# Globalization, Poverty, and Insecurity in Africa: An Examination of the Nigerian State's Vulnerabilities to Conflict and Instability

**By**

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**Abstract**

This paper examines the intricate relationships between globalization, poverty, and insecurity in Africa, with a specific focus on Nigeria. Despite Nigeria's integration into the global economy, the country continues to grapple with pervasive poverty, inequality, and insecurity. This research

investigates the paradox of Nigeria's economic growth amidst persistent poverty and insecurity, and explores the structural barriers that perpetuate these challenges. Relying on secondary data obtained from various journals, books, and newspapers, this study employs a qualitative content analysis methodology grounded in Dependency and World Systems theories. The findings reveal that globalization has exacerbated poverty and insecurity in Nigeria, particularly in rural areas. The study highlights the need for targeted policies that promote inclusive growth, enhance local capacities, and invest in human capital development. Ultimately, this research argues that addressing the root causes of globalization-influenced poverty and insecurity is crucial for Nigeria's sustainable development and peace.

**Key words:** Globalization, poverty trap, insecurity, dependency, sustainable development, inclusive growth

**Background**

Globalization has profoundly impacted Africa, transforming its economies, societies, and politics (World Bank, 2022). While creating new opportunities for growth, globalization has exacerbated existing challenges, including poverty and insecurity (African Development Bank, 2022). Africa is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, but it is also the continent with the highest levels of poverty and inequality **(United Nations Development Programme, 2022).**

Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, exemplifies this paradox. Despite its vast natural resources and economic potential, Nigeria has struggled to translate its growth into widespread prosperity and poverty reduction (International Monetary Fund, 2022). Over 40% of Nigeria's population lives below the national poverty line, with rural areas particularly hard hit (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). This persistent poverty is compounded by systemic issues such as corruption, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to quality education and healthcare (World Bank, 2020). Furthermore, research has shown that these structural challenges have contributed to the persistence of poverty traps, where individuals and communities become trapped in cycles of deprivation (United Nations Development Programme, 2020).

The concept of a poverty trap is essential to understanding the dynamics of globalization in Nigeria. A poverty trap refers to a self-perpetuating cycle of poverty, often caused by limited access to vital resources such as education, healthcare, and capital (Oyejide, 2004). In the context of globalization, certain sectors have flourished, including telecommunications and services. However, many rural communities and small-scale farmers have been marginalized, unable to compete with imported goods and services. This issue is further complicated by poor governance, corruption, and inadequate infrastructure, which hinder the equitable distribution of globalization's benefits.

For example, the agricultural sector, which employs a significant portion of Nigeria's workforce, has struggled to adapt to global market pressures, leading to increased food insecurity and poverty among rural populations (Saidi, Lamidi, & Ochi, 2023). The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated poverty and inequality in Nigeria, with the World Bank (2023) reporting that an additional 88 million people have been pushed into extreme poverty globally. The International Labour Organization (2022) has also noted significant job losses and increased poverty in Nigeria.

**Statement of the Problem**

Globalization, poverty, and insecurity are interconnected challenges that threaten the stability and development of African countries, including Nigeria. Despite being Africa's largest economy, Nigeria remains vulnerable to conflict and instability, with widespread poverty and inequality exacerbating these vulnerabilities. The intersection of globalization, poverty, and insecurity in Nigeria presents a pressing concern, as the country's economic growth and development are hindered by these interconnected challenges.

The Nigerian state's vulnerabilities to conflict and instability are multifaceted, with globalization contributing to the exacerbation of poverty and inequality. The influx of cheap imports, particularly from countries like China, has severely impacted Nigeria's manufacturing sector, leading to widespread job losses and increased unemployment rates (UNIDO, 2019). Furthermore, the structural adjustment programs implemented in the 1980s, which aimed to liberalize the economy, have

often been criticized for prioritizing economic efficiency over social equity (Olukoshi, 1998).

The governance deficit in Nigeria, characterized by corruption and lack of accountability, has undermined efforts to create a conducive environment for equitable economic growth (Transparency International, 2022). This governance deficit exacerbates the impact of globalization, as it limits the capacity of the state to implement effective policies that address poverty and promote inclusive growth.

