GLOBALIZATION, HUMAN SECURITY AND SOME INTERVENING CONCERNS

Olufemi Oludimu PhD
Social Sciences Department (Economics Unit), Crawford University,
Igbesa, Ogun State, Nigeria

Abstract
Traditionally the concept of "security" has been couched in neo-realist terms, relating to protecting the territorial integrity and political sovereignty of nations. This continues to be a legitimate concern for scholars and policy-makers alike, but at the current state of human development it is clear that an alternative or even complimentary conception of "security" needs to assume critical importance.

A conceptualization of security that is centered primarily on the individual or community can be understood as human security. This notion grows from the assumption that there are needs, problems, and issues that are common to all of mankind no matter what part of the world they live in, for example, poverty; the spread of communicable diseases; environmental degradation; the loss of faith in institutions; population pressures; and economic crisis.

It is imperative that we view these concerns in terms of global trends and forces that affect the individual. The question then is ; how can we ensure human security? This can be achieved not through force of arms, but through policies that lead to the empowerment of people and an attack on the sources of intervening concerns and contemporary problems as such poverty,migration and income inequality challenges. These issues form the kernel of the present paper. In concluding, the paper proffers suggestions by way of some reversal policies that can mitigate some of the challenges identified so as to ensure improved human security on the global plane.

Introduction

It has been argued by some (Beck, 2000; Bhagwati, 2004; Bisley, 2007; Wolf, 2004) that globalization of democracy in developing countries has contributed to human insecurity in some countries. It is further argued that while political rights and freedom from political oppression is desirable, the spread of democratic values has simultaneously and quite ironically produced societal instability. It is posited that as some states experience an improvement in political or civil liberties, they shortly thereafter experience civil strife (e.g. the former Yugoslavia and the conflict between Russia and the ethnic separatist Chechens).

The spread of economic and political liberalization policies and their human security implications are producing a new form of social alienation. Societies that were once traditional, community-oriented, informal, and personal are now suddenly exposed to the formal, abstract character of modern institutions, the economic detachment of the state, and a more competitive political economy. The eruption of violent conflicts is, at times, an attempt to address human economic existential anxiety caused by globalization's effect on the "social contract" between the state and the society resulting in the possible loss of economic support systems. Thus, it is seen that globalization affects and is affected by societies, peoples and communities and their individual components.

According to the 1994 Human Development Report

Human security is people-centered. It is concerned with how people live and breathe in a society, how freely they exercise their many choices, how much access they have to market and social opportunities-and whether they live in conflict or in peace.
(United Nations Development Programme, 1994: 24).

In other words, human insecurity broadly conceived affects not just economic security but other areas of existence as well. This is why the first major reference to human security in 1994 identified seven areas of concern. These are the following (United Nations Development Programme, 1994:32):

1. economic security (e.g., assurance of a basic income),
2. food security (e.g., access to food),
3. health security (e.g., access to health care and protection from diseases),
4. personal security (e.g., freedom from threats by the state, groups, or individuals),
5. community security (e.g., freedom from harmful community practices),
6. political security (e.g., enjoyment of human rights, and freedom from political oppression),
7. environmental security (e.g., protection from harmful effects of environmental degradation.

The effects of these and othercontemporary issues seem to be exarcebated by the globalization process – a concept that seems to have both developmental (positive) and delibitating (negative) influences.

Apart from an examination of the debate on the concept of globalization – its positive and negative consequences in section two, the paper goes on**,** in section three, to review the impact of human security forces on the African continent with particular reference to two major intervening concerns – climate change and environmental degradation. In the final and concluding section, the paper offers suggestions by way of some reversal policies that can mitigate some of the challenges identified.

