Resource Flow and Transboundary Pest and Diseases Making Up Africa – U.S. Relations, 1945 – 2015

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Abstract

Relations between and among states in the global theater requires the competence of a state to engage in relations with other states by granting diplomatic recognition of both actor's government. Thus, what has necessitate the sustained application of the United States resources in the form of diplomacy, high-level attention, foreign assistance, trade and investment as tools to a successful prosperity of Americans and the United States as a global leader is this altruistic Realist tendency of harnessing Africa's natural resources in the disguise of cultivating and deepening relations with African States so as to maintain America values abroad, its global standing. All of these objectives are what is reflected in the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy which states the need to advance an international order that promotes peace, security, and opportunity through stronger cooperation to meet global challenges, specifically by cooperating with actor's as partners to reforce and update the rules of the norms and institutions that are foundational to peace, prosperity and human dignity in the 21st century. As a result, this research examines Africa-U.S. relations in the area of resource flow and transboundary pests and diseases. The reseache adopt historical methodology of primary and secondary sources of periodic, and books. Hence, the objectives of this research states the basis of the flow of resources as an economic criteria which tend to benefit the United States more.

Key Words: Resource flow, Relations, Africa-U.S., Diplomacy, National Security.

Introduction

Relations between and among state actors at the global theater is assumed primarily about the interaction in which states have to deal among each other. Importantly, foreign relations are often characterized either by cooperation and as well as conflict. Furthermore, the extend at which foreign relations among state actors are crucial, valued or relevant is the attempt to achieve their goals, objectives or still interests by working with other states to reach agreements with each other. Thus, many developing countries like in Africa with weakened bureacritic system, economy, diplomacy and poverty wrecking, heightens their vulnerability to events beyond their borders which they have relatively or no little control or bargaining power. And when this happens conflict of interests becomes an integral part of the relations between and among state actors in the global system.

Hence, three powerful tools that characterizes the interactions among state actors in international diplomacy stiring powerful states to have greater degree of control and independence than weak states in the global theater are; strong economic base and development, quality of its leadership and strong political institutions, and as well bureaucracy.

According to research group Richard & Nassar *(as cited in Chase-Dunn, 1998, p. 183; Clark, 1999, p. 219)*posit that the enormous resources of the advanced industrial economic countries foreign policies, knowing too well that the less developed countries rely on their economic and diplomatic might, and thus having being limited and made ineffective by powerful states. Thus, relations have being demonstrated on a dependence scale on one for the other and behaviour among them are often consequential for the less developed countries. For instance Argentina, a Latin American country tried to invade the Folk land Islands but the invasion ended up by the United Kingdom aiding her with superior forces. Moreso, Nigeria like any other African countries whose nerve-centeredness is the agricultural sector, infused in the continent's socio-economic life. Undoubtedly, this has made Africa's export production historically linked to the mainstream of global trade transaction the engine of growth and development of export economy that have continuously made room for the provision of raw materials for the conduct and pursuit of Africa's performance in international economic diplomacy (Roberts, 1997, p. 49; Akindele, 1988, p.55).

On the other hand, the rapid spread of transboundary pest and diseases in recent years, causing significant losses to farmer's food crops, reducing resilicence in production system in Africa and threatening of food security. Thus, those factors responsible for the dramatic increase of this upsurge that have not only threatened the livelihood of vulnerable farmers

in Africa, food, and nutrition security of billions of people at a time beyond the continent of Africa and as well spreading to several frontiers of state borders and reaching epidemic proportions are; decades of agricultural intensification, globalization, trade and climate change. For this reason Steven & Fred (1995, p. 193) opined that globalization is responsible for the ever-increasing degree of interdependence linking together the fate of states, resource flow, movement of people, information, pollution, and the flow of disease across international boundaries, climate change, drug traffic and terronist threat. Another positive aspect is security and the prosperity of each individual state being increasingly linked to political, economic, and environmental conditions in other for states and governments not to have any need for threats or pursue opportunities through unilateral action. But on the other hand, Osita (2010, p.91) posit that globalization is the outcome of a capitalist ethos in which the profit motive has ramined irrepressible leading to resource wars for natural resources in resource-rich contient of Africa where the phenomenon of globalization is instrumental in designing and protecting structural relations which will enable the exploitation of African resources.

