

Globalization and International Security: A Case of Three-Selected Sub-Saharan African Countries

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Abstract

The issues of globalization and Security have practically taken the center stage of discourse in both domestic and international arena in the current century, with their attendant of structural, institutional and socio-cultural variables. The current nature of globalization is not just simply linkages, and interdependence between and among sovereign nations, rather it intrusively attacks the very roots of the sovereignty of nation states by challenging their domestic structural, institutional, and cultural foundations with serious security implications. Globalization has created practical security complexities in terms of agents and scope of threats, from states to non-state actors and individuals, thus orchestrating the issues of identity and varied threats as credible sources of conflict. This paper uses the realist and liberal theoretical paradigms to analyze the structural, institutional, and cultural effects of globalization on international security with its attendant implications for nation states. The paper posits that, though nation states will continue to pursue their self-interest, they are forced to cooperate and compromise on important issues of concern in dealing with the forces of liberalization and the complexities created by globalization to ensure both domestic and international security.

Keywords: Globalization, Security, Institutional, Economic, Socio-Cultural and Political

Introduction

The amalgamation of several measures taken by states and international organizations such as the United Nations, European Nations, and others to ensure mutual survival and safety have open doors for globalization to thrive. In perusing several kinds of literature of globalization, it is a tool for advancement in growth and development for both developed and developing nations. According to David (2003) "Globalization" is a multidimensional phenomenon: information technologies, along with a variety of other technologies- that are developing rapidly and spreading widely. These have led to trade openness, trade liberalization and free transfer of capital mobility.

Notably, it is increasingly being acknowledged that good governance is a key element in the development process of any country, and in ensuring that globalization benefits all in society. The State, in partnership with civil society and the private sector, has a major role to play in the quest for peace, greater freedom, social equity and sustainable development. Improving and reforming public administration and governance systems is critical in addressing a number of issues, including making globalization work for all; alleviating poverty and income inequality; advancing human rights and democracy; protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development; and managing violent conflict and combating international crime.

Apparently, several efforts have been made by the United Nations, European Nations, and many other international organizations to promote globalization due to its mutual benefit and prospect. Again, many attempts have made also to merge the traditional conceptions of international security which views state as the primary unit of analysis and the use of force between nations, (state – external – short-term – response), with expanded ideas of international security such as 'Human Security', "Environmental Security" "Health Security" etc. (survival – referent target – internal/external – long-term- response) with the underlying motive of promoting growth and development through the mechanism of globalization.

The animosity surrounding the debate on globalization requires that a holistic approach is adopted when analyzing this issue. Globalization is a prismatic phenomenon, which should be looked at in all its manifestations and from different angles. Though there are a number of definitions of both concepts, this paper will adopt the following definitions, of the terms "globalization" and "international Security" as a guide to our examination of the effects of globalization on international security.

Globalization, through economic integration, presents both direct and indirect opportunities and costs to the existing nation. Greater economic openness, foreign direct investment, and transfer of technologies offer potential opportunities for economic growth. Free Trade allows specialization between different regions, allowing them to produce according to their own comparative advantages; it also expands the consumption choices of citizens by providing increased opportunities to buy goods and services from other countries (Krugman, 1994, p. 6).

In this respect, it is very important to keep in mind that international trade is not a zero-sum game where

some countries are winners and others are losers. On the contrary, trade benefits all countries because it enhances the choices of the consumer and the quality of products. If competitive, it lowers prices and raises real wages. It is also worthwhile to underline that contrary to what is commonly believed, "countries are not in any degree in economic competition with each other", or that "any of their major economic problems can be attributed to failures to compete on world markets" (*Krugman, 1994, p. 6*).

Economic globalization has also provided opportunities for developing countries in that it expands the size of their markets for export and attracts foreign capital, which aids development. Foreign investment is conducive to a transfer of technologies and know-how, which increases productivity. Another positive effect of globalization is greater competition among firms, which benefits consumers who have access to products at increasingly lower prices. Those who gain most from free trade in both developed and developing countries are very often the poorest since they can buy goods at more affordable prices, and therefore have a higher standard of living. In this sense, free trade can be seen as an indirect way to reduce poverty.

