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Economic Globalization and Nigeria's Natural Resources: Issues and Prospects

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria as a part of the international community is not shielded from the effects of economic globalization. This paper examines the interface between globalization and natural resources in Nigeria. The subjugation of the rights of the oil producing communities by the State – Global Oil Alliance have produced contradictions leading to cyclical poverty, environmental degradation, unemployment, negative transformation of the peasant economy, frustration and conflict. Pinning the discourse within the Economic Penetration and Integration Theory, the paper opined that the environmental conflicts in the Niger Delta as a result of the natural deposit in the area is directly linked to the presence of global actors in the region, the integration of the communities via oil production into global economic system with daunting negative effects. It argues that although globalization presents many opportunities, it exposes comparatively backward nations to many challenges. The paper suggests a revitalization of local economies and proactive measures in engaging the problems of environmental degradation. This will improve agricultural productivity, employment and restore peace.

Keywords: Economy, Globalization, Resources, Natural, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

As aptly captured by [1], economic globalization, entails the process of integration and interaction among people worldwide, has significantly increased the demand for natural resources. This surge in demand is largely driven by industrialization and consumerism, which are both by-products of globalization. Industrialization, particularly in emerging countries, has led to a rapid increase in the extraction and consumption of natural resources. These resources, including biomass, fossil fuels, metals, and minerals, are essential components of almost all industries in the global economy. However, high economic growth and industrialization require excessive resource consumption, which has accelerated the exploitation level of resources compared to their natural regeneration rate. This overexploitation has severely raised the risk of resource depletion. The demand for resources in a globalized economy presents a complex challenge. While natural resources enable direct foreign investment in a country and improve the standard of living of the locals, they also adversely affect the potential growth of the country in the long term. However, by improving institutional quality, having a good incentive program for the personnel engaged in the respective activities, and strengthening political stability, the country can counter the phenomenon of being trapped in a resource curse. The exploitation of ecosystems by humans has long-lasting consequences for the future provision of natural resources and ecosystem services. This exploitation may negatively affect the provision of food, increase health hazards, and increase the risks of natural disasters. Degraded ecosystems may be slow to recover or may not recover naturally even after their exploitation stops. Consequently, the availability of natural resources such as food, clean air, and other ecosystem services may be adversely impacted for extended periods if the ecosystems providing these resources become degraded [1]. For example, the emission of greenhouse gases may affect the global climate for centuries; invasive species and diseases may irreversibly damage ecosystems; and the non-sustainable harvest of fisheries and forests may leave these systems degraded for decades or even lead to their irreversible and permanent degradation. Since natural resources are limited, it has been widely recognized that a transition to sustainable harvesting is necessary. However, the optimal pathway and speed for this transition

constitute the focus of an ongoing debate. Over-exploitation of natural resources harms the health of ecosystems and the wellbeing of people. In the face of environmental crises and growing inequality, we need to act. This includes developing extended producer responsibility and supply chain legislation, guaranteeing green public procurement, supporting technical innovation to enhance resource circularity, and adopting decision-making processes that include and respect women, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. It is against this backdrop that this paper examines “economic globalization and Nigeria’s Natural Resources: Issues and Prospect.

Theoretical Orientation

For the purpose of this study, the economic penetration and integration theory of development is adopted. This theory is a variant of the Marxian theories and it is associated with scholars such as [2], and [3], among others. As an explanatory instrument, the theory explains the penetration or migration of capitalist in the backward regions and so influence some members especially the political class, in the peripheral state to legitimize their occupation of viable regions or enclaves in their territory [4]. The rise in organic compensation of capital and the decline in the rate of profit, place and lacuna on the capitalist, again for capital to refrain its viability, it must be able to reproduce itself. These contradictions resulted in the capitalist expansion to areas where the surplus value of labour is comparatively high and labour is cheap. Thus, Nigeria and indeed the Niger Delta were found handy. However, integrating a new region is made easy resting upon the political consideration of security. It follows therefore that, if the economic opportunity seems large but political security small, then full absorption into the extending economy tends to be frustrated until political power is exerted upon the region in question [5]. This fact is further highlighted by O’ Conner thus:

The precondition for a truly favourable investment climate is an indirect or direct control of internal politics in the backward regions. Economic penetration these fore leads to the establishment spheres of influence [6]. This above situation for some scholars is internal colonialism and false decolonization [7]. As a matter of fact, puppet governments represented by stooges, chiefs, politicians, big bourgeoisies, compradors or civil or military elements are positioned to run the affairs of the state under the supervision and control of the imperialists. To protect their investments and benefits, the state connives with the multinational corporations to promote disequilibrium and unhindered oil extraction. Several measures have been taken to ensure that the ungodly status – quo remains ranging from military repression, traveling in local political to sponsoring groups against each other as a deliberate divide and rule policy” This theoretical paradigm succinctly reveals the motive behind the economic penetration of capital via the multinational oil companies and how they control internal politics of the Nigerian State towards further exploitation and exploration of the limited natural resources at our disposal.

