

7019HUM International Security Praxis

Learning Journal

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Course Studied: MA International Relations.

Session 1

- Name of speaker/event: Jennifer Chidinma Ogbogu
- Date of event: Online, 10th June, 2021

Section 1A- reflective notes

In a few sentences, please answer all of these questions for the session selected:

1. What did you consider the most striking element of this event/session?
 - The session exposed some unsung roles of the African Union in the security of the Continent of Africa that is evidently not well known to the public.
 - The revelations made in the session exposed Africa as a continent bedevilled by myriad transnational insecurity like terrorism, trafficking in persons, drug trafficking, banditry, maritime insecurity, kidnapping for ransom, etc.
 - Quite trilling how the speaker, Chidinma, combined both practical diplomatic experience at AU with theoretical experience garnered from Coventry University to deliver a superb lecture that resonated so much with international relations as pertains to Africa and the outside world.
2. Has this event reinforced or challenged your assumptions, understanding, perceptions and ideas?
 - The session corrected my erroneous impression and perception of African Union as a mere copycat or imitation of European Union which was merely cobbled together just to create jobs for public office holders across Africa.
 - From the session, I was able to learn, for the first time, that the AU has done a lot in the stability of Africa through its mediation efforts in crisis-ridden member states. For example, AU recently mediated in Chadian crisis after the death of their erstwhile president, Idriss Deby, and has also concluded plans to intervene in Mali crisis.

- The session corrected my long-held erroneous impression that Al-Shabaab, a terrorist group operating majorly in the Horn of Africa, is only found in the Horn. Through the session, I was able to learn that there is a very distinct and completely different terrorist organization operating around Mozambique and Tanzania that goes with the same name, Al-Shabaab.
- The workshop exposed me to the reasons why crimes like human trafficking, terrorism and cybercrime, have consistently proven herculean to prosecute in Africa. This is because of the transnational nature of the crimes as most of the criminals operate from different jurisdictions and countries.
- Curiously, through the workshop, my belief that every trafficked person is aware he or she is being trafficked changed. Through the session, I learnt that some victims of human trafficking are aware they are being trafficked while some are unaware they had fallen into a trafficking ring.
- Quite curious to learn that the official languages of the AU are Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and more recently, Swahili. This shows that Africa is still largely a colonial appendage as the affairs of its elite organization is still being conducted in languages not indigenous to Africa.
- My mind is now broadened to appreciate the fact that the AU is not a toothless bulldog and that the organization, through its early warning mechanism, has prevented several conflicts in Africa from festering.

3. Was anything associated with this event confusing or difficult to understand?

- Piecing together the interconnectedness of the various terrorist organizations in Africa mentioned in the session got me confused. For example, it was said that Al-Shabaab in Mozambique and Tanzania is different from Al-Shabaab in Somalia and Kenya; Al-Shabaab in Somalia and Kenya are part of the wider Al-Qaeda, according to her. It is also said that there are Boko Haram and ISWAP operating in Nigeria; in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso, there is Islamic State of Greater Sahara; Islamic State of Central Africa controlling Central Africa, etc. My difficulty is in understanding if these groups have links to each other or whether they are separate groups operating independent of one another, especially as they bear similar names.

4. What more do I need to know about this issue to help my understanding?

- I would need to consult [googlescholar.com](https://scholar.google.com) to read more extensively about terrorism and insurgency in Africa, especially terrorism in the Greater Sahara, Islamic Maghreb, Gulf of Guinea, Lake Chad Basin and the Horn of Africa with a view to understanding their regularity, shared identities and commonalities.

5. Should I refine my ideas and beliefs as a consequence of attending this event?

- I need to read more on the achievements of the AU in the area of peace and security in Africa.
- I may need to focus more in learning and understanding the achievements of the AU in order to change my perception of the AU as a toothless bulldog.
- I would need to read more about the various terrorist groups terrorizing Africa with a view to understanding their pattern, regularities, interconnectedness and shared identities.

6. How could I identify, locate and interpret relevant information and resources to learn more about this issue?

- I would need to read a book called *International Case Studies of Terrorist Rehabilitation*, a book that Chidinma contributed a chapter in. This will grossly help in refining my understanding of the issues of violent extremism in Africa, especially in the Sahel.
- Consulting the AU Charter to understand AU functions and how they have fared in attaining those goals will be of immense value to me.
- I need to carry out more research on the success or failure of AU Mission in Burundi (2003-2004), AU Mission in Sudan (2004-2007), AU Mission in Somalia (2007-present), African Union-United Nations-Hybrid Mission in Darfur (2008-present), Multinational Joint Task Force comprising of Chad, Niger, Cameroun, Benin and Nigeria (2015-present). This will help in understanding how AU has succeeded or failed to tackle myriad problems in the aforementioned countries.