Unfortunately, until now developed countries have not lifted their protective barriers in many crucial sectors for developing countries. In fact, while "integrating with the world economy is a powerful vehicle for growth and poverty reduction in developing countries by countries becoming rich through increased the openness of their own economies" (*Stern, 2000*). Another area of great concern is related to intellectual property rights, and the use of anti-dumping practices, which seem to discriminate against producers in developing countries. Yet for a country to adopt protectionist policies on the basis that there will be losers may not be the best solution. This is because every change has adjustment costs and refusing to embark on a process of change on these grounds is short-sighted. The technical change also entails costs, which are even higher than those produced by globalization, but not for this reason has it been rejected. Very startlingly, as argued and underscored by *Sen (2001)* – the modern technology and increasing economic integration have been a positive force in eradicating poverty and development throughout times.

We should apparently recognize that many sectors, like textiles and agriculture, which could provide real new opportunities for developing countries, have not been liberalized. This essay will contrast the benefits and drawbacks of major international relations theories to measure their use of any or a combination in explaining the diverse effects of globalization on international security. These international relations theories include Realism, Liberalism, and Institutionalism.

Theoretical Literature Review

Realist and Liberal Theoretical Paradigms

Realist philosophy sees power as the ultimate end of all political actions in both domestic and international arenas and views States as the most important actor in international relations. They strongly believe in the concept of state sovereignty, where no outside actor can dictate the domestic or foreign policies of another state. Second, realists assume that the state is a unitary and rational actor and that the nature of the international system is anarchic based on tension and conflict where states pursue self-defense and self-preservation.

As *Pease (2012)* rightly asserted that, "anarchy compels states to arm themselves to self-defense". The urge for self-defense and preservation lies in the absence of a central rule-making and enforcing authority at the international domain that has left states with no option than to fight for their own survival and self-preservation. Each state is basically responsible for its own survival with the discretion to assert its own interests and power. Therefore, the international anarchic system created an environment in which power plays important role in determining the nature of interstate relations.

Third, based on the framework of an anarchic system, realist view security as a central issue of concern to states and their own survival. Similarly, to attain security, they argue that, states persistently seek to increase their power and engage in power-balancing with other states as a way of warding off potential aggressors. Thus, at the international arena, wars are fought often times to prevent competing nations from becoming militarily stronger.

Fourth, Realists are generally question the essence of morality to international politics, and insists that there is no place for morality in international relations, or that there is a tension between demands of morality and requirements of successful political action, or that states have their own morality that is different from customary morality, or that morality, if any, is merely used instrumentally to justify states' conduct. Accordingly, realist logic insists that in the absence of compulsion, states will pursue their self-interest regardless of the requirements of morality.

Liberalists hold a number of basic assumptions, which are contrary to realist world views. First, liberals believe that states are not the only important actors in the international system but recognized the influential actions of non-state actors like individuals, firms, interest groups, governments, and international organizations such as intergovernmental (IGOs) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and multinational corporations (MNCs) in international relations (*Pease, 2012, p. 64*). Supporting this assertion, Rochester concurred with the idea that states now, and more than ever, are forced to "compete with a myriad of actors for influence and power"

(2012, p. 28). Second, liberalists argue that the state is not rigidly unitary or even rational as claimed by realists, is open to interpretation as demonstrated by the countless influential members and departments of government. Thirdly, liberalism insists that the anarchic international system as argued by the realist paradigm is in fact one of conflict and cooperation where the actions of states and individuals through the international economic order of interdependence through finance and trade indeed facilitate cooperation. According to Rochester, this cooperation between states is solidified through the existence of mutual interests between states (2012, p. 32).

Idealists also posit that national security is no longer the foremost state concern, as interest in social, economic, and environmental issues are starting to gain serious traction in the contemporary international environment (Pease, 2012, p. 65). Rochester, also believes pluralistic interests are mounting, with an emphasis on welfare, agriculture, economic, and chemical issues (Rochester, 2012, p. 30). Unlike the high and low politics of realists, liberals do not believe in a hierarchy of issues. Therefore, it can be difficult to decipher the overall goals and areas of interests (Pease, 2012, p. 66). To idealists, however, the fact that goals are elusive is simply a result of the nature of international relations.

Liberalism also has a unique take on the effectiveness of international law. Unlike realists who generally dismiss the worthiness of international law, idealists claim that the rule of law undergirds the foundation of society and international law bolsters the foundation of the global society (Pease, 2012, p. 72). International law lays out the “rules of the game” and erects stabilizing and reliable expectations, which help to alleviate constant renegotiations concerning routine issues (Pease, 2012, p. 72). In terms of international law, liberals essentially proclaim that international law in democracies can assist states in overcoming collective action problems and help illiberal states to socialize the utility of law and compliance (Pease, 2012, p. 72).

