



Syrian Conflict and Its Implication on Peace and Security in African Countries

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INTRODUCTION

In this era, we continue to witness evolving scenarios not even good for deviants to experience. Decades ago, kidnapping, terrorism and other forms of insurgency were heard far of in Gaza strip, Palestine (Middle East). People imagine how the culprits and victims will look like; the same feeling was also common at hearing about coup d'état and later catching sight at a suicide bomber whether male or female. The expression on faces, ask, if it is real? However, the contagious effects of successful young coup plotters inspired by some revolutionary literatures around the world evidently were rampant in Africa during military regimes. Politics, religion, trade etc are universal doctrine for that it's operational manifestations positively and negatively is copied fast in one-world universality orchestrated by globalization. The advancement recorded in westernization, liberalization, modernization etc ensures that any form of disposition is in fact highly copied and practiced around the world following a coincidental need or by way of fair abuse or by practical adoption as ethics. Indeed, the quick spread of what is adjudged good and bad have also responded to the increasing wave of the 21st century.

Today, the peace and security of Africa as a continent has been threatened by the insurgency traced to al -Qaeda networks linked to Jihadists because it is a religious issue. We involves ourselves in political leadership devoid of freedom, highly corrupt to the extent that standard of living of the people is adversely affected with noticeable public anger, and fellow countrymen enjoying the common wealth from the point of the strength against the point of weakness of the disadvantaged ones since the economy according to Aja (2001:1) "is vital in determining the projection of power from either position of strength or weakness", the reason is that we exist in one-world.

Syria is located in south western Asia north of the Arabian Peninsula belonging to Levant region. In the eastern of the Mediterranean Sea, it is bordered by Turkey, to the north, Lebanon and Israel to the west and in the west and southwest, Iraq to the east and Jordan to the south. It also has the highest point known as mount Harmon maintaining a height of 2,814m, (Arnaw Mariwala 2017:9 and Haram VP 2016:9-12). Syrian government is led by president Bashar al – Assaad who took over from his father former president of Syria Hafez in 2000 after an election. It was in 1946 that Syria got her independence from years of French rule after World War II. Although it was a popular uprising against the military rule in 1953 that led to the hand-over of power to a civilian government, between 1958–1963. Syria witnessed another coups and changes in leadership.

Hafez A-Assad, an alawite, declared himself president in March 1971. He ruled until death in 2000. It is worthy to note that since 1970, Syria had been a one-party-state (Ba' ath party) until the first multi election to the people's council of Syria was conducted in 2012. In 1973, Hafez Al-Assad had a fierce demonstration in Hama, Homs and Aleppo which was organized by Muslim Brotherhood and Ulama following the implementation of a new constitution which unlike the pervious never require the president to be a Muslim in line with western ideologies. They called him an enemy of Allah and call for Jihad against his rule, (Janis Berzins 2013:22). After his father's death in 2000, Bashar Al-Assad was elected as president of Syria. His wife Assam, a Sunni Muslim with British education, this was a source of hope for democratic reforms. The agitation met a great disappointment as Bashar in 2001 arrested and imprisoned ten leading activists who had called for democratic elections. He also did not tolerate any moderate opposition to his government and regarded all opposition forces as jihadists willing to destroy his leadership, (Janis Berzins 2013:3, Emily 2011:9-15).

Every country is conscious of the peaceful co-existence of its people locally and internationally. All regional and sub-regional powers also

have known organizations to ensure peace and security. For instance in Africa, the AU a regional organization was found with a mandate to ensure unity, promote trade, peace and security among other treaties within African countries. Yet issues had contributed to lack of peace and security or threat to it. From one time to the other, Ghana, Lybia, Egypt, Liberia, Sudan, Nigeria just to mention but a few had had this experience. Nigeria had an internal threat to peace through a body known as the Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOP) in 2017. Their agitations led to operation python dance as a response from government resulting to loss of lives and property. The Egyptian revolution (post Mubarak) came out of a controversial parliamentary election that caused mounting uproar among other corrupt issues against the government in 2010 (Doaa etal 2013:94-5). From 2011, Libya experienced insecurity. This was caused by failure to disarm and demobilize rebel militias after the war (NATO 2014:12-13). All these challenges to peace and security by few countries as mentioned above attracted both local and international responses. The standard emphasized had been that for peace and security to endure, there must be better ideologies in leadership style to respect the will of the masses, a universal culture.

The statement of problem

The Bashar Al-Assad's led Government which has failed to perform with regard to people expectations had to be faced with wider public hatred which on the 15th of March 2011 resulted in a massive protest. The protesters demanded a sweeping reforms to the government as major cities and the capital were affected. Later this protesters advanced by calling for the overthrow of Assad. This received a bitter response by the deploying of security forces nationwide to maintain government control, (Janis Barzins 2013:1-4). It is in terms with what Aja Akpuru Aja (1997:26) saw in state use of power, and in Marxists view; The state had institutional mechanism for promoting the influence of the rich against the wage labourers and the propertyless class. This state ideology of right to life, liberty and property was abstract and not concrete because it applied specifically to the bourgeoisie who constituted at the same time the ruling class.

The expression of anger from power use clearly explained state in Marxist view. This violent response from Assad culminated into serious clashes which attracted the attention of Gulf Arab nations and western supports in the direction that Assad use of violent oppressive attack on his people was very bad. It is not only regional and world powers that noted that unnecessary brutality president Assad employed. Even the defectors who originally served in the Syrian military and later formed the Free Syrian Army saw the hundreds of demonstrators killed and others imprisoned in what was known as peaceful protest in support of Arab spring, (ARK Group 2016). In that case, what seems to be public policy is in fact personal interest of suppression against his brothers not for national collective interest but for personal ambition. The words of Nnadozi (2016:54);

The use of the term “public interest “ is therefore, a smokescreen often employed to cover the interests of international finance capita represented by the multinational corporations operating in the country, on one hand, and those of the Nigerian ruling elite on the other.

The Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad had a different interest otherwise coercive response would not have been possible, although most African leaders cherish this style of leadership.

It is a universal value held by the Free Syria Army, a rebel group. They targeted the overthrow of the government on seeing the unconstitutional attack from the government, leading Syria into war. The crisis situation in Syria is one of the wars characterized by the highest violation of human rights the world had witnessed. This resulted to a situation where some militia group supporting the government had rebelled against it. On the other hand, rebel groups had for humanitarian reasons or ideological/religious reasons harmed some Syrians. For example several Al-Aral states, along with Turkey, have provided weapons and material support to rebel groups in Syria. Turkey has also officially criticized the US decision to arm Kurdish fighters battling ISIL in Syria. Israel carried out latest air strikes inside Syria of which Damascus and Quneitra were involved. Syrian

opposition groups formed the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and seized control of the area surrounding Aleppo and parts of southern Syria. Over time, some factions of the Syrian oppositions split from their original moderate position to pursue an Islamist vision for Syria, joining groups such as al-Nusra front and ISILs. In 2015, the people's protection units (YPG) (joined forces with Arab, Assyrian and some Turkmen groups, to form the Syrian Democratic forces, which most Turkmen groups remained with the FSA, Russia and Hezbollah supported the Syrian government military, while beginning in 2014, a coalition of NATO countries began launching airstrikes against ISIL (ARK Group 2016:22). Not to talk of the western and regional involvement which had recorded that internationally the chemical weapon used by Assad forces in 2013 irritated the US president. And later the US under president Trump carried out a direct military action against Syrian air force base from which the US believe the chemical weapon project was executed.

Even at UN Security Council Russia voted eight western backed resolutions on Syria which China voted six resolutions. International organizations have accused the Syrian government, ISIL and rebel groups of several human right violations and of many massacres. The conflict has caused a major refugee crisis in neighbouring countries as some had migrated under dehumanizing traveling situations to Europe.

The concern of both external forces and other domestic forces of government and rebel divide is in line with Umozurike (1999:215)

Humanitarian law derives from the basic principles that the individual is entitled to certain minimum rights whether in peace or in war. He is entitled to protection, security and respect, if wounded or captured, he is entitled to care and treatment; if dead, his body is entitled to decent treatment. Humanitarian law, therefore, is one side of a coin; the other is human right law. The one operating in situation of war or armed conflict; the other

operates in peacetime. There has been controversy as to whether the two are separate and distinct.

