



Research Article

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Globalization of pandemic and its impact on African political economy: Evidence from COVID-19

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Abstract: Pandemic remains a universal problem because it usually comes with a noxious virus that affects the world and it tends to even more pronounce due to globalization that is directly affecting economy and politics through several ways. Although, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has less effect on African part in terms of death and casualties in comparison with other parts of the world, but the African political economy has been unswervingly affected, since Africa depends on Western and other developed economies, which are considered as the epicentres of the

pandemic. This calls for urgent policy making related to economy within an international system. This study examined the spread of deadly virus across Africa and its implications on African political economy and governance. To accomplish its objectives, this study employed and applied descriptive method where secondary sources of data including books, journals, reports, internet sources and newspapers related to the virus cases and its economic and political impacts were used. Again, theoretical interpretative technique complemented the statistical analysis, where relevant sub-themes are identified and analysed accordingly. Admittedly, the study discovered that COVID-19 pandemic spread speedily in African continent, thanks to globalization, and the pandemic acutely affects the African economy and politics in many ways. Specifically, the study recommends among many that African countries should look inward and identify policies that they can initiate to break the cycle of dependency thereby reducing the level of imports and promoting export.

Keywords – African Political Economy, COVID-19 pandemic, Globalization, Pandemic, Political, War

1. INTRODUCTION

Globalisation is a phenomenon which heralded the unification and merging of the world political economy under one structure and international system in contemporary times. It is not a new development or an unprecedented event in the history of the world (Gilpin, 2001). In essence, some views suggested that globalisation and its process is as old as the mankind and his existence. Several processes, antecedents and activities pre-dated globalisation but



were instrumental in the emergence of the current status quo (Thernborn, 2006). Specifically, globalisation is the transcendental activity that witnessed the glorification and imposition of the Western political economy over the globe after the intensive struggles and fierce competition in the Cold War era. This is the most viable explanation in modern times (Heywood, 2011). The advancement in technology, communication and the disentangled nature of the world and the facilitation of modern transportation system transformed the world into a most rapid global arena that is aspiring to link the world in a most rapid speed across the specio-temporal variables. Globalisation makes global connectivity inevitable in terms of economic, political, social and cultural perspectives (Hoogvelt, 2001).

The process of globalisation makes the world interconnected in all aspects. In this regard, global pandemics become imperative in influencing the countries of the world in terms of economic, political, social and even cultural activities which were silently suppressed through social distancing, isolation, lock down and travel ban. During the period that the world witnessed globalisation in its advanced stage, several pandemics paralysed the world in awe because of the nature in which the globe transformed into one indivisible entity (Zizek, 2020). Some of the recent pandemics during globalisation period included Spanish Flu, HIV/AIDS, Birds Flu, Ebola Virus, Zika Virus and recently Coronavirus known popularly as COVID 19. Once a pandemic broke out in any part of the world, it quickly and easily spread into other parts of the world because of modern means of transportation such as plane and speed boats. This was how the recent global pandemics affected all parts of the world (Hruby, 2020). One vital aspect of pandemics is it is not only influencing or paralysing the health sector but it is all-encompassing in its dynamics of impacts. The political, economic, social and cultural sectors all became heavily affected whenever a pandemic broke out in the globalisation period this is how pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, Ebola Virus and recently COVID 19 grounded the world politics and economy (Joseph & Ashkan, 2020).

African political economy is a myriads of a trio of pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial structures and institutions. In the pre-colonial era, African political economic institutions, systems, structures and institutions were traditional, indigenous, community based and self-oriented (Ake, 1996). There were retinue of kingdoms, chiefdoms, emirates, organisations, societies and other political organisations while there were establishment of economic systems of different strata including internal and international trade among the African states and between African countries and Asian and European countries (Falola & Sanchez, 2014). The nature of the trade was mutual and exchange using barter. During colonial era, the European colonisers succeeded in emasculating and altering the structures, institutions, systems and institutions of the African systems and turned their heritage into the Western model institutions devoid of indigenous and community system (Le Van, 2015). In the process, the African political institutions were transformed into the Western style of governance, the economy was moderated and exploited in an asymmetrical arrangement while at the same time linking the satellite economy into the mainstream Western capitalist economy. This is the first stage in merging Africa with globalisation process (Kalu, 2018). The African post-colonial economy depicts an organisation that is subservient and dependent on Western political economy especially after the demised of the USSR from the Cold War ideological battle. America and her allies emerged victorious which paved the way for the total domination of the world politics and economy (Wengraf, 2018).