Globalisation

The term 'globalisation' has taken several meanings and definitional connotations over the centuries. It has nad etymological, anthropological, socio-cultural, politico-legalistic, and indeed econo-financial implications and attributes over this period. "The overland Silk Road that connected Asia, Africa, and Europe is a good example of the transformative power of trans-local (globalising) exchange that existed in the "Old World". Philosophy, religion, language, the arts, and other aspects of culture spread and mixed as nations exchanged products and ideas in the 15th and 16th centuries……(and) by the year 2010, global movement of people, goods, and ideas had expanded significantly and the advent of electronic communications, most notably mobile phones and the Internet, connected billions of people in new ways" (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

Thus, the term *globalization*has come to be referred to the emergence of an international network of social and economic systems. Social scientistParis (2001) defined globalization as 'the compression of the world and the intensification of the consciousness of the world as a whole' as sociologist Martin Albrow(1996) defined it as 'all those processes by which the peoples of the world are incorporated into a single world society'. As Waters (1995) also explains, 'globalisation is a social process in which the constraints of geography on social and cultural arrangements recesses and in which people become increasingly aware that they are receding' and in the same vein, Martin Albrow (1996) opined that 'globalisation involves the supplanting of modernity with globality and thus an overall change in the basis of action and social organisation for individuals and groups'.

According to economists, there are a lot of global events connected with globalization and integration. They include the following :

1. **Improvement of International Trade.**
Here, it is argued that because of globalization, the number of countries where products can be sold or purchased has increased dramatically.

2. **Technological Progress.**
Through the need to compete and be competitive globally, governments have upgraded their level of technology.

3. **Increasing Influence of Multinational Companies.**
A company that has subsidiaries in various countries is called a multinational. Often, the head office is found in the country where the company was established.While the head office controls the subsidiaries, the subsidiaries decide on production. The subsidiaries are tasked to increase the production and profits. They are able to do it because they have already penetrated the local markets.Globalization has a lot to do with the rise of multinational corporations.

4. **Power of the WTO, IMF, and WB**.
Another effect of globalization is the strengthening power and influence of international institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank (WB).

5. **Greater Mobility of Human Resources across Countries.**
Globalization allows countries to source their manpower in countries with cheap labor. This aids international migration which brings human resources to producing countries for employment.

6. **Greater Outsourcing of Business Processes to Other Countries.**
From existing trend of global business outsourcing, global companies in the US and Europe take advantage of the cheaper labor and highly-skilled workers that countries like India and the Philippines can offer

7. **Civil Society.**
An important trend in globalization is the increasing influence and broadening scope of the global civil society often referred to NGOs (nongovernment organizations). There are institutions in a country that are established and run by citizens. The family, being an institution, is part of the society. In globalization, global civil society refers to organizations that advocate certain issue or cause.

The point however is that the term 'globalisation' defiles being put in a scholastic, albeit sociological or economic, cubicle. A transformative concept, the term ramifies different disciplines and incorporates expansive spatial connections, and there can be no clear or coherent formulation of this term.Manfred Steger, a professor of Global Studies,went on to identify five dimensions of globalization: socio-cultural, economic, political, ideological and (indeed) ecological. It isfurther argued that a satisfactory definition of globalization must capture each of these elements: extensity (stretching), intensity, velocity and impact. Indeed a Globalized society offers a complex web of forces and factors that bring people, cultures, markets, beliefs and practices into increasingly greater proximity to one another.

One of the major set of forces impinging upon globalization and is likewise impinged upon is the natural environment. Thus, environmental challenges such as climate change, cross-boundary water, air pollution, and environmental degradation are linked with globalization. Some of these issues catch the attention of this paper and are highlighted in the third section of the write-up. In that section, it is pointed out that while globalization might have 'brought benefits to millions of people and helped secure the biggest ever falls in the proportion of humanity in extreme poverty (Wolf, 2004), globalization results in ecological

damages including global warming, extinction of animals and plants, rapid spread of communicable diseases and many others (Adebogun, 2013).

Human Security and Africa

Proponents of the concept of 'human security' view it as a people-centered, community-related notion necessary for national, regional and global security. That school of thought has posited that the interest of the people in traditional explanations on the notion of national security has often been overshadowed by the interest of the state, emphasizing 'defence' rather than 'development' as the fulcrum. For instance, Canada's foreign policy, "three Ds", has been criticized for emphasizing defense more than development(Spiegel, J.M., and R. Huish. 2009).