The core reason why peaceful inter-relationship among countries and better security has a serious bearing on people's existence around the globe is seen in the universality of human rights, religion, politics etc and that political leadership in most countries of the world including Africa have been blamed for not ensuring political freedom, not responding to many welfare of the citizens, attracting public anger following inhuman treatment both historic and at present times etc. (Rim Turkmani and Mustafa Haid 2007, Carla E. Humud et al 2017, Amiseh B. and Raffello P. 2016). With western ideologies against human rights and good government African countries had recorded crisis in Libya, Egypt, and Liberia etc. Successive result can guide and inspire demonstrators as this scenario can contagiously spread since similar issues has led to modern conflict in the 21st century which must witness terrorism as an international phenomenon.

The issue of freedom can be multidimensional; as it could be recalled that human rights situation in Syria had been subjected to harsh Critique from Global organizations. This continued to a point that the right to freedom of expression, association and even assembly were strictly controlled even before the March 2011 uprising. About six countries of WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, covering a total population of approximately 100 million; are in state of humanitarian crisis as a result of armed conflict. These countries are: Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory, Somalia and Sudan (Darfur) (WHO 2008: 1-2). This is for them to make-up for losses during one form of conflict or the other. Just like armed conflict in Libya. Conflict especially in the Region (Eastern Mediterranean region), are not one-off events. They are often chronic, lasting for years. Their origin and perpetuation are closely tied to a world system that has grown more complex since 1945 (WHO 2008:56).

The consciousness being felt in this era since Syria armed conflict had been described as a reflection of World War II, is the fear of a spill-over

of such studied crises in Africa. African countries had also internalized such type of leadership even more than countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region. We relate this to the report of the IFID conflict (2001:8) which states;

As a number of ailing, autocratic leaders in Africa lost control and external support, several states collapsed failing states such as Liberia, Somalia, Sierra Leon and Zaire became centre of regional insecurity. African countries increasingly intervene militarily in neighboring states and justified their actions on the grounds of necessary self-protection. Conflict became increasing regional in nature as collapsed states threatened the security of their neighbors'.

The trend does not exclude countries like Burundi which remains the country at most immediate risk of genocide. We will consider the following questions to guide this study;

- a. Why is historic oppressive leadership linked to armed conflicts?
- b. What has been the nature of armed conflicts in the 21st century?
- c. How has long experience of autocratic leadership affected the civil rights of citizens?
- d. What are some universally accepted strategies African countries can adopt to reduce armed conflicts?

Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine negative impact of the armed conflict in Syria and possible spread to other parts of the world particularly Africa. Then specifically the study attempted to:

- i. find out the effect of past oppressive leadership and its link to several armed conflicts in middle-east and other countries of the world, particularly Africa;
- ii. ascertain the nature of armed conflicts in the modern times, Africa;

- iii. examine how long experience of autocratic rule had generated public anger in Africa, and
- iv. Suggest possible measures that will ensure peaceful relationship and co-existence among people and states in Africa.

Significance of the Study

This study has both theoretical and empirical significance. Theoretically, the result of this would benefit scholars public administration, strategic and war studies, political science and other related disciplines. It will add to the existing literature on leadership and conflict management, public policy and development studies. It will generate research concern for those who may wish to further researches on war and defense strategies, world peace and security and conflict resolution. The study will equally serve as a lesson to Arab world, third world countries and other oppressive leadership in different states of the world.

Empirically, the findings of the study will equip states, organizations, government agencies and those who vested with the responsibility of managing crises for people oriented leadership. It will result in pro-activeness on political leaders, heads of international and regional world powers, states and local governments on conflict management, peaceful negotiation and non-violent approach to public issues and use of force. Security experts will also find this work very beneficial as it will instill in minds on the need to handle up-risings and agitations with good feeling for the people in order to avoid armed conflicts.

Scope and Limitation of the Study

Scope of the study

The study "Syrian conflict and its implication on African countries" covers the ongoing armed conflict in Syria with its stages and the possible spread of such conflict to other African countries following homogeneity in leadership style and ideology and religion. And the fact that what exist in any part of the world can easily be copied elsewhere in this era of heightened insecurity brought about by terrorism.

Following the fact that religious militants are common these days, violent movements had been recorded within the Middle-East, Africa and beyond. There are traces of these Shia groups having links with al-Qaeda a known world terrorist organization which also calls for the readiness of all States of the world for a continued fight against insurgency and terrorism. These include policies that the US had continued to sustain in unequal economic world but relatively having peculiarity in socio-political and economic vices.

Limitation of the Study

The researcher experienced a number of challenges during the study. Among the limitations/constraints that hindered the successful completion of this research included poor documentation and record keeping in the public sector. To the best of my knowledge insufficient valid and reliable prior research studies on the topic was a limitation. Citing these prior research work which would have formed the basis for the literature review and help lay a foundation for understanding the research problem proved a little difficult, due to inconsistency of some materials and facts contained in it and how it relates to the issue and the purpose of the study. However, the researcher successfully conducted the research and overcome these challenges through extensive use of internet files and documents. The use of official document and relevant scholarly publications and articles helped the researcher overcome those challenges. Related issues with the Syrian armed conflict were isolated and put into use in order to achieve results.

Literature Review

The literature in this study was reviewed under the following sub-themes:

- Nature of peace threatening conflicts in the world.
- Universal causes of crises in the 21st century
- Dynamism in Syrian armed conflict.
- Possibilities of spread of insecurity within proxy zones and beyond.

Nature of peace threatening activities

Our security and defense studies has graduated into the stage of being more concerned about terrorism and other forms of threat of extremism. Gone are the days of conflicts characterized by small arms display, operational foot and air attacks and mutual keepings to the international human rights, but a deviation from morality seen in violations of rights, use of chemical weapons, attacks on refugees and displaced persons, rapes, assassinations and other forms of dehumanizing treatments including the use of children (volunteered) to ensure explosive attacks on internally displaced persons (IDPs).

According to This day newspaper of 7th December, 2007; page 7 which reports that;

less than a week after Palestinian suicide bombers attacked Israelis killing 25, another suicide bomb exploded in Jerusalem Wednesday morning causing several casualties, ...the Wednesday explosion – the third in Jerusalem in four days - ... Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon's government said it was sending a stern warning to the Palestinian leader that there would be even harsher reprisals if he did not crack down on militants who have been attacking Israelis. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has urged all groups to stand by the ceasefire to which the Palestinians officially remain committed, despite the ongoing violence. But Hamas and Islamic Jihad have issued statements defying Mr. Arafat, calling for a confirmation of the violence.

It can be seen here, that antigovernment forces stirred by religious, ideological, political and social cultural interests had formed parallel forces by the existence of militants and Shia groups or violent groups. Their attack on areas and people may or may not appeal government interests with reprisal attacks which is virtually on the country where

the militants or aggrieved group come from. Thus any violent attack official or not can be misinterpreted as far as devastations are involved. Following the rate of corruption, economic hardship, lack of commitment on the part of political leaders for good and people oriented political governance, etc in the face of highly militarized states which Rim Turkmani and Mustafa Haid (2016:20-21); identified in the case of Syrian conflict "as the rise of civic power... during the last two years, many areas in Syria came under the control of the armed opposition. A gradual shift of power from armed groups towards civic actors has taken place within the last two years in these areas"... The reason for the above circumstance which can be referred to as a political situation, can be blamed on official corruption, western ideologies in an uncertain foreign countries political administration, religiosity and extremism, ethnicism, sectarianism and leadership violent intimidation against citizens.

Official Corruption

This has been responsible for most notable armed conflicts, following long time unbearable socioeconomic situations on the people rendering them worthless to the extent of seeking a slightest opportunity to make their feelings public. Yes this often results in tremendous damage to the statehood as most crisis that affected nations starts a beginning process of rehabilitation, reconstruction and renegotiation.

As was captured by Doa S. Abdon et al (2013:1-2)

Starting out with problems such as low foreign direct investments (FDI), a high budget deficit, a high debt rate, a high unemployment rate, a high poverty rate, and a low standard of living. In addition, the budget deficit is expected to rise... The unequal earning destroy the lives of the poor and spread poverty and slums. In Egypt the people had reached a point of indignation that had a well-founded sense of social injustice and discontent. Egypt

suffered from corruption, bad economic performance.

