Illegal Transborder Immigration: Implication for Nigeria Internal Security 2007 – 2021.

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Abstract

The study examines Illegal Trans-Border Migration: Implication for Nigeria Internal Security. The study covers the period between 2007 and 2019. The study adopted the complex adaptive system theory, complexity theory and The Push and Pull Theory of Migration as the theoretical framework for this research work. But anchored on the Push and Pull Theory of Migration. Primary and secondary sources of data was used in the study. Questionnaires were used to collect data from respondents, while simple percentage was used to analyse the views of the respondents. The findings revealed that; there were causes of illegal trans-border migration in Nigeria, Illegal trans-border migration has affected national security in Nigeria. There were Measures previously taken to curtail illegal trans-border migration in Nigeria. Lastly, there are measures needed to be taken to checkmate trans-border migration to curb crime in Nigeria. The study further concluded that; illegal trans-border migration is a complex phenomenon enhanced by contacts with outside cultures; its dynamism within the studied areas is spurred by new aspirations for economic and material betterment, hence the spread of migration is embedded in the primary motive of migration which is to find work. Therefore

transformation to crime related activities is viewed within the prism of economically or politically-induced. And recommended that There should be democratic government with better electoral system that elect leaders who has capacity and integrity to provide good governance to the populace, National Identity Card should be made compulsory for every citizen, There is a need for regional integration and finally, Government should build border walls like the one built by for president Donald Trump of USA to stop illegal immigrants from Mexico into the United State of America.

Keywords: migration, immigration, cross border crime, internal security etc.

Introduction

Globalization has posed enormous challenge to African States regarding the management of their borders as technological advancement and international relations succeeded in tearing down traditional international borders. Technological advancement made it possible for crimes and criminality to be perpetrated without necessarily crossing borders and for goods to be sold without restriction or undue interference. During the colonial era, trans-border crime arose as a result of illegal migration; as a response, towns were combined into new nation states, with boundaries erected and secured by law enforcement officials who defended the entire region. In 1914, the Northern and Southern Protectorates merged to form Nigeria, which was a colonial creation. Cameroon, Niger, Chad, and Benin Republic all share Nigeria's border. Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe share maritime borders with it as well.

Nigeria and any country with its own border, with the exception of Cameroon, are members of the Economic Community of Western African Countries (ECOWAS), and people of those countries are entitled to free movement. Despite this, Nigerian authorities saw migration as a threat to the state's safety and stability, with an increasing crime rate reported on the border in the form of human trafficking, drug trafficking, religious carnages driven by imported extremism and the deaths of innocent Nigerian citizens, and a threat to the state's safety and stability. As technological advancement and foreign policy have succeeded in breaking down traditional international boundaries, the concept of globalization has confronted Africa with enormous challenges in managing its borders. Technological advancements allowed for the unneeded cross-border perpetration of crime and crimes, as well as the sale of goods without restriction or unnecessary intervention. During the colonial period, trans-border crime resulting from illegal immigration grew prevalent; as a result, cultures were amalgamated into new nation states, which formed borders and defended territory through legal enforcement agents. In 1914, the Northern and Southern Protectorates merged to form Nigeria, which was a colonial creation. The

Territory of Nigeria has many problems which have influenced the interregional trade structure due to colonial and post-colonial economies. Its land boundaries are seen as a melting pot and hot spots for stability. Through the inadequate provision of the required infrastructure by the post-colonial government, these frontiers will become areas of trans frontier criminality that constitute a threat to Nigerian national security. Unlawful cross-border migration is more usually defined by criminal patterns that are linked to criminally known acts carried out by people and groups across national and international borders for financial, economic, political, or religious motives. Cross-border crime is defined as a set of criminal acts that occur across national borders and have consequences such as violence, human trafficking, arms trafficking, and drug trafficking. These crimes have transcended international borders, posing serious security concerns for Nigeria if they are not controlled and regulated. Only 84 of the 1,978 entry points in Nigeria have been approved, while 1,894 have not (Osimen & Goddy, 2017).