Liberalism, like realism, however, is not without its critics. Among the most prevalent of concerns is that liberalism is ethnocentric. Liberalism contains bias and partiality to the righteousness of free trade and other tenets of idealism. Liberals also are quick to shift blame for poverty and underdevelopment on the underprivileged individuals themselves or government corruption. Rarely, if ever, do liberals proclaim such wrongs could ever be the result of the natural winners and losers’ capitalism creates (Pease, 2012, p. 73). Finally, liberals rely too heavily on the marketplace to solve all of their concerns. The maximization of efficiency is not the only concept of value, and the marketplace is not always as apolitical as some liberals would hope.

Following the review of both realists and idealists, both Pease and Rochester recognize the validity and wide-spread devotion to these two contrasting international paradigms but are not totally certain of what the future holds. Pease seems to provide a more in-depth overview of the philosophies, but both authors seem reasonable in their examinations of realism and idealism. There is room left open for interpretation as to whether nation-state improvements will be made following improved international organizational operations and compliance with international law.

Institutionalism

Institutionalists agree with many of the realists’ assumptions – which the international system is anarchic, and that states are rational actors that pursue mainly their self-interest, but differs in their conclusions about how best to conduct international relations. Adopting microeconomics (trading partners) and game theory, institutionalist argues that states can weave mutually beneficial relations through cooperation. Keohane (1984) maintained that under certain conditions, cooperation may be a useful strategy for countries to engage in.

Institutionalist hinged their assumptions on the belief that the drawing of a set of rules, norms, practices, and procedures for decision-making by institutions will help moderate the actions of states while overcoming uncertainties that obstruct cooperation. States will be forced to comply with agreements in order to maintain the good reputation and reap the benefits of cooperation in the long term. According to institutionalists, due to a wide array information available to institutions, they can help set agendas, reduce transaction costs and increase efficiency for states, by providing the arena, rules, and procedures for negotiation and cooperation, and ultimately reduce the uncertainties of the anarchic international system.

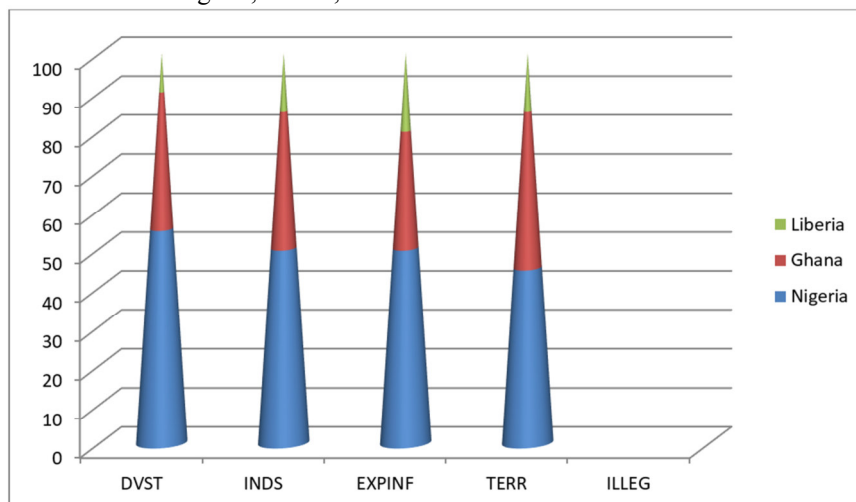
Methods and Materials

The method encapsulated the types and sources of data, the conceptual and Logistic economic frameworks, and the overview of the estimation procedures. This section also highlighted on the statistical packages that were used for the coding of the raw data. This current paper uses the realist and liberal theoretical paradigms to analyze the structural, institutional, and cultural effects of globalization on international security with its attendant implications for nation states.

The nature of the study is qualitative research. A cross-sectional data across 1000 household’s responses through telephone interviews were adopted. The sampling technique adopted for the study was simple random sampling. Closed-ended questionnaires were designed as a guide to solicited for the relevant source of data/information for the analysis. STATA 12 and Microsoft Excel were used to analysis the field data with the help of bar-graphs and line graphs.