Depriving the people basic means of livelihood and necessities of live has a devastating effect that inculcates in them the feeling of revolution. Such if provided will calm their overheated emotion owing to the fact that the state must ensure stability systematically. A survey on activities responsible for many uprisings in Africa and even the middle-east, had included such as official corruption among other things. This according to Okafor (2004:16) "deprivation in achieving a decent standard of living... The level of income per capita, when compared with what obtain globally..."

Armed conflicts results from human conduct which ordinarily could have been controlled if morality had universal meaning to all people from diverse orientations just as Seong Ho]he (2010:38-9) observed;

UN General Assembly Resolution recognize the dire human right situation in North Korea is no longer a secret. We cannot remain silent on north chorea's brutal violation or suppression of human rights. Accordingly, the international public and civil society must book out effective measures to improve North Korean human right issue. This is especially true for North Korea where there is currently no will to improve its citizens human right, in spite of the desperate situations many actors including not only government, but also civil organizations, churches and enterprises should mobilize together.

....Political prison camps, forced reparation, public executions, inhumane torture, trafficking in women and children, forced or involuntary disappearances, class discrimination, absence of freedom of expression, chronic food shortages and malnutrition.

Even the responsive feeling of sympathy outside the affected state can stir-up resistance which was the case in Egypt, Libya etc.

Western ideologies in an uncertain foreign country's political administration

It is mostly expected that the global policy of Globalization has impacted on people of the world through westernization. People yearn for good governance, such demand stem from experiences from other western states of the world.

However, the western ideologies of development are quite different from what obtains in the developing countries even participation in government, leadership responsibility, strategic policy implementation etc. All these have another meaning to governance in the south. For the south to develop, they need to work on traditional sources with domestic opportunities in order to change its fortune to benefit its people outside the western dictates characterized by implicit calculations of unequal relationship. Borrowing ideas, pattern, strategy make – up, technology etc. From north has been confronted with domestic traditional environments that can never be aligned and also in- compactable. This has also resulted to outright dejection by the ruled accusing the ruling class, orchestrating western diverse ideologies. (Aja Akpuru Aja (2002: 160) acknowledges; “Presently, Africa is far from globalization. One way forward is for Africa to confront globalization and not to adopt an attitude of indifference endorsement. In the failure of Africa to act fast, the continent will remain recipients of the negative fallout of globalization. Rather than think economic development for Africa, the triad power of globalization-the USA, European Union (EU) and Japan are already in the race of post – cold war militarization of Africa. Every country or region has a race competition to join globalization! This is today Africa’s challenge and not war – war!! Yes, the Middle East and other developing regions of the world are also involved in this emphasis.

According to Janis Berzins (2013:2);

As they had a significant Neoliberal bias with main advisors being the international monetary fund –

IMF and the world Bank, the result was the strengthening of the financial sector and speculation with the real estate at the expense of the real economy. Thus, notwithstanding the fact that investment rates increased from 17 percent of GDP in 2000 to 23 percent in 2007, private investment was concentrated in short – term or single – deal finance, real estate, and trade. The share of agricultural investment fell from 16 percent in 2010, the poverty rate as a whole was 34.3 percent, while in rural it was considered to be around 62 percent.

Matar, 2012 in Janis Berzins 2013:2 also noted; “ there is a clear misdirection of ideas and resources that could reposition the traditional wealth for the benefit of all not elite / western interest.”

According to Janis Berzins (2013:2);

“Thus as Neoliberal policies neglect income distribution and social protection. The Syrian population did not feel development and welfare gains, but rather the country.”

It has been the same experience with most developing countries whose leaders do have rethink in accepting western aids in their imbibing the trans-cultural multi – ideological frame work of development.

RELIGIOUSITY & EXTREMISM

In the world today most of the conflicts which had reached a high scale and consumed a sky rocking number of people have been blamed on religious indoctrination and extremism. To the extent that people belonging to a particular religion does not see anything good in the lives of those outside their religion. Rather those in another religion should be killed and put out of existence. Clear evidence is the North East crises in Nigeria orchestrated by BOKO- HARAM – a sect that views people who had imbibe the western ideologies (Western Education) and not within the Islamic circle of worship, to deserve heroic destruction. Such that many homes, churches, schools, market, strategic centers, including thousands of lives have been damaged and destroyed by improvise and other dangerous weapons of mass killing.

Wealth lost that cannot be recovered in few decades have also been involved. And a modern challenge to security implanted. The point to note is also Egyptian Revolution which came as a result of other issues raised in 2010. One of them is the parliamentary elections that conditioned the elimination of Islamic groups which also led to lost of confidence in the region. This rise in socio/political inequality with deteriorating socio/economic condition disregards the universal law on human right. It also undermined democratic principles. This attempt attracted international support for transformation. The Egypt revolution centers on the controversial parliamentary election which saw the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) as the dominant political force, (Doaa S., Abdou & Zienab 2013:2-5, Carla E.etal 2017:5)

The experience of Libyan crises led James S. & Benjamin C. (2012:15) to acknowledge that;

While the anti – Qaddafi movement in Libya in February 2011 was clearly not peaceful protest, it also did not immediately have the capacity to wage a successful war against the Libyan military initially, the rebel force were – made up of a combination of local militias, Islamist militants and defected army units, and nearly all weaponry the opposition wielded were small arms and light military vehicles captured from police and the armed force. Nevertheless, mass uprisings and defections of army unit “Liberated” many eastern cities, as well as several cities and town in the west of the country and in late February enthusiastic western media request made it appear as though the Qaddafi regime might collapse.

Evidently, the role of religiosity and extremisms is capitalized on the lapses of government, but neglect the good policies that Libya through Gaddafi brought better standard of living among poor uneducated Libyans. Another point to note is that the situation in Syria evolve into a complex situation liken to another world war in which rebel forces seek Assad's removal, Islamic Jihadist group Islamic states also

fight against the Syrian army. The majority of Syrian's Muslim are Sunni, as are the majority of the rebels who also oppose the government (Shelly2017).

Moreso, the issue of quick spread of violence linked to religiosity had become the most blamed cause of armed conflict in the 21th century. Mansoor Moaddel (2012:4) states;

On December 2010, street Vendor Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia, in protest of the mistreatment he received from the municipal agents. His death later turned into a national tragedy, which was thought to have been caused by the government, and unleashed such uproars that president Zeinal Abedin Ben Ali was forced to flee the country. Like wide fire, popular protest then spread from one Arab country to another until the entire region was engulfed, ushering in a new era in the history of the region and known as the Arab spring.

In the same vein demonstration had been in varying degree within the period. As protest erupted in Jordan in January 14, 2011, on 14th anti – government rally was on in Bahrain, the following day, the protest against Libyan's government arrest of a human – rights attorney Fathi Terbii in Bunghazii Libya which led to armed rebellion against Colonel Gaddafi. That of Syria began on 13th March with typical reflections in Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia, (Mansoor 2012). The era had encouraged the expression mostly among faithful with same religious conviction, more especially with globalize trend of social networking that pave way for assembly of opinions and actions with corrupting effect that constitute a threat to world security. History often project further expectations. In 1984 thousands of people were killed in Syria, this was as a result of religious differences only between the Alewite regime and the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood but began in Tunisia. (NATO 2012:1-3). Virtually all armed conflict had had religious or extremist background in this era.

ETHNICITY AND SECTARIANISM

Ethnic cleavages and sectarian domination in political power had also been responsible for several weevils resulting to armed conflict within the middle – east, Africa, and ethnic divide regions of the world. In most cases, a particular ethnic group may assume that they are better than the other (s) while other minor or major ethnic groups will agitate for a share or a rotation tenure in power. Also a particular sect within a state just like the Alewites in Syria, controlled power for decades although minor but the Muslim Sunnis were not within corridors of power. (Rimi & Mustafa 2016, James & Benjamin 2012, V.P. Haran 2016:7)

As observed by Carla E etal (2017:5);

“Progress has been made by various parties in reducing the amount of territory held by Islamic states, but competition and discord among local, regional, and extra regional actors continues to create complication for US officials”.

