
WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY IN TURBULENCE ERA: The Impact of Russia-Ukraine War on Peace, Security and Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Since the inception of the 20th century, many wars have been recorded which still leaves its impacts till today. Premised of this background, this study examines the impact of the Russo-Ukrainian war on peace, security and development in Nigeria. The study seeks to find and explain the relative consequences of the war on the Human Security and governance, and sustainability system in Nigeria; examine how the war has affected the governmental efforts at stemming up security and threats within and outside and aims at cross examination of the impacts of the war on the systematic/holistic development in Nigeria. The study adopts the Just War Theory as its theoretical framework. The research methodology employed in the study is mixed research method. The data used for the study includes both primary and secondary sources. The interview was tailored towards eliciting information from key informants; the Secondary data were sourced from textbooks, journals and internet materials in relation to the subject studied. The study concludes that there is needs for strengthen resilience efforts towards reducing Nigeria's dependency on importing goods and services, and invest in technology and infrastructure and promotes innovative approaches.

Keywords: Peace, Security, Human Security, Development, War, Turbulence

Introduction

Security is the state of being free from danger or threat, the quality or state of being secure as well as freedom from danger and freedom from fear or anxiety. It is the reduction or lessening of all forms of violence including rape, gender subordination, domestic violence, economic, and ecological destruction (Bassey, 2018). Thus, traditionally, security is the unilateral function of the state especially if we consider the intellectual view(s) of some political theorists like Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and JJ Rousseau, who have argued that the essence of a state is to provide law and order, which are attained through (effective) security.

According to Encarta (2006), peace is freedom from war; the end state of war; tranquility; a calm quiet state free from disturbance; a state of mental calm, serenity, devoid of anxiety; a state of harmony, free from conflict or disagreement; a treaty agreeing to end an hostility; law and order; a state devoid of violence, crime and other forms of disturbance. Agreeably, peace and security is as essential as human existence and if the right to life determines other fundamental human rights, it becomes expedient that the society, Nigeria in particular, this against the background of the fact that unless lives and properties are secured, there cannot be any appreciable development in any human society (Nwolise, 2016).

Therefore, every society needs security and safety to exist and also achieve sustainable growth and development. It is equally good to know that safety and security encapsulate many things, which includes: lives, food supplies, health, housing, environmental security, territorial security, personal security, etc (Appadorai, 1982). Against this background, the United Nations (UN) sees security within the context of moral rights and acknowledges its intrinsic contributions to development. The security and safety of lives and properties overtly encourage social well-being and financial health. Invariably, they promote human productivity and economic life integration by helping humans to be calmer, understanding, responsive than being reactive, more observant, and to achieve cognitive awareness. In light of the foregoing, security and safety are vital for the survival of human societies because they are essential conditions for sustainable development and self-reliance (UN Commission on Human Security, 2003).

Since the inception of the 20th century, many wars have been recorded, including civil wars, regional wars, continental wars and above all world war and not ruling out the cold war which still leaves its impacts till today and likelihood of re-ignition, readily come to mind is the ongoing war of invasion in Ukrainian propelled by Russia and resisted by the Ukrainians. Many wars ensued with clear cuts reasons while others started based on unreasonable grounds and ended even the more detriment of the war parties.

The Russia-Ukraine war starts at a time when the Nigerian government and the people are still struggling to recover from the subverting consequences of the global COVID-19 pandemic, which caused deep socio-economic deterioration, that lead to loss of productivity, worsening inequalities, and in some cases security challenges. The war threatening to derail development progress and advancement in Nigeria, pushing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and President Mohammed Buhari administration Economic Recovery Agenda further out of reach.

Nigeria-State, has been having challenges of peace and security some years back, but the recent waves of Russo-Ukrainian interstate war posed threats to both the peace, national and human security of Nigeria as it escalating geometrically and, therefore, rapidly assuming

a dangerous dimension on the social, energy, political, and economic peace, security and development.

As a result of ongoing Russo-Ukrainian warfare, this emergency is commonly understood as the threat posed by insecurity and other criminal activities in Nigeria. However, this understates the complexity and multidimensional nature of Russia-Ukraine war security challenges, which impact all aspect of Nigeria economic, social and political development and advancement.

