Globalised Fluidity: A Threat to Third World Social, Economic and Political Sovereignty of Nation

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Abstract

Globalisation in theory and practice is that global phenomenon which accounts for the continuously deepening interconnectedness of nation-states, thereby promoting the replacement of the sovereign states system with a multi-layered and multilateral system of 'global governance' and economy. Its outlook spans across fields of human endeavour such as sociology, economy, politics, health, education, technology and culture. There exist varying strands of scholarly arguments on, for, and against its impacts and tendencies. Also there is a general assumption that processes associated with globalisation are affecting the sovereignty of states. *While the extent and implications of such processes become subject of debate among players. This paper, therefore, examines the concept of globalisation and forces on socio, political and economic of a nation. There is strong support to the assumption that globalisation poses a threat to small nations and ensures the dominance of Anglo-Saxon culture over the others. It further argues that the propagation of globalisation, despite its positive economic and technological impacts, promotes capitalism and marginalization even as the Third World countries battle with issues of cultural devaluation and fluidized political and economic sovereignty.*

Keywords: *Globalisation, Policy Borrowing, Political Sovereignty, Hyperglobalist Approach, Sceptical Approach, Transformational Approach*

1.0 Introduction

Literature (United Nations, 2000; Waks, 2006) revealed that there is a linkage between globalisation and sovereignty of nation. Globalization, thus, has powerful economic, political, cultural and social implications for sovereignty. Globalization has led to a decline in the power of national governments to direct and influence economy and determine political structures of a nation. Globalization is frequently discussed as a counterpoint to national sovereignty. It is commonly asserted that globalization has eroded national sovereignty.

The human society of a nation is traceably divided into multi-layered constituents along borderlines such as geography, governance, language, culture, history, race/tribe, religion, economy, ideology and territorial definitions. This emphasises the fact that human society is indeed a naturally fragmented one. However, on the premise of humans beings being social beings with innate tendency and drive for interaction cum interrelationship, social cohesion and integration have, over time, been necessitated by factors that include migration, war, trade, technology, expedition and the general drive for social, corporate and personal survival/domination. As these interactive activities take place, the human world is engaged in a frenzy of connections, especially heightened by the aggressively advancing modern digital technology. Human society today can thus be described as a web of interlacing, interacting, transacting and interdependent relationships/elements. This is often represented with a symbolic object called 'the globe': a spherical representation of the earth. One can therefore describe globalisation as the concept that accounts for the speedup of movements, exchanges and transactions (of/in human beings, capital, technologies, goods and services or socio-cultural practices) across the human world, thereby promoting fluidity of boundaries, interactions between and among different regions, populations and cultures as well as socio-political, economic and technological interdependency.

Globalisation, in its present capacity, with the rapidly increasing global attention, campaigns and discussions built around it, has become phenomenal: a present-day threat to the territorial integrity of independent states and a tool for marginalisation and redefinition of the ideals of independence. This has also been defined by scholars as a major tool for neo-colonialism and the propagation, promotion and actualisation of a global unified economy paradoxically anchored on capitalistic inequality..

There is no doubt that economic, social, demographic and technological forces are dramatically changing relationships among nations as well as the nature of politics, public policy, administration, institutional associations within the nation-states. There is a general assumption that processes associated with globalisation are affecting the sovereignty of states. While the extent and implications of such processes become subject of debate among players. More so the challenges presented by globalization show a diminution in the ability of governments to establish regulatory and redistributive policies that limit social wellness. This situation got worse in most developing countries

which do not have strong and efficient institutions capable of managing globalization as established by the financial crises of the nineties. The concept of globalisation and forces on economic, socio and political of nation state worthy an exploration. This paper, therefore, examine the concept of globalisation and forces on socio, political and economic sovereignty of nation state and how nation states have adapted to the new challenges of globalization.