This informs why there is no hope in the near future as worst domestic violence have been shared among forces for the government rebels and humanitarian aid givers, and interest divide.

Just as Carla Humud etal (2017:7) Noted;

Fraction between different sect was within manageable limits: whatever its faults maybe, `the Ba'ath party zealously ensured that Syria remained circular. The sectarian angle crept into the conflict gradually, as the armed rebels, mostly Sunnis, began targeting minorities. The situation worsened after external force dispatched Takfiris and salafists to Syria and the involvement of Al-Qaeda expanded. Through countries, Syria was repeatedly invaded from all directions, which has made the society violent and people aggressive by nature. Families rewarding sons with weapons for passing school exams is unknown among some tribes.

In the period of crises, all feelings manifest as the one party and police state situation had kept many thought under the carpet waiting for a time of misunderstanding. We recalled that president Assad has promised to lead a Syria that is different from other countries in the region economically. Sectarianism played a role as Arab world grasped the opportunity of the Arab spring to ignite crises, It is highly indicative that Christians and Kurds remain mostly aside from the current uprising. They fear that violent conflict could end up the regime of Assad. Following the alleged sectarian character of the current crises, this held by the media and the regime, although opposition forces claim that they seek to establish a tolerant society. Christians are very careful in what may result after the crisis should the regime end and should they get involved against the government. (NATO 2012:7) If the Sunnis majority takes up leadership the effect will highly be defined on the minority Ethnic Groups. The opposition disunity had also been linked to the breed of Sunni radical groups believed to have link with al-Qaeda in the 14 Syria's governorates. Simon Adams (2015:9) understood that "It has become a sectarian civil war conducted with the participation of some secular combatants". The spirit of which people (ethnic or sect) should control power better has given rise to the struggle.

LEADERSHIP VIOLENT INTIMIDATION AGAINST CITIZENS

Obviously most world leaders had approached crisis wrongly. That is through outright demonstration of force within their command against the masses they should rather protect. This had continued even in the Democratic era where concern for the people takes prominence. As a leader, the interest of the people must be first of all taken into account, so it had been adjudged improper and a violation of human right to use force against the masses in any uprising by any leader as that constitutes serious neglect to the will of the people. When this is the case, both the immediate country and other parts of the world get involved. That informed the view of Rim and Mustafa (2016:5).

Although the Syrian conflict developed into a very complete combination of revolution, civil

war, proxy and direct regional and international war and terrorism, the roots of the conflict and the public resentments is due to political oppression.

Most of the actions taken by external powers did not help in easing this political oppression. The situation grew ever more complex leading to the collapse of the governance system, the economy and the development of a war economy. Before long the resulting humanitarian crisis developed into a refugee crisis that is affecting Europe itself.

The worst emotional attachment to this is that it goes down the memory of the people and not easily forgotten and in most cases attracts a reprisals and retaliatory rewards to such oppressor. When life conditions are not favourable to people caused by leadership, with western examples of good governance, the people are entitled to an outburst as the source of suitable tonic. As previously noted, in the case of Egyptian revolution with problems such as low foreign direct investment (FDI), a high budget deficit; a high debt rate, unemployment rate, poverty rate and low standard of living. This was caused by corruption and deteriorating socio-economic conditions. Yet the cruelty of police shows sense of impunity, (Doaas & Zeinab 2013:1-5). Selfish power control had led some world leaders to suppress certain opinions/actions of citizens. In Syria, an expert with Global center for the responsibility to protect had also noted that president Assad's although promised democratic reform and the formal lifting of the 48-year state of emergency during April, within the crisis time, he used government security forces to shoot down protesters and systematically detain political opponents. About 850 Syrians were killed by mid-May, it marked a start in the death toll, (Simon Adams 2015:8). Media constraints signals a poor leadership prone to intimidation, however in Syria the period of the crises according to Syrian journalists Mourice Aaek, who noted that; "before now people

are not reading and discussing the news and commenting on it from all sides. This is a new development and a very important one, given that the state in Syria is the principal agent of media and develops". (BBC MA 2012:2). No matter the good economic reasons of President Muammar Qaddafi, the late former leader of Libya did not welcome media presence, guarantee justice system but took to brutal repression. In his anti-capitalist, anti-communism ideology, in 1977, Qaddafi changed the name of the country to the "socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, he promoted literacy rate, per-capita income and increasing public education and job-opportunities, ensured that citizens had access to transportation, healthcare and housing (Egbo 2002:63). But in February 15, 2011 the violent response by Libyan security forces aggravated the issue. James & Benjamin (2012:1-14) concludes that;

In 2010 and 2011 the government of Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen and Syria all violently attacked protesters for challenging the status quo, despite the fact that the movements these governments were facing were predominantly non-violent. On the other hand, Libyan government was responding to a violent opposition, part of which was destroying public property and attacking the police.

The ground cause of some of these armed conflicts in middle-east, Africa etc had been linked to leadership violent attack on the people, ordinarily the source of political mandate whatsoever. It has been historically affirmed that in a case of past violent intimidation, the leadership once inherited by close relative, must be made to suffer from such past record of oppression. The people still remain same no matter the length of time past since leadership is permanent, also the support and mandate despite the conditions, virtues are subjected. Right now Togo is undergoing crisis just like Elizabeth Ferris and Kemal Kirisci (2016:2) rightly put that:

Right now, there simply are too many simultaneous mega-crises: Syria, Iraq,

Yemen, and Libya in the middle Egypt; Ukraine, south sudan, Burundi, and Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Nepal, and the Rohingya in Myanma. They are also displacement crises in Columbia, central America, and Mexico; still fragile situations in Mali, Somalia, Eritrea, and the Sahel; Lingering effects of the Ebola Crisis in west Africa, and the continuing saga of deaths in the Mediterranean.

No doubt, to a greater extent the cause of these crises is not less than leadership crises and erroneous use of power for selfish aims instead of the use of force for public interest and for the peaceful and healthy-being of the society. This was understood as “character devolution of power and the militarization of societies.” Where the ruled demonstrate for a change and excessive response attack is launched by security arm of government against what is yet an opposition moment. (Peter Harling and Alex Simon quoted in Elizabeth F. & Kemal K. 2016).

Universal Causes of Crisis in the Era (21st century)

People are convinced that it may be difficult to achieve total peace in the 21st century. The reason stems from the presence of conflict yielding factors that are inherent in mankind and the society (Ibiam 2014). These factors known to have been responsible for stirring up conflicts are politically, culturally, religiously, ideologically and spontaneously (emerging) linked. For the purpose of our discussion here, we need to tap from the data eliciting information on basic causes of current armed conflicts in the era;

Lack of commitment for Political and Economic reform by Leaders

In line with the EU strategic framework with Syria, quoted in Rim T. and Mustafa H. (2016: 6-7), which stresses the co-operation in enhancing the disposition of Syrian government for more responsive governance thus:

The political context was addressed by stressing commitment to “exceeding political pluralism and citizen participation in political life, improvement of the situation of stateless people, civil society development decentralization/local democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law”. All of which are stressed in the Euro-Mediterranean program.... The strategy identifies the following as the key internal political challenges in Syria, which is to instigate the process of political reform; achieve good governance and separation of powers; strengthen the protection of human rights and develop democracy, while maintaining the remarkable diversity in society and peaceful inter-religious and inter-community relations” although the strategy was very critical of the political system, the strong presidential system in Syria, the role of the Ba’ath party, and the corruption which hinders among many other things the judicial authority, it still concluded that genuine democratic participation nevertheless remains a possibility, as a new multi-party law was announced at the highest level.

Obviously a political leadership that is made up of nobles who are conservatives often neglects the advancements that could be achieved by innovations. However, this had been the cases with states of the world that within few recent decades were relieved of the agonizing pain inflicted by long military rule. Such states mostly found in less developed regions of the world including Africa and middle-east etc, have rulers who are anti-development from western point of view. In the case with Syria the EU-Syria Association Agreement was never signed by Syria.