Literature Review

Globalization and Natural Resources Re-Examined

One of the most popular concepts in recent times is globalization. Globalization is a complex and multifaceted concept that has generated controversy from its meaning, its time line, its future as well as whether it is serving the interest of all or it is benefiting just a few countries or individuals in the world. Due to the fact that it cuts across almost all disciplines, each of the disciplines proffers varying definitions and interpretations for the concept. Although the existence of economic globalization has been demonstrated in empirical case studies, its definition still remains vague, elusive, and even contradictory. The lack of an essential definition has contributed, at least partially, to keep globalization as a highly contested subject [7]. The literature stemming from the debate on globalization has grown in the last decade beyond any individual’s capability of extracting a workable definition of the concept. In a sense, the meaning of the concept is self-evident, in another, it is vague and obscure as its reaches are wide and constantly shifting. Perhaps, more than any other concept, globalization is the debate about it. According to [8], economic, globalization is a concept which is synonymous with liberalization, internationalization, without borders etc. It is today applied to depict the economic mercantilism where goods and services from, across, states can be freely sourced without undue restrictions. The approximation of this idea is anchored on the reality of breakthrough in modern communication methods and technology. To him, the whole world is now made a compact and can be accessed with minimal deployment of energy as a global village. In clear terms economic globalization, refers to the free movement of goods, capital, services, people, technology and information. It is the action or procedure of international integration of countries arising from the convergence of world views, products, ideas, and other aspects of culture [9]. Economic globalization also refers to the process of the intensification of economic, political, social and cultural relations across international boundaries. It is principally aimed at the transcendental homogenization of political and socio-economic theory across the globe. It is equally aimed at "making global being present worldwide at the world stage or global arena". It deals with the "increasing breakdown of trade barriers and the increasing integration of World market [10]. Economic globalization is also the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa' [11]. [2], toed the same line of thought. He opined that economic globalization can be seen as an evolution which is systematically restructuring interactive phases among nations by breaking down barriers in the areas of culture, commerce, communication and several other fields of endeavor. Simply put, economic

globalization is the term used to describe the changes in societies and the world economy that result from dramatically increased international trade and cultural exchange. [12], also said, that economic globalization describes the increase of trade and investment due to the falling of barriers and the interdependence of countries.

The forms economic globalization can be said to be primarily the globalization of production, in the efficiency of long distance transportation, advances in telecommunications, the importance of information rather than physical capital in the modern economy, and by developments in science and technology.

[13], refer to economic globalization as “the growing economic interdependencies of countries worldwide through the increasing volume and variety of cross-border transactions in goods and services and of international capital flows, as well as through the rapid and widespread diffusion of technology and information.” Economic globalization involves economic integration; the transfer of policies across borders; the transmission of knowledge; cultural stability; the reproduction, relations, and discourses of power; it is a global process, a concept, a revolution, and an establishment of the global market free from sociopolitical control. It has helped to liberalize national economics by creating a global market place in which all nations must participate directly or indirectly: This undoubtedly led to growing activities and power of international financial investors mainly presented by multi-national corporations [14]. On the other hand, natural resources can be defined as “objects, materials, creatures, or energy found in nature that can be put to use by humankind” (Camp and Heath-Camp, 2009). Further, natural resources are categorized as renewable or nonrenewable. Renewable natural resources are those that are replenished in short time frames of a few months or years [15]. Examples of renewable natural resources are food, water, forests, and wildlife [16]. On the other hand, nonrenewable resources are those that cannot be restored by any processes in any definite time [17]. Examples of this are minerals, oil, gas, and coal [16].