2.0 Literature Review
2.1 Globalising the Human World: Historical Perspective

In ordinary terms, the idea of globalisation can be traced to its very root which reveals the impacts of the forces of nature and human effort. Leaning on biblical premise, it is believed that the instruction is given to the first man, Adam, by the creator which was to "Be fruitful, multiply and subdue the earth", informs human efforts towards exploration, subjugation and domination of spatial territories as much as the expansion of same. From the scientific perspective, given its reliance on empirically substantial evidence, however, the underlying factors are traceable to man's innate tendencies for survival as captured in the Evolution theory tagged "survival of the fittest" as coined by Herbert Spencer (1864) and later popularized by Charles Darwin.

There appears to be a meeting point between the two positions in that humans, either in obedience to the divine order or instinct and innate tendencies, naturally engage in activities that involve migration, convergence, subjugation and domination. As these activities subsist, interrelationship, interactions, interconnectivity and interdependency, among other features of globalisation take place. Traces of globalisation can be found in the ancient period during which people moved from one place to another to buy commodities that were either rare or rather too expensive and return to sell in their homelands. This nature of trade occasioned by the early form of globalisation changed with the advent of improved transportation and communication systems in the 19th century (Somer, 2021).

Against this background, the world experienced a setback with the aftermath effects of World War 1 which led many nations to set in motion trade policies that were driven by the urgent need to protect their economic territories after the war. The popular Great Depression period up until the period of World War ll saw a continuation of protectionism. However, the US played a significant role in setting back in motion the forces of globalisation via a revival of international trade. Public and international trade policy changes as well as the evolution of new communication technology innovations were identified as two major factors responsible for the speed experienced with the advancement of globalisation into its current stature. (Somer, 2021). As documented by Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE), globalization grew at an unprecedented pace. From the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), signed in 1993 to the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMC), the US began

to take the front seat in the globalisation campaign which came with numerous benefits for American auto manufacturers. They were able to save on the cost of production. Following this development, governments around the world have kept integrating the free market economic system through fiscal policies and trade agreements with the emphasis of such agreements on the removal or reduction of tariffs (Somer, 2021)

2.2 Globalisation Concept

Several scholarly efforts have gone into giving a working definition of globalisation with each scholar considering the term from varying angles/perspectives which included the economy, geography, sociology and technology. In his keynote address to the Congress of the Sri Lankan Association for the Advancement of Science Colombo, Sri Lanka, John Williamson (1998) defines globalisation as "...the world economy which we think of as being globalised". In his words:

> "We mean that the whole of the world is increasingly behaving as though it were a part of a single market, with interdependent production, consuming similar goods, and responding to the same impulses. Globalization is manifested in the growth of world trade as a proportion of output."

Although as argued by Green (1999. p 55), economic factors are often listed first as "economic globalisation theory is on the safest ground.", while trade and exchange of goods and services between the nations promote 'unified global economy, international communication, intercultural relations, environmental issues, and global security and democracy are socioeconomic, political and cultural aspects globalisation theory deals with (Held, 2004 (a)).

Beyond economic terms and definitions, to have a broader understanding and an advanced exploration of globalisation, one may need to see it beyond being just an idea or phenomenon but a concept with a globalised outlook that bothers on almost every aspect of human existence. To substantiate this status, there is the need to consider its characteristics/nature, its driving forces, agents, impacts (positive and negative) and possible future. It is also important to point out at this point the fact that within scholarship, the existing polarised discussions built around globalisation can be narrowed down to two major lines: those writing for and those writing against its nature and realities.The arguments for globalisation has been predicated on its positive impacts and gains, especially in the areas of economic, technological and linguistic advancement, with the developed nations such as the US and China who appear to have gained most leading the front. The economic and technological prospects in globalisation in the areas of market expansion, economic and technological dominance and access to cheaper raw materials, labour and overall costs of production, distribution

and exchange underpin the interests of these giant nations. However, it amounts to an understatement of facts to assume that only economic issues, though extremely important, determine the nature of globalisation (Giddens, 1999). Despite the varying arguments on globalisation from diverse standpoints, scholars seem to have a common ground on the premise that globalisation is underpinned by political, economic, technological and socio-cultural factors (Cheng, 2004; Green, 1997; Green, 1999; Held, 2004 (a); Tikly, 2001; Waks, 2006).