Political reform ensures a more people oriented economy where the level of servitude among the great majority of citizens is reduced to bring

about equitable distribution of resources and economic opportunities. Just like the constitution of the land is amended from time to time and other emerging issues are given adequate legislation so also the, political and economic process of governance should be readjusted to meet the need and demand/aspirations of the people at a time. In most lands, doing this had been very impossible for that would be out of the wishes of bourgeoisie class (Aja1998:70)

Mohja Kahf (2013:8) acknowledged that;

All Arab states, both monarchies and republics, have been police states for decades, in an interlocking grid in which the interests of world powers have been vested and from which there seemed to be no escape for the ordinary citizens.

Convincingly, the majority of the people stand to gain economically and politically if reforms are allowed to the detriment of few powerful, that is why such changes had proved a more difficult engagement. But reforms are intended to accommodate people's yearnings, growth and advancement trends around the world, ensure that the support of the people can be rewarded, demonstrate response prone, and bring about consistency. That is why the intended political reform of Bashar Assad led government in Syria which was not fruitful angered the population. Instead of winning the friendship of the people he took wrong steps which culminated into atrocious acts by government forces and opposition forces. He neglected the fact that even Machiavelli (2003:53) in his strict leadership styles also acknowledged;

If, even so, it proves necessary to execute someone, this is to be done only when there is proper justification and manifest reason for it. But above all a prince must abstain from the property of others; because men sooner forget the death of their father than the loss of their patrimony.

Despite the monopoly enjoyed by Baath party, the structure of security apparatus was such that assured that the regime was served well, a structure that no one can replace the president, (VP. Haram 2016:2-8)



Homs, Syria

Source: BBC News 2015

Although Bashar was liberal which was the cause for challenges with the stalwarts of Ba'ath party, his initial conceived liberalizing policies did not turn out expectedly following political opposition. This led to insufficient attention paid on agriculture, rural infrastructure, irrigation and workers were rather affected by economic reforms. The Ba'ath party always contested with Bashar's foreign policy choices. For instance; his liberalization steps driven by western ideologies and relation with Turkey and Qatar were all seen by the party as paying insufficient attention to Iran and Russia which was not in the best interest of Ba'ath party. Issues turn round as the time of crisis saw Turkey and Qatar against Syria while Russia and Iran are very closely related to Syria. (VP Haran 2016:5-8, Marcia Brophy et al 2017: 6-13). The basic and fundamental principles of democracy should be upheld without mix-up for any reason because at this era the swiftness in the circulatory values of liberalization as cultivated involuntarily by people leaves no state exceptional but leaders should learn a lesson from the suitable causes of armed conflicts for avoidance.

PAST HISTORY OF WAR

Before the UN creation of the Independent country called Libya in 1951 out of Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Fezzan, these ancient states had background history of revolution of war. For instance, during World War II Sennusi cooperated with the British to overthrow the Italians who developed Tripolitania and made an embrace for European immigrants. Historically also the Gulf war is connected to boundary problems with Kuwait. Kosovo and Chechnya is left out in this experience as the later existed as peripheral republic of Russia (James Siebens & Benjamin Case (2012:1-6), Eke Onyemaechi (2000:118-9).

These developed and developing countries today had been transiting from colonial era to now neo-imperialistic/globalization, all cases of armed conflicts seem to have seriously been motivated by past historic experience of war and revolution, such that failure is seen as a course to play back at an era of modernization with armed sophistication of assured mutual victory against an opponent war-lord of ancient origin. The past in the mind of generations leaves a fresh retaliatory attack, a demonstration of strategic defense advancement.

LACK OF MEDIA FREEDOM

Freedom of expression is a basic advantage in a democratic regime. However with one party led autocratic dispensations, there may in most cases not be allowed such freedom leading to media restrictions which is a clear indication that government want its activities not be spiced with the personal analytical views of journalists. Rather much secrets and painting of white with black encourages media attack by the government. According to BBC media action (2012:7);

The rule of law on the ground is erratic and subject to the political context and even the mood of officials. Because of this ambiguous environment, the effects of this kind of repression are never direct. Instead, it is often the culture of fear that leads journalists and writers to self-censo perhaps a more dangerous form of media repression in the long-

term... Journalists in the private sector see those working in the state sector as civil servants, not journalist.

All autocratic rules complete its ruinous activities by media restriction. Findings in Syria, Libya, and Egypt etc shows that governments determine what should be made public. And any report out which the government has not approved constitutes an opposition activity even if such is true of the situation. This circumstance does not liberate the people from colonial experience but yet another form of slavery which often lead to mass protest a form of resistance which is seen as a major means for the rest of the world to be involved. In this, some countries that had failed to manage it, experiences uprisings and later civil-wars. Even when there is a change in regime it may be naïve to think that the media will operate freely and democratically in the case of Syria "The collapse of Assad does not mean the collapse of Assadism" (BBC MA 2012). For democracy to succeed, opposition must be encouraged to strengthen the leadership for people oriented regime. The Arab spring movement in the Libya uprising is a demonstration of right to freedom of association etc. James S. & Ben. C. (2012:15) could state; "whereas the Arab spring movements were largely composed of previously apolitical people, driven by spontaneous grass-roots organizing and social media," when people feel that they should be heard from their oppressed point and here seem not to be such opportunity, it could lead to a huge unrest just for them to be noticed. It appears that many observers and analysts stresses the involvement of western ideologies in the case of most uprisings that had resulted in civil wars, this is because people oriented leadership is far from all known political strategies of the regime, such that particularly increased youth unemployment, a population bulge, and middle class pauperization – out to have sounded alarm bells but as regimes are not of the people they have indifferent attitude (Andrea Teti & Gennaro Gervasio 2011:2). The led without media freedom assume there are poor and dead as they are not communicated therefore are in darkness (Oti 2000). The population in its greater percentage

looks for actions to portray the government in bad image by revolution and through any other disrespectful moves within their reach.

ECONOMIC IMPERATIVES

Economic balance generates competent will for a state to be disposed in contesting issues of importance to it. One having the way-with-all, means that such a state will not lack in any strategic measures for existence. If a country has the economic strength it will be easier to it to finance defense programmes and even check-up for mutual threats in maintaining its responsibility in local and international security. The reason is that within a state, they may arise opposing sides over the way the national resources are being allocated. This can engender conflict on one hand, the state for economic reasons will ensure a reduction in opposition hierarchies and on the other hand for same reason the opposition may persist. This is an indication that national security makes up an outstanding objective of states in international relations. (Nnoli 2003:309). Economic advantage gives confidence in military strategic plans of states. In most of the wars recorded, the resources zones, like oil and other natural resources deposits constituted the major reasons for the war. Just as Ray Ekpu (1998) quoted in Eke Onyemaechi (2000:119) noted; that "oil in the Gulf is the raw reason for the January 16 invasion of Iraq... All other issues are peripheral". It either a state contests a particular region of rich deposits or it involves other collaborative allies for exchange of known resources after victory. No wonder, France and USA had been said to be richer after each war. They have to protect its economic interest and at the same time serve as world powers and military industrial nations.

Although ready to protect certain UN charter for world peace and human rights but cannot overlook opportunities since no nation wants to lose its position in the world power ranking economic system. Thus exchange of values is inherent in acting as a mediator and initiating war conflict must be backed by maintaining and recovery economic grounds.

Dynamism in Syrian armed conflict

What was seen as a peaceful demonstration in support of Arab spring later culminated in a severe armed conflict rocking Syria and its neighbours. The war in Syria had taken many dimensions as some external powers have different views on actors involved in the crisis. For instance, Hezbollah initially helped by Iran to be established in 1980s which now act as a strong political force in Lebanon, had at first intervened in Syria in 2012, fighting alongside the Quds force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and regular Syrian Regime Units. Abinitio, Hezbollah targeted its support on the regime of president Bashar Al-Assad against rebellion, prevent the loss of Iranian supply lines through Syria, and strictly overtime – reduce threat effect targeted at Lebanon from Syria based Jihadist organizations (Shashank Joshi 2016:32). Iran had been known as a special force in favour of Syrian to the extent that its forces predominantly operated in the province of Aleppo, Latakia, Homs, Hama, Idlib and Tartus under the senior commander appointed by Jafari. Amongst political strategic goals for Syria's peaceful settlement includes; an immediate ceasefire, constitutional reforms in favour of minority Syrians, free and internationally supervised elections; and the formation of a national unity government based on new constitutional institutions. (Ali Asani and Aniseh B. 2016:12).