In its 1994 Human Development Report, the United Nations affirmed that global security could only be brought about in the world by ensuring 'freedom from want' and 'freedom from fear' for all persons. In itsdefinition of 'human security' it argued that the scope of global security should be expanded beyond mere 'national security' with its emphasis on military might. Thus the UNDP's 1994 Human Development Report's definition of human security argued that the scope of global security needed to be expanded to include *threats in seven areas*, namely *:*

- " **Economic security** — Economic security requires an assured basic income for individuals, usually from productive and remunerative work or, as a last resort, from a publicly financed safety net. In this sense, only about a quarter of the world's people are presently economically secure. While the economic security problem may be more serious in developing countries, concern also arises in developed countries as well. Unemployment problems constitute an important factor underlying political tensions and ethnic violence.
- **Food security** — Food security requires that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to basic food. According to the United Nations, the overall availability of food is not a problem, rather the problem often is the poor distribution of food and a lack of purchasing power. In the past, food security problems have been dealt with at both national and global levels. However, their impacts are limited. According to the United Nations, the key is to tackle the problems relating to access to assets, work and assured income (related to economic security).
- **Health security** — Health Security aims to guarantee a minimum protection from diseases and unhealthy lifestyles. In developing countries, the major causes of death traditionally were infectious and parasitic diseases, whereas in industrialized countries, the major killers were diseases of the circulatory system. Today, lifestyle-related chronic diseases are leading killers worldwide, with 80 percent of deaths from chronic diseases occurring in low- and middle-income countries. According to the United Nations, in both developing and industrial countries, threats to health security are usually greater for poor people in rural areas, particularly children. This is due to malnutrition and insufficient access to health services, clean water and other basic necessities.
- **Personal security** — Personal security aims to protect people from physical violence, whether from the state or external states, from violent individuals and sub-state actors, from domestic abuse, or from predatory adults. For many people, the greatest source of anxiety is crime, particularly violent crime.
- **Political security** — Political security is concerned with whether people live in a society that honors their basic human rights. According to a survey conducted by Amnesty International, political repression, systematic torture, ill treatment or disappearance was still practised in 110 countries. Human rights violations are most

frequent during periods of political unrest. Along with repressing individuals and groups, governments may try to exercise control over ideas and information.

- **Community security** — Community security aims to protect people from the loss of traditional relationships and values and from sectarian and ethnic violence. Traditional communities, particularly minority ethnic groups are often threatened. About half of the world's states have experienced some inter-ethnic strife. The United Nations declared 1993 the Year of Indigenous People to highlight the continuing vulnerability of the 300 million aboriginal people in 70 countries as they face a widening spiral of violence.

- **Environmental security** — Environmental security aims to protect people from the short- and long-term ravages of nature, man-made threats in nature, and deterioration of the natural environment. In developing countries, lack of access to clean water resources is one of the greatest environmental threats. In industrial countries, one of the major threats is air pollution. Global warming, caused by the emission of greenhouse gases, is another environmental security issue" UNDP's 1994 Human Development Report.

As pointed out by Thomas (2001), all of the challenges to human security are further magnified in Africa,with global implications:

☐ Bad governance often resulting in popular protest and even violentresistance on the part of certain groups against the forces of repression.

☐ Regular violations of human rights perpetrated against the most vulnerablein society (e.g. women, children, the poor, and unarmed citizens).

☐ Drug trafficking that is linked to a deadly global network.

☐ International terrorism, with African states and people both as victims andperpetrators.

☐ Increasing international migration as a function of population growth,poverty, and political and economic insecurity on the continent.

☐ Population growth, which increases the pressure on non-renewableresources and is intimately related to global poverty, environmentaldegradation and international migration.

☐ Internal wars fought by "irregular forces" of ethnic and religious groupsequipped with small arms.

As can be seen from the two maps below, for both Year 2003 and Year 2008, most of Africa exhibited low level of Human Development.

The 2003 map, Coloured world map indicating Human Development Index (as of 2003).
Note : Countries coloured green exhibit high human development, those coloured yellow/orange exhibit medium human development, and those coloured red exhibit low human development.

The 2008 Map, Coloured world map indicating Human Development Index (as of 2008).
Note : Countries coloured green exhibit high human development, those coloured yellow/orange exhibit medium human development, and those coloured red exhibit low human development.