From the forgoing, the objective of this paper is therefore to examine the impact of the Russo-Ukrainian war on peace, security and development in Nigeria. The study seeks to find and explain the relative consequences of the war on the Human Security (economic, food, political, and energy security) and governance, and sustainability system in Nigeria; examine how the war has affected the governmental efforts at stemming up security and threats within and outside Nigeria. In addition, the study aims at cross examination of the impacts of the war on the systematic/holistic development in Nigeria.

Literature Review

Conceptual Clarifications

Peace

According to Baljit (2003), peace has become a central focus in the general world discourse, that the word peace is very often use and abused and that since it lacks an agreeable definition and difficult to conceptualize, it is imaginary and utopian. He postulates that peace conjures images of harmony and bliss in psychological, social and political sense. These images seem to conflict with the reality of a chaotic and non-harmonious world. The field of peace research is for that reason an attempt to reach towards a world which is peaceful or a least free from violence.

Galtung (1994) makes clarifications between positive peace and negative peace. Hence, he sees negative peace “as the absence of violence, absence of war” and “positive peace” as the absence of negative peace as well as elimination of those structures and imperfections in the way of the society as to enable individuals to find fulfillment. i.e the integration of human society.

Security and Human Security

Security basically means the state of being free from danger or threat. In other words, it implies “the degree of resistance to, or protection from harm” (Adeniyi, 2014). According to the 1991 OAU Kampala Document, “Towards a Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa”, security is a wide concept that “embraces all aspects of the society, including the economic, political and social dimensions of individual, family, community and national life. The security of a nation must be constructed in terms of the security of the individual citizen to live in peace with access to basic necessities of life while fully participating in the affairs of his or her society in freedom and enjoying all fundamental human rights”.

The notion of security is the concept of human security since “people’s safety” lies at the core of security concerns. In its Human Development Report, “New Dimensions of Human Security” (2014), the UNDP made the first attempt to develop a broad understanding of human security. Its conceptualization dwelled on conceiving security not only as an exclusive preserve of the state, territory and military matters but also on individuals who are at the heart of security concerns. Human security is seen as consisting of seven components including economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security.

Development

Development as a concept is a victim of definitional pluralism. It is a difficult word to define. Gboyega (2013) captures development as an idea that embodies all attempts to

improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications. It implies improvement in material wellbeing of all citizens, not the most powerful and rich alone, in a sustainable way such that today's consumption does not imperil the future, it also demands that poverty and inequality of access to the good things of life be removed or drastically reduced. It seeks to improve personal and physical security and livelihoods and expansion of life chances.

Accordingly, Naomi (2005) believes that development is usually taken to involve not only economic growth, but also some notion of equitable distribution, provision of health care, education, housing and other essential services all with a view to improving the individual and collective quality of life. Chrisman (2014) views development as a process of societal advancement, where improvement in the well being of people are generated through strong partnerships between all sectors, corporate bodies and other groups in the society. It is reasonable to know that development is not only an economic exercise, but also involves both socio-economic and political issues and pervades all aspects of societal life.

Historical Background of Interstate War

Interstate war is the military conflict between separate states over a territory and common interest; it does not include civil wars and wars of independence, or smaller clashes with limited casualties (less than 100 combat deaths). For instance, Iraq's Kuwait invasion in 1990 caused an interstate war between the United States and Iraq. In the world, there have been various interstate wars such as Indo-Pakistani war of 1947; 1948 Arab-Israeli War; Vietnam war 1955; Sino-Indian War 1962; Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation 1963; war of attrition 1967; United States invasion of Panama 1990; Gulf war, 1991; NATO bombing of Yugoslavia 1999; United States invasion of Afghanistan 2001; 2003 invasion of Iraq; Iran-Israel conflict during the Syrian civil war; 2016 Armenian-Azerbaijani clashes; American-led intervention in the Syrian civil war; just to mention a few. In Africa, there are series of interstate wars such as Chadian-Nigeria War, 1983; Chadian-Libyan Conflict 1987; Uganda-Tanzania War, 1979; 2011 military intervention in Libya.