Moscow views Hezbollah and Alvar Al-sham as terrorist group although they partner to ensure freedom in Syria. Daesh (Isil) and Al-Nusra has been a strong threat to peace in Syria. We have noted diverse actor's interest and allied interest protection as the case may be in Syrian crisis; for Russia, its interest is to be an influential power in the region and settlement of Syrian conflict while Iran seeks for the preservation of Assad's regime but there exist Hezbollah and Russian-Israeli relations.

STAGES IN THE CRISIS

Out of the identifiable five stages of the armed conflict, it should be noted that about 1,500 different rebel groups exists. First, the armed conflict in Syria was characterized by an excessive deadly government repression on demonstrators in support of "Arab Spring" The region was at this period engulfed in protests reflecting the seemingly

unlawful killing of a boy in Tunisia, this same movement was extended by Syrians from all confessional communities. It all started with students from March 2011 till the middle of same year. It quickly spread across the country with majority Sunni Arab. The government although promised political reform and lifting of 48-year state of emergency in April, it used her security forces shoot down the demonstrators and restrain political opponents. The number of people dead continues to rise. (Simon Adams 2015, James Berzins (2013).

Secondly, within the second half of 2011, the confusion generated by the crisis brought in large number of civilians and defectors from Syrian Security Forces, to join the emerging Free Syrian Army, (FSA). As government forces battle to hold firm control of major places some areas lipped from its control. In June the newly formed FSA carried out major attacks against regime forces in Rastan. Apparently, the political opposition heightened its stronghold by caring out large protests and display of a show increase in militarization, thus the regime changed its strategy (Mohja 2013, Simon A. (2015).

Thirdly, within the early 2012, Homs was devastated, the regime resolved to militarily seize opposition centers as Homs was controlled by opposition with its diverse city of about 600,000 population. Also government carried out major bombardment of the Baba Amr district, a major stronghold of rebel forces and allied Civilian militia groups. The regime thought that by heavy terror the Sunni population considered as the opposition is core constituency, will be forced to withdraw. According to research by the institute for the study of war and activities from the Syrian observatory for Human Rights cited in Simon (2015:18) which states;

Although widespread protests against the Syrian regime began in March 2011, Assad's forces did not widely utilize helicopters to attack their opponents until after the second veto in February 2012. Even then, the government exercised some restraint, conducting less than 20 documented strikes

using helicopters during April and May. The number of helicopter attacks started to dramatically increase during June and reached almost 70 for the month of July. Then on 24th July, just five days after the third double veto, fixed wing-aircraft were reportedly used for the first time. During August the regime conducted more than 110 air strikes against opposition targets, including more than 60 using fixed wing air craft.

However, neighbouring cities harboring armed rebels were also bombed by government helicopters and fixed wing aircraft and the victims were mostly vulnerable civilians in schools, bakeries and clinics different from strategies adopted during first and second phases of the armed conflict. This heightened stage of inhumanity, informed the stand of the FSA and other rebel groups as they deployed more sophisticated military response on the offensive. In mid-2012 the rebels battled to regain control of some places in North and Southeast of Syria. The rebels also contested with government forces over the control of suburbs of Damascus and Aleppo, known as the political and economic centers of Syria. At this juncture, other political groups emerged abroad-Islamic groups enter the scene and foreign pressures abound: Showing that there existed a turbulent condition for the grassroots (Simon 2015, Mohja 2013). It can be understood here, however, that the advancement of more sophistication and regime tactical use of depressive mechanism attracted Sympathy and prompted the rebel forces to counter such disposition.

In 2013, the armed conflict entered into the fourth phase. The regime and rebel forces controlled considerable territory, but it was not foreseen that any of the divide could top the other. This was only possible through an increased military assistance from Iran and Hezbollah with steady supplies from Russia to the regime. For the noted chain effect, the opposition will also source for increase in military equipment and money through interested wealthy individuals

and Gulf. The foreign aids will ensure vast number of Islamic extremists rebel militias fighting ideal values of diversity.

As we enter into the fifth phase beginning from late 2013, Syrian conflict has fully been understood as a sectarian civil war. There is the ever increasing threat by Salafist presence amongst the rebel while the vulnerable minority group includes Christians and Alawites who now have relied on the regime. The regime has used militias on communities inhabited by disloyal Sunni Muslims. The armed conflict has adversely broken Syria a faithless associations of groups which at times unit against the regime and also against themselves. Simon (2015:9) acknowledges that; "Isil, for example, has declared its own state extending from their capital in al-Ra-qqa eastwards to Mosul in Iraq" It indicates willingness of the rebel groups to control territories of choice but collectively fight the Assad regime. The war economy has brought misery on the population at same time both forces had also targeted civilians including medical infrastructures necessary for survival. It was estimated in 2014 that at least 60 percent of hospitals and 38 percent primary health clinics in Syria had been damaged. Not minding that about 24 percent of admissions in these facilities were children under the age of 14 with severe burns, deep wounds and open fractures caused by shelling and fragments of bullets, ammunition in them. The situation has encouraged the outbreak of child diseases like, polio etc some of which had previously been eradicated in Syria as far back in 1995.



Map of Syria

Source: <https://syriacivilwarmap.com>

Mass Atrocities, Crime and Chemical Weapon Attack

Both forces had been responsible for widely circulated mass atrocity crime in the Syrian armed conflict. For instance in 2014 it was published that pro-government forces had continued to attack civilians thereby committing murder, torture, rape and even enforced disappearance. On the other hand the rebel forces has been responsible for several cases of murder, execution without due process, torture, hostage taking, and outright violation of international laws, all these amount to a serious neglect to UN guideline concerning war crimes. Additionally, the Syrian government has used aircraft, tanks, and heavy artillery and cluster munitions to terrorize and kill those who support the rebels and live in opposition controlled areas. This has been the practice from 2012. The April 4, 2017 Syrian aircraft operation in rebel-held Idib province had been stressed to the use of chemical weapon against the people. That airstrike kill about 80 to 100 in the town of Khan Sheikhon including children while hundreds were adversely affected. For both Russian and Syrian officials to quickly blame rebels for the deaths the truth was clear. Any link to the US has been justified by the Trump's administration that he acted in the vital national security and foreign policy interest of the United States in pursuant of Article II commander in Chiefs and Chief executive Authority.



Victims of chemical weapon attack, Syria
Source: CBS

At the heightened stage of horror in Syria there should be a need for a ceases fire political solution to this long period of hostilities. (UN HR Col 2014 cited in Simon 2015:10), Carla E. et al 20172-10). This is also not far from the statements of George P. Shuttze in Eke (2000:123); the American secretary of state told the Trilateral commission of prominent Americans, Europeans and Japanese in 1984 “that diplomacy not backed with military power would fail because some states play it rough”. In foreign policies and diplomatic alliance and the UN security governance, interest manifestation is often incapsulated. The principle of regular use of attack as the best form of defense has to an extent led to lack of hope as to when peace will return in Syria as different ceasefire talks has failed to achieve results. More so, the crisis had taken the dimension of Libyan crisis also as various rebel groups calls for Assad’s removal from office following an unending level of destruction on the means of livelihood with devastated war economy.



Refugees

In period of war and other forms of terrorism, the neighbouring countries become host to people displaced. For Syria, its neighbours have become a dwelling place with fear of the unknown to Syrians who seek asylum in Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan. In that case, these countries had been involved in managing the situation even as European Union has largely extended assistance. Additionally, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States have resolved to allow these refugees resettle in their country thereby providing relieve to these countries where there is a high concentration of refugees with attendant internal vices. (Arnav Mariwala 2017:13). Particularly in Jordan where there is fear of conflict spillover resulting from influx of refugees, Islamic actors etc. For that, it had fostered a steady foreign alliance and tight border-control policy to limit influx of even Muslim brotherhood. (ARK Group 2016: 31-2). Aware of mix-up of extremist groups and Islamist forces control take advantages of the borders while maintaining improved living conditions for civilians. Its focus is on firm determination to protect the state from both external and internal aggression.