Impact of Globalization on the Environment

Globalization can have both positive and negative effects on the environment. It can exacerbate environmental problems as well as provide new means for addressing them. However, the negative effects of globalization seem to outweigh its positive effects. Globalization has had a negative impact on the environment through deforestation. According to Wikipedia Encyclopaedia, globalization is often viewed as a root cause of deforestation. The overuse of natural resources due to increased demand and also the removal of ecosystems due to population growth have had a large negative impact on the environment. Extensive deforestation has occurred world-wide with the logging industry being fuelled by the need for disposable products. Thus, deforestation whether it is for an increase in demand or for expansion is causing a loss of biological diversity on the planet [16]. Nigeria is not exempted from the impact of deforestation. The country’s rain forest is depleting fast majorly as a result of international trade. [18], observed that, Under the current international law, trans-national corporations are free to promote their interests in any part of the world. They have continued to establish industries in various countries by destroying the natural forest and dismantling the source of the peasant farmers’ survival. Various plant and animal species are doomed to extinction owing to the loss of forest. Apart from contributing to the depletion of the ozone layer, deforestation also affects water cycle. Trees extract groundwater through their roots and release it into the atmosphere. When part of a forest is removed, the trees no longer evaporate away this water, resulting in a much drier climate. Deforestation reduces the content of water in the soil and groundwater as well as atmospheric moisture. Deforestation reduces soil cohesion, so that erosion, flooding and landslides occur. Globalization has brought about various forms of environmental pollution. Environmental pollution has been described as the contamination of the environment by biological, chemical, and or physical agents that are harmful to human, animal or plant, life and the general environment, and may arise through the natural events, industrial and human activities or the interaction of all [19]. Pollution of the environment is attributed to the increase in industries, burning of fossil fuels to run the industries, machines and for transport of both raw and finished products to different places. The activities of oil industries and multinational corporations in oil producing areas of the country, mostly in the Niger Delta area is a major source of environmental concern in the country. Oil industry activities – exploration, production, refining, and transportation – have caused widespread social and ecological disturbances. These include explosions from seismic surveys, pollution from pipeline leaks, blowouts, flaring, drilling floods, and refinery effluents, as well as land alienation and widespread disruption of natural terrain from construction of oil-related industrial infrastructure and installations. Oil producing areas in Rivers, Delta and Cross Rivers are most affected. The impact of the exploratory and extractive activities of global forces - Shell whose operation in Nigeria alone accounts for 14 % of its total global operations, Mobil Agip, Chevron, Texaco, Total, etc. - have basically affected the social organization of the Ogoni people and the Niger Delta in general [18]. One major activity of these multinational companies that has a tremendous environmental impact is gas flaring. According to the World Bank, by 2002 flaring in the country had contributed more greenhouse gases to the Earth’s atmosphere than all other sources in sub-Saharan Africa combined and yet this gas is not being used as a fuel (Friends of the Earth, 2004: 1-2). According to The News Magazine of 18 April 2011, the NNPC, in its May 2010 report, stated that of the 192 billion standard cubic feet (BSCF) of gas produced during the period, over 145 BSCF was flared. This is done at the detriment of the environment. All what flaring of gas does is to contribute to climate change which is already a major global threat, manifesting in food insecurity,

diseases, skin cancer, and also increasing rise in the cost of extreme weather damage. People living in the area where gas is being flared are the worst hit. The flares contain toxins, such as benzene, which pollute the air, resulting in respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis. Gas flaring is environmentally unethical and has contributed significantly to the degradation of the environment in the region. According to [20], this practice may have altered the vegetation of the area, replacing natural vegetation with stubborn grasses and the presence of these grasses indicates that the soil is no longer fertile for cultivation of crops. A major example could be seen in Opuama and Sekewu communities in the Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State in the region. It is evident that gas flaring has affected the ozone layer of the region leading to climate change that is unhealthy to crops cultivation. In other words, due to the intense heat that accompanies gas flaring, vegetation in the vicinity is bound to be affected as plants will not grow in such an area.

Globalization and Third World Natural Resource Extraction

The phenomenon of boomtowns and of various impacts from resource extraction is global in the sense that it affects many, but certainly not all, rural communities throughout the world. However, it is not a single, homogenous influence, but one with a diversity of effects, including violence against women. Indeed, “[n]atural resource extraction is soaked in history and in suffering” [21]. It is also fueled by globalization, that is, the spread of market economies to every country around the world and the exchange of goods and services across all national borders. Defining this concept is subject to much debate, but for the purpose of this article, following [22], globalization refers to: the increasing interdependency and interconnectedness of individuals, social groups, states and economies around the world. It is a complex process, but the single most compelling force behind globalization is the movement of capital and credit from investment, and resource and profit extraction by multinational corporations in global markets.

Multinational corporations “compose the bones and sinew of globalization” [23], and they are now more powerful than states [22]. Additionally, it is typically the poorer countries of the world that are most vulnerable to the corporate quest for profits. Furthermore, the setting for research on violence and natural resource extraction is nearly always rural, no matter the country of reference, because that is where the first step in the extraction process largely takes place, from diamonds to cobalt to oil and gas e.g. [24], [25], [26], [27], [28], [29], [30], [31], [32], [33]. Nonetheless, more prosperous countries such as Australia, Canada, the UK and the US are not immune to large resource companies seeking to mine iron ore, coal, and other natural resources in their rural and remote regions [34], [35], [28].