Causes of Interstate Wars

Socio-economic development, power, trade, rivalry (military, economic, political and social) and resources are the general economic and political causes of interstate wars. On the contrary, whereas the trade's impact on the risk of an intrastate war is not apparent, resource abundance and underdevelopment provide incentives for such wars. According to Mansfield and Pollins (2001), Liberalists postulated that trade relations generally provides deterrents for interstate wars, realists opine that trade increases the likelihood of such wars. Furthermore, various scholars emphasize the absence of the obvious connection between the probability of interstate war and economic interdependence. For example, liberals generally assert that trade diminishes the likelihood of conflicts since interstate wars negatively affect commerce both contemporaneously and prospectively.

Waltz (1979) believes that economic interdependence increases the risk of an interstate war since the linkages between potential participants lead to a war. Mearsheimer (1990) also warns that states usually fear that their enemies might stop the flow of supplies in times of war or crisis.

Russo-Ukrainian War in Historical Perspectives

A diversity of social, economical, cultural, ethnic and linguistic factors triggered the sparking of unrest in Eastern and Southern Ukraine in 2014, and the subsequent eruption of the Russo-Ukrainian war, on the aftermath of the early 2014 Revolution of Dignity. Following the sovereignty or autonomy of the Ukraine from the Soviet Union in 1991, repeated historical and cultural differences and an assailable state component hampered the development of a proclaimed Ukrainian National Identity (Galeotti, 2019).

The Russification and Russian habitation during centuries of Russian rule in eastern and southern Ukraine had caused the Russian language to have its peak, even amongst ethnic Ukrainians. After the Orange Revolution in 2004, Russia launched a decade-long effort to restore its political dominance and influence in Ukraine, by playing on existing fault lines and undermining the central government (Perrigo, 2022).

The tensions between the duo competing historical and cultural traditions metamorphosed into political and social conflict during the Euromaidan, which started when Viktor Yanukovich; the then Ukrainian president, refused to sign an association agreement with the European Union on 21st November, 2013 (Wiegrefe, 2022). A clash of interest emanated as there was a strong support in western and central Ukraine for closer ties with Europe whilst a few number (many) in eastern and southern Ukraine traditionally favored stronger relations with Russia. Viktor Yanukovich, who got most of his support from eastern regions, was forced to step down his office in February 2014. His ouster was followed by protests in Eastern and Southern Ukraine that placed a strong emphasis on the relevance of historical ties to Russia, the Russian Language and antipathy towards the Euromaidan movement (Perrigo, 2022).

Theoretical Framework

This aspect of the study discusses the theory that forms the framework with which the research works is built. For the purpose of this study, the theories used is Just War Theory *Just War Theory*: Since the long and enduring Just War tradition has evolved with the involvement of great figures such as Thomas Aquinas-divine natural law (1225-1275), Hugo Grotius-humanity natural law (law of nations) as father of international law (1583-1645). Grotius inaugurated the modern development of international law through his attempt to restate and revive the criteria of just war in secular form. Early attempts to contain or prevent warfare have produced the much famous JUST WAR THEORY. St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430) is commonly held to be the first to initiate the 'Just War Theory'.

The theory gives some wars legal and moral justification, condemns those that do not comply with the requisite specification and imposes restrictions of the actual conduct of war. As such it is made of a set of moral criteria (guidelines) for determining and judging whether and when a state may have recourse to war and how it may fight the war. According to the Just War Theory, nations or states sometimes have moral justification for resorting to war. That war is sometimes, but not always morally right. The aim of 'Just War Theory' is to provide a guide to the right way for states to act in potential conflict situations.

It has been observed that war cannot be totally dissuaded as there are many factors that can propel war as a open conflict or violent between countries or within a countries among factions within the state, nevertheless, Russo-Ukrainian War is been seen as the options of resolving a conflict and protecting nation's interest against other nations. The Just War Theory also speculate that if war parties can rightly satisfied the conditions under each group then war is justified but if they fail to satisfy one of the war is termed as injustice and the part that failed to fulfill it shall be hold responsible for war crimes and irrational involvement in war.