COVID 19 is a global pandemic which emanated from the industrial city of Wuhan in 2019 from a cold flu which became mysterious, evasive, devastating, disastrous and highly infectious. Hundreds of millions were affected and millions died from the pandemic (Rosberg & Knell, 2020). Several efforts to counter the pandemic failed because of the dimension of the virus and its impacts. Within six months of its appearance, the pandemic spread globally. The global economy became totally paralysed while the world politics became intensified with many world leaders trading blames among themselves on the role of China, US and World Health Organisation (WHO) (Wang et al., 2020). Africa is affected less by the COVID 19 pandemic in terms of casualties but the African economy is the most devastated because it depends structurally on the Western or in essence, global political



economy. Countries that are oil-producing such as Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, Libya, Congo and others that relied on world economic powers for grant and support in sustaining their livelihoods all became heavily affected by the pandemic (Cheng et al., 2020). Drawing from the above, this research is an examination of how the globalisation of pandemic affects the African political economy with a special reference to COVID 19 pandemic. In doing so, it is pertinent to examine some vital issues related to the subject matter of study including the concepts in globalisation, pandemics, African political economy and COVID 19 pandemic.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

The literature section examined and critically reviewed some issues related to the subject matter of study including the concept of globalisation, pandemic and African political economy as discussed extensively and thoroughly in the following sections.

2.1. Globalisatiuon

Globalisation is a term which defies any single or universal meaning or even description. The meaning, periodization, concepts, dimensions and virtues of globalisation are yet to be given a final or a sacrosanct meaning or status. In essence, some scholars predicted that globalisation is a term which cannot be exhausted for over a century because its forces and waves are still unfolding gradually (Barry, 2020). We are yet to fully understand or underscore the globalisation phenomenon. In some views, globalisation is a process while others perceived it as an ideology. Irrespective of how one understands globalisation, it is a wave that is currently shipping the world in its ocean of sailors and we are still experiencing its formidable strengths (Berger, 2014).

Globalisation is a term that is simply associated with the Americanisation and Westernisation of global political economy. In some views, globalisation is the process in which the world has turned into a single economic and political system. It is a process in which the world is merged into a single system and decision making process has gradually and systematically transformed into a one-sided phenomenon (Goldberg & Pavcnik 2018). In another version, globalisation is identified as an ideology which accompanied the victory of the United States and her allies from the Cold War ideological battle, by interpretation, capitalist ideology imposed on a global arena. In another dimension, globalisation is seen as an all-encompassing process and a set of activity which pre-dated the current century and which gradually transcended and tantamount into the present status quo from the reminiscence of the processes many centuries ago. In essence, globalisation reflects a process and activities which transformed the world into the present political economic system (Frankel, 2018).

There is no accepted view or submission on the history and emergence of globalisation across the world. One of the views is that globalisation has started since the commencement of the world itself because there was never a time in the history of the world that the world is not connected, only that the level of interconnectivity differs from one century to another (Adams, 2020). According to a view, globalisation started since 11th century when the Venetian Republic started expanding their trade activities across the world after the discovery of the large vessels for a long voyage across the world oceans. In another view, globalisation started since the early days of European imperialism when the likes of Britain, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal and other major European powers started developing international trade process among them and with other parts of the world (Noko, 2016). In another view, globalisation has six basic stages including the 3-5 century BC when the major Abrahamic religion of the world such as Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam scrambled in search of support for converts across the globe. The second stage is the period between 11th - 17th century when the European imperialists struggled for areas of influence. The third stage is the period between 18th century to 1914 when the major European powers scrambled in search of areas for a direct colonization. The fourth stage is the period between 1914 to 1945 when the First and Second World Wars were fought among the major world powers. The fifth stage is period from 1945 to 1990 when the Cold War ideological battle was slugged between the US and



USSR until the collapse of the USSR in 1989. The last period was from 1990 when the US and her allies ascended the throne of a unipolar global power system imposing forcefully its economic and political interest over all countries of the world (Thernborn, 2006).