Ehrlich and Ehrlich (1991: 123) use this formula to assess the impact of human activity on the environment: $1 = \text{PAT}$ or $\text{Impact} = \text{Population, multiplied by Affluence, multiplied by Technology}$. Energy, its mobilization and use, is an important indicator of affluence. Mobilizations of energy include natural resource extraction. Energy use produces such material things as highways, smartphones, computers, homes, airports, plastics, air conditioners, and automobiles. Environmental destruction and degradation occur when mobilization effects are multiplied by use effects. For example, land is razed of its trees and other flora, as well as the natural environment of fauna is destroyed in order to strip-mine for extractive resources like coal, a significant source of carbon dioxide. Coal-using power plants are inefficient energy users (the technology factor) that contribute to global warming by emitting high volumes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The larger the number of people dependent on the products of coal-using power plants, the greater the harmful impact on the environment (the population factor) [36]. All of these negative consequences are frequently referred to in the contemporary literature as the “resource curse” [37], [38]. Natural resource extraction and the damage done by it are not new phenomena, but these are relatively new areas of criminological inquiry. Humans subject planet Earth to continual and multitudinous environmental harms, but for centuries “criminology stood on the sideline, leaving the study of environmental crime, harm, law, and regulations to researchers in other fields” [39]. Critical criminology was also guilty of this selective inattention. Currently, though, critical criminologists around the world are producing a wealth of what [37], label *green criminological scholarship*. Green criminology is the term that most observers and practitioners use to describe the investigation of the causes of, and responses to, threats and harms to the natural environment. Though green criminology is, thus far, mostly gender-blind [36], there is growing feminist criminological research on climate change and violence against women [8], and some scholars have started ecofeminist examinations of how humans’ relationship to nature is connected to gender, patriarchy, and violence against women [40]. The concerns of green criminologists, however, definitely merge with some rural critical criminologists’ interests, such as agricultural crime, both because change affects primary food production as a type of extractive industry, and because agricultural operations themselves are frequently the sources of pollution and other environmental harms [37]. Further, NGOs, such as Oxfam [41], dedicate themselves to examining gender inequality in extractive and agricultural industries in countries around the world.

The Environmental Impact of Resource Exploitation

The exploitation of ecosystems by humans has long-lasting consequences for the future provision of natural resources and ecosystem services. This exploitation may negatively affect the provision of food, increase health

hazards, and increase the risks of natural disasters. Degraded ecosystems may be slow to recover or may not recover naturally even after their exploitation stops. Consequently, the availability of natural resources such as food, clean air, and other ecosystem services may be adversely impacted for extended periods if the ecosystems providing these resources become degraded. For example, the emission of greenhouse gases may affect the global climate for centuries; invasive species and diseases may irreversibly damage ecosystems; and the non-sustainable harvest of fisheries and forests may leave these systems degraded for decades or even lead to their irreversible and permanent degradation. Since natural resources are limited, it has been widely recognized that a transition to sustainable harvesting is necessary [7]. However, the optimal pathway and speed for this transition constitute the focus of an ongoing debate. Over-exploitation of natural resources harms the health of ecosystems and the wellbeing of people. In the face of environmental crises and growing inequality, we need to act. This includes developing extended producer responsibility and supply chain legislation, guaranteeing green public procurement, supporting technical innovation to enhance resource circularity, and adopting decision-making processes that include and respect women, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities [7].

Socio-economic consequences: As energy sources are depleted, energy prices will increase, eg higher petrol prices and domestic fuel bills in the UK. This can have the result of leaving the elderly and those on low incomes in fuel poverty. In turn this could increase inequality and the gap between rich and poor could widen. Funding will be needed for research into alternative energy, and there are increased costs for exploration and extraction of existing energy sources.

Environmental consequences: Increased carbon emissions cause global warming with consequences including climate change and sea levels rising due to melting ice caps.

Air pollution from factories could increase as countries industrialise and exploit resources. The economic miracle in China is exploiting resources at a rapid rate and making Chinese cities, such as Beijing, some of the most polluted in the world. Ecosystems such as rainforests are under threat from exploitation as countries (eg Brazil) exploit their resources for development.

Political consequences: Global agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol have been negotiated with an aim to reduce carbon emissions. Such agreements require high levels of international cooperation. Governments risk losing public support as domestic fuel bills and petrol prices rise. People are forced to change their lifestyle, which is unpopular.

Multinational Corporations and Nigeria's Natural Resources

The effects of economic globalization in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. As we stated earlier on the economic globalization entails liberation and opening up. It suggests world without borders and hence with the presence of natural resources in Nigeria, many multinationals have taken up the advantage to explore as well as exploit these resources to their own benefit as well as to the benefit of the host countries. We shall examine the negative and positive effects of the presence of the multi-national corporations in Nigeria as a result of globalization. The first positive impact of economic globalization is on the area of foreign direct investment (FDI). Globalization entails improvements in technology, and big businesses or multinational corporations are those involved in such technologies. There has been the influx of foreign direct investment into Nigeria as a result of transfer of technology by MNCs. Investment in areas such as the global system of mobile communication (GSM) telecommunication has experienced heavy FDI. The operations of the Multinational corporation in the oil and gas sector has over time also led to an incremental level of foreign direct investment into the country, and this has been rising upward over time. According to [42], foreign direct investment flow into Nigeria rose to \$11billion in 2009 compared to early 2001 figures. The increased flow of FDI has direct impact in improvement of the Nigerian economy in many ways.