The interaction patterns in the border regions were demonstrated by smuggling operations, tax evasion, and unlawful migration across Nigeria's international boundaries. It also showed how international border crossing norms and conventions are disregarded to the cost of national security in the region, as well as how the country is unwittingly losing its economic grasp (Collins, 1976). All of this is due to the porous nature of the country's borders and the neighboring governments' current economic policies, which make illicit trans-border transfers in products, currency, and other threatening circumstances easier (Collins, 1976). Nigeria has been deprived of its capacity to become a large country in the West African subregion over the years due to neglect and misrule, allowing its commercial activity on its boundaries to thrive on criminal issues.

The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001, shifted the focus of defense to migration. The Republics of Chad and Niger have already struggled to forcefully push significant armed battles with migrant intrusions into Nigeria at various occasions. Because of the porous nature of the Nigerian border, it serves as a conduit for illicit cross-border movement of small arms and light weapons, as well as narcotics. The severe dearth of security personnel has made it even more difficult to adequately monitor the borders. In addition to their small numbers, they are ill-equipped, unskilled, and occasionally fail by becoming involved in acts. "According to (John 2014), sympathizers in the Nigerian Army are to leave armor doors open on purpose for Haram" (John 2014). It demands for government dedication and patriotism, as well as security personnel and all other players, to ensure that territorial boundaries are free of crime trends, ensuring full citizenship safety. Because the aforementioned phenomenon is dangerous, it need

devotion and patriotism. While Africa's declared external strategy is at its core, Nigeria cannot help but force undesired and illicit immigration in order to protect its sovereignty.

Problem of the study

Illegal immigration has become a menace to Nigeria's internal security, and its operations continue to be disastrous. These are expressed in the incessant/wanton killings and property damage performed by Boko Haram militants, primarily in Nigeria's north-eastern and north-central regions. Fulani Hardsmen ransacking and terrorizing communities, killing scores of people and vandalizing farms, causing food shortages and forcing people to flee their homes. Drug trafficking both inside and beyond the country has tarnished Nigeria's image in the eyes of the world, and it is the major cause of teenage insanity due to drug misuse. Importation of guns/arms and ammunition, chemicals and materials for the production of improvised explosive devices (commonly known as IEDs), and advance fee fraud (419).

Movement inside countries and across borders was sparked by the need for work and a better life, and cities were lured by migration from rural areas, while economically developed places became magnets for migratory destinations. West African countries such as Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, and Nigeria became international migration hotspots, with Lagos and Dakar serving as popular destinations for migrants from all over the sub-region.

The economic boom of the 1970s and 1980s, fueled by the oil industry's successes, drew an influx of immigrants from the sub-region to Nigeria. Because individuals of a single ethnic group hold dual citizenship, the Nigerian border, which is porous, has become easier to cross. There was little state reaction because the movement was largely labor-inspired. Nigeria, on the other hand, began to experience border clashes as a result of the operations of smugglers and traffickers, as well as security issues from Muslim extremists who used the porous borders to flock to the northern section of the country from Niger, Chad, and northern Cameroon. Some of these Muslim fanatics have proclaimed holy war in Nigeria's north at various periods.

Between 1999 and 2003, during President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration, the situation became so severe that the president had to block the borders with the Republic of Benin at least twice. The sub-recurrent region's and deepening occurrences of smuggling and trafficking have spawned additional terrible crimes, posing severe security and political issues for the nations (Adeola and Ogirai 2010). Most countries are vulnerable to terrorist attacks, and Nigeria has been particularly hard hit by the Boko Haram sect in the

country's north. Cross-border migration between Niger and Cameroon paved the stage for an influx of external migrants to assault foreign countries. The study, Illegal Trans-Border Immigration: Implications for Nigerian National Security, is conducted against this context (2007-2021).