Possibilities of Spread of Insecurity within proxy zones and beyond

Countries are prone to war at this time of great hostilities, the reasons transcends religion and morality. In this era of web network connectivity, great education about countries even when there is no media freedom exists. Bilateral relations may end up in wars while known relations can also end up in great support to state which has mutual interest. According to VP. Haram (2016:12-14); "The UK was unhappy with Syria for the anti-Israel ...policy and support for Hezbollah" ...since Bashar assumed office as Syrian president in 2000, Damascus's relations with France saw many ups and downs." Another good reason why there is possibilities of war spread mostly in developing countries is that of western unclear hegemonic control with its capitals on the LDCs. It has rendered the socialist structures of states into a capitalist nonproductive. The extent is that commercialization and privatization have resulted to high rate of unemployment. The indigenous neocolonialists had been very strict in

investment that creates more jobs. Thus the developmental steps prescribed by the west is seen by many states as a western misguide. It is such that led to the existence of varied agitations in many countries for good governance and media freedom. A good example is Libya where the level of media freedom is not what is expected. Yet, Syrian neighbours had experienced heightened security threats and each had invested in diplomatic security relations following the crisis. The impact on border areas of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iran had left invisible wounds with psychological effect of future manifestations. The crisis had created an environment that breeds different forms of extremism (NATO 2012). As a global entity of higher rate of indoctrination, virtually all countries of the world is a proxy nation or state on religious ground. And in the era of an unprecedented internet education received without critical verification to ascertain truth by greater number of the population mostly mediocre education background group of the society. It has been realized that agitation groups is made-up of uneducated and unemployed greater population who have no stake in nation building but aggressive.

No doubt, the circumstances that surrounds Syrian conflict is not far from what obtain in many countries of the world. The pre-arranged democratic one party power transition which is also religiously divided, ethnic power controlled cabal with sectarian undertone, pro-western ideologies etc have contributed to most cases of uncertainties resulting in insecurity. This has led to insensitivity to local drives for development. Countries having boundaries with Syria and far of are also not adjudged free from these contagious issues, and may possibly experience armed conflict. African countries are not far from it.

GAP IN LITERATURE

The literature reviewed indicates that many scholars had observed in various ways the war situation in Syria. These studies have also exposed the stages of the crises contributing significantly to the existing academic debate. It has also in no small way advanced knowledge as it concerns Syrian armed conflict.

As a matter of fact and to the best of my knowledge, the consciousness concerning the possible extension of such conflict to African countries where there also exist diverse religious indoctrination and militarization of groups including insurgency had not been addressed by these works. Since there are identifiable causes of these conflicts, a universal issues.

Theoretical Framework

Examining and analyzing the Syrian conflict and possible contagious effects on African countries where there exist sectarian autocratic leaders not minding the responsibility the state owe its citizens, mostly that of good standard of living and security including security of rights, lives, property and ensuring protection against external aggression etc. Relative Deprivation Theory is the theoretical framework for this study. Aristotle was among the first scholars to use this theory in his revolution theory. In ancient times, the issue of brutality and inhumanity was embraced without regards to any authority in the world. However, there exist a connection between frustration and political violence thus making way for revolution (Marx 1970). Relative Deprivation Theory (RD) explains violent and other political and religiously masterminded issues in the 21st century when the terrorist dispositions of highly militarized groups and sub-groups are at unprecedented levels. Deprivation is weighed not by objective stands but by companion with the relatively superior advantages of others who the disadvantaged or deprived group does wish to be like (Merton 1957, Kitt 1950). In the views of Wiberg (1990) Relative deprivation theory connect individual mobilization of aggression and political violence and intimidation to social, economic and political circumstances. The situation further provokes aggressive behaviour when individuals find themselves in a state of want and disequilibrium along various socio-political and economic dimensions. Relative deprivation theory also emphasizes the produced increasing gap between expectations and satisfaction, relatively, such that some social or ethnic group (sect) are more affected than the general populace that is, minority elite group deprive a large group of socio-economic advantages. (Gaurr 1970, Dollard et al 1939).

From the foregoing we can understand that relative deprivation (RD) results from a situation where an individual or groups subjectively perceive themselves as inhumanly abused, subjectively perceive themselves as unfairly disadvantaged or deprived of what they deserve making reference to situation around world mostly in governance and politics.

Specifically, Omer (2009:5) made a mention of the Arab world while establishing the main thrust of the theory, that the absence of opportunities relative to expectations. This was similar in a sense as Simon Adams (2015:19) cried out Syrian Civilians; have been the target of a chemical attack by their own government", in a globalized world, basic needs and expectations that should not be mentioned as subject cause of crises eg. Poverty etc. At this time, however, awareness of opportunities is noticed wherever, in the world today. If frustration, victimization, humiliation, unemployment, etc elsewhere leads to expression of deprivation of expectations resulting to sympathy movement in support. These are, nevertheless, various options that could be employed in driving towards this end. But rather unfortunately many who happen to manage the affairs of all these governments tend most of the time to occupy their minds with selfish personal economic advantages. In doing this, man in his frailties, invites and introduces destructive crises into the system (Obasi 2007, Marx and Engels 1977).

Tenets of the Theory

1. The theory posits that individuals or groups subjectively perceive that they are unfairly treated and deprived similar rewards having similar attributes making reference to what obtain in other places.
2. Relative deprivation theory focuses on feelings and actions. It stresses that the feelings of deprivation when compared with situation in any part world affects the behaviour of person or groups.
3. The effect of deprivation leads people affected to search for a means of securing satisfaction of their interest, negative effect on the already existing development institutions and process for development programmes.

4. Structural conditions existing in a society engenders feelings of deprivation and lead to protests, violences by groups. Poverty, unemployment, lack of social services and media freedom etc has been responsible for terrorism and other dehumanizing actions in the Middle-East and most third world countries.

Application of the Theory to the Study

The application of the theory is seen in the light of crises in the middle-east particularly Syria which began in 2011 following a peaceful protest in support of the Arab-spring, although with reflections in Tunisia and other Arab world. The theory explains the origins of social movements. People involved in this, serve the group's larger interest and goals. Generally, it was the teaming wave of rejection of oppressive government noticed at that region in view of globalization principles of good governance. In most third world countries iron hands of post military rule inherited even in the 21st century still needed a change to connect the democratic principles and ideals of western culture and democratization ultimately lacking in these areas causing deprivations and untold hardship. In addition to the religious indoctrinations and social media education which pro-third-world leaders blame on western attack on leadership in the third-world and Arab world. The reason is that people oriented government instead of autocratic (third-world democracy) governance.

HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses were formulated for this study:

- (1) Oppressive leadership history cumulated into an armed conflict in Syria.
- (2) Years of authoritarian rule and brutal approach by government against solidarity movement for Arab- spring attracts reprisal response in Syria.
- (3) Religious grounds in the face of globalization led to spread of conflict in Syria and most African countries.

Operationalization of Key Concepts

- Middle –East
- Leadership intimidation and oppression

- Reprisal attack
- Violation of human rights
- Islamist extremists
- Militarization of groups
- Official corruption
- Western ideologies
- Boko-Haram
- Proxy countries and beyond
- Mass atrocities
- Contagious effect of armed conflicts
- Violent governance
- Middle East- countries of the Eastern Block, Arab World and Mediterranean having dominant Muslim Brother-Hood.
- Leadership intimidation and oppression-Explains the coercive and suppressive leadership of *elitist* class whose interest overrides that of the general opinion. Operational guided democracy without rule of law.
- Reprisal Attack- Actions being carried out as a result of intimidation, oppressive, violent and forceful deprivation and frustration by the government and its agencies for security. It is an attack on government for past denials of rights etc.
- Violation of Human Rights- Out right disregard to international rights and privileges. It includes rape, displacement, human trafficking insurgency etc.
- Islamist extremist- Groups which include, ISIL, Al-Nusra, Alvar Al-sham etc. which have link to Al-Qaeda.
- Militarization of groups- explains the rising up of many militarized groups for the purpose engaging in anti-government movement and attack on victims of interest (terrorism).
- Official corruption- The totality of third world lack of economic and political reforms to ensure better standard of living.
- Western Ideologies-All western Ideas for end of authoritarian and leadership and oppressive government. It also explains the idea of people oriented leadership process, participatory, anti-racial and consensus leadership.