2.3 Forces of Globalisation

There are some identifiable forces responsible for driving globalisation. These forces have been adjudged responsible for their persistent and rapid advancement and stature as a global phenomenon today. They include cultural exchange, improved transportation, the minimal barrier to trade and investment, technological change, knowledge exchange, among others. With these forces set in motion, globalisation has drastically increased the production, distribution and exchange of labour, goods and services across the world. This interconnectedness has caused re-norming and re-shaping of political agendas of states across the world (Held, 2004b). Thus, political events do not carry local characters anymore. Governments around the world are more conscious of foreign reactions to and perceptions of their political and economic policies and activities.

2.3.1 International Cultural Exchange

On cultural exchange, globalisation has occasioned cultural content exchanges across the world, involving content from communities belonging to the category tagged 'third world (underdeveloped) countries'. Popular cultures such as those of western origin have also been further advanced and given a wider propagation around the world. A typical example of such is the American culture. Over decades, globalisation via several of its channels such as civilisation, fashion, entertainment, arts, education and sports has led to the spread of the American culture across nations of the world, especially within the African continent. The result is what has been described as a 'cultural paradox' (Sahlberg, 2006, p.262).

Cultural exchange stands as one of the biggest drivers of globalisation. As people travel from their territories to other territories and share their cultural beliefs and practices with others they meet, a cultural exchange takes place. The American embassy in Nigeria annually engages Yoruba teachers from Nigeria to come to teach the Yoruba language and culture in American institutions. This is an example of the government's organised intervention in the process of cultural exchange, asides from the most natural form. Through this process, a cultural understanding takes place which drives globalisation. Additionally, people around the world like and use the same smartphones whether they are iPhone, Samsung, HTC, or Sonny Xperia, depending on the popularity achieved by the manufacturers. Indian/Bengali curries and Chinese takeaways are so

popular in the UK! Likewise, there appears to be a global craving for American burgers, software, movies, and many more.

2.3.2 Improved Modern Transportation

Another vital force that drives globalisation is the improved modern transportation system. The evolution and development of modern improved transportation system enhance the migration of humans as well as international trade across distant lands within the shortest space of time. This has removed the stress and higher cost of the movement of goods and services globally. The availability of safer and faster transportation system also encourages tourism. From the Chinese Electric train to aircraft, ships, speedboats, large vehicles and many more, people can now move fairly quickly and easily across continents, turning the world into a 'global village'. For businesses, goods are transported and delivered across national borders on the same day.

2.3.3 Trade and Investment

Trade and Investment is another major area where globalisation is being driven aggressively. Today, international trade has been tremendously improved beyond what it used to be. Most nations of the world have adopted and adapted trade policies that play down on taxes to allow for increased inflow and outflow of investment which, in turn, is believed to be capable of helping growing economies improve faster. Many of the world trades are currently done through free trade, bilateral, and multilateral agreements. Trade and exchange of goods and services between the nations promote a 'unified global economy' (Waks, 2006, p.413). Interestingly, countries that were very hostile or unfriendly to foreign investment a few years ago, are inviting other countries for inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). China is a very good example in this regard.