**Research Questions**

- How does globalization affect poverty and insecurity in Nigeria?
- What are the implications of globalization for conflict and instability in Nigeria?
- How can the Nigerian state address its vulnerabilities to conflict and instability in the context of globalization?

**Literature Review**

Globalization is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has been defined in various ways by scholars. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), globalization refers to "the increasing integration of economies around the world, particularly through trade and financial flows" (IMF, 2020). Similarly, the World Bank defines globalization as "the growing interdependence of countries resulting from the increasing volume and variety of cross-border transactions in goods, services, and capital" (World Bank, 2020).

However, scholars have also highlighted the limitations of these definitions, arguing that they focus too narrowly on economic aspects of globalization. For example, Held et al. (1999) define globalization as "a process which embodies a transformation in the spatial organization of social relations and transactions, generating transcontinental or interregional networks of activity, interaction, and the exercise of power" (p. 16). This definition highlights the broader social, cultural, and political dimensions of globalization.

The literature on globalization is vast and diverse, reflecting the complexity and multifaceted nature of the phenomenon. Here, we review some of the key themes and debates in the literature.

**Economic Globalization:** One of the earliest and most influential accounts of globalization is Kenichi Ohmae's (1990) book "The Borderless World", which argued that globalization was driven by the increasing mobility of goods, services, and capital across national borders. Since then, numerous studies have examined the economic dimensions of globalization, including the growth of international trade (Krugman, 1995), the rise of multinational corporations (Dunning, 1993), and the increasing importance of foreign direct investment (FDI) (UNCTAD, 2020).

**Cultural Globalization:** In addition to its economic dimensions, globalization has also been associated with the spread of cultural practices, values, and ideologies across national borders. Scholars such as Roland Robertson (1992) and Ulf Hannerz (1996) have argued that globalization has led to the creation of a global culture, characterized by the spread of consumerism, individualism, and Western values.

**Political Globalization:** Globalization has also had significant implications for politics and governance. Scholars such as Susan Strange (1996) and Philip Cerny (1997) have argued that globalization has led to the decline of the nation-state and the rise of new forms of governance, including international institutions and networks of non-state actors.

**Critiques of Globalization**

Despite its many benefits, globalization has also been subject to numerous critiques and criticisms. Scholars such as Joseph Stiglitz (2002) and Naomi Klein (2007) have argued that globalization has exacerbated income inequality, undermined democratic institutions, and led to environmental degradation.

In all, globalization is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has been defined and studied in various ways by scholars. While it has brought many benefits, including increased economic growth and cultural exchange, it has also been subject to numerous critiques and criticisms.

**Theoretical Framework**

The study on globalization and poverty in Nigeria can be understood through several theoretical lenses that provide insights into how economic processes intersect with social dynamics. This section outlines three primary theories relevant to the discussion: Dependency Theory, World Systems Theory, and the Capability Approach.

**Dependency Theory**

Dependency Theory posits that the economic development of poorer nations is fundamentally shaped by their dependence on wealthier nations, creating a framework for understanding the persistent challenges faced by developing countries like Nigeria. This theoretical perspective suggests that the integration of developing nations into the global economy often results in exploitative relationships, where resources are extracted from these nations to benefit affluent countries. Scholars such as Andre Gunder Frank have been instrumental in articulating this theory, arguing that the economic structures imposed by wealthier nations create a cycle of dependency that inhibits growth and perpetuates poverty. Frank (1967) contends that the historical context of colonialism and imperialism has established a global economic order that favors the core countries at the expense of the periphery, leading to a situation where developing nations are unable to achieve sustainable economic development

In the case of Nigeria, the reliance on oil exports serves as a poignant example of this dependency dynamic. While the oil sector has generated significant revenue for the country, it has also led to economic volatility and a neglect of other critical sectors, such as agriculture and manufacturing. The over-reliance on oil has created a mono-economy that is highly susceptible to fluctuations in global oil prices, which can result in severe economic instability. For instance, when oil prices plummet, Nigeria experiences a corresponding decline in government revenues, which adversely affects public spending on essential services and infrastructure. This volatility reinforces the poverty trap, as local industries struggle to compete in a globalized market dominated by foreign entities that often benefit from favorable trade agreements and technological advantages. The lack of diversification in the Nigerian economy means that when oil revenues decline,

there are few alternative sources of income to buffer the impact on the population, leading to increased poverty and unemployment.