There are many factors or drivers that helped the globalisation process. One of them is the international political institutions including the United Nations Organisations (UNO), international economic institutions such as International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Monetary System (IMF), General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) later World Trade Agreement (WTO). Another factor is the modern communication system such as internet, mobile telecommunication system and international media outlets which has a reachout across all nooks and crannies of the world. Related to the above is the emergence of modern technology which aided technology and rapid as well as massive production of goods and services (Hoogvelt, 2001). Another factor is the multinational corporations which originated from the industrially developed countries and are present world over promoting one unique products and business across the world. Additionally, globalisation is promoted by the development of modern transportation when the speed plane and speed ships were invented for easy and quick transportation of goods and services (Nissanke & Thorbecke, 2007).

Globalisation has many advantages or benefits and disadvantages for world countries. One of the benefits is that many world countries are able to compete economically through the process of free trade and trade promotion. This has created wealth for many countries of the world. Also, globalisation enables for trade agreements that ushered in technology transfer and sharing of ideas. Furthermore, globalisation promotes security alliance, political development and quick transfer of knowledge as well as sharing and accessibility of information worldwide (Moss, 2009). However, globalisation has some effects especially on African continent because the free trade enabled for domination, exploitation and marginalisation of their economy and politics making them further dependent and underdeveloped. Also, exchange of cultural ideas impoverished cultures of other countries of the world while promoting the culture of the West. Additionally, globalisation is seen as a way of indirect domination and advancement of Western politics disguised in global democratisation, imposition of Western economy using Bretton Wood institutions and pushing for Western culture worldwide. Africa has benefitted from globalisation as observed by Hoogvelt (1997) in many ways including an increased transfer of technology, increased in flow of foreign investment which generated many jobs, ease of movement from and within Africa and a regional economic integration and collective security. On the other hand, Hoogvelt (1997) submits that Africa faced many threats from the waves of globalisation including being dominated in international trade through a tariff-free agreement, migration and brain drain, rapid spread of pandemics from other parts of the world into Africa and failure to utilise opportunities for economic growth.

2.2. Pandemic

Pandemic is the outbreak of viruses and other contagious diseases that are easily infectious and can lead to a high percentage of casualties in a short period of a time. In the history of the world, several pandemics occurred which killed millions of victims in ancient and modern times. Some of them could be disastrous and more deadly than others. So also, some were recorded and reported accordingly while others are lost in the ancient archive of world history. Pandemics are considered so if they spread beyond the geographical area of their origins and their impacts affect the various parts of the world (Zizek, 2020). In the history of the world, there are more than twenty (20) major pandemics recorded ranging from the ancient plagues in China, India, Arab world and in Africa and Europe. In the 20th century, the major pandemics witnessed consisted of the US plague, famous English fever, Cocoliztli fever, Spanish Flu, Second World War plague in Europe, HIV/AIDS virus especially in Africa, NH1 bird flu, 2014 West Africa Ebola Virus outbreak, the Zika virus and recently COVID 19. Pandemics are considered so in modern times if they are unanimously declared by the World Health Organisations (WHO), a body under the control of the United Nations which is responsible for the prevention and management of infectious diseases globally. Pandemics



are sometimes universal and permeative globally as in the case of the current COVID 19 while in sometimes, it is regional or specified with one country. The case of Ebola virus implied that West Africa is the most affected. In the case of HIV/AIDS, Africa is the most affected while other viruses are spread globally such as bird flu (World Health Organisation, 2020).