Literature review and theoretical framework

Borders

Borderlands, according to Blum (2014), are places where two nation states intersect. Because of the influx of migrants into and out of the country, they are security hotspots for nation-states. Borders, according to Naziru et al (2015), are an invisible line that separates one nation state from another. Nation states are now aware of and vigilant about everything that happens along their boundaries. According to literature, the Nigerian borders are not effectively controlled due to the porosity of the borders as it has a land mass that combines land and water, as well as deficiencies in the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) such as manpower challenges, resulting in few border presence of the officers, a lack of resources, infrastructures, and various needed equipment to carry out their duties. Among other things, there is a lack of leadership and authenticity among individuals in positions of authority (Nwagwugwu et al, 2015). If a country wants to benefit from international migration, it must be aware of the efficiency of its borders.

Nigeria's porous borders are one of the main causes of her security problems, as well as one of the main causes of illicit international migration (Adepoju, 2009 and Robert, 2014). There are approximately 4,080 routes in Nigeria, but only ninety one (91) are legally authorized and protected, putting Nigeria in a vulnerable position. The porousness of Nigeria's borders can jeopardize a country's national security (Nwagwugwu et al, 2015). Because of the presence of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and the porous nature of the nation state's borders, migration in the African region (namely Nigeria) has seen illegal flows of migrants.

Securing Nigeria's porous borders will be difficult because, as the nation state develops and the international system engages in International Migration, there will be more movement of products and people by land, air, and sea. This will put even greater on already overburdened border security (Ashiru, 2016). Department of the Interior (2017) Lt. General Abdulreham Dambazau corroborated the statement that Nigeria's borders are extensive and permeable.

National Security

With regard to the issue of this paper, the concept of security is a very important agenda at the Nigerian border, and it should be considered the very first work of any well-intentioned government, since nothing so real can be accomplished while lives and property are in danger. When a country's territorial borders are insecure, its socioeconomic development is jeopardized, and achieving it will be a mammoth struggle. As a result, hunger, disease, poverty, and dread will flourish throughout society. In addition, the country's socio-economic well-being was afflicted by an increase in transnational crimes, as well as the presence of terrorist groups and the threat of Fulani herdsmen attacks. When one considers the security challenges at borders, which extend to internal security of lives and property, and the corresponding huge sums of money and human resources spent on security, people continue to feel insecure, unprotected, and fearful of the activities of monster terrorist groups such as Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen, banditry, the circulation of fake drugs, and the sale of prohibited items in the market, the security effort at borders remains a question. We have customs, which analyzes the transportation of goods and services, immigration, which monitors the movement of people, and the military, which defends the country's territorial integrity. All of these people are important players in manning the country's borders. The notion of security has several connotations that have been proposed by many researchers and security analysts in the international sphere, and it can be classified into traditional and non-traditionalist schools of thought.

The concept of Migration

Migration is the temporary crossing of the border of a territorial administrative unit. Migration for economic reasons, family reunification, and other reasons or under the influence of other circumstances are all included in this category, as well as migration of refugees. Migration is defined by numerous empirical research (Williams, 2006; Sulima, 2015) as a phenomenon that includes the concurrent shift of three key parameters:

a) a change of domicile that involves the crossing of a political or national border;
b) b) a change of the place where they carry out their professional activity (even if they practice the same profession);
c) c) a change of social relations (the entry into a new community).

Internal and international migration are both possible. Internal migration is the movement between regions (provinces, counties, municipalities) on the same state's territory. People are territorially relocated through international migration between states and nationalities. Two types of relocation can be excluded from this broad definition: first, territorial movement that does not affect social ties and remains irrelevant for both the individual and society (such as tourism); second, relocation is excluded when the individuals or

groups involved are merely passive objects and not active agents of the movement (such as the organized transfer of refugees from their home states to other countries) (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Typically, migration is separated into two categories: forced migration and voluntary migration. Involuntary migration is driven by an individual's initiative and free will and is impacted by a variety of economic, political, and social variables in both the country of origin and the country of destination (determinant factors or "push factors") (attraction factors or "pull factors"). The elements that drive or draw individuals to a specific location are known as "push-pull factors." "Push" factors are the drawbacks of the nation of origin, which frequently influence people's decision to emigrate, and "pull" factors are the advantages of a new country, which motivate people to go there in pursuit of a better life. Despite appearing to be diametrically opposed, the push and pull aspects are actually two sides of the same coin that are equally significant.