7. How can I use this experience to improve my learning and thinking and working?

- The reference to AU missions in conflict areas, especially AU Mission in Somalia, and my further reading on the said missions, will help in my dissertation topic which is on the failure of the United Nations intervention in Somalia.
- The session helps me in better understanding, in terms of structure and characterization, of the several terrorist organizations plaguing Africa.
- Going forward I now know that the real power in AU lies with the Authority of the Heads of States of Governments of AU. Even though this is an equivalent of the UN General Assembly which in theory is also the highest decision making organ of the UN, however, I learnt through the session that unlike the UN which in realistic terms has its actual powers located in the five permanent members of the Security Council, AU's actual powers lie with the meeting of the Heads of States and Governments of AU member states.
- I now have a clearer understanding of the roles African Union has been playing in the areas of peace and security in the Continent, especially through dialogue, mediation and application of AU's early warning mechanisms for prevention and de-escalation of conflicts in the Continent.

8. How does this event relate to what I have learnt elsewhere on my modules/course? How does it confirm/contradict modules attended so far?

- Chidinma's session on the role of the AU in the peace and security of Africa relates significantly to *Diplomacy in the International System (7020HUM)*, a first semester module that dwelt significantly with multilateral diplomacy involving states.
- It also relates to the assessment brief I tackled in the *Changing Character of War (7018HUM)* which is on how the EU can work to stabilize Libya.
- The beginning part which dwelt on terrorism and proliferation of light weapons in Africa confirms what we read in *Governance for Security in the Developing World (7016HUM)* on the challenges confronting security in less developed world, especially Africa.

9. How does this event relate to what I have previously read? How does it confirm/contradict this literature?
- The part of the session that dealt on Cybercrimes in Africa relates to what I previously read in a journal article titled “International Dimensions of Cybercrimes” by Goodman (2011).
 - The revelation in the session by Chidinma that cybercrimes in Africa are difficult to prosecute due to the transnational nature of the crime, especially as most members of the cartel operate from different jurisdictions, confirms the argument by Goodman (2011) that prosecution of cybercrime is often difficult due to its transnational nature (Goodman, 2011).
10. Was this event/session useful to my studies? How?
- The session was quite useful to my studies.
 - This is because it gave me insight into the practical aspect of IR which is Diplomacy and how it is played at the highest level in Africa. The speaker was also very good as she took time to break down the various organs of the AU and their varied functions.

Session 2

- Name of speaker/event: Hajara Yousuf & Ladid B. Muhammed
- Date of event: Online, 4th June, 2021.

Section 2A - reflective notes

In a few sentences, please answer all of these questions for the session selected:

1. What did you consider the most striking element of this event/session?
- It was astounding to realize how humongous amount of money is being laundered across borders from poor countries with weak institutions to rich destination countries by the leaders of the developing worlds.
 - It was striking to note, from the workshop, that Nigeria is doing a lot to put enormous policy frameworks in place to curtail the menace of money laundering.
 - That there is high level diplomacy at play in seeking cooperation of destination countries in the recovery of laundered loot back to the country of origin.

2. Has this event reinforced or challenged your assumptions, understanding, perceptions and ideas?

- The workshop helped to change my perception that Nigeria, and indeed West Africa, pays lip service on the issue of fight against corruption and other financial crimes. The knowledge of existence of West African Financial Intelligence Unit, a regional unit made up of 16 West African countries, is reassuring that West African countries actually have developed a robust synergy in tackling the scourge.
- The session greatly reinforced my belief that for public office holders to successfully launder ill-gotten wealth, they usually employ the services of professionals like lawyers, real estate experts, accountants, bankers, etc who help to cook up phantom documents with which the funds are made to look legitimate in order to allow them pass undetected.
- The session corrected properly my perception that the contracts of *uberrimae fidei* (that is, contract of utmost good faith) that banks have with their customers do not permit them to disclose under any circumstances the details of the account of a customer who is a subject of investigation. From the session, I learnt that Nigeria (through its Money Laundering Act) and Switzerland through some legislations have laws in place that compel banks to disclose details to the law enforcement agents who are carrying out investigations.
- I was able to understand, against my prior belief, that UN and other global conventions on the fight against financial crimes are subservient to the municipal laws of signatory countries until such countries enact municipal legislations to domesticate such conventions.

3. Was anything associated with this event confusing or difficult to understand?

- I was left more confused than I was before joining the session, especially after hearing Hajara reel out plethora efforts and institutional safeguards put in place by Nigeria and other West African countries in their efforts at curtailing the high incidence of corruption and financial crimes in the region yet West Africa remains the hub of corruption and money laundering in the world. Is it that the authorities merely create institutions to fight corruption just to fulfil the yearnings and aspirations of the civil society and some global donor agencies and then go behind to sabotage their own efforts, or is it a case of fifth columnists at play or a case of external sabotage?
- It is indeed difficult to understand, and this was not sufficiently answered by Hajara, why most of the originating countries on the issue of money laundering are developing or poor countries while the destination countries are usually the rich and developed nations.

4. What more do I need to know about this issue to help my understanding?

- I need to research more on the challenges African countries face while trying to implement their anti money laundering laws; I also need to research more on why most countries of origin of laundered monies are poor states while the receiving countries are usually rich. I also need to study in greater details the extradition laws, mutual legal assistance frameworks and other global synergy in the fight against money laundering to understand how it works and to

understand the conditions usually attached before destination countries agree to repatriate laundered loots to the countries of origin

- I need to know how the Administration of Criminal Justice Act as mentioned by Ladid, especially S.396 that provides for day-to-day hearing or accelerated hearing of corruption cases, has helped Nigeria in successfully prosecuting corruption cases.
- Perhaps I need to read extensively to understand why, in spite of the existence of institutions like Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission, Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, and other legal and policy frameworks like Treasury Single Account, Administration of Criminal Justice Act, The Procurement Act, membership of the Open Government Partnership, etc corruption and other forms of financial crimes are still very rife in Nigeria.

