THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBALIZATION ON AFRICA: AN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PERSPECTIVE

BY

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ABSTRACT

The study looked at the socio-economic and political implications of globalization on Africa. The study found that the origin of globalization in Africa has to be understood as a historical process which has been going on for hundreds of years including the role transatlantic slave trade in the integration of the continent in the global market economy. However, Africa as a continent has not benefited much from the globalization process. It still finds itself in a marginal position in the global economy and information technology revolution. Africa lacks the capacity to conceptualize and analyze the politico-economic, socio-cultural and environmental implications of globalization including Information technology Transfer for its sustainable socio-economic development. African's sustainable development and competitiveness in the global economy is acerbated by the problem of brain drain to the industrialized countries.

The study recommends that the industrialized countries as the leaders and main beneficiaries of the globalization process must revise their conception of development, and thus globalization. They should realize that global economic growth without social, economic and cultural justice cannot be the norm for the international community to follow. It is imperative that sustainable development under globalization is measured in terms of the improvement of quality of standards of living for the vast majority of humans. The majority of the poor are in Africa. This should be reflected in terms of improved standards of living with regard to better education, health-care, increased employment opportunities for both male and female, increased life expectancy and a peaceful environment for sustainable development devoid of any form of conflicts.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The issue of globalization has over the past years grown to become one of the most recognized, misunderstood, and disputed phenomena's in recent history. Different people including academics and policy makers the world over have developed different understanding of what globalization means to them. Television analysts and political scientists alike have argued various aspects of the meanings and effects of globalization for some time now, however, to the global community at large, the realities of globalization continues to remain shrouded in both mystery and deception. Pressure groups ranging from environmental to religious formations from different parts of the world, demonstrated against various meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, with their own conceptualization of globalization. They were against the IMF, World Bank and the WTO which according to them, have formed an "unholy trinity of undemocratic institutions" perpetuating the exploitation of the developing countries and destruction of the environment.

Scholars such as Mittelman (1996) have defined globalization as including everything from the reorganization of production and international trade to the integration of financial markets. They argue that what is common in most definitions of globalization is the notion of "time-space compression" in which the unprecedented speed of transactions affects global political economy in unprecedented ways. Many of these scholars in their efforts to analyze the effects of contemporary globalization have come to the conclusion that "it" has rendered the classical notion of the nation-state all but meaningless.

Traditional understandings of the nation-state were most often associated with both realist and neo-realist theories which are based on the assumption that the traditional nation-state had comprehensive control over its territory and population, and a capacity to operate as a unitary/autonomous actor in an anarchic international system. At present time, these notions of the traditional nation-state can no longer hold true for the majority of nations in the South. Believers in this notion of the fall of traditional nation-states also believe that through globalization, nations in selected regions of the South have been collectively subordinated to a world-wide "market totalitarianism" to which no exception is tolerated, i.e., contemporary globalization has without question imposed the unprecedented power of a few overwhelmingly wealthy and powerful countries upon the many weaker states of the international system.

In his conceptualization of globalization, Henriot (1998) states that it is appropriate to understand globalization as an all encompassing concept that has political, economic, social and institutional dimensions. As a multidimensional construct, globalization means different things to different people. He elaborates that the global community including Africa has entered a new era in the relationship between power, finance, development, and labor, an era which at its core is globalized. What has set the context for conflict and cooperation in the post- Cold War period is an integrating yet disintegrating process known as globalization. This is further elaborated by Moses (1997) who states that every decade and or time period has its assortment of buzzwords, words that are used to describe the occurrence of various phenomena during a specific time and place in history. The buzzword for the latter half of the twentieth-century was clearly globalization. Globalization has become the buzzword most associated with the compression of the world into new patterns of production, integrated financial markets, and homogenization of cultures.

In their view, globalization should be seen as a process which is propelled by contradictory tendencies. On the one hand, economic globalization has unleashed productive forces throughout the world leading to the expansion of markets, the insertion of technology into the processes of production, and hence the improvement of productive capacities and massive increase in profits for multinational corporations. On the other, it has also manifested a tendency to fragment, differentiate, and marginalize social forces and countries incapable of catching up with its processes. The Christian Science Monitor (2003) argues that uneven development, having long been associated with capitalist expansion, is probably the most visible trade mark of globalization in its contemporary form.

The developments of new transportation and telecommunications technology systems have over the past few decades enabled humankind to conquer the influence of time and space. Without these new advances in the sciences, today's complex global economic system simply could not exist. However, the vast majority of humans on Earth, especially in the developing countries such as those of Africa have been excluded from participating in this technology revolution associated with globalization. Only those countries and regions that are already well suited into the reconfiguration of the global economy and its integrated production system in terms of control over access to technology, markets, and capital have realized the vast benefits that globalization offers to the few. As Africa is concerned, its countries in general lack both the technology and technical knowledge needed for participation in the integrated global production system, thus, Africans by and large have been regulated to bystanders in the age of globalization. Africa's inability to fully integrate itself into the technological age has led to its marginal status in the age of globalization.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

However, having eluded the ambiguity relating to the global understanding of globalization, the next most important question, is what does globalization mean for Africa? The main argument in this study is that while economic and other forms of globalization including information and communication technology have unleashed productive forces throughout the world leading to the expansion of markets, the insertion of technology into the processes of production, and hence the improvement of productive capacities and massive increase in profits for multinational corporations, they also manifest a tendency to fragment, differentiate, and marginalize social forces and countries incapable of catching up with its processes. Africa is one of the continents which is still in the marginal position in the globalization process. Uneven development, having long been associated with capitalist expansion, is probably the most visible trade mark of globalization in its contemporary form. Taking into consideration the forces of globalization discussed above, the study was directed by the following questions:

- What could be explained as the origin of the integration of Africa into the global economic system?
- What is Africa's position in the global market economy?
- What is African's position in the global information and communication technology (ICT) revolution?
- What is the impact of Africa's "brain drain "?

1.3 Rationale and Motivation for the Study

On the basis of the background provided above, one sees that globalization has greatly impacted and still impacts on the African continent historically, politically, economically, culturally and environmentally. As a student of international relations and international political economy, and above all as an African, I saw the necessity to interrogate further the effects of this global phenomenon and provide policy suggestions on how Africa can position itself positively in this global process. Moreover, the ideas emanating from this work will also provide new knowledge to other students of international political economy and related subjects and stimulate further discussions and research on Africa's position in the globalization process and economy.

1.4 Aim of the Study

To investigate the socio-economic and political implications of globalization on Africa from an international relations perspective.

1.5 Specific Objectives

- To provide a critical explanation of the origin of the integration of Africa into the global system;
- To interrogate Africa's position in the global market economy;
- To make a critical examination of Africa's position in the global information and communication technology (ICT) revolution; and
- To assess the impact of Africa's "brain drain "

1.6 Hypothesis

The major hypothesis of this study was that Africa's integration into the global economy for over five hundred years has brought very little sustainable socio-economic development to the people of the continent. The continent still occupies a subordinate position in the global economy.

1.7 Methodology

This was a survey of the socio-economic and political implications of globalization on Africa from an international relations perspective. Alreck (1995) notes that we are currently living in an "information society, i.e , our major problems and tasks no longer mainly center on the production of the goods and services necessary for survival and comfort. Our "societies," thus, require a prompt and accurate flow of information on preferences, needs, and behavior. It is in response to this critical need for information on the part of the government, business, and social institutions that so much reliance is placed on surveys. Today the word "survey" is used most often to describe a method of gathering information from a sample of individuals or institutions. This "sample" is usually just a fraction of the population being studied.