A migrant is someone who moves from one place to another, crosses an international border, or moves within a state, away from their home or family, without taking into account their legal situation, the type of travel they are engaging in (voluntary or involuntary), or the reasons behind their uprooting. However, the term "migrant" does not yet have a generally acknowledged definition. The term was typically interpreted to refer to all situations in which the decision to immigrate was made voluntarily by the person in question and without the influence of an outside determining factor; as a result, this also applies to individuals who immigrate to a different country or region in order to better their living and working conditions for themselves and their family members.

According to the United Nations (UN), a migrant is someone who has lived abroad for longer than a year, regardless of the reasons behind the move and the mode of transportation used to get there. According to this concept, vacationers and business travelers who travel for shorter durations are not deemed migrants (IOM, 2011).

The causes and effects of migration

Over the past few decades, there has been a growth in the volume and complexity of international migration flows. The notion of the push-pull factors was primarily used to investigate the phenomenon of migration. This idea distinguishes between variables that force individuals out of their country ("push factors"), which represent the unfavorable characteristics of the country of origin, and those that pull people in ("pull factors"), which represent the favorable characteristics of the country of destination. Push-pull factors materialize in different forms and are often decisive in people's choice to migrate. Factors

regarding safety and security are usually of the highest importance in people`s decision to migrate, sometimes representing a matter of life and death. Persecution and discrimination based on nationality, race, religion, political beliefs or belonging to a social group, often causes people to move to other safer areas. War or the actions of criminal organizations can pose a threat. El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras' Northern Triangle, which is regarded as the world's most hazardous region, serves as an important illustration. As a result of corruption and underfunded institutions, thousands of crimes committed by local and foreign gangs are reported in all three nations, and 95% of these crimes go unpunished. In 2015, there were 110,000 asylum seekers who were from the Northern Triangle, a five-fold increase from 2012. (Labrador & Renwick, 2018).

The population moves from less developed locations to developed ones where incomes are greater and employment possibilities are more numerous and diversified due to economic factors. The most common reasons for population emigration include unemployment, underdevelopment, adverse economic circumstances, and a lack of job opportunities. At the same time, modernization and technology in agriculture in developing nations greatly reduce the need for labor in rural areas. As a result, the populace lacks any other means of support. Such a situation existed in Romania, which, as a result of its recent admission to the European Union, served as a significant "source" of immigrants for western nations. One such nation is Italy, where Romanians make up the majority of the population (1.8% of all Italians are migrants from Romania) (Sawe, 2018).

Environmental factors contribute to population movement as a result of natural disasters and their aftermath. Food shortages and famine are brought on by drought, and people are forced to migrate to low-risk locations because pollution of the water, air, and soil poses serious health concerns to them. At the same time, natural catastrophes like earthquakes, hurricanes, and tsunamis are frequently strong arguments for moving.

The social causes of migration are rooted in people's needs and aspirations for a better standard of living. They move in order to provide a better life for themselves and their family in terms of the local community (such as the increasing level of tolerance for cultural, sexual, ethnic, and religious diversity), the educational system, and the healthcare system. Analyzing the repercussions and impacts that this phenomenon has on both the nations of origin and the host countries is required in order to properly comprehend the role that migration plays in socioeconomic growth.

Illegal Migration

Illegal migration, according to the International Organization for Migration, is defined as movement that occurs outside of the sending, transiting, and receiving nations' regulatory rules. It is entry, stay, or work in a country without the proper authority or documentation required by immigration regulations from the perspective of the destination country. The irregularity is seen from the sending country's perspective when a person crosses an international border without a valid passport or travel document or fails to meet the administrative conditions for leaving his or her country. Furthermore, the International Organization for Migration describes illegal migration as the "international movement or residency that conflicts with migration laws" while define it as the "crossing of borders without proper authority, or the violation of conditions for entering another country".

In addition to this, the United States of America Immigration Services defines illegal immigration as immigration across national borders in a way that violates the immigration law of the destination country. An illegal immigrant is a foreigner who has illegally crossed an international political border or a foreigner who has entered a country legally but then overstays his/her visa.