5. Should I refine my ideas and beliefs as a consequence of attending this event?

- Going forward, I need to read more to understand better that money laundering is a crime with a multinational nature and that it demands multilateral diplomacy and engagement to arrest it.
- I need to read more to broaden my understanding on the issue of repatriation of looted funds hidden in foreign jurisdictions, especially to the effect that originating nations have a need to develop national protocols and laws to ensure that returned loots are not re-looted when repatriated by the destination countries. Creation of structures like Recovered Assets Management Agency, as suggested by Hajara, will help in building confidence in the repatriating nation that the loot when repatriated will not be re-looted.

6. How could I identify, locate and interpret relevant information and resources to learn more about this issue?

- Ladid mentioned S.396 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act which provides for speedy trial of financial cases. This obviously will be quite helpful in my broader understanding of the topic.
- On cooperation between countries on the investigation of money laundering, Ladid mentioned Article 18 (4) of UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime which provides that when a country is in possession of a material evidence that will aid another signatory nation in the investigation of a crime, the possessing nation is obligated to provide that material evidence even when not asked. I will need to read up the Convention to understand its limitations, especially in the face of contradiction with a municipal law of a signatory country.

7. How can I use this experience to improve my learning and thinking and working?

- In the field of practice as an aspiring diplomat, the lessons garnered from the session will help me in understanding the rudiments of diplomatic cooperation needed in the course of negotiation for repatriation of laundered funds.
- As emphasized by Hajara, going forward I now understand that time does not run out on prosecution of crimes. In other words, crimes committed tens of

years back can still be successfully prosecuted at any time and this has given me exposure that will inure in that regard.

- As an aspiring diplomat, I am now better informed that UN and other Global Conventions when signed by my country would need to be domesticated by my country before it can take pre-eminence over municipal laws and I have a duty to advise my country in that regard.
- With the prevalence of corruption and other financial crimes in Nigeria irrespective of the plethora institutions put in place to check the menace, I am now better informed that beyond passing laws in that regard, possession of political will to make use of such tools is even more sacrosanct.

8. How does this event relate to what I have learnt elsewhere on my modules/course? How does it confirm/contradict modules attended so far?

- The part that speaks to the multilateral cooperation needed in rooting out transnational money laundering resonates with our workshops in Diplomacy in the International Systems (7020HUM) where we were thought on the rudiments of multilateral diplomacy.
- This confirms what we learnt in the module on the importance of diplomacy in all facets of international relations of countries.

9. How does this event relate to what I have previously read? How does it confirm/contradict this literature?

- The part that presents a picture of how most laundered monies emanate from poor countries while the receiving or destination countries are mainly rich western countries relates to Kwame Nkurumah's (1965) argument in his book, Neo-Colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism.
- It conforms to Nkurumah's (1965) argument that the West is complicit in the looting of Africa (Nkurumah, 1965).

10. Was this event/session useful to my studies? How?

- The session was useful to my studies.
- The multilateral and diplomatic cooperation needed in the fight against transnational money laundering is hugely useful to my course of study as a student of International Relations.

Session 3

- Name of speaker/event: Lina Trovato
- Date of event: Online, 17th June, 2021

Section 3A - reflective notes

In a few sentences, please answer all of these questions for the session selected:

1. What did you consider the most striking element of this event/session?

- The manner in which such a highly celebrated and decorated prosecutor graphically painted the ordeals of trafficked persons who are being trafficked from Nigeria through the Trans-Saharan route to Italy.
- Quite curious learning from Lina how the traffickers keep reinventing new trends in order to evade the prying eyes of the authorities.
- Very astounding to learn that victims of trafficking are often unwilling to cooperate with investigators who are determined and working assiduously to liberate them from the shackles of the trafficking ring.
- The point of disembarkation at the Italian coast is one very striking scenario as it presents a torrid picture of interface of activities involving the officials of International Organization for Migration (IOM), Italian Police, the victims and other non-governmental organizations.

2. Has this event reinforced or challenged your assumptions, understanding, perceptions and ideas?

- The session helped to reinforce the story I have heard and my understanding that victims are usually made to swear to some fetish religious oath of allegiance to a “madam” who bankrolls the victim’s migration and thereafter starts to rip off and exploit the victim
- The session challenged my previous belief that most trafficked persons are aware of their mission and what they are being trafficked to do.
- The session strengthened the story I read that the experience of the victims in the Sahara, beginning from Agadez all the way to Libya to Mediterranean before attempting to cross over to Italy, is a harrowing one that usually involves rape, torture and other forms of inhuman treatment in the hands of Libyan security forces and rebels
- The part that claims that about 90% of the trafficked victims are girls aged between 14-17 years helps to provide a veritable argument on why most victims are usually unwilling to cooperate with the authorities who are working to liberate them. This is because as a statutory minor, the victim will hardly appreciate the enormity of her ordeals and the events and circumstances surrounding her trip.
- The session helped to change my assumption that the engagement of the “juju priest” was only at the point of swearing to allegiance before departure. Little did I know that the repatriation of proceeds of the crime is sometimes done using the voodooist.
- The session confirmed my long-held suspicion that the activities of the trafficking ring will inexorably affect the fortunes of the genuine asylum seekers as the authorities will be subjecting such genuine seekers to extra-ordinary

scrutiny to establish the veracity of their story and to ensure that they are not trafficked victims who are packaged to come in the guise of asylum seeking.