Pandemics are unique in their nature and approach because of several factors. One of the factors is the nature of the spread and infection. Some global pandemics spread quickly more than others. For instance, COVID 129 spread rapidly more than any other in the history of pandemics. Another factor is the time of the outbreak of the pandemic. Some broke out when the world is not fully connected by globalisation like the ancient plagues in India and China and this has been the reason why the casualties in that time were less in number because the spread was not aided by modern transportation and movement systems. This is the reason why HIV/AIDS, Ebola Virus, bird flu and COVID 19 claimed millions of victims. Additionally, the rate and percentage of fatalities from a pandemic determine how deadly it is (Grant et al., 2020). For instance, Ebola is considered as the deadliest in modern times because of the few chances of survival of the victims. It usually claimed about 80 to 90% of the victims. The rate of infection and the method of contact of the disease is another factor. For instance, HIV/AIDS is contacted usually through sexual contact or blood contact and transfusion. This made the pandemic slow in its effects than for example, flu or COVID 19 which is infectious through handshake and breath or sneeze. Furthermore, the nature of the global connectivity is another determinant factor. COVID 19 is popularly regarded as the most influential of them because of how closer the world has become courtesy of globalisation (WHO, 2020).

Pandemics are not only studied or situated in the context of health impacts alone. They are considered in the process of how they affected the political, economic and social perspectives of the world. For instances, in recent years, pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, Ebola Virus, Bird Flu and COVID 19 influenced political economy negatively (Osler, 2020). This range from the cost of preventing and protecting the world from the pandemics, cost of vaccination, blockage of international trade and financial activities due to lock down and shutdown of international borders, political pressure on world leaders towards responses and how social life changed. For instance, in current times, the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic crippled the global economy in even the developed economies, set world leaders on pressure making many of them to win or lost election or face crisis of legitimacy and authority emanating from their nature and level of responses, obstructing social life particularly learning, social interaction because of social distancing, increased internet usage and cybercrimes and meeting via internet and zoom method (Hochberg, 2020). Global pandemics in essence affect the whole world in virtually all aspects of life as previously observed. The COVID-19 pandemic is enshrouded in various conspiracies allegations in Africa such as the rumours of an impending compulsory vaccines and that fear is being consolidated from the way the governments and agencies are forcing their employees to get vaccinated. The acceptance rate of the vaccine even though, it is free is not encouraging in most of the African countries owing to the suspicion and the conspiracy allegation.

2.3. African political economy

Political Economy is a sub-discipline of Political Science which established the inseparable connection between the political decision and economic policies (Gilpin, 1987). The global political economy exhibits the interconnections and interplay of the forces of global key players in shaping the policies and regulations of economic settings locally and internationally (Kindleberger, 2000: 73). The presumptuous institutionalisation of global political economy was sealed during the era of mercantilism and the emergence of free trade in Western Europe in the 18th century (Gourevitch, 2000: 90). The field of Political Economy flourished in its heydays during the philosophical contributions of Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Reverend Thomas Malthus, Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mills, Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Friedrich Engel, Karl Marx, Max Weber, V. I. Lenin and other reputable scholars who enlivened the field of Political Economy with deluge of debates and counter-debates on how best to organise the state and manage the economy. The Liberalist proffered free market and capital supremacy while the Marxist wing



settled for a state control of the means of production (Wang, 1977; Bernstein & Cashore, 2008: 276; Cutler, 2008: 189; Haufler, 2008: 217; Rittberger, Huckel, Rieth & Zimmer, 2008: 13; Schofield, Caballero & Kselman, 2012; Kennedy, 2016). Centrally, Political Economy continued to exist and expand on these two divergent uncompromising and contradictory views.