However, there is a trend to limit the use of the phrase "illegal migration" to incidents of migrant smuggling and human trafficking. From the foregoing, we can argue that illegal migration encompasses all voyages made by migrants from their home nations to other countries without formal authority or without meeting the transit or destination country's immigration rules.

Benefits of Immigrants in Nigeria

Johnson (2016) acknowledges that immigrants are advantageous to every nation state (unskilled, skilled, and especially highly skilled individuals) since they supplement the labor force's existing skills, particularly those of natives. Other immigrants, like any other native (citizen), use their entrepreneurial abilities to create jobs, no matter how little, which often provides work for the unskilled. It has been discovered that an immigrant's talents differ slightly from those of a native due to differences in their origins, culture, and other factors.

This demonstrates that they have a proclivity to approach challenges in novel ways. As a result, an immigrant's abilities complement those of the natives (citizens). Immigrants fill vacancies in most developed nation-states, as well as provide varied talents and expertise required for the nation-optimal state's productivity. According to UNODC (2010), a migrant's choice of destination is influenced by the language of communication, the

nation-history state's and colonial relations, as well as his or her ability to enter the nation-state through numerous adhered migration regulations, such as qualified travel documentation papers.

This brings us to the study and responsibilities of the immigration agency in a nation-state (in this case, the Nigerian Immigration Service NIS), as they are responsible for securing the nation-borders state's and entry and exit points by determining who is qualified to enter or exit the country. In the case of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), other agencies such as the customs service are required.

A text titled "short history of US immigration policy" authored by Vialet (1980) agrees with the notion that a nation state's immigration agency has the right to regulate who comes in and who leaves the nation state.

According to the Academy Awards, the bulk of the top talented Hollywood film makers and actresses are practically all migrants. About nine out of 10 migrants in the industry have truly contributed to the popularity and innovation of this sector. According to West, (2011), Immigrants with the right skills inject brain gain into economies, which has a variety of spillover benefits. The (United States of America) U.S.A. is familiar with these advantages. Immigration can help a country's economy by increasing the number of workers with the necessary experience and abilities. However, when a nation state fails to create pull factors to attract these people, International Migration, and specifically immigration, may appear unsuccessful (IMF, 2015). Immigration activities that are planned and managed in a nation state with the support of additional pull factors of immigration in that nation state can result in socioeconomic development, nation building, and other significant benefits for the nation state in question, Kennisgewings (2016). Immigration, according to Fayomi (2013), is economic in nature because it can both increase an economy and drive an individual's decision to migrate out of his or her current destination or origin.

The Push and Pull Theory of Migration

The Push and Pull Theory of Migration was used to base this research. Ravenstein of England was the first to propose the theory in the 19th century. Nigerians and their neighbors' cross-border migration may begin with one motivation and finish with another. As Everett (1969) noted, the disparity between the two in terms of economics and facilities becomes more pronounced, particularly between Nigeria and her neighbors. As Castles et al. (2009) point out, international migration is becoming increasingly politicized as a result of internal politics, bilateral and regional ties, and national security strategies of states. In

effect, security concerns are now driving most governments' foreign policy directions around the world. Globalization has exacerbated migratory difficulties in terms of security to the point where state security has become a deciding factor in determining the diplomatic and foreign policy direction of countries in the sub-region. Africa has been dubbed the continent with the most mobile people in the world (Curtin: 1997). In Sub-Saharan Africa, the Bantu people fled the area now comprising Nigeria and Cameroon and established settlements over the whole southern half of the continent, making it one of the biggest migrations in human history (Castles et al. 2009).

As a result of transnationalism, deterriorialized nations are emerging, with significant implications for national identity, international politics, and international security. Globalization, or transnationalism, has had a significant impact on West African security networks: since September 11, 2001, most states' foreign and security policies have prioritized countering human trafficking, smuggling, and other forms of transnational crime (Castles et al.2009). The era of internationalism has heightened the security consequences of transnational crimes among the sub-sovereign region's states, and it is influencing how the States articulate their foreign and diplomatic policy.