Empirical Discussion and Findings

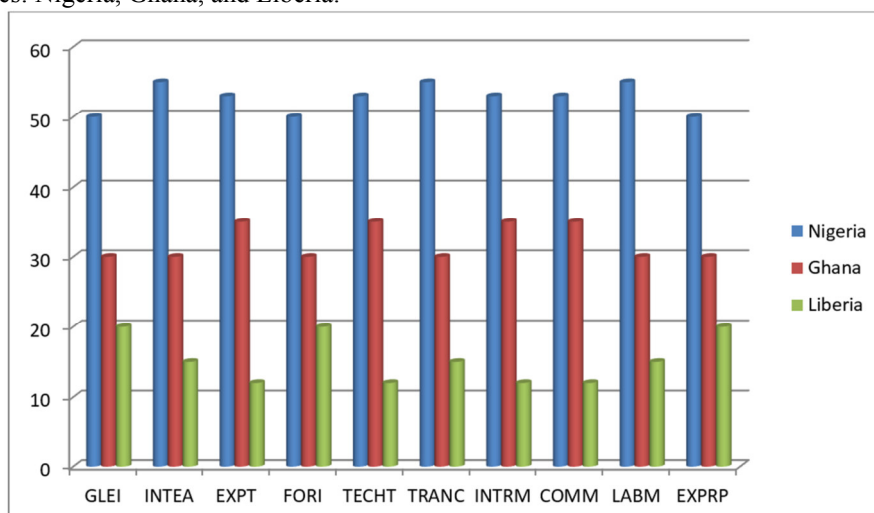
FIGURE 1: A Bar Graph Showing the International Security Effects of Globalization from the Three-selected Sub-Saharan Africa Countries: Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia.



Source: Field data, March 2017.

Figure 1 empirically revealed the comparative study of the international security effects of globalization on the economy in the three-selected Sub-Saharan Africa Countries (i.e. Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia). From the data, it was underscored that the following effect of international security resulting from globalization was recorded- Diverse sources of theft-states, by individuals and groups (*DVST*), Increase defense spending/cost (*INDS*), Expansion in infrastructure/personnel (*EXPINF*), Terrorism by both domestic and international (*TERR*), and Illegal immigration (*ILLEG*). Per the interview, the respondents were revealed that international security effects of globalization is highly effective and dominated in Nigeria, than the other two countries (i.e. Ghana and Liberia), with an average effect of 50% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the international security effects of globalization. However, the respondents also revealed that the next dominated international security effect of globalization is Ghana, with an average effect of 35% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the international security effects of globalization. From the data, the least dominated international security effect of globalization is Liberia with about 15% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the international security effects of globalization on the nation building.

FIGURE 2: A Bar Graph Showing the Structural Effects of Globalization from the Three-selected Sub-Saharan Africa Countries: Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia.

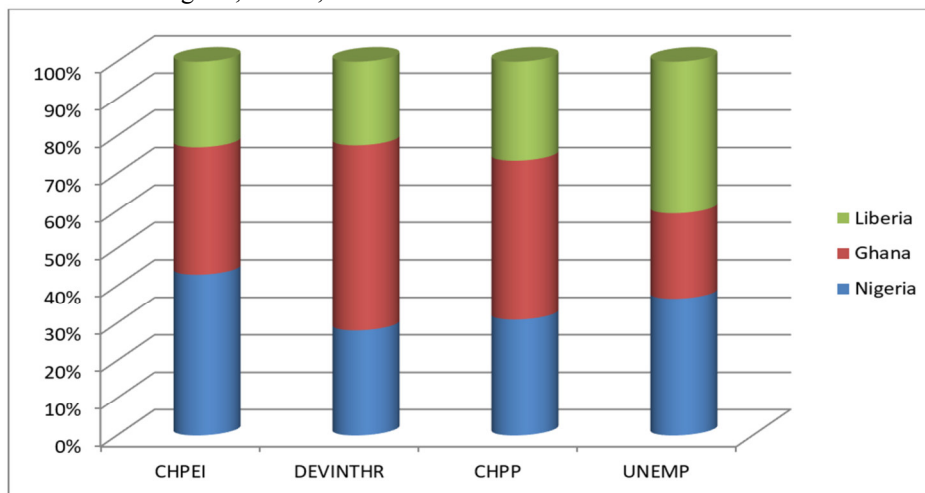


Source: Field data, March 2017.