The African Political Economy represents a combination of three stages of policy and economic interaction. Africa before the era of colonialism was mostly communal in economic pattern and traditional in political settings (Ndulu & O'Connell, 2008: 3). The emergence of imperialism, slave trade and later colonialism altered the evolutionary destiny and structures of the African economy and politics towards an external orientation adopted from the colonisers (Rodney, 1972). The violence of colonialism, long experience of economic exploitation and political domination affected the future of Africa even after political independence (Nzongola-Ntalaja, 2017: 214). The post-colonial African political economy represents a fragile and dependent economy that has its policies directed outside by world powers through direct and indirect manipulation (Nkrumah, 1965).

Political Economy has domestic, regional and international dimension. In examining the Nigerian context, it is necessary to begin with the African Continent. African economies were progressing in a nearly unparalleled level with that of Europe before the emergence of colonial exploitation. As observed by Marxists in their dialectical and historical materialism, the process of universal connection carried all societies along from primitivism to communal and advanced stage of economic production and political organisation. The control and exploitation of some parts by others was the genesis of the difference in economic prosperity and development (Ake, 1991). Most of the attempts by African countries in the 1960s and 1970s to adopt socialism failed because of lack of proper global corporation and domestic economic challenges (Arrighi & Saul, 1977). Africa has deep-rooted political and economic systems that were neither capitalism or communist in outlook but African traditional systems that differed from one society to another. The level of interaction with colonialists retarded the African political economy towards backwardness and dependency because Africa was developed before the emergence of colonialism and in overall, external interaction (Nkrumah, 1965, Rodney, 1972; Fanon, 1975). Many scholars (Boahen, 1985: 1; Uzoigwe, 1985: 19; Ranger, 1985: 45; Amin, 1987; Pakenham, 1991; Taiwo, 2010; Falola & Achberger, 2013: 1; Kew & Kwaja, 2013: 176; Cooper, 2014; Henaku, 2019: 51; Chiazam, 2019: 277) argued that the African political economy is that of a political and economic system gang-raped and forcefully altered by external visitors. This process arguably set the foundation for Africa's crises of economy and politics in the global international political economy.

However, the current waves of globalisation further worsens economic and political crises in Africa despite all the opportunities that it is presently providing for world regions to sustain and make their economies vibrant. Many scholars (Ake, 1996; Clapham, 2000; Van De Walle, 2001; Lindberg, 2006; Moyo, 2009; Harrison, 2010; Schmidt, 2013; Falola & Sanchez, 2014: 1; Jerven, 2015; Le Van, 2015; Shizha & Diallo, 2015: 1; Kalu, 2018; Kalu & Falola, 2018: 1; Langan, 2018; Wengraf, 2018) emphasised that Africa in the globalised and neoliberal era is not faring well in terms of democratic development and economic prosperity. The above scholars presented diverse views on Africa's political economy characterised by external domination, foreign influence, maldevelopment, conflicts, crises and failure to initiate genuine economic policies that will motivate a big push for economic development, political progress and an increase global share of wealth and prosperity. Economic and political policies are designed and directed for Africa undemocratically by agencies and institutions such as the IMF, WTO and UN where it has no any permanent representative in the Security Council, the strategic decision-making body. Africa is entrapped in debt cycle, poverty, corruption, misgovernance and other issues of social indicators that revealed underdevelopment. This is the current state of African political economy.



3. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS: GLOBALISATION SPREAD OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE AFRICAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

Globalisation has succeeded in transforming and linking the world into a single cobweb of international system. The easy and quickest facilitation of modern transportation system coupled with internet and mobile telecommunication in addition to other modern technological gadgets of communication set the world in a disentangled phenomenon of communication. In primitive times, transportation is carried alone using mostly beasts such as donkeys, camels, horses and ships which usually takes longer for the travellers to reach their destination, sometimes, as long as four or six month (Gilpin, 2001). Furthermore, communication takes longer because the means of sending the message is mostly by foot or ship which takes many months from one part of the world to another. All these are now history. The contemporary world experienced a significant breakthrough in science and technology which ushered in changes and developments that made transportation and communication easier and faster. In the current world, daily, people move from one part of the world to another in few hours while messages are instantly sent and received via internet and mobile phones. This process brought individuals closer more than ever in the history of the world (Hoogvelt, 2001).