Methodology

The study utilized mixed methods research design which comprises qualitative and quantitative research approaches. In the context of this study, qualitative method involved the use of Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Direct Observations (OBs) while quantitative method involving the use of questionnaire. The data used for the study includes both primary and secondary sources. The interview was tailored towards eliciting information from key informants, including security experts, peace and conflict experts, international relations experts, public affairs analysts, political scientists, social scientists, and other stakeholders.

Secondary data were sourced from textbooks, journals, newspapers, conflict bulletin, and internet materials in relation to the subject studied.

The Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Fifty (50), questionnaires were administered to Security Experts (5), Peace and Conflict Experts (10), International Relations Experts (5), Public Affairs Analysts (10), Political Scientists (5), Social Scientists (5), and other stakeholders (10) in Nigeria.

Findings and Discussion

Findings of Objective 1

The Impact of Russo-Ukrainian War on Peace, Security and Development in Nigeria

The Nigeria Political scene as well as other key sectors of the Nigerian polity, prior to the Russo-Ukrainian War have been partially fairing well though not without daunting challenges. However, the ongoing war in Ukrainian which is entering it is nine (9) months of prosecution has revealed more weaknesses and incapacitated state of Nigeria polity, stretching across all key sectors, not only this, the war has also informed us how vulnerable Nigeria in all her sector is to the international vagaries. Nonetheless, the war has again underscore how deep and how intensifying the rate of globalization in the contemporary World Politics.

As revealed and gathered, Nigeria is characterized with social chaos, indifferences, tensions and imbroglio which all hamper human qualitative development. The struggle of men to arrive at good economic ends and live a better life in a much disarticulated economic environment has prompted many people into engaging in incriminating activities, ill-businesses all in the name of meeting ends economically. Majority of the respondents agreed that the offshoots of these tensions are sporadic cases of kidnapping, banditry attacks, ritualism, hooliganism, terrorism and the likes.

As revealed by respondents, with the inception of the ongoing Russia invasion in Ukraine, Nigeria security woes and challenges becomes more complicated, and on alarming increase. Even with some unreported or swept under the carpets.

A popular saying goes thus “an hungry man is an angry man”, The worsening economic conditions which is characterized by high inflation rate, devaluation of naira, pump price of petroleum and the high cost of living both in the rural and Urban settlement are all pushing peep to the rear wall, one of the respondents postulated that, the saints citizens who had earlier had zero tolerance for crime and fraudulent acts of garnering wealth’s are now giving it a second thoughts of joining the bad wagons of fraudsters, kidnappers who by that had break even financially, while the already inducted members of kidnapping gangs are renewing their ardent and short- sighted commitment to continue in their evil acts, all because they want to make is financially and to despise the worsening economic conditions.

To some extent some even claims that Nigeria is a frustrating country, but we should know that prior to the Russo-Ukrainian War, things were a bit normal but with the inception of the war, things gets worse as cost price of foods, fuel and other commodities which must be imported are increasing day by day coupling with the rise of dollar and devaluation of Naira.

All the respondents agreed that, the economy of Nigeria which is currently and badly affected by the war has indirectly worsened and complicate security issues. With hope in sight they believes Nigeria could move out of this muddy situation and muster her economic strength now and after the war in order to change the face of things for better as regards peace and security in the country.

Findings of Objective 2

The Relative Consequences of the War on the Human Security (Economic, Food, Political, and Energy security) and Governance, and Sustainability System in Nigeria

Nigeria economically has been long tied to the Western economies such as that of other third World state as argued by the dependency theorists. It is a well known fact especially to the intellectuals and critics that the Nigeria economy is dangling on an economic balance, caught up between influence of Western propelled economy and the Eastern economic influences (notably from Russia and China). As a result of the rising tide of globalization and the wider scope of international web of connection, Nigeria economy is now operating on a probability mode, that is, the probability of Nigeria economy surviving or crashing depends on what goes on in the West or in the East. It has been argued by Dependency theorist of whom Andre Gunder Frank is a notable proponent of the theory, that "if the American (Western) economy should sneezes, Nigerian economy (symbolizing third world states) would catches cold". This explains why Nigerian economy just like other country in the African regions are suffering from the effects of the Russo-Ukrainian War, because we have been too dependent on Ukrainian Agricultural produce, while war goes on there (Ukraine), famine and high cost of foods are ravaging our land(s).

