplace. The process is accelerated by such openings, which the advancements in information technology have provided. Contemporary globalization is highly information based.

Political economy is a comprehensive interdisciplinary framework that is based in Marxist social theory. It involves not only the interrelationship between economics and politics but also the interconnections between the various levels of social interaction, from the local through the national to the global. Questioning the pretensions of organized power requires two steps. It involves developing a critical attitude toward organized forms of power such as the economy or the state (Sumner 2008).Political development refers to the process of evolving an acceptable political behaviour that would facilitate the achievement of the national objective such as a free and democratic society. It is also the attainment of a just and egalitarian society. In other words, there is the development of civilized and refined political culture that corresponds with the objective of the country.

The primary goal of political economy is to know how societies are, and can be, transformed. A political-economy approach helps us to develop a critical attitude toward organized power and understand the challenges and opportunities we face in building dynamic and democratic alternatives in an increasingly globalized world. According to Youngman (2000:3), the political economy approach deliberately moves the focus of analysis from individual choice and behavior to a consideration of the historical and structural context within which individual action takes place.

The political economy of Nigeria even becomes more complex when one considers the heterogeneous and the multi-various nature of Nigerian societies. In fact, the inherent diversity in Nigerian federalism introduced a dangerous dimension to the contest of power. Thus, unlike classical Marxist political economy, the "political" takes a pre-eminence position in Nigerian political economy. Hence, Ake's (1996) assertion that 'politics under-develops Nigeria" having viewed the high value placed on political power and obsessive preoccupation with politics which has impeded our economic progress.

Globalization, in the cast of colonial legacy, came along in the eighties as a liberating force opposed to military politics and its corruptive influences. Its pervasive impact was felt even more strongly in the nineties, as information technology turned the world into a global village and revolutionized people's identity paradigms and played up western political systems as models for Nigeria (Bigman, 2002). The military caved in, but post-military politics contributed in its wake awkward forms of identity politics that went from local and traditional alignments to global issues of human rights and obligations.

The nature and impact of globalization is the subject of profound debate within political economy. We have seen that globalization is increasing interdependence among states; it is also increased global interconnectedness, and the capacity of some states to influence others. Globalization has had significant impacts on all economies of the world, with manifold effects. It affects their production of goods and services. It also affects the employment of labour and other inputs into the production process. In addition, it affects investment, both in physical capital and in human capital. It affects technology and results in the diffusion of technology from initiating nations to other nations. It also has major effects on efficiency, productivity and competitiveness (Intriligator, 2003).

Political globalization has aided technology transfer, stable political system in Nigeria since 1999,ease of trade, the joining of international public sector of accounting standards (IPSAS), bilateral agreements, scholarships exchanges, access to London club, IMF and world bank loans, tourisms, etc.

Globalization has brought changes in price system, distribution of wealth by job creation through foreign companies such as telecommunications industries, stock market, tourism, entertainment industries and improved technologies in managing agriculture, oil and gas etc.

IMPARATIVES OF GLBALIZATION ON LEGAL ASPECTS OF NIGERIA

Laurel (2008) has shown that most of the "ten largest global law firms have more lawyers located outside their home country office than in their home country" and that "all of them have offices outside their home country."Bierman and Hitt (2007) besides, the outsourcing (via the internet) of basic legal research and documentation to "lower wage earning lawyers in English-speaking India has been on a steady increase due to the globalization of legal practice. These growing trends in globalized provision of legal services informed Thomas Friedmans "flattening" concept of the globe.

Lawyers licensed to practice law as barristers and solicitors of the Supreme Court of Nigeria must key into the evolving globalization of legal practice by positioning themselves to render professional services not only to clients resident or doing business within Nigeria but also to others either resident or doing business outside Nigeria. The subtle infiltration of legal practice in Nigeria by foreign-based lawyers who are not licensed to practice law in Nigeria can no longer be denied (Adangor 2016).

The legal dimension of globalization which is the most relevant for our present purposes, seeks to create a situation where changes in the municipal law of a given country may be decisively influenced "by formal or other informal international pressures by other states, international agencies or other transnational actors (Shapino1993). Thus, legal globalization seeks to stimulate progressive development in the national laws of a country in response to similar developments in the national laws of other countries within the comity of nations so that a set of identical laws across national jurisdictions could evolve on every subject matter of global concern. This point is thrown into bold relief by the views of Martin

Shapiro, that globalization of law refers to "the degree to which the whole world lives under a single set of legal rules" which might be "imposed by a single coercive actor, adopted by global consensus or arrived at by parallel developments in all parts of the globe (Shapino 1993).

Legal globalization, therefore, involves the integration and unification of laws across national jurisdictions so as to develop a system of global law. In this respect, reference could be made to the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT 2016), an independent intergovernmental organization reestablished in 1940 and charged with the responsibility to "study the needs and methods for modernizing, harmonizing and coordinating private international law and particular, commercial law as between States and groups of States and to formulate uniform law instruments, principles and rules to achieve those objectives(UNIDROIT 2016).