3. Was anything associated with this event confusing or difficult to understand?
 - What was initially difficult for me to understand was why a victim would be unwilling to cooperate with an investigator who is working to liberate her, but on learning their age brackets I then came to the realization and conclusion that as minors they may be lacking the requisite exposure and knowledge to appreciate the full extent of their ordeals.
4. What more do I need to know about this issue to help my understanding?
 - I probably need to read in more details Adeniyi (2019), "From Frying Pan To Fire: How African Migrants Risk Everything in their Futile Search For a Better Life in Europe". Olusegun Adeniyi, a celebrated Nigerian author and journalist, presented a graphic picture of the excruciating experiences of these victims in the book (Adeniyi, 2019).
5. Should I refine my ideas and beliefs as a consequence of attending this event?
 - This session has indeed opened my eyes to the mutation of the crime of trafficking as I will have to read more to learn why traffickers keep reinventing new styles to keep themselves in the business.
 - This session has made me learn that parents of victims are in most cases complicit in the crime as they keep pressuring their daughters to remain in the business and this will provoke my research in finding other reasons, aside poverty, for that.
 - The part involving parents has also refined my new belief that poverty is at the hearts of this menace as it is only a biting poverty that can make a parent encourage a daughter to be trafficked for sex so she could be sending money back home and this calls for more sociological understanding of this pattern.
6. How could I identify, locate and interpret relevant information and resources to learn more about this issue?
 - As already indicated, I would read in more specific details Adeniyi (2019), "From Frying Pan To Fire: How African Migrants Risk Everything in their Futile Search For a Better Life in Europe", in order get a clearer picture of the scourge.
 - From the session, I got an insight into the activities at disembarkation at the Italian shores but I would research further to understand how the victims are received at the point of entry. For example, are the victims taken in as refugees or asylum seekers? Or are they treated as illegal migrants who should face the wrath of the state, which on its own puts them on a position of double jeopardy?
 - I would consult [googlescholar.com](https://scholar.google.com) and the website of International Organization for Migration (IOM) to read reports on their activities and how the global body has been working to curtail this growing menace, and to also understand the efforts being made to ensure that the crimes are busted at budding stage at the country of origin to ensure that the victims are saved the agony of having to pass through the Sahara under such a harrowing situation.

7. How can I use this experience to improve my learning and thinking and working?
 - My mind has now been sharpened to understand that there is a link between poverty and trafficking and this will help me apply measures towards nipping such in the bud by tackling such poverty whenever I find myself in a public office.
 - The session would help me develop proposal and submit to the authorities on the ways of rooting out the primary recruiters of the victims who are mainly found in the originating country. This is because once that is busted, the secondary recruiter who handles the exploitation will be out of business.
 - The experience gathered from the session would help to improve my understanding that while investigating crimes of such nature, I do not necessarily need the cooperation of the victim who may decline to volunteer a witness statement due to some indoctrination bordering on some religious oath, but should focus more robust energy in getting watertight evidence from other sources like wiretapping, etc.
 - The session has helped me to learn about the changing character and mutating nature of the crime of trafficking and how to devise new methods of fighting the menace.
8. How does this event relate to what I have learnt elsewhere on my modules/course? How does it confirm/contradict modules attended so far?
 - This session relates to what I learnt in Critical International Political Economy (7022HUM) where I wrote an essay on how the current refugee crisis has affected the global political economy of the 21st century. The session has shown that trafficking or irregular migration to Italy produces refugees, especially at entry points where the victims are camped, hence the nexus.
 - Learning through the session that the IOM is involved in the refugee crisis emanating from such trafficking confirms what I learnt in the module that keeping multiple global bodies – for example, UN High Commissioner for Refugees and International Organization for Migration - and funding all of them to take care of refugee crisis is taking a toll on the global political economy (Karatani, 2005).
9. How does this event relate to what I have previously read? How does it confirm/contradict this literature?
 - The session relates to what I previously read in Adeniyi (2019), “From Frying Pan To Fire: How African Migrants Risk Everything in their Futile Search For a Better Life in Europe”
 - The session confirms what I read in the book that the victims, in a bid to escape local poverty plaguing them in Africa, are faced with more damning situation trying to cross over to Europe, and even when they manage to cross over, are faced with a different picture from their fantasies (Adeniyi, 2019).
10. Was this event/session useful to my studies? How?
 - This session is quite helpful to my study as a student of International Relations.

- This is because as an aspiring expert on global affairs, I am now equipped with the challenges confronting Europe, especially Italy, in that regard, and I will now read more to understand how Italian government is interfacing with African governments, especially Libya, in order to address the impasse.