Given this background, this research intends to examine by way of investigation the compatibility incongruent relations and the advancing of an international order by the U.S. weather the benefits are mutual or lopsided in the Africa- United States diplomatic relations from 1945 to 2015 is what constitute the discusses of this research. This will form a critical opinion of Africa's significance in United States foreign policy.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research are to;

- Investigate the necessity of U.S. global influence in advancing American values across border and, more directly, cultivating and deepening relations with African States through resource flow and support its policies.
- Examine those areas where China and other major powers are edging in by weakening U.S. global economic and political diplomacy with Africa.
- Examine how far has the U.S. being able to manage and control transboundary pest and diseases in Africa.

Conceptual Clarification

- Transboundary pest and diseases; by definition it is a harmful or destructive creature or pestilent disease caused by the virulent bacterium known as bubonic plague that cut-across national borders, affecting the G20 and none G20 countries. In recent years the damage caused by those infectious virulent epidemic diseases on plant is responsible for loss of 20-40 percent of global food production. This

global significant damage caused by transboundary plant pests has created an increasing threat to sustainable food production and environmental protection internationally. For this reason the United States have championed the fight so as to minimize the damage and as well take necessary measures to prevent the spread.

- Resource flow. The phrase resource flow when been translated into a much more neutral English word resources, refers to riches which implies an asset with great potential value such as; zinc, cobalt, copper, lead, magnesium, platinum, gold, silver, titanium, iron, niobium, uranium, coal, and gas, crude oil, tantalum, and molybdenum that have yet to be extracted.

Going by geological notion we are, pointing at the mass of materials in the earth's crust occurring under a solid, liquid or gaseous structure. Estimating, the amoung of reserves of these mineral classifications, with its reserve base as part of the resources that are enormous in the African continent and significant in their mining industries, vital to their economy and marketing power, as well as policy direction, environmental, social and political. But rather are being exploited to a greater degree by the West (United States and its allies) for technological development and controlling the World marketing price for economic and technological interests.

However, according to Raf & Mathysen (2009, p.9) that mineral resource wealth are capable of being a source of revenue, economic growth and creating prosperity in Africa, but that is not evident in the African continent because economic development that would have being gained through mineral exploitation is played into the hands of the West (U.S.), thereby creating a big challenge for African States to achieve the long-term sustainable development.

The United States Plethora National Security Priorities in Africa

Africa – United States bilateral relations over the years has evolved around a deepened trade and investment diplomatic ties, no doubt in recent times their relations have rarely been percieved essentially partners in the pursuit of the United States national security in reducing sanctuary for violent extremist organizations in North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, transnational pest and disease threat, economic interest, and access to Africa's natural resources. All of these interests and values are of strategic importance and benefit to the United States national interests and as well it is part of her foreign policy outlook of promoting international order for her benefit.

In similitude to the assertion expressed above, McMillian (2003, Pp. 9-13) opined in like manner stating that the paramount interests and value of the United States in the Arabian Gulf is to keep maintaing and securing the need for an unhindered flow of energy, free navigation in the region so as to ensure the free flow of crude oil production to the global markets at stable prices. Another vital reason is her national security interest, aimed at defeating terrorist organizations and driving out their behavioural roots in the region so as to advance her value of political development so as to introduce her Western style of democracy and as well to put a check on production of weapons of mass destruction.

