



## **Globalization, Good Governance And An Improved Electoral System: The Nigerian Situation**

**Erastus C. Awortu LL.B (Hons), BL, LLM, Ph.D Candidate**  
**Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria**  
**Erastus.awortu@yahoo.com**

**Melford A. Itari LL.B (Hons), BL, LLM, Ph.D Candidate**  
**Lecturer, Department of Jurisprudence & International Law, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria**  
**muinitari@gmail.com**

### **ABSTRACT**

With the influence of globalization and global politics on economies, leadership of any independent nation has become not only a national affair but a multi-national and global one. Due to this, global external influences and market forces not only sway electoral systems, processes and votes, but also influence behavior, governance and state policies in general. This paper creates a nexus between globalization and the governance of a democratic Nigeria. It relates the economic situation of Nigeria to her electoral system and identifies the role globalization plays in uplifting or downgrading national electoral systems and state governance. This paper does not claim to provide all the answers to the challenges of governance and electoral systems, nor is it directed at debating the cost-benefit of political globalization, rather it focuses on the relationship and influence of globalization on the growth and expansion of democratic governance in Nigeria. The study found that no electoral system simply reflects voter preferences. Electoral systems shape and reshape the features of the environment factored by key economic and political players across borders, and if this is understood, then it is reflective to further state that globalization merely plays a reflective role in Nigeria's polity.

**Keywords:** Electoral System, Globalization, Governance

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Globalization affects every aspect of the society on a daily basis. However Nigeria as a country has not been able to progressively benefit from the process of globalization as it ought to, due to corruption, weak institutions and lack of governmental will to do what is right. Globalization has become so important in today's world that it affects all aspect of the world politically, socially, economically, technologically and in all aspects of life. Countries of the world today, are more connected, related and dependent than before.<sup>1</sup>

Over the years, globalization has changed how individuals and organization as well as governments carry out their operations due to its effect on every aspect of the society.<sup>2</sup> Governments can no longer ignore the role globalization plays in national politics, economy, and governance as well as in electoral systems and processes. Without understanding the relationship globalization has with national economy and state politics, and harnessing its roles and potentials for constructive national development, nations like Nigeria may continue to confront the issue of globalization with a colonial anti-globalist thinking. This paper

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<sup>1</sup> Ewrierhurhoma DE and Amah E, 'Effect of Globalization on Politics and Government: The Case of Nigeria' [2021] (11) (5) *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*, 409.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 412.

therefore creates a nexus between globalization and the governance of democratic Nigeria. It relates the economic situation of Nigeria to her electoral system and identifies the role globalization plays in uplifting or downgrading her national electoral system and state governance.

## 2.0 Conceptual Exposition

### a. Globalization

Globalization as a concept remains a multifaceted phenomenon, with implications that encompass not just the economic but also the social, political, cultural and geographical. Globalization is defined as the latest stage of a process where technological, economic, ecological, cultural, and military trends, traditionally observable on a geographically limited scale and scope, are extended to the entire globe.<sup>3</sup> Globalization is regarded as the process that pushes countries to become more integrated into the global economy, characterized by a high degree of information and technological flow, trans-national cultural convergence, and more trade and financial openness.<sup>4</sup>

It describes a widespread perception that the world is rapidly being molded into a shared social space by economic and technological forces, while development in one region can have profound consequences for individuals, states or communities on another side of the globe. This web of global unification transcends national borders and constrains political and coercive actions nationally taken by governments within their state borders.<sup>5</sup> In contemporary times, the concept of globalization has become the explanatory tool that is applied to all areas of economy, polity and society. Amoore stated that the concept has become a kind of horse for every course, infinitely malleable and amorphous, ‘vague in referent’ and ‘ambiguous in usage.’ But it is the amorphous nature of the concept that gives it the capacity to exercise power.<sup>6</sup>

Globalization transforms human affairs by linking together and expanding human activities across regions and continents. Local developments now have big global consequences. The boundaries between domestic and global affairs have become blurred.<sup>7</sup> Citing Clapham, Akinola defined globalization as an integrated set of developments which are in the process of creating a single global economic, social and political structure - and which necessarily, therefore challenges and undermines the historical claims made on behalf of the state.<sup>8</sup>

In the arena of political globalization, internationalization is regarded as leading to the erosion of the formal role and powers of the nation states.<sup>9</sup> Holton defines globalization as: Interconnection - the intensified movement of goods, money, technology, information, people, ideas and cultural practices across political and cultural boundaries, and the interdependence of these activities across boundaries, and convergence and integration, for instance in prices and markets.<sup>10</sup> Prof. Okogbule also stated, that definitions do not easily explain various ramifications of globalization, but they recognize the fact that globalization entails a dialectical process of interaction between global and local events, resulting in mutual impact between them.<sup>11</sup>

Consequently, globalization represents a process of establishing a global system in which important actions, occurrences and processes extend beyond a particular territory. It signifies the imposition of the

<sup>3</sup> Finger M, ‘Globalisation and Governance’ [1999] (6) *Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy*, 1-9; Evwierhurhoma and Amah (n1) 411.