Session 4

- Name of speaker/event: Fabrizio Sarrica
- Date of event: Online, 8th July, 2021.

Section 4A - reflective notes

In a few sentences, please answer all of these questions for the session selected:

1. What did you consider the most striking element of this event/session?

- The data crisscrossing gender, age, nationality, etc as compiled by the UN Global Report on Trafficking in Persons as reeled out by Fabrizio in the session is simply amazing, wholesome and almost exhaustive.
- It was striking having to learn that what trafficking meant for a Dutch is different from that of French, Japanese or Chinese.
- It was quite revealing having to note that trafficking mainly originates from low income countries while destinations are usually higher income countries. In other words, there is a nexus between GDP, per capita income and the direction of the movement.
- Similarly, it is also striking to note that even at a micro level, trafficking still oscillates between the poorer areas of a country and the richer part.
- It was curious to learn that victims of forced labour are usually aware of the nature of the job they are trafficked to do but mainly deceived about the condition of the job.
- It is also quite remarkable to note, through the plethora of data reeled out by Fabrizio, that most convicted persons in countries of origin are mainly local nationals but in destination countries it varies. For example, in Romania all convicted traffickers for trafficking involving victims destined for UK are Romanians while in the UK the nationality is almost 50%-50%.

- It is striking to note that a whopping 38% of the convicted traffickers in 2018 are females, a huge number when compared to the percentage of female participation in other organized crimes.

- Again, it is also striking to note that female participation is more in countries of origin.

2. Has this event reinforced or challenged your assumptions, understanding, perceptions and ideas?

- The session educated me that there are different flows in terms of where victims are detected. For example, victims from the Balkans – e.g, Romania and Bulgaria – are trafficked in their large numbers but only to Europe, while a different scenario obtains elsewhere.
- The session corrected my earlier erroneous assumption that more men are trafficked globally than women because of incidence of forced labour which expectedly should be male-dominated, but the session revealed that 46% of trafficked persons globally are female.
- The session reaffirmed my belief that there is a nexus between trafficking in persons and poverty as trafficking mostly originate from low income countries where poverty is rife.

3. Was anything associated with this event confusing or difficult to understand?

- It is confusing to note through the session that forced labour is the most prevalent form of trafficking in person, yet women account for 46% of the global percentage of trafficked persons and sexual exploitation accounting for 50% of exploitation as against 38% exploitation on forced labour. One would have expected the adult male to dominate the number of trafficked persons given the capacity of men to be more efficient in manual labour more.

4. What more do I need to know about this issue to help my understanding?

- I probably need to read the most recent UN Global Report on Trafficking in Persons to be able to get a more accurate data on the global trafficking as my recording of the virtual session might not have been accurate.

5. Should I refine my ideas and beliefs as a consequence of attending this event?

- Yes, I should now fine-tune my belief by reading more to understand why organized crime groups traffic more victims, for longer periods, across wider spectrum and distances with more degree of capacity to unleash violence than non-organized criminal groups.
- I need to read books bordering on human trafficking to understand the sociological underpinning of the trend and pattern of the crime.
- I need to read more to understand why conviction rates for traffickers is more successful in the Western world as against the numbers coming out from the Southern world, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

6. How could I identify, locate and interpret relevant information and resources to learn more about this issue?

- I would need to read the latest UN Global Report on Trafficking in Persons to have a full grasp of the data and the solution preferred therein.
- I obviously would need to visit locate.coventry.ac.uk to search for resources dealing on the scourge of human trafficking.

7. How can I use this experience to improve my learning and thinking and working?

- The experience from the session helps me to read more to understand the reasons why victims originate more from low income countries.
- Through the session, I now know about the emergence of cyber flows and how traffickers now use social networks as recruitments tools and this will help in my education of the larger public to be vigilant in the social networks.
- Knowing that most traffickers are adults and that Business Enterprise Type of Organized Criminal Groups account for about 57% of the variety of structures in trafficking, this helps me going forward in narrowing down my investigation when called to serve in that regard in future.
- Learning, from the session, the procedures and method adopted by the UN Global Report on Trafficking in Persons that involves using local actors to gather their data and thereafter subjecting same to some validation processes has immensely helped me to learn the art of valid data collection and this will be of great value going forward.
- Knowing that unemployment is highly connected to trafficking puts me in an informed position to deal with the scourge of unemployment when found in leadership position, especially knowing its ripple effects in this regard.

8. How does this event relate to what I have learnt elsewhere on my modules/course? How does it confirm/contradict modules attended so far?

- The part of the session that explains the nexus between unemployment and trafficking relates to what I learnt in Critical International Political Economy (7022HUM) where there are plethora arguments on the links between activities and crimes of this nature and the global political economy of the 21st century.
- It reaffirms and confirms the arguments in the Critical International Political Economy (7022HUM) that there is a link between unemployment, low GDP and crimes of this nature.

9. How does this event relate to what I have previously read? How does it confirm/contradict this literature?

- The session relates to what I read in an article entitled “Web scraping as an investigation tool to identify potential human trafficking operations in Romania” where McAlister (2015) tried to argue that most migrations from Romania to UK are mainly trafficking in persons masquerading as legitimate job opportunities (McAlister, 2015).
- The session confirms this literature because the author was able to prove, through empirical technological data, that most of the migrations from Romania to UK are indeed trafficking just as stated in the session.