- Boko-Haram-The name stands against western education. It explains a terrorist group existing in Nigeria. They have link with Al-Qaeda and committed atrocities in West Africa with their links resulting to economic problems.
- Proxy countries and beyond- States that have boundary with Syria as: Lebanon, Russia, Iraq Jordan and other countries of the world including Africa, with seemingly ethno-religious contentions.
- Mass atrocities- Disregard to UN charter on human rights. This includes the use of chemical weapons attack, destruction of social amenities like clinic and hospitals, water source, rape, and murder etc.
- Contagious effect of armed conflict- It is easy for an inhuman activity in any parts of the world to occur elsewhere.
- Violent governance- Government that does not dialogue with the masses as a responsive manner of controlling aggression among the people but uses force to make them succumb to its rule.

Research Procedure

Research Design

This study employed documentary research method to effectively investigate and analyze causes and dynamics of Syrian conflict which began in 2011.

Sources and Method of Data Collection

The study used secondary sources of generating information for the research. The documentary sources include textbooks, Journals, magazines, newspaper, internet websites, periodicals, government documents and published works.

Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

❖ Validity of the instrument

In order to ensure the validity of the instrument, documentary sources that adequately covered the basic areas of the study were analyzed. This mostly relies on the previous work done by scholars in field that has been accepted as valid and clearly cited as; the Syrian crises, government, politics, international relations, diplomacy etc.

- ❖ **Reliability of the instrument**
Reliability of the instrument is measured by the ability of sources to constantly agree with the phenomenon under investigation. Hence there is homogeneity of the data gathered from different authors with regard to the issue. We ensure that there was internal constancy on the data gathered from different scholars with reference to Syrian armed conflict and its effect on security of African countries in the 21st century.

Method of Data Presentation and Analysis

The study is descriptive and explanatory. Therefore the study employed documentary analysis to describe and analyze collected data. Analytical discuss is the tool of analyses utilized in critically examining and analyzing the results of various issues raised in the study reflecting issue available in the data gathered.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings and discussions of this study were presented under the three hypotheses formulated for the study which includes the following:

1. Oppressive leadership history cumulated to an armed conflict.
2. Years of authoritarian rule and brutal approach by government against solidarity movement for Arab-Spring attracts reprisal response.
3. Sectarianism in the face of globalization led to spread of armed conflicts.

Hypothesis I:

Oppressive Leadership history culminated to an armed conflict

Power had intoxicated most leaders of the world to the extent that the right to life of the citizenry had been disregarded. Notably, as a military president who later made himself a civilian ruler the father of Bashar Al-Assad, Hafez Assad during his regime in 1973 did handle a demonstration organized by Muslim Brotherhood and Ulama against his planned implementation of a constitutional provision. This contradicted the previous and requires that the president must not be a

Muslim in line with western ideologies. Although facing Jihadists made him act violently. Then, the March 15th 2011 uprising which received a strong government security oppression that dangerously led to lose some lives added salt to an injury. The use of force against a civil movement had in most places of the world especially the middle-east and in most third world countries. This is because vast majority of the population understands international best practice in respecting the civil right of the people, thus a continual violation will often lead to crises.

Hypothesis II:

Years of authoritarian rule and brutal approach by government against solidarity movement for Arab spring attracts reprisal response.

Outside the historical record of oppression in Syria, presently the Bashar Assad government has been blamed for igniting the fire for controversy by a violent repressive attack on demonstrators leading to dynamic war condition which have lasted for more than five year. The future of Syria had been very difficult to ascertain as the war had affected the economic progress but government only spend more on security. Such impunity came because Ba'ath party had ruled Syria since 1963 and under the control of the Assad family since 1970.

Hypothesis III:

Sectarianism in the face of globalization led to spread of armed conflicts.

No matter how people are in color, race, background etc. they must have similar group in some parts of the world. That reference group identity engenders the feeling of oneness so when mal-treated or deprived of privileges a similar individual or group are also affected.

The case of Syria is on ethnic, sectarian, racial divide communicated speedily through Muslim brotherhood through the instrumentalism of web connectivity in a globalization principle of isolated uniqueness with powerful fraternization built on constitutionalism, the democratic ideal governance. We should stop retrogressive steps that cannot be the privilege of any elite or citizen's rather internationally acceptable style of leadership be embraced for universally recognized standard as

oppression in any form does not conform with the ideals of due process, equity, fare-share, accountability, consensus and transparency. So long term in office as a leader also contributed to inhumanity and poor responsive styles to people's aspirations and provision of minimal standard per individual. Lisa Wedeen in BBC MA (2012:20) recorded that;

Coercive compliance is not the actual meting out of punishments to those who disobey but the dissemination of credible threats of punishment, authoritarianism in this sense, explicitly produces a sense of unconscious compliance. The governed are aware of the political charade that is being played out, and they do not internalize the regime's doctrines, they adopt a more pragmatic or skeptical acceptance.

Until now the effect of terrorism and insurgency in many zones in the middle-east and Africa had added to the effects of economic recession as West Africa is constantly under the threat of dreaded terror groups such as Boko-Haram, AQIM and Al-Qaeda Punch News (2017:18). Violent intimidation, long autocratic rule should be replaced by good leadership which respects rights of the individuals and groups.

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

Summary

The world is in transition and much of old skins goes off for advancement, development and modernization. This western imperative of change remains very core in the wheel of progress and do necessitate warm embrace for an ideal rulership of the developed democracies. Syria's experiences in conflict leaves a regrettable engagement in the heart of both government forces and civilian rebels. Each had done much devastation that was never conceived in the past due to circumstantial challenges which ultimately push both sides to the wall

with no option but destruction. The other third party as mediators diversely opinionated and inwardly fighting for economic, political, strategic, social, technological interest etc have also express concern because they never expected the turnout of events as seen in Syria today.

The level of destruction in Syria had reached a world level qualifying the armed conflict as having a world-war attribute. Much of the dehumanizing atrocities are blamed on these three sides in the war; the government forces, the rebel civilians and the international mediators. In May 2017, the level of devastation had left in the minds of every actor the feeling that, "it would have been better at all not to engage in armed conflict". But such silent inner counsel does appear at last vivid when fear must have occupied the heart with resounding alarm of regrets. Whatever is the case Syria will be hard to rebuild for decades? The already existing developmental infrastructures which have been raised down will contribute to the age-long rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation move to be embarked by government. That is why government in different regions and sub-regions are advised to reflect on the losses incurred by any war pact state and associate the gains with the losses both in human capital and material resources within the period of war and post-war era. The difference will be a lesson to any autocratic ruler not to engage in war because of the effect or to go for war for his personal and selfish interest known as a public interest.

RECOMMENDATION

- ✓ The use of force against the people has not yielded any good fruits therefore should be discouraged rather a tactful non-violent approach be employed to address issues involving protests, demonstrations an expressing of feelings, it is among international rights that must be protected
- ✓ Autocratic leaders should make way for someone to succeed them because the era we are does not encourage a seatight leadership even laws of any land should stand for such rights as leaders tends to be more corrupt as they stay more years in office.

- ✓ All government should as a matter maintaining acceptable leadership ensure that it provides minimum basic standard of living to enable them have firm control of its population which will be influenced by emerging groups around the world if that is not the case.
- ✓ States in the middle-east, Africa and the third world countries should imbibe the right principles of constitutionalism, through negotiation, consensus and rule of law in governance to check Arab-spring agitations and insurgency.
- ✓ Rigging of elections is a denial of people's right to vote and choice of leadership which had been responsible for several arm deal. This trend should be stopped to give the people rights to exercise their franchise and elect good leaders.

CONCLUSION

The world is no more in darkness, Light had permeated the ways and sight of the led in this 21st century. The oppressive engagement of autocratic, totalitarian and tyrannical leadership can be paid for by the terror of insurgent groups with links to al-Qaeda etc a jihadist approach. They launch their attack in some cases against or for. Therefore Syrian armed conflict should serve as lesson to African countries even the third-world countries for their leadership styles forced to imbibe the high principles of good and people oriented government not cabal government. All government irresponsiveness of the yearnings and aspirations of the people have the ability of attracting well-informed resisting groups corrupting the domestic population via E-Knowledge.

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