2.3.4 Improved Modern Technology

It is no doubt that we are in the age of digital technology. This has significantly impacted almost every facet of human endeavour. It, therefore, stands as an important driver of globalisation. Advanced E-commerce system has made the emergence of companies such as Amazon.com, Alibaba.com, ebay.com, Googlre.com and many others possible and successful. Many US and UK companies have outsourced many of their business activities to countries such as China, India, Mexico, Turkey, Bangladesh, and many others. This technological revolution enables traders from remote parts of the world to sell their products/services to customers around the world on virtual platforms. This can be extended to account for an improved communication system that makes business transactions, human relations, education and shared knowledge to a different level, making them super easier, less expensive and time-saving. Social and business interactions are carried out on the go and crucial decisions, which would have been

delayed with the old system, are taken and results achieved speedily. Apparently, many companies have now attained the status of multinational corporations with subsidiaries around the world. This gives managers more opportunities for growth and development. However, globalisation is not without challenges. In fact, it has its pitfalls. For instance, according to some analysts, as cited in Saval (2017), local workers in some countries had endured a major fall in the real value of their wages, which dropped by more than 20% because of globalisation.

2.4 Globalisation and Fluidised Borderlines

Following the abolition of the illegal and dehumanising slave trade in the 19th century, the world powers had to redesign another mode of establishing their domination of the world. This, they first did along the boundaries of their initial colonies. Unsatisfied with this and on the heels of the industrial revolution and its rapidly increasing needs for larger sources of raw materials and markets, it became inevitable to stand above what appeared to be a tough and fast-rising competition, hence the need to secure connections beyond prior colonial boundaries.

These factors became the underpinning triggers which informed the emergence of the concept of globalisation, though propagated as means of global redemption, socio-political and economic aid to the 'third world' countries technically adjudged underdeveloped. This sets a clear premise on which major writings against globalisation were established. Thus, globalisation can be referred to as a capitalist-oriented process of intensified economic, political, social and cultural relations across international boundaries, leading to a breakdown of existing territorial integrity of the less powerful and adjudged 'needy' states. It is principally aimed at the transcendental homogenisation of political and socio-economic theory across the globe. This deals with the "increasing breakdown of trade barriers and the increasing integration of World market" (Fafowora 1998:5). A similar position to this is that which is held by Ohuabunwa (1999:20) who opines that globalisation can be seen as an evolution that systematically restructures existing interactive phases among nations via breaking down of barriers.

Historically, the fall of the eastern bloc in the 80s and the 90s bringing about the emergence and ascendance of a pro-west global economy structured and governed primarily by the interest of western powers facilitated the integration of most economies into the global economy. This further emphasises the institutional definition of globalisation as the spread of capitalism (MacEwan, 1990). It is however obvious today that a major immutable target of globalisation across its changing phases is the disintegration of the economies of the 'third world' countries of Africa. For instance, in what seemed an outright calculated effort by China through her financial rescue mission

which offered many African countries struggling to survive the opportunity to access foreign loans to power up their economy, the terms and conditions of such agreement have been frankly criticised by scholars for the way such helpless nations are lured into seceding their economic independence and future to China, in the very possible event that they are unable to pay in records time. These world powers have as target the mineral resources and the economic prospect of such countries and in pushing before they offer too good to be ignored by most greedy and corrupt African leaders, they mortgage the future of their nations. Indeed, it is a universally acknowledged fact that African nations are blessed with unexplored or, better still, yet to be discovered natural/mineral resources in high demands by the world powers. Hence, securing foreign loan facilities from these foreign money-bag nations often involve agreements that give them sole access and right to exploration and control of these valuable resources.

It can be argued that Africa has the potential in terms of natural resources, to be the most powerful and prosperous continent world over. However, the domestic challenges of bad governance, institutional corruption, leadership irresponsibility, and absence of vision and the spate of social, infrastructural, industrial and technological underdevelopment set Africa back. The reality is thus that of wastage, poverty and illiteracy.

Africa, much like other third world countries across the globe, is graciously reintegrated into the global economy in which the old colonial powers still call the shot. This constitutes what is today tagged neo-colonialism. At the cultural level, every nation of a given society is blessed with a unique culture that has the innate capacity to advance across the space of time. In the same strength, each culture is expectedly and intrinsically original and deserves to be preserved and respected. However, due to the incursion of western culture into other cultures of the world, most of these domestic cultures struggle to survive. The people are aggressively exposed to western ways and socio-cultural values to the detriment of their native cultural values.