Moreover, the dependency on oil exports has significant implications for social equity and development. The wealth generated from oil has not been equitably distributed among the population, with a small elite often reaping the benefits while the majority remain marginalized. This inequality is exacerbated by the fact that the oil sector is capital-intensive and does not create a proportional number of jobs compared to other sectors, such as agriculture or manufacturing. Consequently, the local workforce is left with limited opportunities for employment and economic advancement, perpetuating cycles of poverty and underdevelopment. The neglect of agriculture and manufacturing, sectors that could provide employment and stimulate economic growth, further entrenches this dependency, as these industries are unable to compete with cheaper imports and foreign products.

**Impact of Globalization on African Economies**

Globalization has had a profound impact on African economies, leading to increased economic inequality and poverty. Trade liberalization, in particular, has had a negative impact on African industries, particularly in the manufacturing sector (UNIDO, 2019). The World Bank (2022) notes that trade liberalization has led to increased competition from foreign firms, resulting in widespread job losses and increased unemployment rates. Foreign investment has also had a mixed impact on African economies. While foreign investment has brought in much-needed capital and technology, it has also led to increased economic inequality and poverty (African Development Bank, 2022). The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2022) notes that foreign investment has also led to increased dependence on foreign capital, undermining African countries' ability to pursue independent economic policies. Economic inequality has also increased in Africa, with the richest 10% of the population controlling a disproportionate share of the continent's wealth (Oxfam International, 2020). The World Economic Forum (2022) notes that economic inequality has also led to increased social and political instability in Africa. Overall, the impact of globalization on African economies has been mixed, with both positive and negative consequences.

**Poverty, Inequality, Insecurity, and Globalization in Africa: A Complex Interplay**

Poverty, inequality, and insecurity are closely linked in Africa. Poverty and inequality have led to increased insecurity, as marginalized communities become increasingly frustrated with their economic and social circumstances (United Nations Development Programme, 2022). The World Bank (2022) notes that poverty and inequality have also led to increased conflict and violence in Africa. Insecurity, in turn, has exacerbated poverty and inequality, as communities become increasingly vulnerable to violence and displacement (African Development Bank, 2023). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2022) notes that insecurity has also led to increased migration and displacement in Africa. Furthermore, research has shown that poverty, inequality, and insecurity are often linked to governance issues, including corruption and lack of accountability (Transparency International, 2023). The World Economic Forum (2024) notes that addressing poverty, inequality, and insecurity in Africa requires a comprehensive approach that addresses governance issues, promotes economic growth and development, and reduces poverty and inequality. Overall, the relationship between poverty, inequality, and insecurity in Africa is complex and multifaceted, requiring a comprehensive approach to address these interconnected challenges.

**The Dual Edges of Globalization: Nigeria's Experience**

Globalization, the increasing interconnectedness of the world's economies, societies, and cultures, has had a profound impact on Nigeria, with both positive and negative consequences. On one hand, globalization has opened up new opportunities for Nigeria to engage with the global economy, attract foreign investment, and access new markets and technologies. On the other hand, it has also exposed the country to intense global competition, led to the decline of traditional industries, and exacerbated existing social and economic inequalities.

This complex and multifaceted impact of globalization on Nigeria is the focus of this discussion. We will explore the various ways in which globalization has shaped Nigeria's economy, society, and politics, and examine the opportunities and challenges that it presents for the country's development.

Globalization has had a profound impact on Nigeria's economy, in the following ways:

**Trade:** According **(Ogundipe, 2022), o**ne of the most significant benefits of globalization for Nigeria has been the increase in trade and investment (World Bank, 2022). According to the World Trade Organization (2022), Nigeria's total trade volume increased from $143 billion in 2010 to $243 billion in 2020. This increase in trade has been driven by Nigeria's participation in global value chains, particularly in the oil and gas sector (Adeyeye, 2023). The growth of international trade has also led to an increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) in Nigeria (UNCTAD, 2022). In 2020, Nigeria received $2.6 billion in FDI, up from $1.8 billion in 2010 (UNCTAD, 2022). The increase in trade and investment has driven economic growth in Nigeria, with the country's GDP growing from $270 billion in 2010 to $450 billion in 2020 (World Bank, 2022). Globalization has also enabled Nigerian businesses to access new markets and technologies, improving their competitiveness and productivity (Ogundipe, 2022). Furthermore, the growth of international trade has created new job opportunities in Nigeria, particularly in the logistics and transportation sectors (Adeyeye, 2023). However, despite these benefits, Nigeria's trade sector still faces significant challenges, including corruption, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of competitiveness (World Bank, 2022). To address these challenges, the Nigerian government needs to implement policies that promote trade facilitation, improve infrastructure, and enhance competitiveness (UNCTAD, 2022). Additionally, the government needs to address the issue of corruption, which remains a major obstacle to trade growth in Nigeria (Transparency International, 2022). Overall, the positive impact of globalization on Nigeria's trade and economy is clear, but the country still needs to address significant challenges to fully benefit from globalization.