While the Nigerians are still recovering from the aftermath of global economic meltdown and shocks from the broke out of Covid-19, Russo-Ukrainian war yet again complicate things for the world, not Nigeria alone now.

Caleb Ojewale (2022) of Business Day publication in his article titled "How Nigeria is paying for Russia- Ukraine War" noted that

"The Russia large scale invasion of Ukraine which began on February 24, 2022, has pushed the prices of crude oil, natural gas, aluminum, nickels, wheat and other commodities to record high"(Ojewale,2022).

In furtherance, he observed that the conflict has led to higher petrol subsidy bill and surge in the prices of diesel, aviation fuel, cooking gas and some items locally in Nigeria. By implication, the Nigeria local economy which has been primarily based on income generated solely from crude oil has witnessed some setback. Earlier this year (2022) Nigeria witness's nationwide shortage of petrol, to which the Federal government blames the war going on Ukraine as they claimed, hampers the importation of refined petroleum.

Apparently Nigeria economy is yet to be totally not even partially divorced from too much of dependency on the economy of developed State. Nigeria is yet to diversified her economy, Nigeria is yet to be like the Ancient Egyptians helped by Joseph who stored grains for time of famine, well the war in Ukraine should inform Nigeria government the need to rethink.

On food security, the Nigeria food production and its security is yet to be propelled by internal forces, though Nigeria is trying to be sufficient to a considerable extent in terms of food security but the domestic conflict, crisis and insecurity undermines these efforts. However, we shall take a look at how the war affects Nigeria food security. First we must know that no country in the world is self sufficient but the case of the African state is beyond normal when it comes to depending on imported foods.

Some of the respondents averred that due to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, some of the manufacturing and production industries in Nigeria were unable to meet their daily production level due to non-availability of raw materials which they usually import from foreign countries. This scenario has led to low production outputs.

According to a respondent, who is international relations expert averred that the Russo-Ukrainian war has continue to weakened the Nigeria economy due to the significant disruptions in trade and food and fuel price shocks, all of which are contributing to high inflation and subsequent tightening in Nigeria financing conditions. Another respondent averred that the Russo-Ukrainian war has also affected the importation of raw materials for

fertilizer and other agricultural commodities, which has been threatening the food security of Nigeria.

Ojewale (2022), noted that

“the country's dependence on goods ranging from refined petroleum to fertilizer me, and foods especially wheat has seen Nigeria paying for a war they are not part of”.

The Ukraine being the largest exporter of grains explains how devoted and committed they are to mechanized, commercial farming, while they are doing this, Nigeria as well as other African state keep on folding arms all ready to import what is produced over there. Since the war began in February 2022, the free flows of importation and exportation of grains has been halted putting many countries that depends on Ukrainian grains to be exposed to danger of famine, to this Vlodymir Zelensky the President of Ukraine incessantly call the attention of UNO and the powerful state of the world to curb the Russian forces who are preventing the exportation of grains. Though Ukraine economy is badly affected by this, but what of countries who never fights the war but vulnerable to shortage of foods and humanitarian crisis as a result of hunger.

Nigeria pay the price of the war in Ukraine in terms of shortage of foods where they are even circulated they are sold at exuberant prices, which make most of Nigeria living in abject poverty to be unable to afford daily meals. It is unfortunate that the situation of things now is ironical, that is, while Ukrainians civilians are dying from gun fires and bomb shells in theatre of war Nigerians at home are suffering from shortage of food and high cost of food which could lead to death owing to hunger.