Surveys may involve multiple sources and methods of data collection and analysis. Researchers from different disciplines use the survey method to build upon theory, to produce new theory, to dispute or challenge theory, to describe and explain situations Bassie (1990). The study was mostly qualitative in approach. Examination of secondary data, interview with key persons and focus group discussions formed the basis of the data collection methods. This was meant to have a comprehensive understanding of the research problem and cross-referencing the data from the different sources.

1.7.1 Methods of Data Collection

According to Mouton (2002:67), data collection involves applying the measuring instruments to the people or the cases selected for the investigation. Data collection consists of both primary and secondary sources. In primary data collection, the researcher collects the data him/herself using methods such as interviews and questionnaires. For instance, in this study, both sources were used.

1.7.1.1 Interviews

Conducting interviews is a traditional method of social scientists for extracting information through well-placed individuals in the society and institutions. It is part of the ethnographic approach, often used in situations where access to official records or data is weak or non-existent. Where official records exist, it is used as a means to gain further insight by questioning key people about specific social, political and economic problems. Social scientists also use this approach within the field of social interactionist or ethno-methodological research. Key informant interviews consist of asking questions that are mainly semi-structured or open, allowing detailed, full answers from respondents. This approach contrasts with quantitative questionnaires, which allow only controlled and structured responses within narrow parameters (Brummett, 2003).

Against the above background interviews were conducted with a randomly selected sample of 50 key persons including researchers and postgraduate students from different international institutions involved in the matters related to the political economy of Africa. These included Africa Institute of South Africa, Development Studies Departments of the various universities within Southern Africa, the Institute of Global Dialogue, etc.

1.7.1.2 Focus Group Discussions

Another approach that was used in this study to collect data were focus group discussions with randomly selected groups of 6-10 people relevant to the study including postgraduate students in international relations in various academic and research institutions within and outside South Africa. A focus Group discussion is a semi-structured interview in which the discussant knows in advance the topics to be covered. The people to be included are known to have been involved in a particular situation/experience related to the research problem. Focus group discussions are different from other types of group interview in that, they focus on a particular topic and they rely on group dynamics in order to generate data. The interaction is mainly between group members themselves and not between the members of the group and the interviewer.

Group interactions were used in this research to generate data and as a source of data analysis. The assumption is that, there is an interaction that is productive in widening the range of responses, in activating forgotten details of political economic and international relations experience/knowledge and in releasing inhibitions that are part and parcel of interviews with individuals on complex international issues.

1.7.1.3 Examination of Secondary Sources

This formed the core of secondary sources of information. Documented sources from various institutions related to the research problem provided readily available information. These sources included past research reports, published books, journal articles and internet publications.

1.7.2 The Sampling Procedure

Sampling is that part of statistical practice concerned with the selection of respondents to the research design. Sampling procedure for this study was purposive. A purposive sample is one which is selected by the researcher subjectively. The researcher attempts to obtain sample that appears to him/her to be representative of the population and will usually try to ensure that a range from one extreme to the other is included Firebaugh (1997). Its advantages as non-probability sampling method are that it is cheaper, useful when a sampling frame is not available and study population is so widely dispersed that cluster sampling would not be efficient, and also helps in a situation where the researcher is not keen in working out what proportion of population gives a particular response but rather in obtaining an idea of the range of responses on ideas that people have on a particular research issue (Fowler, 2000). The sampling procedure in this study was purposive. The researcher targeted key persons such as researchers, lecturers, officials, postgraduate from different institutions which are related to the research problems such as Political Science and International Relations Departments of various universities within and outside South Africa and the SADC Region, Department of Foreign Affairs (South Africa), Institute of International Relations (South Africa), Institute of Global Dialogue, Africa Institute of South Africa, SADC Secretariat, etc. A total of 30 respondents participated in the study.

1.7.3 Reliability and Validity of Data

While reliability refers to the reproductibility of data, validity refers to the extent to which data is true. In conducting this research, optimum effort was made to ensure the validity and reliability of the research findings. Through triangulation and cross-referencing of the data using different methods and sources validation checks were made through all the phases of the research process to ensure the highest level of data accuracy. Information, which was unclear or missing, was clarified by returning to informants and relevant sources to review issues and explain concepts.

1.7.4 Data Analysis

Most of the data collected were qualitative. They included opinions and attitudes of the respondents towards the problem under investigation. The qualitative data in the form of audio taped interviews were transcribed. The data analysis process involved regular comparison of data from both primary and secondary sources. Content analysis was done on the interview and documentary data collected by substantiation of data with the theoretical concepts outlined in the theoretical framework. Fink (1999) defines content analysis as "any technique for making inferences by objectively and systematically identifying specified characteristics of messages." Content analysis (sometimes called *textual analysis* when dealing exclusively with text) is a standard methodology in the social sciences for studying the content of communication.

1.7.5 Research Sites

Apart from the primary sources collected through interviews and focus group discussions in the various institutions indicated above, secondary sources were gathered from academic departments of development studies, politics and international relations of various universities within and outside South Africa, research institutions such as the Africa Institute of South Africa, Institute of Global Dialogue, Foreign Affairs (South Africa), Department of Trade and Industry (South Africa), etc.

1.7.6 Ethical Considerations

One of the goals of ethics in research according to Fink (1999) is to ensure that no one is harmed as a result of research activities. Taking into consideration the fact that the study involved both primary (human sources) and secondary sources of data collection, ethical issues were taken into account. The researcher obtained the informed consent from all respondents, ensured the anonymity of informants, and guaranteed their confidentiality. In addition, while all sources of information are acknowledged, all forms of research misconduct, fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism, including misrepresentation of credentials, in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research have been avoided.

1.8 Organization of the Study

- Chapter one is the introduction. It provides the background, rationale, aim and objectives and methodology of the study;

- Chapter Two is a review of literature including theoretical discussions related to the research problem;
- Chapter Three examines the origin of globalization in Africa
- Chapter Four discusses Africa's position in the global market economy
- Chapter Five looks at Africa and global Information Technology and the problem of Africa's brain drain
- Chapter Six provides conclusion and recommendations

CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

An examination of related literature on the research problem was very important for the study because it provided insights into the work done by other researchers on the issues related to the research problem. It also helped the researcher to identify gaps in the existing literature on Africa and the globalization process, especially in this period when Africa is grapping with the challenges of economic liberation, unit and African Renaissance. The Chapter is divided into various sections and stipulated below.

2.1 The Meaning and History of Globalization

The concept "global" according to Mittelman (1996) implies the expansive interconnectivity of localities, spanning local sites of everyday social, economic, cultural, and political life, a phenomenon but also an spatial attribute, i.e. a *global* space or geography involving a domain of connectivity, spanning distances and linking localities to one another, which can be portrayed on maps by lines indicating routes of movement, migration, translation, communication, exchange, etc. Moses (1997) adds that whereas "globalization is" the physical expansion of the geographical domain of the global, i.e. the increase in the scale and volume of global flows and the increasing impact of global forces of all kinds on local life. Moments and forces of expansion mark the major turning points and landmarks in the history of globalization.

In his discussion of the history of globalization in Africa, Zeleza (2003) states that globalization in the continent is a historical process that began with the first movement of people out of Africa into other parts of the world. Traveling short, then longer distances, migrants, merchants, and others have always taken their ideas, customs, and products into new lands. The melding, borrowing, and adaptation of outside influences can be found in many areas of human life.