10. Was this event/session useful to my studies? How?

- Yes, this session is very useful to my study of International Relations.
- This is because the study of the pattern helps me to be better prepared to advise the policy makers in my country on the trend when called to serve in a foreign relations capacity.

Session 5

- Name of speaker/event: Ahmed Bakari
- Date of event: Online, 24th June, 2021.

Section 5A - reflective notes

In a few sentences, please answer all of these questions for the session selected:

1. What did you consider the most striking element of this event/session?

- That Bakari superbly combined both his operational experience as a senior air force officer in the transformation unit of the Nigerian military with a presentable and teachable classroom syllables in a most thrilling and engaging manner.
- It is striking to see how Bakari presented a very gloomy picture of Nigerian insecurity issue which has reached feverish pitch, having engulfed the 6 geopolitical zones that make up Nigeria, with each region reeking with its own peculiar insecurity different from others.
- It was quite informative to observe how failure to provide leadership is at the hearts of Nigeria's insecurity challenges.
- It is striking to see how, in the midst of hopelessness, there appeared some lights at the end of the tunnel as Bakari provided some glimmer of hope by reeling out some steps being undertaken by the Nigerian authorities towards addressing the challenges.

2. Has this event reinforced or challenged your assumptions, understanding, perceptions and ideas?

- The part that included poverty as one of the drivers of insecurity in Nigeria reaffirms my belief and conviction that poverty fuels insecurity in Nigeria as

the handouts by insurgents to the vulnerable poor in the course of their recruitment drive serve a motivating tool for the recruitment of idle youths by the terrorists.

- The identification of climate change as the main driver of the farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria actually challenges my assumption that while I concede that climate change is a global problem, the kind of insecurity witnessed in Nigeria in that regard has been surmounted elsewhere by introduction of ranching and other modern means of animal husbandry.
- The revelation that hard approach to Nigeria's insecurity by the military has only achieved about 30% success only helps to reaffirm my belief that the insurgents, secessionists, terrorists, bandits and other criminals in Nigeria can only be defeated through good governance and robust engagement with the people.
- The admission by Bakari of weak military industrial complexes in Africa and overreliance on foreign aid by African nation states for assistance in the area of military hardware supply reinforces my idea and argument that African states must look inwards if they are to root out insurgency from Africa.

3. Was anything associated with this event confusing or difficult to understand?

- It is indeed confusing, if not contradictory, how Bakari could identify in one breath poverty, poor leadership, weak military industrial complexes, failure to govern every spaces in the territory, lack of adequate operational manpower, religious radicalization and extremism, lack of adequate border control, etc as the bane of Nigeria's insecurity and yet try to argue that the state is doing a whole lot to surmount the problem. The above reasons, when put together, can be deposited at the doorsteps of the same bad leadership that he argues is providing succour.

4. What more do I need to know about this issue to help my understanding?

- I probably would need to read Clausewitz's Trinity of War, as quoted copiously by Bakari in the session, with a view to having a better view of the position.

5. Should I refine my ideas and beliefs as a consequence of attending this event?

- As said above, I would read Clausewitz's work on War so I can have broader understanding of challenges states face in prosecuting wars, especially the type plaguing Nigeria.
- I will need to read more extensively about the new war and old war because in quoting Clausewitz, Bakari maintains that the nature of war has not changed but it is the character of war that has changed and this contradicts the argument of Kaldor (1999) that a new form of organized and structured violence has emerged, especially in Eastern Europe and Africa, which is one aspect of the present globalized age (Kaldor, 1999).
- Yes, I need to engage in independent research to understand why the Nigerian government has not defeated Boko Haram after a decade and how the crisis suddenly metamorphosed into ISWAP taking over the fight and how

this mutated into other organized criminal gangs that now terrorize, not only the North-East, but the North-West and Central Nigeria.

- I will engage in further reading to understand how Nigeria can defeat terrorism before it enters the long term stage that begins from 15 years, according to Bakari's classification of short-lived, medium term and long term terrorisms.
 - Going forward, I would seek to understand the role of the media in the fight – have they been fair and supportive of the government in the fight or have they been over-sensationalizing bad news coming from the terrorists?
6. How could I identify, locate and interpret relevant information and resources to learn more about this issue?
- Bakari quoted Clausewitz's war trinity very copiously in the session and it is a no brainer that I would read more about Clausewitz's contributions on the literature in order to broaden my mind on the topic.
 - I will read Kaldor's (1999, 2001 & 2007) works on new war versus old war debate to get a more balanced and informed view of the topic.
 - I will seek the assistance of locate.coventry.ac.uk and googlescholar.com to read more resources dwelling on the myriad insecurity in the Sahel, Gulf of Guinea and Lake Chad Basin.
7. How can I use this experience to improve my learning and thinking and working?
- Having learnt that poverty is at the hearts of insurgency in Nigeria helps me to seek out solutions in that regard when called to serve in such capacity in Nigeria, my home country.
 - I will seek to do some more research in order to develop some proposals and deliver to the Nigerian government on how best to man their borders in a 21st Century world. This is because Bakari has identified porous borders as one of the bane of insecurity in Nigeria.
 - Having identified climate change as the big elephant in the room on the farmer-herder conflict, I would seek to send proposal to the right quarters for the ranching of all livestock in Nigeria.
 - I will do some more research to understand how the UK was able to employ dialogue to resolve the UK Vs IRA conflict, especially as Bakari has maintained that dialogue is key to resolving the conflict because, according to him, it is only dialogue that can bring peace after war.
 - I am currently working on my dissertation topic which is on the failure of UN intervention in Somalia and I will read more on the Nigeria debacle because the same neglected indicators and early warning signs that ensured the collapse of Somalia are currently playing out in Nigeria.
8. How does this event relate to what I have learnt elsewhere on my modules/course? How does it confirm/contradict modules attended so far?
- The part of the session that dwells on new war versus old war debate resonates with what I have learnt in the Threats to Global Security module (7017HUM) where I wrote an essay topic on: "THERE ARE NO "NEW WARS", ONLY "OLD WARS" FOUGHT WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY'. CRITICALLY EVALUATE".