Secondly, we shall equally examine the facet of employment Opportunities. One of the most burning issues for developing countries is creation of employment opportunities for the teeming youth population. With the United Nations establishing the Global Compact in the year 2000 as an agenda to rally state and non-state actors to join forces in creating enabling social intervention programmes to advance youth development and undermine unemployment. Consequently, many Multinational companies (MNCs) aligned with this leading to job creation for many Nigerians. The existence of firms like MTN Nigeria, Chevron, Shell petroleum development company (SPDC), Exxon Mobil, Coca-Cola etc. has generated so such employment opportunities for young Nigerians. These employments come in the form of both skilled and unskilled labour. Local industries alone cannot afford to cater for the employment needs of Nigeria as that would have been catastrophic. In majority of cases, the job creation also spurs indigenous vendors in the business supply chain of Multinational companies. Through such approach the local companies are also able to create job opportunities for other Nigerians. This way, the MNCs systematically contribute to a critical mass of employment opportunities. The next education which remains a critical priority of for many developing countries like Nigeria, especially with education being one of the fundamental priorities of the sustainable development goals – SDG 4. It has been reported that Multinationals corporations have been contributing immensely to educational development in Nigeria. MTN, Chevron, Shell and a host of others in the country through their social investment portfolio have contributed to the educational advancement of Nigeria. This has come in the dimension of scholarships, for both males and females at the tertiary and secondary levels.

Organizations like Etisalat contributes to educational development in Nigeria by intervening in post-primary educational activities like: Adopt a school programme, STEM camps for girls to encourage science education, and career-counselling session as well as funding infrastructural development [20].

The United Nations Children's Educational Fund [43], reported that 10 million school-aged children in Nigeria did not attend school. In view of this, most Multinational corporations created portfolios for intervention in this educational backwardness. The subsidiary of the Royal Dutch Shell in Nigeria – SPDC established what is called the cradle – to – career programme (C2C) to provide access to quality education for hard to reach children of the poor in the Niger Delta Region. The programme affords these very poor but brilliant children the opportunity to be brought to Port Harcourt City and enrolled in five of the most expensive but quality schools in the state. Over the years the company has also supported in offering local and international scholarships to young Nigerians. Through her global memorandum of understanding (GMOU) framework the company has also funded infrastructural development projects in schools across the Niger Delta where she has her footprints as well as Nigeria as a whole. In general, Transnational corporations (TNCs) have played a critical role in the educational advancement of Nigeria. Finally, it is true that MNCs create employment opportunities and build the skills of their employees. However, there is need to understand that the MNCs are also advanced in terms of technology. That technological aspect is what they have failed to inculcate in the countries where they operate. How do we mean? Corporate social responsibility in the area of human capital development is lacking. The type of human capital development the MNCs embarked on locally is not the one that generates multiplier effects for the country, otherwise they would not have been bringing expatriates from abroad or mother countries to come fix technical issues in their business in Nigeria. There is the bit that we can say, that these corporations encourage human capital development but the point is, the measure of human capital development they deploy here is in the form of a disarticulated human capital development – that is to say it is not a sincere approach. There is still a dearth in the skill-pool of offshore gas engineers and deep-sea drilling instrumentalists in Nigeria because these companies want it to remain that way. To a large extent, they do this to create dependence on them going forward. On the negative side, economic globalization, these transnational corporations beyond the above contributions to Nigeria's development have also been viewed in the negative. Their role in the country has also attracted some critical dimensions. In this section we take a stab at a few. Firstly, the presence of MNCs in Nigeria, particularly in the oil and gas sector has come with attendant social issues. Multinational Oil Companies (MNOCs) in the country over the years have contributed enormously to the degradation of the environment. During their drilling operations as well as exploration activities, TNCs have destroyed farmlands, biodiversity as well as wildlife. The flora and fauna of the areas where they carry out their activities in the Niger Delta regions has been decimated. It is clear that in most cases the oil spillages are not operational spills (that is spills cause by the company's malfunctioning facilities) but third-party spills which is popularly called pipeline vandalization. In majority of cases, the response to such spills by the Multinational companies is usually inadequate. The combination of operational and third-party spills usually leads to loss of revenue to the Nigerian economy. [44], reports that the country lost N2.456 trillion in revenue in 2006, and about N2.97 trillion in 2008 due to the inadequacies of MNCs responses. Again, conflicts and violence are elements of war(s). They were known to be associated with inter-state relations in terms of inimical relationship with countries that usually led to loss of lives and property. In today's world of globalization, these have become elements of the global economy particularly linked to the Transnational corporations. It is known that in the developing countries like Nigeria, Transnational corporations are facilitators of conflicts and violence. Nigeria is a major producer of oil in Africa and her gas reserves are extremely very high as such Nigeria attracts a lot of investment from international businesses that come in the form of TNCs or MNCs. These companies have been fueling conflicts and violence across the oil rich region of the Niger Delta for many years, because they are in partnership with the leadership of the country who represent their selfish interests and that of the TNCs to the detriment of operational communities. Oil-rich communities in Nigeria have always protested for the right to be treated fairly by these MNCs, but the government would always support the MNCs. In the early 1990s there were a lot of protests against the MNCs but rather than assuage the demands of the protesting communities, government would send security operatives to quell protests violently. The government and the MNCs would instigate communities against communities and natives against their own. As such the regions has been embroiled in violence only until recently that there is respite in this violence due to the development of new framework for working with the communities engineered by the MNCs. It is the era of globalization, and transnational corporations dominate the global economy with operations cutting across all boundaries. Transnational or Multinational corporations are commercial organizations that are headquartered in one country but do business throughout the world. That means that TNCs or MNCs have a parent organization with subsidiaries in many other countries. MNCs transfer technology; they create employment and job opportunities for the local population of host countries and improve living standards and contribute to cash inflow for the countries where they operate like Nigeria. However, they have failed to distinguish themselves in certain areas also. This has brought them severe criticisms.