Although first studied by early political economists and their followers for purposes of comparative advantages in trade, at present, the global division of labor differs radically from the allocation of work and its rewards in Western classical times. North (1990) has defined the international division of labor as a set of relationships associated with the exchange of goods produced by individual units, namely, nation states. It is suggested that as the old international division of labor evolved, a small number of industrial countries provided capital goods and consumer goods to exchange for the Third World's primary products including those from Africa. However, this all changed when restructuring began involving the formation and expansion of a world market for both labor and industrial sites. Economic growth was gained by exporting manufactured/finished goods, not raw materials; the trade patterns of developing world would never be the same again.

Since the basic change in the international division of labor some fifty years ago, the newly industrializing countries (NICs) sought to transform their structures of production from an emphasis on labor intensive to capital and technology-intensive goods centering on high value added products. As The Spark (2000) notes that an emerging world market of labor and production has entailed a massive industrial relocation, the subdivision of manufacturing processes into multiple partial operations, major technological innovations, large-scale migratory flows and the feminization of labor.

Thus, the dichotomy that once existed between a select number of industrialized countries and the developing world including Africa, which provides primary resources, is no longer the dominant paradigm in the international system of trade.

Emeagwali (2003) identifies various contradictions that exist from within the international global system: (i) the social polarization that exists both among and within nations. According to this view the social structure of the world shaped by globalization takes the form of a three-part hierarchy. At the top of this hierarchy are people, who are integrated into the global economy, including everyone from the global economy managers down to the relatively privileged workers who serve global production and finance in reasonably stable jobs.

The second tier of the hierarchy includes those whose employment in the global economy is more precarious. An expanding category segmented by race, religion, and sex. At the bottom are those workers who are excluded from the global economy all together. These are the objects of global poverty relief. By analyzing the first contradiction, it becomes apparent that whole regions of Africa belong to the bottom level of this hierarchy. It is argued that polarization is increasing within the so-called rich nations of the North with high levels of unemployment, a decrease in high paying jobs compelled with an increase in low paying jobs. In his opinion, tiny segments from the poorer nations are successfully integrating into the world economy network; while on the other hand, the developed nations are starting to generate Third Worlds of their own from within.

(ii) The second contradiction concerns the loss of autonomous regulatory powers of the nation-state. In practice, states and intergovernmental organizations have for some time played the primary role of enforcing the rules of the global economy and in enhancing national competitiveness. however, their powers of shielding domestic economies from the negative effects of globalization has steadily diminished over the past few years. Up to now, the proscribed cure for these negative effects has generally called for more globalization.

(iii) In the third contradiction of globalization, it is envisaged t that there exists a widespread but uneven tendency toward decomposition of civil society. The decomposition of the civil society occurs through the fragmentation of social forces and of a growing gap between the base of society and political leadership. It is also indicated within the third contradiction that politicians are thought of as a distinct category of beings, serving their own interest—usually regarded as either being corrupt or incompetent. Here, people have lost confidence in their politicians due to wide spread corruption and or strongly held convictions that politicians do not understand and cannot resolve the major problems confronting their societies. In sum, communities from within the poorest nations are beginning to turn their backs on state and international organizations due in part that they are seen as enemies of the people rather than as communal trustees. This brings in the need to interrogate the concept of "globalization".

Zeleza (2003) states that globalization means different things, to different peoples, at different levels. For example, when politics and economics are use as the level of analysis, globalization then could be understood as the process of the denationalization of markets, politics and legal systems, i.e., the rise of the so-called global economy. The consequences of this political and economic restructuring of local economies, human welfare and environment are the subject of an open debate among international organizations, governmental institutions and the academic world. When referenced to business, globalization applies to those companies who decide to take part in the emerging global economy and establish themselves as players in foreign markets. First they will adapt their products or services to the final user's linguistic and cultural requirements then, they might take advantage of the ICT revolution and establish a virtual presence on the international marketplace with a multilingual corporate web site or even as an e-business.

Stein (1994) states that though not mentioned here for procedural reasons, the role of globalization in the West's attempts to develop "global culture or McWorld" is none the less very significant. The effect globalization has had on all cultures throughout the world is both immense and diverse. It has affected people's cultural behaviors in different ways. It has forced people to change their living ways and thus their respected cultures in order to accommodate to the ever approaching new world order.

Globalization in Africa and as well as for the rest of the world involves one fundamental project: that of opening and liberalizing the economies of all nations to the global market and its forces. On the basis of this globalization is seen as a conscious programme, developed by the Western powers for the reconstructing of international commerce and political relations in line with a particular set of interests that are in accordance with the profit motivations of large scale businesses and transnational corporations of the advanced industrial countries; this definition also includes the acknowledgement of the spread of the new world order dogma that lends to private enterprise and the free market as the center for all human development here on Earth.

2.2 The Challenges of Globalization

In his discussion of the challenges of globalization in Africa, Ada, et al (2002) argues as follows: First, globalization is multi-faceted, with many important dimensions - economic and social, political and environmental, cultural and religious - which affect all people in various ways. Its implications range from the trade and investment flows that interest economists, to changes that people see in their everyday lives: the ease with which we can talk to people all over the world; the ease and speed with which data can be transmitted around the world; the ease of travel; the ease with which we can see and hear news and cultural events around the world; and most extraordinarily, the internet, which gives us the ability to access the stores of knowledge in virtually all the world's computers. Equally significant, the internet technology is not particularly capital intensive - but it is human capital intensive, and therein lies one of the implications of globalization for economic and social policy.

Second, globalization is not new. Economic globalization is as old as history, a reflection of the human drive to seek new horizons; globalization has usually advanced, though it has sometimes receded - most importantly, during the 1930s, the prelude to World War II. The pace seems to have picked up in recent decades, thanks to three driving forces: improvements in technology; the lowering of barriers to trade and capital flows - reflecting the acceptance by economists, citizens and policymakers that this is the way to greater prosperity; and the questing human spirit. The world is increasingly moving towards becoming one – but all humans and societies like also to retain their particularity.

Third, the past half century has seen not only intensifying globalization, but also historically spectacular growth. This relationship validates the vision of the founders of the post-World War II economic system built around the IMF, the World Bank, and what eventually became the WTO. But many of the world's poorest countries - many of them in Africa - have not seemed to benefit. Globalization seems to have passed them by.

Fourth, there is no point in asking whether we should be for or against globalization. The problem is summarized in some of the signs seen in demonstrations against the Bretton Woods institutions: "Worldwide coalition against globalization". However, globalization is here to stay: the reality is that we already live in a global economy - where flows of trade, capital and knowledge across national borders are not only large, but also are increasing every year. Countries unwilling to engage with other nations risk falling farther behind the rest of the world in terms of both income and human development. That way lies the very real threat of marginalization.

Rather, the right set of issues to raise is how best to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the growth and growing openness of the world economy; how best to live with the unavoidable difficulties that globalization may bring; and how to modify the system to make it operate better. I shall concentrate on economics, even though I suspect that much of the emotional reaction to globalization derives from its non-economic aspects. And I shall concentrate on Africa.