Figure 2 empirically discovered the proportional study of the structural effects of globalization in the three selected Sub-Saharan Africa Countries (i.e. Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia). Interestingly, ten structural effects resulting from globalization was underscored, which include- Global economic integration (*GLEI*), Interdependence economic activities (*INTEA*), Expansion of trade in goods and services (*EXPT*), Foreign investment (*FORI*), Technology Transfers (*TECHT*), Transnational Corporations (*TRANC*), International

Remittance (*INTRM*), Communication (*COMM*), Labor Migration (*LABM*), and Expansion of regional political and economic groupings (*EXPRP*). In relation to the data, the respondents revealed that structural effects of globalization is again highly effective and dominated in Nigeria, than the other two countries (i.e. Ghana and Liberia), with an average effect of 55% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the structural effects of globalization. However, the respondents also revealed that the next dominated structural effect of globalization is Ghana, with an average effect of 30% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the structural effects of globalization. From the data, the least dominated structural security effect of globalization is experienced by Liberia with an average effect value of 15% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the structural effects of globalization.

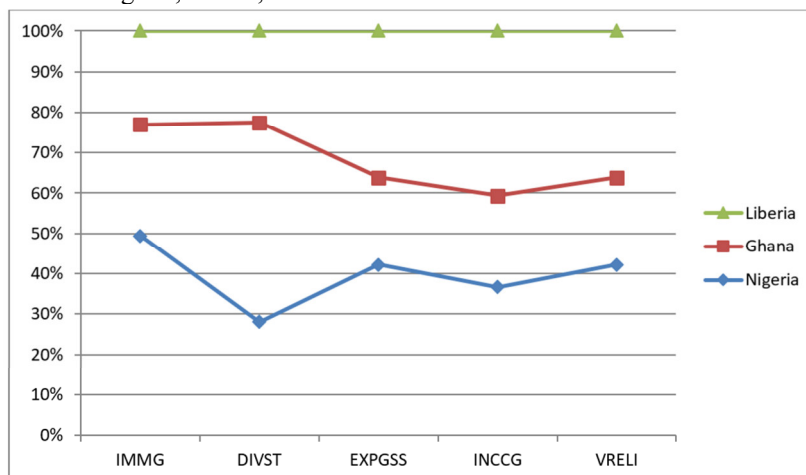
FIGURE 3: A Bar Graph Showing the Institutional Effects of Globalization from the Three-selected Sub-Saharan Africa Countries: Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia.



Source: Field data, March 2017.

Figure 3 observationally discovered the relative study of the institutional effects of globalization in the three selected Sub-Saharan Africa Countries. Indeed, after the data collection, the following institutional effects were recorded from the respondents for the comparative analysis- Changes in political and economic institutions (CHPEI), Development of international Human Resource Management (DEVINTHR), Changes in production processes (CHPP), and Unemployment (UNEMP). In relation to the data, the respondents revealed that institutional effects of globalization is highly effective and dominated in Ghana, than the other two countries (i.e. Nigeria and Liberia), with an average effect of 49% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the institutional effects of globalization. However, the respondents also revealed that the next dominated institutional effect of globalization is Nigeria, with an average effect of 35% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the institutional effects of globalization. From the data, the least dominated institutional effect of globalization is Liberia with about 16% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the institutional effects of globalization.

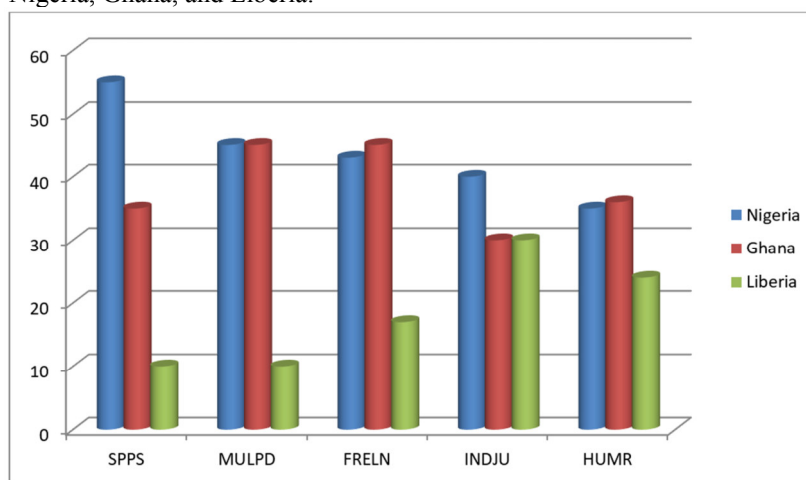
FIGURE 4: A Line-Graph Showing the Socio-Cultural Effects of Globalization from the Three-selected Sub-Saharan Africa Countries: Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia.