**Improved Technology:** Globalization has facilitated the transfer of technology, improving productivity and efficiency in various sectors in Nigeria (Adebayo, 2020). According to a report by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the adoption of new technologies such as mobile phones and the internet has increased significantly in Nigeria, with the number of mobile phone subscribers increasing from 1.3 million in 2001 to 184.5 million in 2020 (ITU, 2020). This

increased access to technology has improved communication, facilitated business transactions, and enhanced access to information and education (Eboh, 2022). Furthermore, the transfer of technology has also improved productivity and efficiency in various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and services (Ogunsola, 2022). For example, the adoption of precision agriculture techniques has improved crop yields and reduced waste, while the use of automation technologies has improved efficiency and reduced costs in the manufacturing sector (Adebayo, 2020).

**Cultural Exchange**: Globalization has promoted cultural exchange, enabling Nigerians to engage with diverse cultures and ideas (Falobi, 2022). According to a report by the British Council, the number of international students in Nigeria increased from 1,300 in 2010 to 5,300 in 2020, while the number of Nigerian students studying abroad increased from 13,000 in 2010 to 30,000 in 2020 (British Council, 2020). This increased mobility of students and scholars has facilitated cultural exchange and understanding, enabling Nigerians to learn from diverse cultures and ideas (Eboh, 2022). Furthermore, the growth of international tourism has also promoted cultural exchange, with the number of international tourist arrivals in Nigeria increasing from 250,000 in 2010 to 1.2 million in 2020 (World Tourism Organization, 2020). This increased cultural exchange has enriched Nigerian culture and society, promoting diversity, tolerance, and understanding (Falobi, 2022).

**Negative Impacts**

**Job displacement and unemployment**

The manufacturing sector in Nigeria has been significantly impacted by globalization, with many jobs being displaced as a result of increased competition from foreign firms (Adeyeye, 2023). According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2022), the manufacturing sector's contribution to Nigeria's GDP declined from 12.6% in 2010 to 9.2% in 2020. This decline has been attributed to the influx of cheap imported goods, which has made it difficult for local manufacturers to compete (Ogundipe, 2022). As a result, many manufacturing firms have been forced to downsize or close down, leading to significant job losses (Adeyeye, 2023). The textile industry, for example, has been particularly hard hit, with many firms

closing down due to competition from cheap imported textiles (National Bureau of Statistics, 2022). The impact of job displacement has been felt across the country, with many workers struggling to find new employment opportunities (Ogundipe, 2022). The Nigerian government has implemented various policies to address job displacement, including the establishment of the National Employment Fund (NEF) to provide financial support to workers who have lost their jobs (Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, 2022). However, more needs to be done to address the root causes of job displacement, including the need to improve the competitiveness of Nigerian firms and to promote economic diversification (Adeyeye, 2023). Furthermore, the government needs to invest in education and training programs to equip workers with the skills needed to compete in the global economy (Ogundipe, 2022).