2.2.1 Economic Policies for a Globalized World

What should policymakers, especially African policymakers, do to reap the benefits of economic globalization? The Inter national Monetary Fund (IMF) list the following: sound macroeconomic policies, better governance, legal and financial reform, privatization, price liberalization and infrastructure investment. These are all critically important, but they need also to be critically examined. For instance, trade liberalization and effective social spending. First, trade liberalization, which helps open economies up to competition and deepens their integration into the world economy. Sub-Saharan Africa is less open to international trade than other developing regions. Several studies have shown that liberalization should improve the region's trade performance significantly and thereby spur the growth of productivity and incomes (World Bank, 1997).

Some African countries have made major progress in liberalizing trade over the past several years. For example, in recent years there has been important progress in adopting a common trade policy and a relatively open customs union in CEMAC. This will contribute not only to trade liberalization within the region but also to a considerable reduction and simplification of the region's external tariff structure. Such progress could now be strengthened and extended to other parts of sub-Saharan Africa - and the recent decisions in ECOWAS, as well as the revival of the East African trade bloc are also promising. Given the number of overlapping trade blocs in

Africa, rationalization of their structure would be desirable. In light of the small size of many African economies, the impulse to regional integration is extremely important - but regional integration will help increase long-term growth only where it is truly trade increasing and not an attempt to erect new protectionist blocs (Sach, et al 1996).

Progress on trade liberalization in Africa should be matched by the opening of advanced country markets to the exports of African producers. In particular, the advanced economies should lower the effective protection on goods of interest to sub-Saharan African countries, such as clothing, fish, processed foods, leather products, and agricultural products more generally (World Bank, 1997).

Second, is the importance of effective social spending. Globalization delivers its economic benefits in part by promoting change, the rise and fall of different industries and economic activities. The process is not a painless one. Economists talk in the abstract about labor moving from low productivity to high productivity uses. But it is individuals and families who have to do the moving. If they feel threatened and unable to cope with the process of change, they will resist it and the economic benefits will be lost.

The answer is to invest in the human capital of the poor - increasing their access to health, education and economic opportunity - as well as to provide a cushion during the process of adjustment, in the form of efficient social safety nets. In the past the IMF paid too little attention to this need, but it is now give the right priority in the programs its supports through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility, in partnership with the World Bank. One result is that when poor countries need to get their budgetary house in order to ensure the sustainability of the growth on which long-term poverty reduction depends, IMF takes into account the need to protect productive social spending from budget cuts.

In fact, among the low-income countries that have received IMF support since 1985, per capita spending on both health and education has risen by more than 4 per cent a year on average. But this masks big variations by country and for much of that period gains in education spending in Africa were much smaller. In this globalizing, rapidly changing world economy, investment in education takes on special significance. The new technologies are knowledge and skill intensive, and there is a need to train people to work with those technologies. But the training cannot be too narrow, for adaptability to change is another key to success in the modern world. The generation gap in dealing with computers is obvious to every parent, and the benefits of starting where possible with young schoolchildren are obvious. Of course, this requires money, and here there is a special role for donors.

2.2.2 The HIV Pandemic and Globalization

Haider (2003) shows that the HIV/AIDS pandemic is exacting a heavy toll in human lives. It is not only a humanitarian tragedy on an extraordinary scale, but it is also a potentially massive economic disaster for the continent. All the more reason, then, to seek to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS through public health policies that have worked in several African countries, including Uganda.

As important as the amount of money spent is the way it is spent. This underlines the importance of good expenditure management, so that poverty reduction priorities are addressed within a well-run overall budget. Uganda's Poverty Action Fund has been one successful approach, channeling extra resources into primary education, primary healthcare and tackling AIDS. In Cameroon, public spending on education and health are to be increased steadily in coming years, with the proceeds of debt relief under the HIPC initiative being targeted to six poverty reduction priorities. But the authorities have wisely chosen to use the windfall from higher oil prices to repay debt and build reserves, in effect saving for social spending in the future as greater administrative capacity is put in place and the money can be used more productively.

There are useful lessons here for the beneficiaries of the HIPC initiative. Twenty two countries - 18 of them in Sub-Saharan Africa - are already at the point at which they are beginning to receive debt relief under the initiative. On average it is reducing their debt service obligations by half. It is essential that these resources be used effectively for poverty reduction, both for its own sake, but also because waste will play into the hands of those who argue that aid flows are squandered and should be reduced.

2.2.3 The Role of Industrial Countries

Turning now to how to make globalization work better, the international community has a responsibility to provide an external environment that will allow Africa to fulfill its potential. Auer (2003) indicates that the industrial countries bear a particular responsibility in four areas:

- First, as already mentioned, by guaranteeing African exporters unfettered and tariff-free access to their markets, especially for agricultural products.
- Second, to support countries that are trying to boost growth and tackle poverty by increasing aid flows and guaranteeing them over longer periods.
- Third, by doing more to help Africa bring peace to its war-torn regions. In addition to direct efforts to resolve and prevent conflict, this means restraining arms sales and countering the smuggling of raw materials and natural resources to finance wars.
- Fourth, by helping the continent fight the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

2.2.4 International Institutions

Concerning the role of international institutions, World Bank (2002) states that the IMF, the World Bank, and the GATT and WTO, were set up as part of an implicit bargain: that countries that elected to play by the rules of the international system, would be helped both by the basic pro-growth design of the system, and by loans and other assistance when in special need. This explains why thee IMF has been so intensively engaged in seeking to improve the ability of the Fund and the international economic system to prevent massive crises of the types seen in the last decade, and to mitigate them when they occur.

On the issue of the unequal representation of developing countries including Africa in the international institutions which has been raised in various forums, the IMF argues that its Executive Board prefers to work by consensus because the quality of the representation and the number of voices, as well as the share of votes, is important. With regard to the quality of African representation, the Executive Directors from sub-Saharan Africa are first rate representatives of their constituencies. However, their constituencies have many members, and consideration could be given to providing each of them with extra resources to deal with the exceptionally heavy workload (World Bank, 1997).

CHAPTER THREE
THE ORIGIN GLOBALIZATION IN AFRICA

This chapter interrogates the origin of the globalization of Africa. This is based on the argument that understood as a historical process, Africa and the world at large has been globalizing for a long time, although the process accelerated rapidly during the course of the twentieth century. Africa has been an integral part of these processes, central to the construction of the modern world in all its ramifications, i.e. economic, political, cultural, and discursive, over the last half millennium. This is, however, not to argue that Africa's involvement and contributions to globalization have necessarily been beneficial to its peoples. On the contrary, Africans have paid a high price over the last 500 hundred years in the construction of a more integrated world. Amin (2001) emphasizes this point when he states that the notion of Africa's marginalization which implies, on the one hand, that the continent, or much of it, is out of the global system or integrated into it only superficially, and on the other, that the poverty of African peoples is precisely the result of their not being sufficiently integrated into the global system, is not borne out by the facts.

3.1 The History of Globalization in Africa

Africa is often described as a victim of globalization. However, analyst Okechukwu Wright (2004) argues that the continent's developing states can join together to make the process work in their favor. On the theory that a rising tide lifts all boats, incorporating African industries into global markets can improve everyone's level of wealth. Imports of gadgets, modes of organization and "neo-liberal values" can lead to growth for developing nations and increase wealth and freedom for Africans. Yet for Africa to harness the economic and social gains of globalization, its members must enhance their regional institutions. Before Africa can effectively cooperate with the world, it must strengthen internal collaboration. He argues that such cooperation will deliver security, values and economic strength to the continent, making Africa an effective player on the global stage.