The coming together and closer of individuals made a spread of news, cultures, activities and even pandemics easier and quicker than any period ever. In some hundred years ago, pandemics can spend as much as a year in a particular part of the world without permeating the entire globe (Heywood, 2011). This scenario is practically impossible today. Because of the nature of international travels, international relations and international politics, any pandemic outbreak can reach all parts of the world in less than a month. Passengers that are travelling through planes and other modern means of faster transportation quickly spread virus. In this regard, recent pandemics like HIV/AIDS, Bird Flu, Ebola Virus and contemporarily COVID 19 pandemics became more pronounced and rapidly spread than their former counterpart virus because of the quick nature of global connectivity. Had it been the Spanish Flu which was believed to have infected over 100 million and killed around 50 million appeared today, it may claim ten times or more than what it devastated in 1900s when the global connectivity was minimal (Osler, 2020).

The COVID 19 pandemic is a specie of a flu which emerged in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The Virus spread pronto in an unprecedented manner ever witnessed in the history of global pandemics. Before the first quarter of 2020, almost all countries of the world recorded a confirmed case or cases depending on the nature and the spread (Chang et al. 2020). Just like previous pandemics, all efforts by researchers and medical scientists to identify its cure failed for over a year of its outbreak. As such, the pandemic devastated the world and crippled the healthcare system in the world while not forgetting the socioeconomic and political aspects too. Countries including the United States (US), Russia, China, Brazil, India, Spain, Italy, Mexico, France and Iran are the most affected. They recorded millions of infections with millions of casualties too (WHO, 2020). In Africa, countries like Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Morocco, Algeria and others are the most affected.

The COVID 19 pandemic halted in totality economic and political activities in the world in 2020. Many summits, conferences, meetings, gatherings and activities were cancelled indefinitely due to the impacts of COVID 19 pandemic. In essence, powerful economies of the world such as US, Britain, France, Germany, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Singapore and China started witnessing economic shock as early as the first quarter of the 2020 (WHO, 2020). Their economies crumbled and they had to start introducing measures towards providing palliatives and other different forms of intervention. In Africa, the situation was the same except that the condition became more critical since most of the African countries that rely on foreign aids and grants for survival or soft loan. The creditors and donators all defaulted as they were busy battling for internal survival due to a grounded economic activities and productivity. While only South Africa is hit most in terms of casualties in Africa, the African economy became so hit hard to the extent that many were drown in recession such as the Nigerian case (Zizek, 2020).



Unlike some years back, globalisation made international travel easier and faster and that was how most of the African countries got contacted with the Virus in a short period of a time. Travellers from America, Europe and Asia spread the Virus in Africa while the African international travellers returned back home with many infected either knowingly or unknowingly. Adequate measures such as early lock down and international travel ban as well as isolation for quarantine after returning from international journey were taken by the African countries. The perceived carelessness in Africa is attributed to politics (Hruby, 2020). Declaring lock down in early stage of the Virus especially when most of the countries that became the first victims were the world economic powers is inimical to African political economy. Furthermore, many top echelons in Africa were abroad when the first wave of the Virus hit the world harder. They had to return back home. After their return, no adequate measures are taken to isolate them or set a proper surveillance to ensure their restriction. One case is the Chief of Staff to the Nigerian President. He returned back from Germany infected and was not properly isolated. He later died of the Virus after he might have infected many that he got into contact with them (Hruby, 2020).