<sup>4</sup> Akinola AO, *Globalization, Democracy and Oil Sector Reform in Nigeria* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018) 18; Scholte JA, *Globalisation: A Critical Introduction* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2000).

<sup>5</sup> Akinola (n4) 19.

<sup>6</sup> Amoore L, *Globalisation Contested: An International Political Economy of Work* (Manchester University Press, 2002) 14.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 15.

<sup>8</sup> Akinola (n4) 18; Clapham C, ‘The Challenge to the State in a Globalized World’ [2002] (33) (5) *Development and Change*, 775-795.

<sup>9</sup> Porter RB, ‘Global Convergence, Divergence and Development’ in Vandana Desai and Robert B Potter (eds) *The Companion to Development Studies* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Hodder Education UK, 2008) 192.

<sup>10</sup> Martell L, *The Sociology of Globalization* (UK, Polity Press, 2010) 11.

<sup>11</sup> Okogbule NS, ‘Globalization, Human Rights and the Marginalization of Indigenous Peoples in Nigeria: Ikwerre Ethnic Nationality in Perspective’ in CAJ Chinwo (ed) *Opening and Enriching the Channels of Justice in the Nigerian Society: Essays in Commemoration of Four Decades of Legal Practice of OCJ Okocha* (Okpo Club of Nigeria and Life, Law and Grace Book house, 2018) 271- 297 at 276.

global on the local.<sup>12</sup> Putting together these definitions, it adds up to the understanding that globalization involves the compression of space, such that distance is less of a factor than it used to be in terms of knowledge, growth, communication and movement.

#### **b. Electoral System**

Human Nature and the reality of the human will, makes it imperative for like minds to flock together to design plans and policies that are the sure route to achieving the group's set of objectives. Their common interest becomes the engine that drives them through acquisition of power for the purpose of directing of public policy to seek to transform the society. This is what a political party is and the means to achieve legitimate democratic power is through elections which is governed by an electoral system.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, an electoral system or voting system is defined as a set of rules that determine how elections and referendums are conducted and how their results are determined.<sup>14</sup>

Electoral systems define how the political system within a state will function. Metaphorically, electoral systems, according to Farrell, are the cogs that keep the wheels of democracy properly functioning.<sup>15</sup> The electoral system of a country influences elections and representation, parties and party systems, government formation and the politics of coalitions.<sup>16</sup> Elections are a political phenomenon, which signifies institutionalized procedures for choosing political office holders by the electorates of a country. In other words, it is a means through which the electorates choose their representatives through different organs of the government.

The foregoing underscores the fact that election plays a fundamental role in lubricating the social contract between the people and the government, given that it compels governors to be accountable to the governed, especially through social service provision of delivering on their election campaign promises.<sup>17</sup> It will be difficult to determine and measure the will of the people in the absence of periodic, free and fair election. This is in line with Article 21 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which noted that the will of the people should be the basis of government authority, and everyone has the right to take part in government, directly or through freely chosen representatives.<sup>18</sup>

Apart from the primary function of ensuring the smooth running and accepted legitimacy of the system, electoral systems are designed to fulfill several functions such as reflecting the wishes of voters, producing strong and stable governments, electing qualified representatives etc.<sup>19</sup> Electoral systems provide different kinds of incentives to appeal to voters in order to yield electoral pay-offs. Electoral systems based on a majority principle generate the opposite kind of incentive, as they are much more focused on the individual candidate, and less on the party.

The key elements of an electoral system include: the electoral formula (plurality/majority, proportional, mixed, or other); the ballot structure, and the district magnitude (the number of representatives to the legislature that a particular district elects).<sup>20</sup> In line with these thoughts, though electoral systems exist in many forms, they are important for several reasons. They have an impact on the degree of coherence/fragmentation of the party system, and hence on government effectiveness. They help to manage electoral conflicts, and they shape public policy outcomes, behavior and incentive structures of political actors, as well as resulting accountability linkages.

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<sup>12</sup> Akinola (n4) 18.

<sup>13</sup> Nwakanma B and Olehi N, *Laws Governing Elections and Election Petitions (With Cases and Commentaries)* (Edu-Edy Publication, Owerri, 2007) 24; Udom UJ, *Nigeria's Electoral Laws: Issues and Matters Arising* (Princeton & Associates Publishing Co Ltd Lagos, 2014) 182; Akinola (n4).