NATURE OF GLOBALIZED LEGAL PRACTICE

Globalized legal practice involves the provision of legal services by lawyers to clients located outside of their national jurisdictions and sometimes, without being physically present within the foreign jurisdiction (Gibson 2004). It is the provision of legal services across national boundaries without restrictions imposed by differing legal regimes or cultural, economic, political and religious diversities. Globalized legal practice is thus the de-territorialization of legal practice or the practice of law in multi-jurisdictions which is marked by broken national boundaries in the legal and political spheres. The commonest form of globalized legal practice is the establishment of a branch office of law firms in a foreign country which enables a law firm headquartered in say, New York, to operate a branch or representative office in the City of London for the provision of legal services within the United Kingdom. In this way, the global law office is able to offer legal services to clients located in distinct national jurisdictions by maintaining physical presence in these various jurisdictions through representative offices which are integrated into and linked with the head-quarter in the home jurisdiction.

The catalyst for globalization of legal practice has been the internationalization of the economy. The increase in cross-border transactions and the quest for high quality legal services by investors have interplayed to make cross-border lawyering imperative. The Council for Trade in Services of the World Trade Organization (WTO) underscored this point when it noted that:

In the past decades international trade in legal services has grown as a result of the internationalization of the economy. Increasingly, lawyers are faced with transactions involving multiple jurisdictions and are required to provide services and advice in more than one jurisdiction (Gibson 2004).

The researcher wish to summarize thus that Nigeria and other African countries should embraced legal globalization by removing legal barriers in paving way for any qualified lawyer to practice in any part of the world; this may lead to a unified world law.

THEORETICAL FRAME WORK

The Theory of World Culture: R. Robertson

The English sociologist Roland Robertson, along with other authors who share similar positions on the issue (Lash, Featherstone 2005), presents a completely different globalization theory.

Robertson was one of the first scholars to study globalization, which he describes as "the compression of the world and the intensification of the conciseness of the world as a whole".

Robertson sees the main characteristic of globalization as the compression of human communities and individuals into the same space "all together." This "space" (a qualitative space) demands that each unit form a particular attitude that would have previously been eliminated by the limitations of a local context. In all situations and on all levels, according to Robertson, this global context of existence is the fundamental meaning of globalization which he understands to be a fact. The existence of the world as a whole forms a sense of "global culture" before individual and collective subjects. In this context, any choice, decision, or movement automatically acquires a "global dimension." We live in a global culture, and this is irreversible.

It is only at this point that differences set in. Robertson, in contrast to the adherents of "world politics" theory, believes that the expansion of the Western cultural, social, economic, and, in general, rational code is one of many processes which is not necessarily tied to globalization.

Robertson notes four main actors of globalization:

- national society (within the framework of individual states)

- social systems

- the individual

- humanity

These four actors correspond to the four forms of consciousness:

- socialization

- internationalization

- individualization

- the appearance of global human consciousness

The existence of the fourth dimension, which represents the special characteristic of globalization itself ("world culture") affects the other forms of identity insofar as it opens a supplemental dimension. From this point on, choices taken on the level of "global consciousness" strongly influence the nation-state, international relations, individual consciousness, and dramatically alter their structures. To be fully socialized, for example, the individual does not need to submerse himself in national society. Rather, he can increasingly often bypass this stage and directly (or through the medium of international social groups and NGO's) address humanity. The same is the case with the global horizon of humanity including, for example, ecological issues, climate change, etc., which sovereign states are now forced to consider despite their national economic and strategic interests. Robert distinguishes and describes five characteristics of globalization within this conception:

- relativization

- emulation

- "glocalization"

- interpretation

- contestation

Relativization renders all traditional institutions of social society, political society, and hierarchy relative. Citizenship, profession, ethnos, gender, as well as the sovereignty of the system of international law cease to be fundamental categories and become more flexible and reflexive. Emulation means that a given society as a whole elaborates its own attitude towards globalization and towards the common global space and, on the basis of global challenges, responds in various different ways. This situation completely differs from that described in the theories of global culture and global politics that expect the whole world to adopt a uniform code. Robertson believes that recognizing the commonality of global space does not necessarily mean that this commonality is understood uniformly. Thus, globalism can be accepted or denied by religious communities which respond to global challenges in accordance with their own philosophical bases (a case which is proven by the phenomenon of Islamic fundamentalism.

Globalization is the most famous of Robertson's neologisms, which means that together with the adoption of a universal code in some spheres (information, economy, trade networks, youth fashion, and political democracy, globalization in fact incites some paradoxical phenomena. National institutions can split on an ethnic level, regionalization and the return to small communities increase, religious folklore returns, archaic cultural layers increasingly rear their head, etc. The nation-state thus proceeds to form either in line with the national system, the global one, or as a mosaic of archaism and localism. According to Robertson, these alternative processes are not mutually exclusive, but rather different sides of the same phenomenon.

Robertson thus interprets globalization and understands it as a state of dynamic competition for universalization and particularization (globalization). The balance of these forms constantly changes, problems of understanding the same global phenomena arise, and different comprehensions are promoted depending on expectations, points of view, and particular situations.

Robertson's theory can thus be summarized, but its principles bear an element of uncertainty. As globalization is multilayered and continues to unleash new phenomena, no one can confidently say which tendencies will most potently affect further development.

3. CONCLUTION

The study wish to conclude that globalization has paved way for people of different nations to have cross boarder experience, interaction and integration socially, culturally, politically and legally thereby changing and modernizing the people from their traditional beliefs and norms.

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