African countries that are poor and mostly relied on exportation of raw materials and unprocessed goods to Europe, America and Asia have their products abandoned because the buyers are now battling with how to contain the spread of Coronavirus and how to provide palliatives for their dwindling economy. This situation seriously affected African economies to the extent that some went into full recession while others engaged in massive borrowing with stringent detrimental conditionalities from Internal Monetary Fund and other lending agencies. African countries introduced palliatives such as distribution of food items, cash, household utilities, tax relief, grants and other forms of social interventions (Campbell & McCaslin, 2020). The hitherto, weak economy that is hardly financing its budget is now overburdened with the task of containing economic stress caused by COVID 19. Many policies were made but some of them are just mere paper strategies since there is no enough money to execute them. Politicians found a succour and a typical African culture of corruption surfaced when in many countries like Nigeria, the palliatives meant for distribution to the poor are diverted by politicians and government officials. The armed groups found an opportunity to trike more during lock down and internal travel ban. Problems bedevilled the African countries from the sharp effects of COVID 19. Thus, it became imperative to seek for an alternative and a solution against future occurrences of such pandemic. This study provides feasible alternative in the next section. Globalisation of pandemic has also succeeded in eliciting a collective responses toward infectious diseases across the globe and Africa is also benefitting from that. For instance, Fidler (2017) reported that after the 2014 Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Africa, the global management of infectious diseases took a new dimension in terms of quick responses especially in poor countries where they need financial, infrastructural and logistics intervention in Africa. This can be seen along the same process in which the COVID-19 is receiving a serious attention in intervention from rich countries through debt relieve, moratorium, supply of response materials such as test kits, equipment for isolation centres and even vaccines.

4. RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS

The study has practical policy implications for all stakeholders that are concerned on the subject matter that was investigated. It will prepare the African leaders towards tackling the unforeseen contingencies related to pandemic and how they can device feasible ways of adapting to the sharp effects of the global pandemoic especially on the African economy. The study will also help the global key players in the health sector and pandemic management and responses oin how to assist Africa in handling the issues of pandemic internally and externally especially on rapid responses and economic resuscitation. Researchers will benefit immensely also from the findings and recommendations suggested in the study.

5. CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND FUTURE RESEARCH

The study has implications to the scientific community based on its findings including the perception and understanding of the dynamics of pandemic and its management in Africa, how COVID-19 is changing life in Africa and most importantly, how the intricate disentangled waves of globalisation is influencing political and socioeconomic aspects of living in the Continent for future preparations and management of such issues at stake.

6. CONCLUSION

The study revealed a critical situation that is advantageous and disadvantageous to the world. Globalisation has its own positive and negative effects on world countries depending on the situation. The world has inevitably and unconsciously transformed into a single unit in the international system. The international political economy has become disentangled in the current era of globalisation. Not only the political economy aspect of the world has become intertwined, the sociocultural aspect too became inseparable. Pandemics in modern world are quickly and easily spread because of the breakthrough in international travels and mobile telecommunication system aided by internet services. Pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, Bird Flu, Ebola virus and Zika are rapidly spread courtesy of the role of globalisation in a short period of a time. However, the study concludes that there was never a time in the history of the world that a pandemic quickly and fast spread like the COVID 19 pandemic. A Virus which emerged in December 2019 became permeative in all parts of the world before the second quarter of 2020. This is facilitated by globalisation as established by the study. The study further concludes that Africa was the most affected in term of the political, economic and social aspects. Although, the continent was lucky to have recorded minimal infection and casualties in terms of death in comparison with its American, European and Asian counterparts, the economies of the African states became the most devastated because they are dependent economy that could not function reliably without the external from the support from the powerful economic countries and those countries were heavily hit by the Virus making them to retract and fought for the spread of the Virus and its impacts in their home countries.

Hence, this study realised that unless Africa re-strategise its political economy in the era of globalisation, it may continue to suffer heavily for the occurrence of such viruses in future. Therefore, it is recommended that African should immediately devise a means of utilising its resources indigenously without exporting them to technological countries for exchange. This can be done through the initiation of local technology. Also, Africa needs to rationally establish lending agencies that will extend a helping hand in future if such even re-occurs again to avoid external loans that may be harmful due to their caveat. In addition, Africa should think of adopting a suitable alternative to countering pandemics instead of heavily relying on Western world for the remedy. This can be traditional, conventional or even spiritual approach.

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