The question posed is that if Africa has been integrated into the global system for over half a millennium, then why do its nations continue to rank amongst the lowest in the world in terms of global trade and quality of life standards? Zeleza (2003) answers this question by suggesting that Africa's integration should not be measured by degrees, for Africa is highly integrated. Rather the question ought to be about the manner of Africa's integration, why its integration over the last five hundred years has produced little auto centered development, i.e., economies that are simultaneously inward looking and open, are integrated in the global system in a active not passive way, shaping but not always adjusting to it. Thus, in order to understand Africa's subordinated global integrated status, one would have to understand how the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade and European colonialism initially pre-determined Africa's role within the world capitalist system.

3.1.1 Trans Atlantic Slave Trade and the Integration of Africa in the Global Economy

According to Reader (1998) the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade was the beginning of Africa's modern integration into the global economy. During this period, the continent's most precious resources, African women and men, were stolen away by global traders and slavers working for the benefit of Arab, European and North American countries. Nowhere in the annals of history have a people experienced as long and traumatic ordeal such as that of the African during the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade. Millions of African men, women, and children were savagely torn from their homeland, herded onto ships, and dispersed all over the so called New World. African peoples and nations the world over still suffers from the lasting economic, social, and psychological effects of this horrific era in history. Various studies have already been done on the contribution of the Transatlantic Slave Trade to the integration of Africa into the global economy (Davidson, 1992; Fage, 1990).

3.1.2 The Role of Colonialism and Neo-colonialism in the Globalization of Africa

The age of African colonialism, when British, French, Belgium, Portuguese, Italian and German interests dictated the way that map boundaries were drawn, transportation and communication lines established, agricultural and mineral resources exploited, religious and cultural patterns were introduced to various localities in Africa. This represents the second phase of Africa's global integration. Whatever minimal benefits might have come to Africans because of colonialism were far outweighed by the many negative consequences of economic exploitation, environmental degradation, and social dependencies. Indeed, many of the ethnic, economic, and political crisis's that afflict the continent and attract attention from the international community today are soundly rooted in the legacy of colonialism.

The third stage has been described as neo-colonialism; in essence, the state that is supposed to be subject to is in theory, independent but has all the outward trappings of international sovereignty. However, its economic apparatus and thus its political policy are directed from the outside. Foreign capital is often used for exploitation rather than development; these investments often times increase the gap between the rich and poor. Aid given to states under the neo-colonialism system will more than likely return the imperialist country in one way or another. The Former Ghanaian President, Kwame Nkrumah (1971) once described neo- colonialism as the worst form of imperialism and capitalist exploitation.

Neo-colonialism adopted new methods of exploitation and plunder, most commonly associated with foreign direct investment. Today Africa owes around $227 billion to

Western creditors (most of whom are former African colonizers)—this debt burden has virtually halted any chances of sustained economic growth and development on the continent. Largely because of the world capitalist system and the so-called international division of labor, which sees Africa only as producers of primary commodities , most African nations have no viable integrated industries which can diversify their economies and supply the rest of the world with finished goods.

3.1.3 The Period of Globalization in Africa

The fourth and current phase of African global integration could be termed as the period of globalization, is characterized by an integration of the economies of the world including Africa through trade and financial flows, technology and information exchanges, and movement of peoples. Edoho, et al (2001) describes the dominant actor in this stage as the "free market." The globe is viewed as encompassing one vast market that is directed by the profit motivations of private enterprises that know neither national boundaries nor local allegiances (i.e. multinational corporations). In this stage, Africa has experienced both minimal influence and maximum consequence.

In his historical analysis of the history of globalization in Niumi in the Gambia, Wrights (2004) points out that the written records of the colonial powers were biased to make the colonial powers look good at the expense of the local populations. He emphasizes the importance of using oral histories, especially in Africa, as a very valid and useful tool in historical research. He also shows that African society and culture was well developed and self-sustaining. Africa was not the backward and helpless place people like to think it was. He reveals that the nation of Niumi (which is now part of The Gambia and Senegal) was proud and completely self sufficient, mostly through its own agriculture. Its trading relations served only to provide luxuries that people desired, but not what they required. With European expansion, Niumi became dependent on European traders for staple food supplies while supplying peanuts to European buyers, with prices set in Europe -- i.e., the global model of trade Africa has now. The new European trading model differed greatly from the previously used Islamic/African/Asian trading model, with its ban on interest which left trading partners on a far more equal footing. Niumi moved from being at the center of its own universe to becoming a forgotten place on the distant margins of a universe that has been constructed to serve the interests and wealth of Europe, North America, Japan and other big players.

CHAPTER FOUR
AFRICA AND THE GLOBAL MARKET ECONOMY

The past chapter examined briefly Africa's historical integration in the global capitalist economy. This Chapter looks at Africa's position in the global market economy. This is based on the argument that through the historical processes which have integrated Africa in the global capitalist economy dominated by the western powers of Europe and North America. Sub- Saharan Africa is part of the capitalist world. Africa's subordinate position in this global capitalist economy constrains the lives of all of its inhabitants. The following section looks briefly on the political economy of Africa.

4.1 A Brief Examination of the Political Economy of Africa

Stainland (1995) defines political economy as politics of economic relations between countries. It is widely referred to as the political and economic terms among countries whereby governments' or polities' frame national policies along the lines of political and economic considerations. Various economic policies such as fiscal and monetary policies are made keeping in mind political dimensions. Political economy studies in the context of Africa focus on a wide range of issues from the politics of imperialism, the post independence policy, developmental issues, agrarian economy perspectives, popular and democratic struggles, the socio-economic aspects of class and gender with the rising menace of AIDS and economic crises like external debt plaguing many African countries. Political economy or the International Political Economy (IPE), a marriage between International Relations and Political Economy, as it is widely known today encompasses issues effectively and leads to a comprehensive study of the national and international issues.

African political economy has assumed even more importance today with rising population growth, unemployment, crime rate and urbanization affecting many economies. This decline in the social and economic sphere started way back in the 1970's and the 1980's and had continued in the 90's mainly due to the bad governance problem. Thus many economists label the 1980's as Africa's "lost decade." Africa, often categorized as the "dark continent" was often slated to be on the path of development in the 21st century. However, examination of various secondary sources (The Spark, 2000) indicates that the continent has largely remained underdeveloped in every sense of the term due to failure of national governments to effectively implement active developmental measures. Aids from international organizations such as World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have fallen through due to insipid and corrupt governments. The only bright spot has been Botswana which has been able to achieve sustainable development and economic prosperity maintaining political stability and a good governance. Hope (2002) provides the following picture of the political economy of the various regions of the continent:

In Southern Africa, Botswana has been over the years identified as one of the most prosperous countries in Africa with per capita GDP reaching to $ 11,400 in 2006 measured on a per capita basis. After gaining independence from the British in 1966, the country achieved high growth rates of over 5% with growth rates slightly slowing down to about 4.7% in 2006. This is attributed to progressive economic reforms which set the pace of development in the country with diamond mining fuelling most of the change accounting for 70%-80% of the export earnings. However, issues such as rising inflation rates and growing unemployment remain the major concerns which were at 11% and 23.5% respectively for the year 2006 . Countries such as Zimbabwe are experiencing mass emigration due to unstable political situation. South Africa continues to be the most prosperous nation of Africa with improved infrastructural facilities such as industries and highways and a stable government over the last decade restoring investor confidence for the nation. South Africa has also managed to maintain stable growth rates of population and GDP growth rates to the tune of almost 4.5%.