- It neither contradicts nor confirms the above-cited module as the new war-old war debate presents a two sides of the coin scenario as scholars are divided on whether there are indeed new wars or the same old war fought with modern technology, and our module leader never took a position on the subject that would seem contradictory to Bakari's argument which is to the effect that there are no new wars.
9. How does this event relate to what I have previously read? How does it confirm/contradict this literature?
- The part of the session that advocates for robust investment in the area of provision of social services, just as was done in Afghanistan, as a way of ending the impasse resonates with what I read on the Afghanistan issue wherein Decker (2021) admonished the US policy makers in the wake of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan that the United States should be ready to pump in hundreds of millions of dollars in the educational, health and agricultural sectors of the country in order to jump-start the Afghan economy as a way of ensuring the defeat of the Taliban (Decker, 2021).
 - The session confirms what I read in Decker (2021) that a state must invest robustly in social infrastructures that can attend to the needs of the people as a way of defeating insurgency and terrorism.
10. Was this event/session useful to my studies? How?
- Yes, the session was very useful to my studies.
 - This is because as an aspiring policy maker I have been able to identify the issues fuelling insecurity in Nigeria and how they can be solved. I will work on seeking to attain the practicable solutions reeled out by Bakari and how they can be fine-tuned to achieve desired results.

Section B – More detailed reflection

One of the five sessions above should be written up in more detail. Which session do you think you learnt most from?

Students should answer the following questions in 1,500 words (i.e. the 3 answers put together should total no more than 1,500 words):

- 1. In terms of the content, what were the key points made in the session?**
- 2. How does what you learnt in this session relate to your course learning?**
- 3. How does what you learnt in this session relate to the academic literature on this topic?**

Talk by Ahmed Bakari, a Senior Nigerian Air Force Officer.

Date: Online, 24th June, 2021.

Ahmed Bakari's session centred mainly on the myriad security challenges confronting Nigeria and how the Nigerian authorities are working assiduously to surmount the challenges. He argues that Nigeria's current insecurity is of violent, uncertain and ambiguous nature and mostly dominated by non state actors. Bakari reveals that Nigeria's insecurity has over time shifted from the traditional dramatis personae to some nebulous, unidentifiable non state actors who come in the forms of terrorism, insurgency, organized crime, banditry, militancy, farmer-herder clashes and secessionists. According to Bakari, each of the six (6) geopolitical zones that make up the Nigerian state has its own peculiar security challenge different from others. He identified the root causes of the problems to include: (1) poverty (2) uncontrolled proliferation of extreme religious sects and ideologies (3) Failure of the leadership to govern the swathes of ungoverned spaces in Nigeria, which go beyond territorial spaces to include provision of basic amenities to the citizenry (4) Climate change as the enabler of the farmer-herder conflict (5) Lack of adequate border control that has led to invasion of Nigeria by foreign criminals. He also identified the challenges faced in trying to surmount the myriad security challenges to include over concentration on the hard approach, neglecting the soft approach; weak or nonexistent military industrial complexes, culminating in overreliance on foreign support which takes time to materialize; the fact that the state is fighting an enemy who has scant regard for human rights while the state is often cautious of the human rights backlash when dealing with the terrorists who have permeated the civilian population; the bad media reportage of the situation has also not helped matters; again, lack of adequate manpower is a problem and finally, the big elephant in the room, lack of adequate financial resources.

Bakari, after painting the above sordid picture, tried to offer light at the end of the tunnel by reeling out a number of solutions to the problem, some of which he claimed the Nigerian authorities are currently working on actualizing. First, Zakari believes that military approach alone to the issue is unhelpful as there has to be a sociological study of the root causes of the problem and the willingness to start tackling them from there. In that regard, he identified