Source: Field data, March 2017.

Obviously, Figure 4 revealed the implicit study of the socio-cultural flow effects of globalization in the selected Sub-Saharan Africa Countries. The following socio-cultural flow effects of globalization were recorded and underscored by the study- Immigration (*IMMG*), Diversity (*DIVST*), and expansion in government social services/infrastructure (*EXPGSS*); Increase Cost of governance (*INCCG*), and Values, Religion, and Identity (*VRELI*). In relation to the data, the respondents revealed that socio-cultural effects of globalization is again highly effective and dominated in Nigeria, than the other two countries (i.e. Ghana and Liberia), with an average effect of 46% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the socio-cultural effects of globalization. However, the respondents revealed also that the next dominated socio-cultural effect of globalization is Ghana, with an average effect of 28% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the socio-cultural effects of globalization. From the data, the least dominated socio-cultural effect of globalization is Liberia with about 26% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the socio-cultural effects of globalization.

FIGURE 5: A Bar-Graph Showing the Political Effects of Globalization from the Three-selected Sub-Saharan Africa Countries: Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia.



Source: Field data, March 2017.

Analytically, Figure 5 revealed the comparative study of the political effects of globalization in the three-selected Sub-Saharan Africa Countries. Indeed, after the data collection, the following political effects were recorded from the respondents' perspective for the comparative analysis- Spread of Pluralist systems (*SPPS*), Multi-party democracy (*MULPD*), Free Elections (*FRELN*), Independent Judiciary (*INDJU*), and Human Rights (*HUMR*). In relation to the data, the respondents revealed that political effects of globalization is again highly effective and dominated in Nigeria, than the other two countries (i.e. Ghana and Liberia), with an average effect of 40% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the political effects of globalization. However, the respondents revealed also that the next dominated political effect of globalization is Ghana, with an average effect of 39% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the political effects of globalization. From the data, the least dominated political effect of globalization is Liberia with about 21% out of 100% of the respondents for all the various forms of the political effects of globalization.

Table 1: A logistic Regression Model of Effect of Globalization on International Security of Sub-Saharan Africa Countries—A Comparison of Country Based Impact of Globalization

Effect of Globalization on International Security of the Sub-Saharan Africa Countries	Countries	Analyzed Respondents (n)	Odds Ratio	P-value
	Ghana	325	2.1	0.04
	Nigeria	450	3.3	0.03
	Liberia	225	1.1	0.54
	Total	1000		

Source: Field data, March 2017.

In relation to the data analysis above, Liberia exhibited or experienced the lowest impact of globalization since it recorded the lowest odd-ratio of 1.1. Its associated p-value was not significant at 5% significance level since $0.54 > 0.05$. However, Nigeria experienced the highest globalization impact from both positive and negative sides of the respondents' perspective. This is because Nigeria recorded the highest odd ratio value of 3.3 and was statistically significant to the logistic regression model at 5% significance level (0.03). This implies that Nigeria experienced three (3) times globalization impact than in the case of Liberia. In addition, Ghana experienced the next highest globalization impact after Nigeria. It recorded about two (2) times globalization impact on its economy than that of Liberia (i.e. odd ratio-2.1).

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

While many theories of international relations are fiercely contested, it is usually inappropriate to see them as rivals over some universal truth about world politics. Rather, each rests on certain assumptions and epistemologies, is constrained within certain specified conditions, and pursues its own analytic goal. While various theories may lead to more or less compelling conclusions about international relations, none is definitive 'right' or 'wrong'. Rather, each possesses some tools that can be of use to students of international politics in examining and analyzing rich, multi-causal phenomena.

Based on the findings and the empirical discussion the study outlined the following policy recommendation:

- The promotion of a higher quality of life and the protection of human dignity should be regarded as a crucial element in any effort to globalize.
- With the advance of globalization and increased volatility, there is a need to redefine the role of the State and to strengthen its capacity to manage effectively change and complexity.
- Basic needs must be satisfied as an end in itself, but also as a means to allow people to be able to seize to a greater extent the benefits of globalization.
- Since the economic sphere cannot be separated from the more complex fabric of social and political life and sent shooting off on its own trajectory. To survive and thrive, a global economy must have a more solid foundation in shared values and institutional practice.

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