Continuing conflict and human rights abuses all over the world into the Third Millennium including in Africa, and the fact that two-thirds of the global population seemed to have gained little from the economic gains of globalization, led to fundamental questions about the way development was practiced. Accordingly, human development has emerged in 1990s to challenge the dominant paradigm of liberal economy in the development community. It is often argued, and quite correctly,that economic growth with its diverse indices such as Gross National Product (GNP), Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Income (GNI), is insufficient to expand people's choice or capabilities, areas such as health, education, technology, and that economic development with its variants such as the environment and employment, should not be neglected.

The concept of 'human security' could be said to further enlarge the scope for examining the causes and consequences of underdevelopment, by seeking to bridge the divide between development and security. Stewart (2004) argued that like the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) in its 2001 Report "The Responsibility to Protect" (a comprehensive report detailing how the "right of humanitarian intervention" could be exercised) that the human security approach emphasizesvery useful main principles:

- The protection of individual welfare is more important than the state. If the security of individuals is threatened internally by the state or externally by other states, state authority can be overridden.
- Addressing the root causes of humanitarian crises (e.g. economic, political or social instability) is a more effective way to solve problems and protect the long-term security of individuals.
- Prevention is the best solution. A collective understanding of the deeper social issues along with a desire to work together is necessary to prevent humanitarian crises, thereby preventing a widespread absence of human security within a population (which may mean investing more in development projects).

Investing in development projects while mitigating environmental disasters remains the ultimate objective of the human security paradigm as discussed in the next section.

Global Natural Environment and some Intervening Concerns

The natural environment is described as encompassing all living and non-living things occurring naturally on Earth or some region thereof. Of serious consequent to it now is a major and long-term threat – climate change - that has the potential to affect every part of the globe. In West Africa, particularly in the Sahel, temperatures have increased more sharply than the global trend. And the predicted rise in temperature between 1980/99 and 2080/99 is between 3°C and 4°C which is more than 1.5 times the average global trend.

Accelerated climatic changes are expected to lead to potentially large impacts across Africa in the future. The scale of climate change will increase with high anthropogenic emissions, greenhouse gas concentration, and average global temperature. In view of the

resultant disruption of economic activities, climate change is no longer just an environmental issue but a development concern. It has become a major threat to the sustainable development of many developing countries and the challenge to Africa is to keep climate change from reversing all the developmental gains accumulated in the last few decades.

Africa has been highlighted as the most vulnerable continent to climate change. This is because the economies of most developing countries in Africa are generally dependent on climate-sensitive natural resources, high poverty incidences, coupled with low adaptive capacity. Given the dependence of these countries to environmental and natural resources, economic growth and the livelihoods of both urban and rural populations are vulnerable toclimate variability and change. But by working within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Africa could respond from both mitigation and adaptation angles which require strategic approaches from policy, regulatory and institutional capacities.

Other areas of concern are those related to the challenges of land degradation (deforestation, desertification, and coastal and marine environmental erosion), air and water pollution, urban decay and municipal waste, as well as hazards of drought, coastal surges and flood. Documented impacts of climate change in the East African Community region include sea level rise, submergence of some islands in the Indian Ocean, salt water intrusion and contamination of fresh water wells along the coast in Tanzania, beach erosion in Mombasa, Kenya, and rampart floods and droughts across the region. By way of concerted responses, African countries must try to achieve sustainable development against all of these phenomena by doing the following :

- secure a quality of environment adequate for good health and well-being;
- promote the sustainable use of natural resources;
- restore and maintain the ecosystem and ecological processes, and preserve biodiversity;
- raise public awareness and promote understanding of linkages between environment and development; and
- cooperate with government bodies and other countries and international organizations on environment matters.

Concluding Remarks

The term globalization implies transformation. Indeed the term 'globalization' has brought out the essence of the concept of 'human security". Richard Jolly and Deepayan Basu Ray, in their UNDP report, suggested that the key criticisms of human security include the fact that human security does not have any definite boundaries, therefore anything and everything could be considered a risk to security. This makes the task of policy formulation nearly impossible. Human security, when broadened to include issues like climate change and environmental degradation, complicates the international machinery for reaching decisions or taking action on the threats identified.