**Economic Inequality and Poverty**

Economic inequality has been a persistent challenge in Nigeria, and globalization has exacerbated this issue (Ogundipe, 2020). The country's economic growth has been largely driven by the oil sector, which has benefited a small elite, while the majority of the population remains poor (Iwayemi, 2020). According to the World Bank (2020), Nigeria has one of the highest poverty rates in the world. The country's poverty rate increased from 35% in 2010 to 40% in 2020 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). This increase in poverty has been linked to the country's over-reliance on oil exports (Iwayemi, 2020). The decline of the manufacturing sector has also contributed to poverty and unemployment (Adeyeye, 2020). Furthermore, the country's trade policies, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) trade liberalization scheme, have led to increased imports of cheap goods, undermining local industries and exacerbating poverty (UNIDO, 2019). The impact of globalization on poverty and inequality has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (World Health Organization, 2020). The pandemic has disrupted global supply chains, leading to increased poverty and inequality (International Labor Organization, 2020). In addition, the pandemic has highlighted the weaknesses of Nigeria's healthcare system, which has been unable to cope with the surge in cases (WHO, 2020). The government has implemented various policies to address poverty and inequality, but these efforts have been hindered by corruption and poor governance (Transparency International, 2020).

To address poverty and inequality, Nigeria needs to adopt a comprehensive approach that addresses its economic, social, and governance challenges. This requires a commitment to inclusive growth, poverty reduction, and social justice. The government must also address corruption and poor governance, which have hindered efforts to address poverty and inequality. Furthermore, Nigeria needs to diversify its economy, investing in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services. The country also needs to invest in human capital, particularly in education and healthcare. This will require significant investment in infrastructure, including roads, ports, and energy. In addition, Nigeria needs to strengthen its institutions and governance structures to ensure that policies are implemented effectively. The country also needs to address environmental degradation, particularly in the Niger Delta region. This will require significant investment in environmental protection and sustainable development. Overall, addressing poverty and inequality in Nigeria will require a sustained commitment to inclusive growth, poverty reduction, and social justice.and governance structures.

**Environmental Degradation:** Globalization has had a devastating impact on Nigeria's environment, leading to widespread degradation and pollution (Adeyeye, 2020). The influx of foreign companies and industries has resulted in the exploitation of Nigeria's natural resources, including oil, gas, and minerals (Ogundipe, 2022). This exploitation has led to environmental degradation, including deforestation, soil erosion, and water pollution (Eboh, 2022). The Niger Delta region, which is home to Nigeria's oil industry, has been particularly affected, with widespread oil spills and pollution (Ikelegbe, 2020). The environmental degradation caused by globalization has had severe consequences for Nigeria's ecosystems and biodiversity (Adeyeye, 2020). Many species of plants and animals are facing extinction due to habitat destruction and pollution (Ogundipe, 2022). The environmental degradation has also had significant impacts on human health, with many communities suffering from respiratory problems and other health issues due to air and water pollution (Eboh, 2022). Furthermore, the environmental degradation has also had economic impacts, with many communities losing their livelihoods due to the destruction of their natural resources (Ikelegbe, 2020). The Nigerian government has been criticized for its lack of action in addressing the environmental impacts of globalization (Adeyeye, 2020). Many have argued that

the government has prioritized economic growth over environmental protection (Ogundipe, 2022). However, there are also efforts underway to address the environmental impacts of globalization in Nigeria (Eboh, 2022). For example, the Nigerian government has established the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) to regulate environmental pollution (NESREA, 2020). Additionally, many civil society organizations are working to raise awareness about the environmental impacts of globalization and to promote sustainable development in Nigeria (Ikelegbe, 2020). Overall, the negative impact of globalization on environmental degradation in Nigeria is a significant concern that requires urgent attention from the government, civil society, and the international community.

**Nigerian State's Vulnerabilities to Conflict and Instability**

Globalization has led to an increase in the movement of people, goods, and services across borders, which has created new security challenges for Nigeria. The country's porous borders and lack of effective border control have made it vulnerable to external threats, including terrorism, human trafficking, and arms smuggling. The Nigerian state's vulnerability to conflict is also exacerbated by its dependence on imported goods, particularly food and fuel. The country's agricultural sector has been neglected, leading to a reliance on imported food, which has created economic and food security vulnerabilities.

Furthermore, globalization has led to an increase in the activities of multinational corporations (MNCs) in Nigeria, particularly in the oil and gas sector. While MNCs have brought in much-needed investment and technology, they have also been criticized for their environmental and social impact, including pollution, displacement of communities, and human rights abuses.

The Nigerian state's inability to regulate the activities of MNCs and protect the rights of its citizens has created an environment conducive to conflict. Local communities have clashed with MNCs over issues such as environmental degradation, displacement, and unfair compensation, leading to violence and instability.