To further exemplify Africa – U.S. economic relations from the onset of U.S. economic relations with key African States from 1900 had strongly being strict economic motif, advancing of her political development and strategic securiy considerations. Thus, historical antecedents of merchandise trading partners of African States before post – 1960 trading parnters in the area of overseas capital inflow to major African countries, Africa's principal trading partners were the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Portugues, the Dutch, the U.S. and Belgium. Hence, it will interest you to know that the extent to which Africa-U.S. bilateral economic structural relations was drawn provides an unfair indication of the direction of influence in Africa-U.S. political and foreign policy relations, structured on one dominating and the other being dependant on the other. A classic example was that of a graphic depiction of Nigeria's attitude to both United States Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger and George Schultz in 1976 and 1987 respectively. The Nigerian authority turning down the request of the other and giving permission to the demand of the other with timid deference by Nigerian Officials who seemed not to be offended at all by the degrading conduct of Mr. George Schultz overbearing entourage. (Bassey, 1988).

Along side of resource flow scholars of foreign aid have opined that the purpose of aid transfer having known that states are rational actors characterized by a decision-making process tending to choices based on maximizing the national interest whose strategic interest on foreign aid indentifies aid as a tool of statecraft for donors to use to achieve its foreign policy objectives (Alesina & Weder, 2002, P.p.1123, 1130; Leboric & Voetan, 2009, P.p. 79,97).

For Sambo & Orji (2021, P.p.151-152) donors offer foreign aid in strategic manner so as to have in return that which would benefit their own national interest by providing aid to recipient African States. In this way the basis of aid allocation by those advanced market-economy countries under this technique or out look places an emphasis on how aid can benefit them as donors foremost, rejecting the claim that donor would allocate aid simply for humanitarian concern towards recipient Africa-States.

Following the rationales given for the flow of resources, consisting of defense, economic, political, humanitarian, and the effect on climate change, Morris(as cited in Cilliers, 2003, P.p. 91-97; Cronin & Tarck, 2006, P.p. 195-200; & Knack, 2004, P.p. 252-264) stated that research focus groups have opined that the traditional outlook on resource flow explain the allocation of resources either around the donors egotistical interests or the donors altruistic concerns towards the recipients. For them as a result of these egotistical and altruistic nature in donors, the United States would either transfer resources to recipient African states in the hope of gaining some form of benefit to her economic, political or security interests, or would either make resources available to the region on the bases of moral obligation to promote poverty alleviation. This is ensure that recipient African nations are acquainted with the potential effect that the war on terrorist extremist has on the United States foreign aid decisions to Africa.

In re-defining the purpose of U.S. foreign aid transfer with plethora national security priorities in Africa, they deduced that the United States may have felt the susceptibility of the spread of the terrorist movements considering the close proximity of the Middle East to the volatile Horn of Africa's territory, the rise of Islamic terrorist groups connected to Al-Qaeda in parts of the region in Africa, a history of terrortist attacks targeted against regimes in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the U.S., and as well the possibility for individuals to be recruited in various regions of the contient to carry out attacks against the United States.

Reviewing these factors, thus we opine that the influencing factors for Africa-United States diplomatic relations are tired to the dangers of terrorism within the region and the huge economic interest she could get. To prevent and contain these danagers, the United States would wish to focus on its security policy so as to influence regimes that won't dance to her rhythm.

United States Preventive Surveillance against influenza and emerging disease threat in Africa

Over the decades factors responsible for animals and humans to be living in closer proximity than ever before, creating room for a quick spread of zoonoses pathogenic avian influenza (H^5N^l), pandemic influenza (H^1N^1), Ebola, monkey pox, bird-flue, and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) to skydive from animals to humans are the intensification of the livestock industry, population growth, urbanization, deforestation, climate change, and increases in mobility. The most ravaging aspect of these diseases is the pandemic and epidemic nature of them leading to massive losses of life and livelihoods, and having a significant economic impact across borders, regions and the globe at large.

For Sambo, Sarah & Asueme (2020, P.p. 165-167) the existing link between humans, animals and the surrounding ecosystem particularly in developing region like Africa where poor farming communities raise animals that provide transport, draught power, fuel, clothing and food is that common cultural practices of hunting wild animals which contribute to a large part of their daily diets. Thus, due to the broad reliance on animals in a continent with compounded poverty, inadequate sanitary standards and lack of resilience have created an increasing risk of zoonotic transmisison, capable of devastating developments a country or continent have achieved. According to them 75% of recently emerging infectious diseases affecting human are of animal origin and 60% of all human pathogens are from zoonotic.