Economic Globalization and Natural Resources in the Niger Delta, Nigeria

More so, the Niger Delta in Nigeria, one of the world's most important wetland and marine ecosystems, has experienced severe environmental degradation due to extensive resource exploitation, particularly of oil and gas. From 1976 to 2006, the region experienced at least 7,000 oil spills, affecting over 2,500 square kilometres and causing widespread environmental damage through soil, water, and air pollution. More than 2.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas are flared daily in the Niger Delta. This not only emits greenhouse gases and other pollutants but also wastes a valuable resource that could be used for electricity generation or heating. Environmental problems in communities such as Bille, Andoni, Okirika, Emohua, and Ibaa are caused by oil spills, gas flaring, human activities, and water pollution. This has led to ecosystem destruction, resulting in issues like flooding and soil erosion and further impoverishment. Environmental degradation disproportionately affects the poor, who depend on natural resources for survival and energy and often lack the means to relocate from polluted areas. Overexploitation of forest and aquatic resources in the Niger Delta has led to a decline in species populations, with many now vulnerable to extinction due to unregulated exploitation. Exploitative practices driven by profit-seeking motives can lead to environmental degradation, hinder economic growth, create social inequalities, and violate human rights. As energy sources are depleted, energy prices will increase, leading to higher domestic fuel bills and gasoline prices. This can result in leaving the elderly and those on low incomes in fuel poverty, increasing inequality and widening the gap between rich and poor. From the foregoing, the question on the lips of an average Nigerian is whether our natural resources are a curse or a blessing. This is because, hardly a day passes, without reports in the international and local news media on the growing insurgency by armed militias in Nigeria's oil rich province, the Niger Delta. There are two incontrovertible facts about the Niger Delta region of Nigeria: First, it is a region of strategic importance to both the domestic and international economics. Secondly, it is a region of great and troubling paradox. It is an environment of great wealth as well as inhuman poverty. The dilemma of the region is that, its wealth and riches has become a source of poverty, squalor and curse to the people of the oil bearing communities. The truth is that, despite its invaluable contribution to the sustenance of the Nigerian State, the Niger delta is now home to some of Africa's poorest people and some of its worst cases of environmental destruction. In return for their generosity, and patriotism, Nigeria has rewarded the Niger Delta with severe neglect and abandonment, political and economic deprivation, mindless looting of revenue generated from the region, joblessness, biochemical poisoning through pollution, brutal military assaults (as well as occupation) (www.united1jawstates.com). Progress has been put in the reverse in most Niger Delta communities. For instance, the best Nigerian state could do to immortalize Oloibiri (where oil was first discovered) thus far has been the erection of a commemorative pillar cum foundation stone for a non-existent Nigerian institute for oil and Gas research besides the No. 1. Oil well in March 2001. It is truism that the power relations of the MNCs with their host states is said to be sophisticated, ruthless, hegemonical, secretive, unorthodox, exploitative, treacherous, greedy, opportunistic, criminalized and corrupt [45], [46]. They are self interested, insensitive and poorly responsive to local and regional dimensions of environmental issues [6] and hostile to civil society [47]. In the Niger Delta therefore, interest of the Oil multinational is squarely profit maximization and they thus disregard existing global environmental regulations and laws and capitalized in their weak and ineffective enforcement and implementation. Globalization has helped to reveal that, naked and surface gas flaming, non challant attitude to oil spillage cases, surface pipe laying etc are not obtainable in western countries, where same oil corporations operate. Natural gas, a bye-product of crude oil extraction, could earn the Nigerian government huge revenues.