In addition, globalization has led to an increase in the spread of ideologies and extremist ideas, particularly through social media. This has created new security challenges for Nigeria. The Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria is a prime example of the country's vulnerability to conflict. The group's ability to exploit the region's poverty, inequality, and lack of access to basic services has enabled it to recruit members and spread their ideology through social media, and carry out attacks with relative ease.

The Nigerian state's vulnerability to conflict is also exacerbated by its lack of effective institutions and governance structures. Corruption, nepotism, and patronage have undermined the effectiveness of institutions, creating an environment conducive to conflict.

Nigeria's porous borders and lack of effective border control have made it vulnerable to external threats. The country's borders are often used as transit points for arms, drugs, and other illicit goods, which has contributed to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the region.

The Nigerian state's inability to provide basic services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure has created an environment conducive to conflict. The lack of access to these services has led to widespread discontent and frustration among the population, which has created an environment in which extremist groups can thrive. Nigeria's political system is also highly vulnerable to conflict. The country's politics is often characterized by ethnic and religious tensions, which has led to violence and instability in the past. The lack of effective institutions and the dominance of the ruling party have also contributed to the country's vulnerability to conflict.

Finally, globalization has led to an increase in the competition for resources, particularly oil and gas. Nigeria's reliance on oil exports has created economic and security vulnerabilities, as the country is highly dependent on a single commodity. The competition for oil resources has also led to tensions with neighboring countries, creating an environment conducive to conflict.

In conclusion, the Nigerian state's vulnerabilities to conflict as a result of globalization are complex and multifaceted. The country's dependence on imported goods, its lack of effective institutions and governance structures, and its reliance on oil exports have created economic, social, and security vulnerabilities. Addressing these vulnerabilities will require a comprehensive approach that takes into account the country's economic, social, and security challenges.

**Breaking the vicious cycle of globalization, unemployment, poverty, inequality and insecurity:**

The effects of unemployment on democratic development in Nigeria are multifaceted. Unemployed youths are often manipulated by politicians and used as militants, thugs, or foot soldiers to disrupt the electoral process, causing violence and insecurity. This not only undermines democratic stability but also hinders economic development, as investors are deterred by the lack of security.

Furthermore, unemployment contributes to ethnic and religious crises, as idle minds are more prone to negative influences. The exploitation of unemployed youths to disseminate ethno-religious clashes has become a significant threat to Nigeria's democracy.

The Nigerian government's failure to provide job opportunities and ensure a decent standard of living has led to widespread disillusionment among citizens. This disillusionment erodes trust in government and undermines democratic development, as people become less concerned with the governance process.

To address these challenges, Nigeria needs to prioritize job creation and economic growth. This can be achieved by investing in sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and services, and promoting entrepreneurship and small-scale enterprises. Additionally, the government must address the root causes of unemployment, including corruption, inadequate education, and infrastructure deficits.

Ultimately, Nigeria's democracy can only thrive in an atmosphere of economic stability and growth. Addressing unemployment is critical to achieving this stability and ensuring that democracy delivers dividends to all citizens.

Africa and Nigeria can break away from the negative impacts of globalization by adopting policies that promote inclusive economic growth (AfDB, 2020). Inclusive economic growth refers to economic growth that is equitable, sustainable, and benefits all segments of society (World Bank, 2022). To achieve inclusive economic growth, Africa and Nigeria need to adopt policies that promote equitable economic opportunities and reduce inequality (UNDP, 2020). One way to achieve this is by investing in education and skills development, particularly for women and youth (World Bank, 2022). This can help to increase access to better-paying jobs and reduce poverty and inequality (AfDB, 2020). Another way to promote inclusive economic growth is by supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are critical for job creation and economic growth (ILO, 2020). Governments can support SMEs by providing access to finance, technology, and markets (UNIDO, 2020). Additionally, Africa and Nigeria need to promote economic diversification, by investing in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services (AfDB, 2020). This can help to reduce dependence on a single commodity, such as oil, and promote more sustainable economic growth (World Bank, 2022). Furthermore, Africa and Nigeria need to strengthen their institutions, promote good governance, and address corruption, which is a major obstacle to economic development (Transparency International, 2022). By adopting these policies, Africa and Nigeria can break away from the negative impacts of globalization and achieve more inclusive and sustainable economic growth (UNDP, 2020).