Despite the possible debilitating influences of human security, by 2008, a Human Security Index (HSI) had been prototyped and released. The project coordinator, David Hastings noted that "if one were challenged to create an index on the condition of people-centric Human Security, such as the authors of the Human Development Index faced in 1990 and expanded qualitatively in 1994, one could now begin to do so – at least for the sake of discussion and resultant improvements." The release document and a United Nations Bangkok Working Paper (Hastings, 2009)led to the publication of the following :

- **An Equitability/Inclusiveness Enhanced Human Development Index** – in which each of the components of the HDI (education, health, and income) are modified by an indicator of equitability in an attempt to adjust, for example, for the gap between

the indicator of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capita (adjusted for purchasing power parity) and the desired measure of financial resources "in the pocket" of a typical person in a country. In that index some countries with relatively equitable ratings compared to their Human Development Index (such as Iceland, the Slovak Republic, and Estonia) do relatively well, whereas some countries with relatively inequitable ratings compared to their HDI (such as Ireland, Greece, and the USA) do less well.

- **A Social Fabric Index** which enumerates human security with respect to environment, diversity, peacefulness, freedom from corruption, and info empowerment. This was blended with the Human Development Index to form the prototype Human Security Index.

A 2010 enhancement to the HSI recast the composite index around a trinity of Economic, Environmental, and Social Fabric Indices (Hastings, 2012) which also included efforts to balance local and global context, individual and society concerns, left-right political issues, east-west and north-south cultural and social issues. Current Version 2 of the HSI ingests about 30 datasets and composite indicators, and covers 232 countries and dependencies. It is released at HumanSecurityIndex.org.

Considerable differences in national ratings and standings have been noted between the HSI and indicators such as GDP per capita or the Human Development Index. Several small island countries and development oriented countries such as Bhutan and Botswana do considerably better in the HSI than they do in GDP per capita or HDI. Conversely, Greece and some Eurozone peers such as Ireland and Spain, several countries in the Gulf, Israel, Equatorial Guinea, the USA and Venezuela do worse in the HSI than in GDP per capita or HDI. Influential factors vary but include diversity and income equality, peacefulness, and governance.

References:
Adebogun, O. (2013) : 'Globalisation – An Intricate Phenomenon' Crawford J. of Business and Social Sciences Vol. III, No. 2 pp. 213 – 223

Albrow, M. (1996) : The Global Age : State and Society Beyond Modernity Cambridge : Polity Press

Beck, U. (2000) : What is Globalisation ? Cambridge : Polity Press

Bhagwati, J. (2004) : In defence of Globalisation ? Oxford : Oxford University Press

Bisley, N. (2007) : Rethinking Globalisation. New York : Palgrave Macmillan

Hastings, David A. (2008): Describing the Human Condition – from Human Development to Human Security, GIS-IDEAS 2008 Conference "Towards a Sustainable and Creative Humanosphere", 2008 online <http://wgrass.media.osaka-cu.ac.jp/gisideas08/viewabstract.php?id=299>

Hastings, David A. (2009): From Human Development to Human Security: A Prototype Human Security Index, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Working Paper WP/09/03, 2009 online<http://www.unescap.org/publications/detail.asp?id=1345>

Hastings, David A. (2012). "The Human Security Index: An Update and a New Release".*HumanSecurityIndex.org Documentation Report V.1.1*.

Keller, Edmond J. - Globalization and Human Security: Framing the Issues

Paris, Roland (2001): Human Security - Paradigm Shift or Hot Air? In: *International Security*, Vol. 26, No. 2

Spiegel,J.M., and R. Huish. (2009) Canadian foreign aid for global health: Human security opportunity lost. Canadian Foreign Policy Journal 15(3):60-84

Stewart, Frances (2004) "Development and Security", Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security, and Ethnicity (CRISE), Working Paper 3, London: University of Oxford, 2004

Thomas, Caroline (2001): "Global Governance, Development and Human Security: Exploring the Links", Third World Quarterly, Vol. 22, No. 2, pp 167-168, 2001

United Nations Development Programme (1994): Human Development Report

Waters, M. (1995) Globalisation   London : Routledge

Wolf, M. (2004) : Why Globalisation works. New Haven CT : Yale University Press