However, for the purpose of preventing the spread of infectious diseases as a way of improving human well-being on many levels and as well to ensure that global health security is a shared responsibility. As a result of these fundamental principles of the United States foreign policy agenda the interest of developing national capacity to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease threats, prompted the United States through its agency the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to fund two major programmes Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT) partnering with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to protect and help over nineteen African states to improve their capacity, prevent, detect and respond to high-impact disease threats, using a multi-sectoral one health approach, linking human, animal and environmental health.

With the help of foreign public health experts in each African state's identifying zoonotic diseases with the assistance of those countries Center for Disease Control and Prevention alongside prioritization tool and other USAID implementing partners. The driving motive of the U.S. in this regard in Africa is her economic interests and indirect political domination or control of each Africa's country's administration.

For Harris (2017, P.p. 17-19) the key significant thing that ties the bilateral relations between Africa and U.S. which the United States have choosen to maintain its access to key inputs that cannot be procured within her own borders, but rather willing to import about nineteen minerals that serve crucial economic and national security purposes of Washington D.C. The truth is that the continent of Africa is the World's third mineral reserves, suppling those minerals such as; platinum for automotive and aerospace applications, iridium for electronics, air craft engines, and satellites, tantalum for jet engines, missile and global positioning systems, and tourmaline for aerospace and ballistic purposes which are very crucial to the United States national defense.

Thus, the African continent being a key supplier of natural resources that have significant military and commercial uses and as a growing oil and gas exporter, increasingly affecting global energy prices which are creating impact on the U.S. economy, is a strong reason why the United States has choosen to see Africa as an out flow of economy market.

However, we make bold to say that in as much as China another leading economic power is also looking into Africa for the same resource purposes this is the fear of the United States of being locked out of markets for key mineral products have proved why the United States have remained vigilant to maintain free trade in this sector. But recently the fallen U.S. demand for Africa's oil and gas as well as her natural resoures have created room for the sudden surge of China, offering yet another fact to increase strong Sino-African economic relations which have expanded China's political and economic influence on the African continent in the area of massive gas and energy potential when effectively developed, will make the region a major player in LNG exports.

As Ledesma (2013, p. 74) have opined the growing interests of African States in nuclear energy which China and Russia have each expressed interest in financing, training and constructing of a nuclear power plant; a project that will take a hundred years relationship is now a threat to the United States principle.

Conclusion and Recommndations

Africa – United States relations since the 1950 have been perceived to be essentially partners in pursuit of the United States national security and economic interests. This engagement with Africa has been considered altruistic to the United States both in the area of counter terrorism, economic interests, and global environmental protection. Evidently, by 1990 African nations have been linked to a wide and growing range of the United States national security and economic interests which have strengthened both continents bilateral relations.

Thus, this marginal benefit to a national security imperative only with respect to the United States economic prosperity outline why Africa matters to United States national security which have been noted earlier through the lenses of transnational threats, economic growth, access to Africa's natural resources, and promoting a global order that benefits the United States. As a result of these we opined that relations which exist between Afrian states and the United States is crucial for the purpose of advancing U.S. plethora of crosscutting national security priorities and support her policies so as not to creat a road block to vital U.S. priorities.

Reflecting from the analysis so far, Africa has remained a destination for aid and charity work and a continue building on a history of bipartism support for Africa-related policies. To reverse course and retrench would be perilous, instead it is oritical that the United States seize opportunities to deepen Africa-U.S. relations and advance U.S. investments in areas such as economic development, good governance, improved health sector, trade and youth development/employment, thus deterring the factors that contribute to instability and violence. It is equally imperative that the United States encourage strong investment climates and support economic opportunities for American companies.

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