**Social Protection**: lobalization has exacerbated poverty, inequality, and social exclusion in many developing countries, including Nigeria. To break this cycle, it is essential to implement social protection programs that provide basic services, support vulnerable populations, and reduce poverty. Social protection programs can help mitigate the negative impacts of globalization by providing a safety net for the poor and vulnerable, ensuring access to basic services like healthcare, education, and food security.

Implementing social protection programs can reduce poverty and inequality by transferring cash or assets to marginalized groups, promoting social cohesion and inclusivity by addressing the needs of disadvantaged populations. Moreover, social protection programs can enhance human capital and productivity by investing in education, training, and healthcare.

In Nigeria, social protection programs can be designed to address specific challenges posed by globalization. The National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) can be expanded to provide more comprehensive support to poor and vulnerable populations. A national unemployment insurance scheme can be established to support workers who lose their jobs due to globalization. Social health insurance programs can be implemented to ensure access to healthcare for vulnerable populations.

By implementing these social protection programs, Nigeria can break the cycle of globalization and promote more inclusive and equitable economic growth. This can be achieved by providing financial support to poor households that invest in human capital, supporting workers who lose their jobs due to globalization, ensuring access to healthcare for vulnerable populations, and providing food assistance to poor households.

Ultimately, social protection programs are critical in mitigating the negative impacts of globalization and promoting economic growth that is inclusive and equitable. By investing in social protection, Nigeria can create a more just and equitable society, where all citizens have access to basic services and opportunities to thrive.

**Conflict Prevention**: this is a critical component of breaking the cycle of globalization which has been linked to increased insecurity and conflict in many developing countries, including Nigeria (Bush, 2017). To break this cycle, it is essential to implement conflict prevention initiatives that address the root causes of insecurity, promote dialogue, and build social cohesion (United Nations, 2020). Conflict prevention initiatives can help mitigate the negative impacts of globalization by addressing the underlying drivers of conflict, such as poverty,

inequality, and social exclusion (World Bank, 2020). These initiatives can also promote dialogue and build social cohesion by bringing together different stakeholders, including community leaders, civil society organizations, and government officials (International Crisis Group, 2020).

In Nigeria, conflict prevention initiatives can be designed to address specific challenges posed by globalization. For example, initiatives can be implemented to address the root causes of the Boko Haram insurgency, such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion (Varin, 2016). Additionally, initiatives can be implemented to promote dialogue and build social cohesion between different communities, such as the Muslim and Christian communities (Kendhammer, 2016).

Examples of conflict prevention initiatives that can be implemented in Nigeria include community-based initiatives, such as the Community-Based Conflict Prevention Initiative, which brings together community leaders and members to address the root causes of conflict (Search for Common Ground, 2020). Another example is the Nigeria Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding Initiative, which promotes dialogue and builds social cohesion between different communities (Nigeria Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding Initiative, 2020).

By implementing conflict prevention initiatives, Nigeria can break the cycle of globalization and promote more inclusive and equitable economic growth. This can be achieved by addressing the root causes of insecurity, promoting dialogue, and building social cohesion (United Nations, 2020).

**Global Governance:** Globalization has created a complex web of economic, social, and political relationships that transcend national borders. However, the benefits of globalization have not been evenly distributed, with Africa being one of the regions that has been left behind (African Development Bank, 2020). To address this imbalance, it is essential to strengthen global governance by reforming international institutions and agreements to regulate globalization and protect African interests (United Nations, 2020).

Strengthening global governance requires a multifaceted approach that involves reforming international institutions, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank, to make them more inclusive and responsive to African needs (African Union, 2020). This can be achieved by increasing African representation in these institutions, promoting African voices and perspectives, and ensuring that African interests are taken into account in decision-making processes (Economic Commission for Africa, 2020). Additionally, global governance can be strengthened by promoting international agreements and frameworks that regulate globalization and protect African interests. For example, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement aims to create a single market for African goods and services, promote economic integration, and increase Africa's competitiveness in the global economy (African Union, 2020). Similarly, the Paris Agreement on climate change aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development, which is critical for Africa's economic growth and development (United Nations, 2020).