The situation gets further worsened where education and literacy were deployed as tools for undermining and blackmailing cultures of the 'third world' nations. Conceiving the idea of globalisation should be done beyond a celebration of its positive tendencies but taking a closer look at its advantages and disadvantages. Indeed these can be considered the major premise for discussions built around the phenomenon by scholars of diverse inclinations. There is no gainsaying in that globalisation has orchestrated positive changes across the world leading to rapid economic, social, educational, public health, and political, infrastructural and technological development across borders. It has also opened up many struggling individuals, corporations and governments to foreign markets, ideas, and supports.

A closer consideration globalisation definition reflects on some of the major benefits of globalisation in relationship with earlier discussions. Evidence from literature (Waks, 2006: Saval, 2017) revealed that the globalization is laced with the desire for a global unified system and the removal of restrictions and other discriminatory tendencies toward the said agenda of creating a world of "unified whole and humanity". However, the realities around the existence of such a whole global entity reflect the presence of camouflaged intentions and contradictions to the expressed goals. The majority of the arguments for globalisation are premised on economic terms, a situation that emphasises prosperity for the global economy while neglecting the possible effects of such prosperity on underdeveloped and developing countries/nation-states. A major emphasis is also laid on the exchange of goods and services across borders, improved by the deployment of advanced modern technology and transport systems with business management activities, communication, transactions and electronic money transfers made easier, faster and better than they used to be (Giddens, 1999).

The premise also accounts for a possibility of exclusion of some nation-states from the global unified community as well as possible opposition. This implies that globalisation, as highly rewarding as its proponents may have portrayed it, has some negative implications. One of such negative implications is the manifestation of marginalization due to the polarization of the member nation-states into the developed and underdeveloped, first world and third world sides with serious implications. Significantly, this idea of unavoidable stratification under natural inequality in the proportional ownership and possession resources and control of factors of production, distribution and exchange exists in contradiction to the idea of a unified world and humanity. It is also clear that while the weaker states keep ceding the sovereignty of their expectedly independent nation-states economies to a global alliance, the strong influence of capitalism and ownership of means of production, distribution and exchange would keep playing out. Added to this is the existence of countries that may be left out of this digitally unified world due to the absence of modern technological development. By implication, there is every tendency that the weaker nation-states would keep getting weaker while the developed nations get stronger. This constitutes a defeat of the acclaimed goals of globalisation, thereby creating a world of winners and losers' (Giddens, 1999).

2.5 Globalization and Political Sovereignty

Globalization has led to a decline in the power of national governments to direct and influence their economies (especially with regard to macroeconomic management); and to determine their political structures. There is a strong indication that the impact of globalization is most felt through the extent to which politics everywhere are now essentially market-driven. It is not that governments are now unable to run their states, but to survive in office; they must increasingly "manage" national politics in such a way as to adapt them to the pressures of trans-national market forces. The institutionalization of international political structures has led to political globalization. Since the early

nineteenth century, the European interstate system has been developing both an increasingly consensual international normative order and a set of international political structures that regulate all sorts of interaction. This phenomenon has been termed "global governance

2.6 Theorising Globalisation

One's perception of globalisation is largely dependent on individual stance. This as well affects and determines one's attributed definition of the phenomenon. Evidently, there abound varying opinions as regards what the term globalisation means. According to Waks (2003), one may be tempted to hurriedly categorise commentators on globalisation according to their position for and against it. However, a deeper evaluation of the available possible divisions reveals a far more complicated structure. As pointed out by Waks (2003), even among the proponents of globalisation, for instance, there is a variety of opinions in terms of evaluation. This situation makes defining globalisation a relative scholarly affair. A careful examination of the various available perspectives to theorising globalisation, thus, this present study will emphasis on three main perspectives. This include hyperglobalist approach, sceptical approach **and** transformational approach**.**