Findings of Objective 3

The Effects of the Russo-Ukrainian War on the Governmental Efforts at Stemming up Security and Threats within and outside Nigeria and Systematic/Holistic Development in Nigeria

By accessing the cross-cutting impacts of war between Russia-Ukraine has on development in Nigeria, respondents opined that prior to the inception of the War in Ukraine, USA and her Western allies has been an ardent antagonist of any form of terrorism and they have been good friends of Africa in times of intra state conflict which indirectly may affect their own national interests. Palestine-Isreali conflicts, conflict in Syria, Ethiopia-Tigray Civil War, Mynammar military clampdown on civilians and the rise in tide of military takeover of States in Africa have all been on the radar of America and her European counterpart whereby they indirectly provide supports to resolve any of these or putting pressures for a peaceful resolution of conflicts.

However it must be noted that the war in Ukraine has limited international concern for other state of the world facing hard times in dealing with intra-state conflict. While the likes of countries like Nigeria and other state ridden with conflicts such as Somalia, Palestine, Syria are receiving lesser international support to combat forces militating against state stability in government. While all international attentions both bilaterally and multilaterally are geared towards Ukraine with financial support, state of the art weapons of war are shipped into Ukraine to fight the war with seeming payoffs for the western camp.

Though many countries such as Nigeria, and other state facing threats and activities of transnational guerrilla/ militant forces (Islamic States of West African Province (ISWAP) readily come to mind) have long been diplomatically requesting from external support to combat this anti-state forces or actors, but with little or no attention given. One of the respondent averred that who knows maybe America, European Union have been planning to help conflict ridden state outside their continent only for Russo-Ukrainian War to ensure diverting the attention the one commanding more attention and of great implication for their national interest.

Another respondent noted that Russia is one of the largest exporters of weapon of war, but with the war of invasion of Ukraine by Russia and with the sanctions places on Russia by the super/big powers, the procurement of weapons of war may carry ideological connotation for the Western countries. Taking for instance Nigeria enjoys a lot of benefits from United State of America and other Western countries but now if there be any reason for Nigeria to procure weapons from Russia to combat her own national security problems, such a decision may generate international attention and concern sending a signal/ message to the US government and her allies. Thus, many counties in the same shoes with Nigeria may experience a diplomatic dilemma and an ideological confusion in this period of war not knowing who to side for the greatest benefits and whether we like it or not the more reluctant the government are to be proactive in making serious decisions that will mitigate internal conflict and security challenges, the more the perpetrators of insecurity woes will be gaining more grounds, having known the state of confusion of the government.

Major Findings of the Study

- a) The study find out that the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War has been affecting the nature and efforts at achieving sustainable peace in Nigeria, also the human and national security system of Nigeria have been directly and indirectly been threatened by the war, and ultimately the pace of Nigeria systemic development has been hampered by the war felt in the major sectors of the economy.
- b) The Russo-Ukrainian war has derailed Nigeria's slow recovery from Covid-19 pandemic, as the war in Ukraine has affected economies and the sustainable development in Nigeria
- c) There are clear long-term effects of the war on Nigeria, including a possible social and economic instability and debt un-sustainability, which may likely lead to inequality and poverty.
- d) The most visible impact of the Russo-Ukrainian war on Nigeria is the rising fuel and food prices, inflation and financial instability. Food insecurity is likely to last and have a negative effect on all aspects of human development from income to health and education.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study examines the impact of the Russo-Ukrainian war on peace, security and development in Nigeria. The study finds and explains the relative consequences of the war on the Human Security (economic, food, political, and energy security) and governance, and sustainability system in Nigeria. The study also examines how the war has affected the governmental efforts at stemming up security and threats within and outside and cross examination of the impacts of the war on the systematic/holistic development in Nigeria.

The study concludes that there is needs for strengthen resilience efforts towards reducing Nigeria's dependency on importing goods and services, and invest in technology and infrastructure and promotes innovative approaches.

Sequel to the findings from the study, the following recommendations are made;

- a) There is need for federal government of Nigeria to Boosting green structural transformation which require strategic investment in long term financing for better economic and digital infrastructure and services
- b) In order to address the root causes of poverty and inequality, the federal government of Nigeria must invest in clean affordable energy, technology and financing specifically targeted at micro, small and medium enterprises engaged in fisheries, agriculture, small-scale mining, nature-based products and services such as tourism.

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