

EDITORIAL: Economic Opportunity and Global Safety

Global safety assumed non-military dimensions in towards the close of the 20th century in which issues that were hitherto outside the traditional purview of security began to count. Thus, at the turn of the millennium, global security looked away from Balance of power among nation states to a focus on the people. In the past, the security of the state and its apparatuses was a major outlook, which meant that the security of the people was only secondary to that of the state. In policy and research spheres, the idea of securing the state and stockpiling arms dominated the second half of the 20th century, leading a global military industrial complex that only heightened the fears of citizens amid dimming economic and social indices especially in the developing parts of the world.

In Africa and the rest of the developing world, traditional security also held sway. This is in the face of the colonial history and economic and technological backwardness of these countries. Social, economic and political malaise complexified the African situation and poor governance, corruption, intolerance of opposition and shrinking space for freedom characterised the continent. A contradiction in developing countries is that despite the focus on state security, many of these states were weak in the face of civil wars, religious fundamentalism and other forms of civil unrests. Hence, state-focused security thinking in developing countries did not lead to strong states. Rather, it led to crisis-ridden states that could not justify their continued existence as states.

The securitization of non-traditional security threats has changed the ways states think about security citizens. Global safety has now been taken to mean the amelioration and/or eradication of the issues and challenges that face citizens in their daily lives. Social, economic and political problems that face humanity have now been taken to have global safety impacts. Global safety is issue-based in that it deals with the daily issues and more importantly is spatial in that most of the issues that border on global safety are rife in the developing countries.

Absence and/or search for economic opportunity is at the root of the global safety crisis that is facing the world. Most of the world's population who are also incidentally in the global South or the developing countries constitute the largest bloc of people in the world that are experiencing varying degrees of lack of economic opportunity. Lack of economic opportunity is a deprivation that is affected what Collier terms the "Bottom Billion", that is, the poorest one billion people who are incidentally citizens of the Third World country. In certain parts of the Developed world, lack of economic opportunity is fast rising and is coterminous with the extermination of the middle class. Economic opportunity has never been made available to every man and women in the world. Thus, we have a world that the class of those who have economic opportunity is fast leaning out while those who lack is getting bigger in a continuously inequitable world. The diminishing levels of economic opportunity is at the heart of global safety crises such as terrorism, wars, demonstrations, diseases and tensions that are spreading all over the world.

Global institutions and states have made efforts to address the problem of lack of economic opportunity in the larger parts of the world, but much remains to be done. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the subsequent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are some of the interventions aimed at addressing economic opportunity deficit across the world. The travails of these interventions mean that very little have been achieved in terms of the targets of these goals. For example, in Africa, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were largely unachieved. This is owing in large measures to the fact that the funding of these goals was expected to come from outside of the continent, a fact that speaks to the uneven distribution of global wealth and economic opportunity among states.

The problematique of economic opportunity and global safety needs to be addressed to have a world that is free from tensions and one that is harmonious. In several parts of the world, lack of economic opportunity has been fingered as the major cause of problems. For example, terrorist activities have been largely 'successful' and 'enduring' owing to lack of economic opportunity in that recruits in global and regional terrorist networks are those without economic opportunity. In the West, terrorist recruits are those lack have not experienced any form of economic inclusion despite living or even being born in these Western countries. Thus, poverty is a serious threat to global safety. This situation is also true of rising terrorism in Africa. For example, the bulk of recruits in Boko Haram cells in Nigeria, Al Qaeda in the Maghreb, Al Shabab and other parts of the continent are from among the poor who are disenchanting with the state.

ABOUT THIS SPECIAL ISSUE

This special issue contains some of the most important issues on economic opportunity and global security. There is need to address the economic opportunity-global safety challenge. Hence, discourses like *Economic Opportunity and Global Safety* provide avenue to know the dimensions, manifestations, and indeed, the problems, precepts and prospects of the issues surrounding such discourse. These include contributions from authors from diverse fields which has resulted in robust discourses on issues such as theoretical issues and on economic opportunity and global safety, gender, climate change and depletion of nature, inequality and poverty, employment and income distribution, law and law enforcement, religion, corruption, food and water security, education, conflict, popular culture and international politics. Each of themes were discussed in good details by contributors. *Economic Opportunity and Global Safety* highlights the trend in research and policy issues that shape our contemporary world.

Myeko and Iwu wrote on the experiences of copreneurs, business engagement of couples in order to augment their sources of daily leaving. In the study of copreneurship in Black townships of Western cape, they found that while copreneurship is a good way of setting the economy of the household aright, it is faced with problems such as lack of finance for business expansion, lack of relevant information about government support, crime and absence of infrastructure. Bribena interrogates the contradictions of globalisation and knowledge production in Africa. He notes that Africa remains underdeveloped owing to lack of self-knowledge production. Africa cannot be said to be independence as it still looks at the world through Western lenses because it takes independence at the level of ideas and knowledge production to become fully independent. He posits that there is an urgent need for decolonisation of knowledge in Africa. Netshitangani lends voice to the voices of teachers on school violence and gender in urban schools in South Africa. Assessing the views of School Management Teams (SMTs), educators and School Governing Bodies, she submits that strategies for combating school violence should not be gendered even though female students and teachers are seldom the victims of school violence. All factors should be considered to understand the motivations for and proposition for ending school violence in South Africa. Oduaran writes on leveraging on the importance of technology-mediated adult and distance learning for economic growth in Africa. He notes the importance of management systems and sub-systems in education and economy. However, political stability is necessary for engendering the nexus between internet and technology for the economy to grow based on the contributions of inputs of technology-mediated adult and distance learning in Africa. Mekoa attempts to provide explanation for the mess in which the African continent has found herself. He opines that despite political independence, African countries cannot be said to be truly independent due to neocolonialism. Many of Africa's problems are self-inflicted such as underdevelopment, corruption and human rights violations. It is the examinations of these issues facing the continent that can lead to the emergence of viable African continent. Thobejane examines the effects of gender-based violence on young females in village in Limpopo Province of South Africa. He notes that gender-based violence is serious social problem that is caused by substance abuse, lack of education, socialisation and the likes. The study observes that young females experience abuse of all sorts from their partners and parents. There is need to enforceable laws against this social menace. Oni, Agbobli and Iwu test the relationship between entrepreneurial orientation and performance of small business in the Vryburg area of North West Province of South Africa. They found that innovativeness, risk taking and proactiveness influence the performance of small business while there no such association between autonomy and business performance. They suggest that business owners strategize on the development of their enterprise for better business performance. Nwadike, Ani and Ojatorotu assess the whole ramifications of the effect of policy instability on Nigerian economic growth between 1970 and 2015. They find that policy instability affected economic growth during this period, but the former had no causality regarding unsustainable economic growth during the period. They recommend among other things transformational leadership, and the promotion of citizenship over indigeneship in Nigeria to bring about the necessary ambience for economic growth. Ojatorotu and Dan-Woniwei assess the reality or myth of Africa's development path in the 21st century in the light of Chinese strategic policy in the continent. They find out that China's interaction with Africa is ambivalent in that it holds both positive outcomes in terms of better economic deals than with the West but also not too good because of the perceived insincerity of China's One Africa policy. They suggest that African countries should choose development partners based on competence and development priorities. Akani and Oduaran take a look at depression, self-esteem and sociodemographic determinants of suicidal ideation among university students. They concluded that depression, age and religious affiliation influenced suicidal ideation among university students.

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