Hyperglobalist Approach

The hyperglobalist approach represents the globalisation theory which seeks to legalise the dominance of 'global capitalism'. This stance holds the opinion that the world has entered a 'truly global age(Tikly, 2001, p.153). The hyperglobalist approach is predicated on 'neo-liberal agenda' (Held, 2004 (a), p.4) It imagines globalisation from a viewpoint of open market'(Waks, 2003, p.384). In effect, almost every level of relationship is redefined based on its accompanying advent of market principles resulting in the re-interpretation of political, socio-economic and cultural issues. One of such manifestations is in the restructuring of the relationship between the state and an individual, as well as the introduction of new values. Issues such as fundamental human rights, citizenship, states' sovereignty, nationhood, patriotism and foreign relations are clearly redefined. Notwithstanding these realities, a global market and free trade poses a threat to the national economy and puts an end to the nation-state 'as the primary unit of political organisation' (Green, 1997, p.130).

This implies that so much of political influence and power, theoretically and in practice, consider/derive significant nod/endorsement from external forces. Thus, the need to raise the question of, where do expectedly independent governments and their policies hold their allegiance, becomes inevitable. 'Liberal progressives' also support the idea of

economic liberalisation but admit the fact that it can be a double-edged sword unless special attention is paid to equality issues. In consonance with this position on the concerns built around equality, as expressed by 'Liberal progressives', Neo-Marxists see a feasible solution in 'trans-national alliances of labour and human rights activists' (Waks, 2003, p.385). This approach to globalisation would give room for cultural hybridisation through global interaction. This implies that there would be no cultural distinction or physical borders between the nation-states.

The Sceptical Approach

Sceptical approach to globalisation questions the effectiveness of a globally unified economic bloc, especially in a world defined by capitalism and its marginalizing tendencies. They rely on historical perspective in drawing their conclusion. It is believed that globalisation doesn't necessarily change anything but instead leaves the world the same way it has always been (Tikly, 2001). In reaction to the reference to worldwide trade, they believe most of the exchanges take place at the regional levels rather than the said global market. Additionally, the benefits of these exchanges are not evenly shared but favour particular regions. Typical examples of such blocs include the European Union and the Pacific Rim (Giddens, 1999). Leaning on historical realities, the sceptical approach proponents believe there are memories of centuries-old trade history between these nations, too fraught with scepticism to be ignored.

A major emphasis is laid on capitalism as a significant factor, as much as how its realities polarise whatever should have carried the tag 'global community, but polarised into 'developed' and 'developing countries' (Tikly, 2001, p.153). To them, this is the reality of the logic of globalisation. Hence, nothing really changes from what it used to be. Sceptics also hold the opinion that what happens among nation-states are simply policy borrowing and never an outright unification of systems. To them, rather than the outright demise of the existing nation-state, the roles of some states are simply extended with sky-high advantages over others who lose their socio-economic sovereignty leading to the realities of marginalization. Critics of the sceptical approach have however argued against the Sceptics opinion on the loss of total national control in the areas such as economy and education due to the borrowing of policies. One of the pluses of globalisation is the reconceptualization of the roles of the state in the polity. This has created room for competitiveness among nations within the global economy (Tikly, 2001, p.162).

"*The new role has been described as involving a 'new orthodoxy' aimed at making nations more competitive within the global economy*". The idea is that taking into account the specificity of the context of 'new orthodoxy' will enable nation-states to

find their original approaches to global challenges. The process can be described as the shift from.