But companies choose to flare it, mainly due to the high cost associated with harnessing gas and low penalty that flaring attracts. And because of the weak and dependent nature of the Nigerian state, gas flaring has continued unabated. Moreso, the Oil Multinational Corporations through their policies have been implicated in local conflicts through their pay offs to "pro-company groups, elites, militias and chiefs. Such pay offs have either been the object of conflicts or division within and between communities, while some of it has ended up for the payment for arms to unleash further violence on the groups or the oil companies themselves [46].

The impurity of oil multinationals, therefore have also fueled the crisis in the region. Therefore, it is not surprising that the consciousness of exploitation, marginalization and disempowerment has made the Niger Delta a region of deep rooted frustration, hence the escalating crisis. That is, the refusal of the Nigerian state to respond positively to the pens and placards of the Saro-Wiwa's era has created an environment of anger and desperation. Moreso, the dialogue option have equally failed because the Nigerian state have refused to implement numerous blue prints for development in the region. The youths have militarised the resource control struggle to press home their demands. The most potent militant group engaging in local resistance, but targeting a global audience is the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). MEND has launched daring raids into fortified oil installations onshore and offshore and kidnapped foreign oil workers, detonated explosive devices near oil compounds, and fought pitched battles on land and sea with Nigeria's military forces, and publicized its activities on various global media. That is by using the internet to send e-mails and images to the world's leading news agencies and local newspapers and even taking journalists to its camps in the swamps of the Niger Delta. It has however, gained most attention

internationally by its threats to “cripple the Nigeria Oil export [46], [47]. The advent of GSM in Nigeria, a product of globalization has improved communication. The militants are also using this medium to network and publicize their activities. Obviously, it appears that the militants anger is against government and oil companies which, in tandem with the Oloibiri metaphor are held responsible for the plunder and pollution of the Niger Delta.

Impact of the Niger Delta Crisis on Global Price of Oil

Oil Bunkering is a major factor in the Niger Delta crisis. There are two basic typologies of bunkering in the Nigerian oil industry, which include legal and illegal bunkering. As the name implies, legal bunkering refers to the activities of those licensed to lift crude oil by the Federal government. While illegal bunkering connotes the activities of those who carry out bunkering without government authorization. The illegal bunkering that presently characterize militant activities in the Niger Delta is a creation of the Nigerian State. The argument is that, those who are licenced to carry out bunkering legally are predominantly non-Niger Deltans. And secondly, those legal bunkers in collaboration with corrupt states officials and the oil companies introduce illegal bunkering in the region. Experience has shown and there is no denying the fact that, this infamous Nigerians and their foreign counterparts contacted able bodied unemployed youths in the Niger Delta to secure their illegal Bunkering barges to the high sea, where the crude oil is transferred to waiting vessels and money paid in hard currencies. The boys were then paid peanuts, and provided with arms to secure future trips from Customs and Naval patrols. As time goes on, the boys became conscious that, the job they are doing for their masters is highly profitable, and since they have mastered the trade, they decided to set up their own bunkering networks. Today, virtually all militant groups in the Niger Delta are involved in oil theft or bunkering which is made positive by globalization. All they need to do is to identify pipelines heading to the export terminals and then connect their drilling pipes to them. The violent insurgency in the region is thus driven by the lucrative oil smuggling business, and the proceeds are used to procure sophisticated arms and ammunitions. There is a direct link between globalization and oil theft in the region, because, crude oil tapped by gangs in the oil rich Niger Delta is sold to vessels waiting offshore for onward shipment to the global market [48]. In February alone, the Nigerian military intercepted 22 barges of stolen crude oil in the creeks of the Niger Delta. Although President Umaru Yar'Adua has called for international action to stop the illegal oil trade, and to categorize stolen crude from Nigeria as blood oil, not much has been achieved in that regard. Foreign business interests are arming the militants in exchange for stolen crude oil. The fact is that the price for crude oil per barrel in the international black market is very cheap, hence western capitalist want the crude desperately and that has continue to fuel the crisis. Nigeria loses about 100,000 barrels of oil per day to crude oil theft and that translates to about 10 million dollars per day. The report of the Technical committee on the Niger Delta estimated that the country lost about N8.84 trillion or 61.6 trillion dollars to oil theft and sabotage in the volatile region between 2006 and 2008. Crude oil is not sold in bottles, they use ships. Oil theft is therefore facilitated by the collaborating global actors which is a disadvantage of globalization. Globalized oil is emblematic of the social relations arising from the globalization of oil production and accumulation. This reflects the growing interconnectedness, world-wide of the following: highly industrialized oil consuming countries and developing oil producing countries, oil multinationals and local oil producing communities, and global and local civil society [49]. Due to the inter dependent and interconnectedness of the global economy, activities in a sub-structure, directly affects the whole. It is thus factual that where as globalization have facilitated the exploration and production of oil by multinational corporations from the West in the developing countries, it has also made it possible for the Niger Delta crisis to have an impact in the price of oil in the global market. Nigeria is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) since 1971, to maintain a favourable price for oil, OPEC allocated quotas for oil production to its members. The logic is that, unregulated production will lead to surplus oil for sale which will reduce the global price, while regulated production level will lead to stability and increase in the global oil price. Common sensically, the inability of any OPEC member state to meet up its quota of production will invariably result to the reduction in the supply of global oil and hence, increase in price. The production quota for Nigeria in 2008 was 2.45 million barrels per day. But presently, it is 3.2 million barrels per day. Be that as it, the activities of militants in the Niger Delta has made it impossible for Nigeria to realize its quota for production. Infact, the spate of militancy in the Niger Delta has made Nigerian oil fields among the most dangerous in the world. As a result of insecurity of our national borders and the proliferation of arms, armed militant groups operating in the Niger Delta have graduated to a new level of lethality, technical and tactical sophistication. The availability of AK47's in the Niger Delta has increased tremendously and the militant groups likely poses remote detonation and night vision equipment, as well as anti-aircraft missiles [31]. Statistics shows that production sometimes decline to as low as 1.6million barrels per day [9], which alters the global price of oil.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As we stand on the height of a future shaped by our actions today, the balancing act between resource exploitation and environmental sustainability becomes ever more critical. We are not just inhabitants of this planet; we are its stewards, entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring its health for generations to come. Our journey through the complex landscape of resource management in a globalized economy has shown us the challenges we face. But it has