In West and Central African countries such as Ghana, Senegal, Ivory Coast or Nigeria are considered to be still coping up with the changes in the modern globalized economy. The prevalence of armed conflicts in countries such as Senegal and further away in Sudan is claiming many lives and is putting a severe halt to economic development of the nations. The recent incidents of oil supply pipe blasts in the oil-rich nation of Sudan due to ethnic tensions bears testimony to the issue. Further, the issue which is gaining momentum in these regions is the prevalence of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) which is being supplied by the developed nations to fuel tensions in the region.

In East Africa, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania are portrayed as having remained stable after 1994. The main exports of the region, such as tea and coffee have recorded increased export earnings over the last decade which has allowed the economies to pick up. However, armed conflicts between ethnicities and races and shortage of arable land and water pose the major problems for the region. In case of Rwanda, where only 8% of the population lives in urban areas and only 3% work in the industrial sector, the country has achieved almost 30% growth land cultivation after the great famine of 1994.

Studies of the African political economy indicate that the African economy, deemed to be showing the way for the global economy in the 21st century, has not witnessed any massive changes over the course of the last decade. Structural problems such as poverty resulting in most of the population living at the subsistence level, rising inflation levels and unemployment with the lack of access to the basic means of living such as food and drinking water are the burning issues for the African polity to deal with. This has meant that most of the schemes under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have been unsuccessful. In addition, the impact of high crime rates and the AIDS pandemic in the comparatively richer countries such as South Africa is further accentuating the problem.

4.2 Africa in the Global Market Economy

This section is based on the argument that the globalization of the world economy is one of most important trends that affect the current environment for economic development in most regions of the world including Africa. In evaluating the different regional performance within the context of globalization, there has been a tendency among scholars to contrast the sustained and rapid growth in per capita income in Southeast Asian economies over the last three decades with the stagnation in the levels of per capita income in sub-Saharan Africa. It is argued that one of the remarkable features of the performance of Southeast Asian countries over the last three decades has been their ability to expand and upgrade their linkages with the world economy. Similarly, there is certainly concern over the increased marginalization of much of Africa. It is also emphasized that in seeking to integrate into the global economy. Southeast Asian experiences could provide valuable lessons that policy-makers in sub-Saharan Africa could adapt to their own contexts.

4.2.1 Comparative Examination of Socio-Economic Development in Africa and South East Asia and East Asia

On the basis of the rapid rates of development in South East Asia over the last three decades there has been a considerable amount of effort devoted to distilling their lessons and their transferability to other developing countries, especially Africa. UNIDO (2000) argues that most of the existing comparative literature on economic performance in South East Asia including East Asia and Africa has concentrated on studies that focus on a particular region (World Bank are *The East Asian Miracle* Study (World Bank, 1993) and the *Adjustment in Africa* Study (World Bank, 1994). For instance, the World Bank (1993) shows that within the group of High-Performing Asian Economies, four subgroups can be distinguished according to the level of industrial development as well as the sophistication of economic system. The first subgroup consists of Japan with its century long history of industrial development and highly autonomous institutional structure.

The second subgroup consists of Taiwan and Korea with their post-World War Two trajectories of limited but continual industrial diversification and deepening and records of high and sustained economic growth. A third, slightly separate subgroup, consists of the city-states of Hong Kong and Singapore. These have both developed into centres of regional trade although with different governance structures. The final subgroup comprises the economies of Southeast Asia - Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia. Initially, natural resources and primary exports played a pivotal role in their development but their production structures and external performance have undergone a substantial quantitative and qualitative improvement over the last thirty years.

Campos, et al (1994) indicates that the experiences of the fourth subgroup can probably be most meaningfully compared to Sub-Saharan African economies. In the 1960s, the average levels of GDP in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand) and sub-Saharan Africa were similar. Also, economic structures and the social contexts of countries in Southeast Asia in the 1960s were not apparently so different from those of some African countries. Southeast Asia could be characterized as being relatively rich in natural resources but weaker in human resources. This is similar to the situation in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa both in the 1960's and today. Southeast Asia also had problems of ethnic conflict and periods of political instability. Around the early 1960s, many expected rapid growth in Africa and stagnation in Asia (Harriss, 1997).

Various sources (Blackhurst, 1997; Collier, 1995) identify the greater outward orientation in Southeast Asia as one of the main causes of the difference in growth performance with Sub Saharan Africa. Taking export performance as an example, the difference between Southeast Asia and Africa shows that the *value* of Southeast Asian countries exports have grown rapidly in comparison to those of selected countries from Africa. *Export growth rates* were higher in Southeast Asia for every 5-year period since 1970. This brings in the need to outline the extent of the relative marginalization of sub-Saharan Africa. In the mid-1950s Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 3.1 percent of global exports. By 1995 this share had fallen to 1.4 percent. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region of the world where export volumes have grown more slowly than total output. Africa has also failed to maintain market share in the commodities in which it had a comparative advantage. In addition, many countries in Africa attract virtually no inward investment - the region as a whole accounts for less than 1% of world investment flows.

The countries in Southeast Asia have also upgraded their linkages with the world economy. This included a diversification in primary exports and an upgrading into the export of primary-processed and manufactured products. In addition, particularly since 1987, Southeast Asia also attracted large amounts of direct and portfolio investment. Akyuz, et al (1997) adds that the analysis of GDP performance indicates that it was not until the early 1980s that the disparity in GDP performance between the two regions started to become so pronounced. This has tended to lead researchers to look primarily at the period from the 1980s, when searching for lessons from Southeast Asia (Harrold et al., 1996). The brief analysis of export performance indicates the need to take a longer-term view. Countries in Southeast Asia had growing levels of exports from much earlier and, although the results were not immediately evident in growth performance, they seemed to lead to impressive performance in the longer term.

However, it is important to make two qualifications. First, some of the crisis which have encountered the Southeast and East Asia countries highlights the need to rethink the Asian lessons and to focus on some of the severe challenges for economic management (and not just the growth opportunities) presented by the globalization of the world economy. Second, it is important to distinguish between the differential situations and performance of countries within Africa. As already indicated in the past sections, there are some African successes. Botswana for example has had growth rates that are the fastest in the world grown at over the last 30 years. In terms of external performance, Mauritius has been very successful in linking with the global economy. In contrast, countries such as Sudan and Sierra Leone continue to suffer the effects of civil war with the resulting implications of poor growth. Also some key states, Kenya, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe, for example, remain in fragile conditions.

Examination of secondary sources indicates that overall, the recent economic performance in Africa has shown signs of improvement. In 1997, economic growth for Sub-Saharan Africa was estimated at around 4.6% compared to 4.5% in 1996 and 3.3% in 1995. In year 2000 twenty one African countries (out of a total of 48) had a GDP growth rate of 5% or more and at least 38 countries had positive GDP per capita growth rates (World Bank Africa Brief, 1998). Exports grew by 7.5% in 1995 and 7.9% in 1996. Some are asking whether Africa is turning the corner. While some attribute this to policy reforms, others highlight the good weather and improvements in world prices. While this performance is welcome, it must be remembered that this growth should be seen in the context of a population growth rate that remains near 3%. There has not been an improvement in savings or investment and nearly 40% of the population of 600 million people lives on less than $1 per day. The World Bank estimates that there will need to be sustained (and broad-based) economic growth of around 7-8% if poverty is to be reduced significantly".

It is suggested that one of the key ways to improve the growth rate to these levels will be for African countries to engage the forces of globalization more successfully. A key aim for this is to try to identify: (i) what does Africa need to do to engage globalization more effectively? and (ii) what can Africa learn from the experiences Southeast and East Asia in this regard?