poverty as a root cause and suggests that the state should invest heavily in social infrastructures that could attend to the needs of the poor masses. He suggested that, just like Afghanistan did, the Nigerian state should start investing heavily in roads, hospitals, education, poverty alleviation, etc as a first step to addressing the issues because, according to him, an idle, hungry youth is a potential danger to the society. Second, Bakari enjoins the Nigerian state to redouble efforts in diplomacy, especially with the contiguous states of Niger, Cameroun and Chad with a view to working in synergy with the aforementioned countries. Third, he advocated a robust investment in military industrial complex to enable Nigeria and other African states think inward. Four, he exhorts the authorities that in seeking aid from the West, emphasis should not just be on cash but on hardware support, intelligence and training. Five, he suggests that strong institutions should be built to ensure that budgeted funds for designated items are not looted. On what the Nigerian state is currently doing on the positive side, he revealed that the state is currently doing robustly in tightening up its borders to check high incidence of infiltration across the borders. Again, the formation of the Multinational Joint Task Force involving the Lake Chad Basin countries is a demonstration of Nigeria's robust investment in that regard. Finally, on the curbing of terrorist financing, Bakari revealed that Bank Verification Number (BVN) introduced by the Nigerian state has worked significantly to trace terrorist financing.

What I learnt in Bakari's session relates to my module learning in significant ways. The Module is international Security Praxis and the session dwelt a lot on the international dimension to the insecurity in the Sub-Saharan Africa, especially in the Lake Chad Basin countries where terrorism is a major concern. Various aspects of the session resonate with other sessions in the module dwelling on transnational crime. For example, the aspect that dwelt on the infiltration of Nigeria and the attendant defeat of Boko Haram and takeover of the fight by Islamic State in West African Province (ISWAP) helps to bring international angle to the war. This shows that the terrorism plaguing Nigeria has gone beyond the expression of local grievances by some ragtag criminals to full blown international terrorism which effectively brings the situation under the purview of International Security Praxis. Writing copiously on ISWAP infiltration of the region, Barkindo (2020) argues that "from March to June 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 lockdown, Boko Haram and ISWAP carried out 19 attacks around the Lake Chad borderland, killing four hundred and fifty-two (452) people, with the attack in March 2020 on Chadian soldiers recorded as one of the deadliest" (Barkindo, 2020, P. 1).

Again, the part of the session that dwelt on the synergy amongst the Lake Chad Basin Countries as epitomized by the formation of the Multinational Joint Task Force effectively brings the session within the purview of the Module learning. This aptly shows that the war is transnational, hence in actual fact relates to the Module learning. The diplomacy that birthed this initiative has evidently shown that the crisis is a multinational crisis, especially with unassailable evidence that the terrorists indeed terrorize all countries in the Lake Chad Basin. Writing on this, Duruji, Chidozie, Olanrewaju, & Duruji-Moses (2019) argue that the formation of the Multinational Task Force evidences that the Boko Haram crises in the North-East Nigeria has become internationalized (Duruji, Chidozie, Olanrewaju, & Duruji-Moses, 2019)

On the issue of academic literature on the topic, what I learnt in this session aptly relates to very many academic literatures on this topic. On the new war versus the old war debate, the speaker, Bakari, opened up the long-held debate on whether there are indeed new wars or

whether it is the same old wars but fought with new technology in contemporary times. He quoted Clausewitz profusely while arguing that the nature of war has not changed but that it is its character that has been undergoing series of transformations due to innovations in modern technology. His argument relates to the argument of Reyna (2009) on the raging topic which is to the effect that the new wars depiction is implausible, mainly because new wars or contemporary conflicts share some features with old colonial wars but only fought with modern weapons in the contemporary times. Reyna's (2009) cardinal argument is that the new war depiction can be likened to having old wines in new bottles (Reyna, 2009). Also, Smith (2003), Kalyvas (2001) and Gantzel (2002) in their separate works interrogated the accuracy of the dichotomy between new and old wars, arguing that it seeks to introduce an arbitrary division and distinctive lines where no basic differences exist (Smith, 2003; Kalyvas, 2001; Gantzel, 2002). The above arguments however contrast with Kaldor's (1999) argument that there are new wars in the contemporary times which are distinct from the old war (Kaldor, 1999). And terrorism which was the central discourse in Bakari's session fits into her depiction and description of new wars.

Also, on Bakari's argument that endemic poverty is at the hearts of insecurity in Nigeria, Ayegba (2015) argues along that line by claiming that even though the Nigerian state has generated some significant amount of resources from its abundant minerals, lack of even distribution of the proceeds has tremendously pushed many Nigerians, especially in Northern Nigeria, into extreme vicious cycle of poverty and the ripple effect is the myriad insecurity as we have it today in Nigeria (Ayegba, 2015). On the adverse effect of the Nigeria's porous borders and its effect in counterterrorism efforts, Akinyemi (2013), in agreeing with Bakari, argues that Nigeria's unmanned borders are at the hearts of Nigeria's failure to defeat terrorism. He argues that globalization is a real challenge for Nigeria but that the country must begin to police its borders appropriately if indeed it hoped to defeat all manner of trans-border criminals terrorizing the country (Akinyemi, 2013). This argument very much resonates with Bakari's position on the subject. Bakari also blamed Nigeria's security woes on proliferation of extreme religious ideologies in the country and it is instructive to point out that a host of scholars have written in support of that position too. Gwamna (2010) argues that religious intolerance and propagation of extreme religious ideologies have largely contributed to high incidence of insecurity in Nigeria. A combination of the above literatures therefore has robust correlation with Bakari's argument in the session and the relationships are herein stated above.

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