also illuminated the path forward. A path paved with sustainable practices, global governance, and a collective commitment to preserving our natural resources. So, let's step forward into this future together, balancing our needs with those of our planet, and proving that we are indeed capable of this delicate dance. Because at the end of the day, it's not just about survival but about thriving for us and for our planet. While it is correct to say that globalization has both positive and negative impacts on the world, Nigeria inclusive, its negative impacts are very weighty. There is a need to urgently and effectively address these challenges arising from globalization. Without doubt, globalization is an irreversible process in accord with natural laws. Inasmuch as the pain caused by some aspects of globalization is undeniable, the real issue is whether the negative effects of its sweeping processes can be ameliorated - and the positive effects enhanced. This is because it is apparent that globalization has come to stay. There is a need for Nigerians to preserve their cultures in any way possible. It is a shame that many Nigerian children of this generation cannot speak their mother tongue or understand their cultures. Nigerians need to exploit the process of globalization to promote their cultures. For example, the internet can be employed to propagate the country's culture. There could be website where the youth could browse to learn proverbs and the rudiments of their cultures. There is, therefore, a need for a reassessment of how Nigeria has fared in the era of globalization. Science in a globalizing world has benefits that Nigeria can and should take advantage of. The era of computers, revolutionized telecommunication and the Internet is what the country cannot shy away from, but the positives of the times should be properly harnessed for the country to appropriately benefit from globalization. Instead of a consolidation of the cultures and values of the country, various dimensions of globalization continue to erode what makes this part of the world unique. Imitations and adoption of western values are being done at the detriment of the nation's essence of existence [49]. Nigeria needs to phantom how it will not be swallowed by globalization. Instead of total reliance on what the west is handing down, the country needs to encourage local production and industry. There is a need for Nigeria to demonstrate her beliefs in indigenous technical knowledge and skills, instead of being subjected to the mercy of globalization without being globalized in the real sense of it. The country must be proud of her heritage and way of life, instead of being submerged in the western way of life. Also, overdependence on oil, which is also a vehicle driving globalization, may spell doom for the country. There is a need for a return to agriculture as the mainstay of the country's economy. By doing so, it will reduce the dependence of the country on the western world. The existing government policy and regulation in the management and control of e-waste in Nigeria is inadequate and insufficient for proper management. There is a need for the government to pass laws to restrict and limit the flow of hazardous substances and discarded electronics into Nigeria. Also, only electronics manufactured by companies who comply with non-toxic components requirement and those with details informing consumers about the chemicals used should be allowed into Nigeria. Lack of data on the volume of e-waste imported into the country or generated domestically, constitute a primary challenge facing Regulators. From the above, the paper recommends the need to act, including developing extended producer responsibility and supply chain legislation, guaranteeing green public procurement, supporting technical innovation to enhance resource circularity, and adopting decision-making processes that include and respect women, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. The report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) calls for a new governance framework for the extractive sector, referred to as the "Sustainable Development Licence to Operate," and includes consensus-based principles, policy options and best practices that are compatible with the Sustainable Development Goals and other international policy commitments.

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