In Nigeria, strengthening global governance can help to promote economic growth and development by increasing access to international markets, promoting foreign investment, and improving the business environment (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Additionally, strengthening global governance can help to address global challenges, such as climate change, pandemics, and terrorism, which have significant impacts on Nigeria's economy and society (Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2020).

In conclusion, strengthening global governance is critical for regulating globalization and protecting African interests. By reforming international institutions and agreements, promoting African representation and voices, and addressing global challenges, Africa can promote economic growth and development, reduce poverty and inequality, and improve the living standards of its people.

**Summary**

Globalization refers to the increasing interconnectedness of the world's economies, societies, and cultures, facilitated by advances in technology, transportation, and

communication. This has led to the free flow of goods, services, ideas, and capital across national borders.

Globalization has had a profound impact on developing nations, Africa, and Nigeria, bringing both benefits and significant challenges. While it has increased access to foreign investment, technology, and markets, it has also led to the exploitation of cheap labor, natural resources, and markets, exacerbating poverty and inequality. Additionally, globalization has resulted in unemployment and underemployment, dependence on foreign capital, and cultural homogenization, threatening the cultural identity and diversity of developing countries.

In Nigeria, globalization has had a devastating impact, with the economy dominated by the oil industry, leading to a decline in other sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing. The country's infrastructure is also in disrepair, making it difficult to attract foreign investment and promote economic growth.
To break the vicious cycle of globalization, developing nations, Africa, and Nigeria must adopt a range of strategies. This includes diversifying their economies, investing in human capital through education, training, and healthcare, promoting entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises, strengthening institutions to promote transparency and good governance, and promoting regional integration to increase trade and economic cooperation.

Furthermore, developing countries must implement social protection programs to protect their citizens from the negative impacts of globalization. This can include conditional cash transfers, unemployment insurance, and social health insurance. By adopting these strategies, developing nations, Africa, and Nigeria can reduce their dependence on foreign capital, promote economic stability, and achieve sustainable and equitable development.

Ultimately, breaking the cycle of globalization requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that takes into account the unique challenges and opportunities facing each country. By working together and adopting strategies that promote economic diversification, social protection, and regional integration,

developing nations, Africa, and Nigeria can create a more equitable and sustainable future for all their citizens.

**Conclusion**

The intricate relationship between globalization and poverty in Nigeria underscores the complexities and challenges faced by a nation rich in resources but burdened by high levels of poverty and inequality. While globalization has opened up avenues for economic growth and development, it has also exacerbated existing disparities, leaving a significant portion of the population vulnerable and marginalized. The historical context of neoliberal economic policies, particularly the implementation of Structural Adjustment Programs, combined with persistent governance challenges and the adverse effects of cheap imports, has created a landscape where the benefits of globalization are unevenly distributed.

As Nigeria navigates its path in an increasingly interconnected world, it is crucial to adopt a multi-faceted approach to poverty alleviation that prioritizes inclusive growth and equitable resource distribution. To address the root causes of poverty would require a comprehensive strategy that integrates economic, social, and governance dimensions.

**Recommendation**

1. Strengthening Governance and Institutions: The Nigerian government must prioritize improving transparency, accountability, and the rule of law to foster a conducive environment for equitable economic growth. Implementing anti-corruption measures and enhancing institutional capacity are critical steps toward ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to benefit the most vulnerable populations. This includes regular audits of public spending and the establishment of independent bodies to monitor government performance.

2. Promoting Inclusive Economic Policies: Economic policies should focus on supporting local industries and reducing dependency on imports. This can be achieved by providing incentives for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and local manufacturers, as well as investing in infrastructure that facilitates production and distribution. Additionally, implementing tariffs or trade

protections for vulnerable sectors can help safeguard local jobs and promote sustainable economic development.

3. Enhancing Human Capital Development: Investment in education and healthcare is vital for breaking the cycle of poverty. The government should prioritize funding for quality education, particularly in rural areas, and ensure that health services are accessible to all Nigerians. Programs aimed at vocational training and skills development can empower individuals to participate actively in the economy and adapt to changing market demands.

4. Leveraging International Partnerships: Nigeria should seek to strengthen its partnerships with international development organizations, NGOs, and other countries to access technical assistance, funding, and best practices in poverty alleviation. Collaborative efforts can enhance the effectiveness of programs aimed at promoting sustainable development and economic resilience.

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