Transformational Approach

A transformational approach to globalisation is that which represents a more balanced intermediary: a more balanced stance towards globalisation. There exists a meeting point between earlier mentioned hyperglobalists and transformationalists. They both share a common opinion on the intensification of global interlacing connectedness, a process that is considered very pervasive in nature (Tikly, 2001).Another area of globalisation that these two theories lament is how the concept and its process embodies contradictions by promoting global social, political and economic integration among nation-states on one hand while it, on the other hand, emphasises the dichotomy between 'First World' and 'Third World' (Taylor et al., 1997, p.62). The implication of this is that, while some nation-states are at a great advantage and experience rapid development for being a part of a globalised world, others get more and more disadvantaged (Tikly, 2001,p.154).Giving the obvious imbalanced nature of the idea of division of labour, among other factors of production responsible for the translation of resources into wealth, especially between the nation-states at the centre and those at the periphery levels, Transformationalists believe that there is a wide gap in the rate of development between the two identifiable categories. Hoogvelt (1997) further explains that: "more and more individuals from transition or developing nations are represented in the 'core' of the global economy, whereas there is an increase in some disadvantaged in the periphery of industrial states (Hoogvelt, 1997, cited in Tikly, 2001).'

In reaction to the idea of policy borrowing, the transformational approach to globalisation considers the process as capable of promoting social stratification at both local and international levels (Tikly, 2001). In the process of policy borrowing and implementation, there is expected to be due consideration of the compatibility of such policies within the local context of the society in which such would be implemented. Failure to do this could result in a crisis. Ideally, what determines the adaptability of any policy or strategy that would be borrowed should be the commonality of the challenges faced within the borrowing and lending nation-states. However, what happens in most cases is the integration of national policies within the broader global trends, not necessarily because such global trends are better. In most cases, such decisions could be politically motivated. According to Steiner (2006:471), "Borrowing does not occur because reforms from elsewhere are better, but because the very act of borrowing has a salutary effect on domestic policy conflict."

In most cases, a domestic crisis can be caused by a change in political forces, changes in the government, or external shock and not necessarily the inappropriateness of a

particular domesticated. However, with the stature of most international financial and educational agencies which are agents of globalisation, policy borrowing often becomes inevitable as developing nations depend on them for foreign aids. Examples of such agencies include the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Domestic policies are usually at the mercy of these agencies whose policies are often predicated on 'research and development in Anglo-Saxon countries' (Sahlberg, 2006, p.263). One can see a more realistic approach to globalisation in the transformationalists' stance. This is obviously because this theory does not attempt to condemn globalisation in its entirety but attempt to confront the challenges the theory poses. Rather than oppose the existence of global trends, it engages in critical evaluation to assess the transformational impacts of such trends on both First World and Third World countries. Another approach to viewing globalisation can be seen in what Cheng (2004) tags as viewing globalisation in terms of DNA. This standpoint attempts to provide a better perspective on the relationship/interaction between local and global communities. It further holds that there could be an evaluation of elements from the global knowledge, system and policies which, if considered better, adaptable and capable of delivering better result, can be used to replace the existing weaker local components in local development" (ibid, p.13).

Conclusion

The nature, forces, impacts and varying stances on theorising globalisation have been examined with a focus on the realities around its very existence and propagation. The social, political, economic and cultural implications of its spread have also been examined with emphasis on how these factors constitute premises for arguments for and against globalisation. Evidently, giving a generally acceptable definition of globalisation may be close to impossible as there exists various perceptions on its social behaviour as much as on its goals and impacts. It is, however, a common understanding that the continuous propagation of globalisation holds a double-edged sword in that its realities in practice contradict its tenets centred on capable of promoting capitalism at the global level as the first world states hold stronger influence and, by implication greater benefit. It is also observed that the impact of globalisation on Third World nations would lead to ceding of their economic sovereignty while a greater proportion of their political policies would rely greatly on foreign influence. The uncensored application of global economic, educational and health policies among others as prescribed by world-leading agencies such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund could be inappropriate leading to a domestic crisis. It is, however, recommended that although the advancement in technology and the need for third world nations to join the league of nations to benefit from the positive impacts of globalisation should not be totally ignored, there is the need for the domestication of each global

policy to be adopted for such to fit it into the local peculiarity within the Third World nations.

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