Warner (2000) notes that sub-Saharan Africa, with some 850 million people, and over 10% of the world's population, has only 35% of its trade and only 1% of its GDP; and why income per head, averaging $460 in 1994, has steadily fallen, relative to the industrialized world, and is now less than a fiftieth of what it is in OECD countries. In his book, *Millennial Africa*, John Saul (2000) suggests that there are two ways of picturing Africa in the context of global capitalism. One is from the point of view of the people living and hoping to improve their lot in sub-Saharan Africa's more than 50 nation-states, and the other, refers to the point of view of capital, for which Africa is not so much a system of states, instead, as simply a geographic terrain, offering this or that the opportunity to make money.

The 48 nations that make up sub-Saharan Africa are just as diverse as they are similar. Eight countries account for 61% of all Africans living south of the Sahara, (Nigeria, with an estimated 118 million inhabitants in 1997, contains almost one in five of them); the other forty are small, including twelve mini-states with populations of less than two million. However, as Saul notes, most of the citizens of these countries are far too often no better off than their lesser populated neighbors. Hence, in terms of income per head, size and wealth apparently do not go hand in hand. Nigeria for example, the most populace nation in sub-Saharan Africa, is also one of its poorest, in spite of its vast quantities of oil reserves; per capita income of

Nigerians was only $240 in 1996. As the Economic Commission for Africa puts it, "according to current estimates, close to 50% of the sub-Saharan African population live in absolute poverty—this percentage is expected to continually increase for some time to come.

Saul (2000) next analyzes the importance of capital in his understanding of Africa in the context of global capitalism. When the attainment of capital is thrown into the equation, it becomes clear that the goal of multinational corporations is not to help develop those particular countries in which they operate; instead, they look to exploit any and every profitable opportunity that may present itself. An economic profile of Africa drawn from this perspective would thus pay relatively little attention to countries except as it regards the physical security of fixed investments and the availability of communications and transport facilities. Instead it would look to highlight a group of large transnational corporations (i.e. mining companies such as DeBeers).

Africa today continues to remain a victim of both global exploitation and marginalization. The destiny of Africa under the existing global capitalism network is anything but promising. Without a significant change in international financial institutions policies including the IMF and World Bank on debt relief and without an end to the dogmatic philosophy of market liberalism, Africa and its peoples seem destined to stay marginalized for some time well into the foreseeable future. African marginalization within the global system will ultimately produce negative repercussions for the rest world. If the situation continues to remain static, Africa will most likely continue to be the leading exporter of the HIV Virus and AIDS, trained mercenaries, and untested blood.59 Also, Africa, not the Middle East will likely become home to a vast majority of the world's terrorist networks (Nugent, 2003).

CHAPTER FIVE

AFRICA AND THE GLOBAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The past Chapter discussed Africa's position in the global market economy, especially its increasing marginalization. This Chapter looks at the major forces of the globalization process and Africa's position, i.e. the global information and communication technology. It also looks the problem of brain drain in the continent. The first section interrogates the problem of globalization and international technology transfer (ITT) and Global Information Technology (GIT).

5.1 International Technology Transfer and Global Information Technology

Edoho, et al (2001) argues the globalization; the new world order has transformed the environment of international technology transfers (ITT) and global information technology (GIT). The rapid advancement and deployment of information technologies is a distinct revolution that surpasses the agricultural and industrial revolutions, thus its impact can only be measured on a global scale. The rise of GIT and ITT has revolutionized the way in which raw materials are acquired, how products are made and marketed, the speed with which customer's needs are met, and the rate of economic growth in almost every country in the world.

As already indicated, advances in technology are transforming national political and business institutions as well as alerting national foreign policy objectives and the method of achieving them. Technology has asserted itself as the major determinant of wealth and power here in the twenty-first century. As a potent instrument of civilization, science and technology has aided the world in the collective struggle against diseases, poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and ignorance.

5.2 Africa and the Information Technology Transfer (ITT)

However, as Silverstone (1996) argues, not all countries have enjoyed the advantages brought about by science and technology. These benefits have been confined to a few countries in the North. The hegemonic control in the North of S&T has resulted in over half the world's population lacking the benefits of even the most basic developments that science has to offer the global community. At present time, an estimated 1.2 billion people, nearly one forth of the total world populations live in a dehumanizing state of destitution and dire poverty. The majority of them are in Africa.

The questions to be posed, however, are that what implications does globalization and the emerging global order for ITT and GIT present to the African continent? Understanding that globalization, above anything else is technology-driven; the prognosis generally speaking is that Africa faces monumental obstacles in the future on account of the lack of accessibility and applicability of global information infrastructures. This is to say that development in the era of globalization increasingly hinges upon technology development. For any country or region to participate meaningfully in the new global economy, it must first control, or at least have access to, technology. At present time, Africa has a marginal status in the global technology system (GTS). The gap between the level of scientific and technological development within the African region as compared with that of other developing regions in Asia and Latin America is ever widening. Many feel that due to the lack of indigenous technological capabilities (ITC's) in African countries, that they do not have the capacities to assess their resources, analyze their needs, or formulate a programmatic response to socio-economic crises.

Furthermore, Africa lacks the capability to conceptualize and analyze the politico-economic, socio-cultural, and environmental implications of ITT for its economic development. A 1993 UN Development Program study indicates that sub-Saharan Africa is the most heavily aided region in the world and a survey of the International Labor Organization (ILO) revealed that it deploys about 50% of its global technical cooperation to the region. The regional economic vulnerability of African nations as a result of their dependency on foreign technical support has lead some scholars in the field of ITT such as Adeya (2001) to suggest that those "countries with have limited problem-solving capacities of their own and that are largely dependent on others for providing the knowledge and skills needed to solve their problems are always going to be vulnerable, in the long run if not the short run. Needles to say, Africa remains the most vulnerable region in the world on account of its lack of ITC.

Most developing countries lack the management capabilities necessary to stimulate and sustain economic development; this is especially true in sub-Saharan Africa. The need to develop management technology in the region is quite urgent. As it stands, transnational corporations (TNC's) operate as the main channels through which African nations as well as other developing nations use to acquire proprietary technology from the industrialized nations of the world—some nations are almost entirely dependent on TNC's for the acquisition of technology.

Having already mentioned the negative lasting effects of slavery and the colonial era on the African psyche, its vicious roots can also be felt in the realm of technical development. Silverstone (1996) shows how colonialism deprived Africans of the opportunities for learning-by-doing as well as doing-by-imitation. African colonizers were in no way interested in building local management capabilities in their respected territorial administrations. Consequently, at the time of independence, Africa on the whole was grossly lacking professionals, technicians, and mangers needed in order to sustain, develop, and manage technical growth.

It is disappointing to see that after decades of operating in the era of international technology transfers, sub-Saharan Africa continues to rely so heavily on foreign consultants, engineers, and management experts to facilitate their meager development in terms of technology. The way that technology is packaged and sold to the continent on the whole does not lend to learning and advancement. The countries of sub-Saharan Africa must place themselves in a situation where they can eventually begin to facilitate the development of ITC's as well as the management skills necessary to oversee more favorable terms in the overall technology transfer environment. The following section looks at the problem of drain in Africa.