This theory outlines how Nigeria as a nation may learn from its mistakes, build on them, and fill in the gaps for successful results that the Nigerian public demands. This explains why this theory should be used, because it entails learning from ordinary experiences and modern-day ways to produce cross-border migration policies that reduce security threats while also contributing to the nation's development and security.

Methodology

The study adopted a survey research design. , thirty (30) respondents were purposefully chosen as the population for the paper. The targeted population include Shoe shiners, commercial motorcyclists (okada riders), water vendors (mai Ruwa), security guards (mai gad), taxi drivers, minor shopkeepers, security experts, customs officers, and immigration officers make up the study's population. The paper adopted purposive non probability sampling method. The paper adopted mix method of data collection; that is primary and secondary sources. The primary sources were through an in-depth interview conducted entirely in English and Hausa language. The interview were conducted to answer questions with respect to the following research questions; what are the causes of illegal trans-border immigration in Nigeria? How has the illegal trans-border immigration in Nigeria affected its internal security? Are there measures previously taken to curtail illegal trans-border immigration in Nigeria? What measures need to be taken to checkmate trans-border immigration to curb crime in Nigeria?

Discussions of major Findings

The respondents identified that there were causes of illegal trans-border immigration in Nigeria. Majority of the respondent were of the view that Authoritarian regime, Poverty, Unemployment and Porosity of borders causes illegal immigration in Nigeria but indifferent that Environmental causes such as desertification and divergent region, land side, earth equates etc causes illegal migration in Nigeria. These views of the respondents were in conformity with the studies of Salahaddine, (2010), Animam, (2009) Onuoha, (2013), choudhury, (2009)

More so, the respondent affirmed that Illegal trans-border immigration affected internal security in Nigeria. This assertion was in conformity with the study of Wagner, (2006) and Olagbemi, & Joshua, (2017). According to their studies; Illegal immigration constitutes terrorist activities in the host country, create unemployment in the host country, encourages smuggling activities which result to economic woes in the host country, and increases the quantum of substandard products in the host country and above all, encourages the use of hard drugs in the host country.

Furthermore, findings from majority of the respondents shows that there were Measures previously taken to curtail illegal trans-border immigration in Nigeria. This measures were; Establishment of a joint boundary commission with all its neighbours, Joint security patrol within the borders, the formation of the Nigeria immigration services, and the Establishment of national Agency for the prohibition of trafficking persons (NAPTIP). All the above measures were targeted at reducing illegal trans-border immigration in Nigeria. However, this finding was in line with the study of Kingsley, (2012).

Finally, there were measures needed to be taken to checkmate trans-border immigration to curb crime in Nigeria. This is in conformity with the views of the majority of the respondents that; Constructions of border plazas or auto gates equipped with modern migration management facilities as obtained in most international borders, equipment of border operatives with office and residential accommodations as well as other operational logistics, Training and motivation of border operatives were measures needed to be taken to checkmate trans-border immigration to curb crime in Nigeria. This opinion is in conformity with the study of Kingsley, (2012).

Conclusion

Immigrants are advantageous to every nation state (unskilled, skilled, and especially highly skilled individuals) since they supplement the labor force's existing skills, particularly those of natives. Other immigrants, like any other native (citizen), use their

entrepreneurial abilities to create jobs, no matter how little, which often provides work for the unskilled. It has been discovered that an immigrant's talents differ slightly from those of a native due to differences in their origins, culture, and other factors.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made;

1. There should be democratic government with better electoral system that elect leaders who have capacity and integrity to provide good governance to the populace, this will reduce poverty and unemployment in the country and hence discourages illegal immigration.
2. National identity card should be made compulsory for every citizen. This will enable the relevant authorities identify illegal immigrant in the country. There should also be strict immigration laws that will discourage illegal immigrants from point of entering the country.
3. There is a need for regional integration. Government should strengthened her regional tie among the border communities. This will help to reduce illegal trans-border immigration.
4. Government should build border wall just like the one built by formal President Donald Trump of USA to stop illegal immigrants from Mexico into the United States of America.

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