5.3 Globalization and Brain Drain in Africa

BBC (2001) notes that every year Africa's best and brightest leave their countries for western institutions of higher learning in Europe and North America. Some are children of the privileged. But the majorities are sent by parents who have sacrificed for years to send their offspring abroad. Yet on the planet's poorest and most war-torn continent, there remains a leadership deficit. Why?

Emeagwali. com indicates that there is nothing wrong with Africans wanting to study abroad. Every man and women has the right and freedom to ultimately decide where either he/she will live out the rest of their days. However, one cannot overlook the fact that most African students who study abroad often times choose not to return home. Since one in out of every three African professionals will like to emigrate outside of Africa, in essence then, African universities are at present time training one third of their graduates for export to the Western countries.

BBC (2001) shows that the rise of globalization has accelerated the mass human capital flight from Africa. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, an estimated 1,800 Africans a year left the continent from 1960 to 1975. The pace quickened to 4,444 a year from 1975 to 1984. A separate study conducted in 1994 reported that there were approximately 134,500 Africans living in the UK, of which 14,500 have first degrees and 4,600 have advanced degrees. According to the ACP-EU-Courier, Africa lost 60,000 professionals (doctors, university lecturers, engineers, etc.) between 1985 and 2000 and has been losing over 30,000 annually ever since—these numbers do not include students who leave the continent for reasons other than to further their education but do not return. In total, around ten million skilled Africans have emigrated out of Africa during the past thirty years.

As BBC (1999) states that many Africans have been dissuaded from returning home by the economic and political crises that have bedeviled the continent over the last few decades; failing economies, high unemployment rates, human rights abuses, armed conflict and lack of adequate social services are some of these factors.

Mr. Brett Stewart, an Amero-Liberain emigrant to the U.S. stated that, "Africa has not and will never foster an environment for talented people to reach their full potential."

"It is not a case of blatant self-interest that makes people leave; it's simply an acknowledgement that life in Africa today is corrupt, unsafe, and limited in possibilities and opportunities." The fact is that there exists several factors that have over the years contributed to the mass exodus of Africans from their motherland. One of the primary causes of the external brain drain is without question linked to the unreasonably low paying wages of African professionals. African professionals working in Africa are paid considerably less than similarly qualified expatriates. With the introduction of structural adjustment programs (SAP's) which were pushed by the Bretton Woods institutions, sub-Saharan African academics have found themselves among the worst paid in the entire world. Thus, African professionals leave in the thousands for the West as they are tempted by significantly higher wages and brighter prospects. The socio-economic conditions that currently exist make it difficult for educated peoples to achieve their full potential in most African nations.

Another link to the Brain Drain relates to the opinions of many who feel that the African leadership for the most part is not interested in keeping their intellectuals or professionals. The unfortunate scenario is that none of these African countries is willing to have such challengers and hence, this provides the impetus for Brain Drain to the West. Some feel that there are no guarantee African intellectuals to live peacefully and or utter their opinions on societal issues freely. These intellectuals are now for the most part located foreign Universities, especially in the USA and or either teaching and researching in other foreign countries. In other words, the value attached to the contribution of the people who are well trained is not appreciated in their own countries and as such, they usually leave. Commenting on the situation, some academics in the USA have commentated that, African leaders are not serious about getting their African professionals back to their home countries. They treat the expatriate better than their own citizens.

African dictators and politicians who cling on to power by the bullet are yet another factor that contributes to the Brain Drain phenomenon. African military dictators have either vanished or killed thousands of intellectuals since the post independence era. When military coups and ethnic clashes are also taken into account, it is no wonder why this manmade misfortune has resulted in the discontinuity of economically beneficial activities, which in turn makes professionals opt to leave their countries in search of a living elsewhere; where they are sure to enjoy peace and stability among other gains.

The African Brain Drain makes it very difficult for the region to create a middle class consisting of doctors, engineers and other professionals. In Africa, there currently exists two classes of people: a massive underclass that is largely unemployed and extremely poor and a minute class of the very rich, consisting mostly of those individuals who are either corrupt or have some affiliation with military and government officials. The Brain Drain gives rise to poor leadership and the corruption of African officials at all levels of government. A large educated middle class will ensure that political power is transferred by ballots instead of by bullets. Also, it should be noted that when the vast majority of Africa's medical doctors emigrate to the United States; they leave behind their countrymen/women who are forced to seek medical treatment from traditional healers as opposed to the elite, who either fly to London or Paris for the most routine of medical checkups and appointments.

The situation is such that in 2001 South Africa's Education Minister, Mr. Kadar Asmal accused Great Britain of unfairly raiding South Africa for teachers; President Mbeki himself has called for a reversal of the outflow of scientists and engineers from South Africa to the West.

So what can be done to curb the effects of the modern exodus of most African professionals and skilled persons? A number of suggestions have been given:

First, African Governments (Nigeria, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Congo DR to name a few) need to eliminate military spending and increase their spending on education, women's empowerment and youth development, which will in turn bequeath good quality basic education for the masses of African peoples. As Emeagwali has suggested, Nigeria claims that it can only afford to pay its professors 50 dollars a month although it is spending one million dollars a day to fight in Sierra Leone.[87] Apparently, the money spent on warfare by the Nigerian Government would be sufficient to pay the salary of around 600,000 Nigerian professors priorities need to change from warfare to educational and technological advancement.

Second, it should be realized that at the core root of the Brain Drain, lays the need for African professionals to be respected, protected and reasonably compensated for the work they provide to their selected societies. If African leaders can come to understand this and provide the necessary environment, Africans will either come back home or never leave in the first place—they will look to develop Africa from within Africa. Realistically, who can conscientiously blame a professional in an unstable country to go away to where he/she can at least feel safe and be free to carry out their own duties?

Finally, African leaders are faced with tough choices to make. For instance a poor country getting aid usually has a tough time trying to decide whether or not to stick to donor suggestions on local policies or decide to meet the needs of their nations' various ethnic groups. Thus, African countries need leaders with visions for their respective countries, not corrupt businessmen and or inept politicians/military generals.

African professionals are not going to want to return home if they perceive thepolitical/economical environment to consist of business as usual arrangements. What I argue is for the return of *Africa's Hero's,* men that weren't afraid to step out on faith and would not accept the scraps that elites in the West decided to throw their way whenever it was convenient for their interests (men like Nkrumah, Mandela, Toure, and Selassie). They understood that Africa's greatest resource was not its gold, natural resources, or wildlife; it lies within the creative genesis of her peoples

CHAPTER SIX
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusion

The origin of globalization in Africa has to be understood as a historical process which has been going on for hundreds of years including the role transatlantic slave trade in the integration of the continent in the global market economy. However, Africa as a continent has not benefited much from the globalization process. It still finds itself in a marginal position in the global economy and information technology revolution. Africa lacks the capacity to conceptualize and analyze the polito-economic, socio-cultural and environmental implications of globalization including Information technology Transfer for its sustainable socio-economic development. African's sustainable development and competitiveness in the global economy is acerbated by the problem of brain drain to the industrialized countries.

6.2 Recommendations

The study recommends that the industrialized countries as the leaders and main beneficiaries of the globalization process must revise their conception of development, and thus globalization. They should realize that global economic growth without social, economic and cultural justice cannot be the norm for the international community to follow. It is imperative that sustainable development under globalization is measured in terms of the improvement of quality of standards of living for the vast majority of humans. The majority of the poor are in Africa. This should be reflected in terms of improved standards of living with regard to better education, health-care, increased employment opportunities for both male and female, increased life expectancy and a peaceful environment for sustainable development devoid of any form of conflicts.

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