<sup>14</sup> Wikipedia, 'Electoral System' *Wikipedia- The Free Encyclopedia* <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/electoral\\_system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/electoral_system)> accessed 23 January 2022.

<sup>15</sup> Farrell DM, *Electoral systems: A Comparative Introduction* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Red Globe Press, London, 2011) 2.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 3.

<sup>17</sup> Kassem SD and Osasona SH, 'Smart Card Reader and Election Credibility in Nigeria's Fourth Republic [2021] (2) (2) *Zamfara Journal of Politics and Development*, 1-10, 4.

<sup>18</sup> Kassem and Osasona (n17) 5.

<sup>19</sup> Farrell (n15) 3.

<sup>20</sup> Rocha MA, *Why Electoral Systems Matter: An Analysis of their Incentives and Effects on Key Areas of Governance* (Overseas Development Institute, London, 2011)

### c. Governance

Governance means ‘control, authority.’<sup>21</sup> Nwakanma and Olehi stated that the central purpose of governance is to advance social welfare and to ensure the security of the people.<sup>22</sup> The word govern means to rule with authority; to regulate; and to manage.<sup>23</sup> Aiyer’s Law Lexicon expressed that ‘govern’ is to exercise power, authority with judgements and knowledge.<sup>24</sup> Government is an institution in every independent nation that runs the affair of the country. More so, Government has to do with the method of ruling a particular society or a country which involves the condition of ordered rule through a body of people charged with the duty of governing.

It is important to note that whether politicians depend directly on voters or on their parties for furtherance of their careers on the basis of the formula that elects them to office, is an important factor in determining whom they feel most accountable to, what use they might make of public resources to build linkages with their constituencies, and even what kinds of incentives there may be for corruption and electoral malpractices. Understanding these different dynamics is essential for governance because it helps provide insights into the institutional frameworks within which political actors operate and the interests that drive them.<sup>25</sup>

In the World Bank context, the notion of governance is very close to that of government; though with additional participation by non-governmental organizations and institutions.<sup>26</sup> Governance is the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country’s economic and social resources for development. It relates to the processes of granting public power and the use to which such power is put; which ideally, should be for the service of the people. Thus, It is a reciprocal processes, given that people conferred power on their representatives with expectations of sound policies that will promote their interest. If the government fails to conduct this obligation, then its purpose will be considered defeated, and issues of bad governance will arise.<sup>27</sup>

Governance efforts are seen as attempts to solve problems collectively by identifying the relevant stakeholders, at global, national, and local levels. Even though the stakes; and often the players involved are different at each of these levels of governance, the levels are not independent from another.<sup>28</sup> Governance envisages ‘people involvement’ in driving the process of good governance as a collective action, and not just policies emanating from government and its agencies.<sup>29</sup>

### 3.0 The Influence of Globalization on National Governance and Electoral Systems

Globalization became a popular idea due to the rise of global communications, especially the internet, making people feel connected across borders. People became more conscious of global problems, like climate change, economic interdependency, and political instability. Money flowed more freely and the state of the economies of nations were open to world view.<sup>30</sup> The importance of states as a system of potent political regulation of social life is confronted by all manner of coercive forces transforming and

<sup>21</sup> *The New Lexicon Webster’s Dictionary of the English Language* (Lexicon Publications Inc., 1995) 413.

<sup>22</sup> Nwakanma and Olehi (n13) 24.

<sup>23</sup> Aiyar PR, *Aiyer’s Advanced Law Lexicon Vol 2 D-I* (3<sup>rd</sup> edn, LexisNexis Butterworths Wadhwa Nagpur India, 2009) 2022.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> Rocha (n20).

<sup>26</sup> Finger (n3).

<sup>27</sup> Agbu O, ‘Impact of The Elections on Governance: Lessons Learned’ in Osita Agbu (ed) *Elections and Governance in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic* (CODESIRA, Dakar, Senegal) 9-25; Archer R, *Markets and Good Government: The way forward for economic and social development* (UN Non-Governmental Liaison Services, Geneva, 1994), Ayo CK, Oluranti J, Duruji MM and Omoregbe NA, *Credible Elections and the Role of Social Media: The Case of Nairaland in the 2014 Osun Gubernatorial Election* (The 15th European Conference on eGovernment (ECEG 2015), 18 - 19 June, 2015, University of Portsmouth, 2015); Ajagba CA, Gberevbie DE and Agbu O, ‘Rebranding the Electoral Process in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic (1999-2019): Constraints and Prospects of the Independent National Electoral Commission’ [2020] (9) (1) *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 56 at 59; Isma’ila Y and Othman Z, ‘Globalization and Democratization in Nigeria’s Quest for Democratic Governance in the Fourth Republic’ [2016] (7) (1) *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 386.

<sup>28</sup> Finger (n3).

<sup>29</sup> Ajagba, Gberevbie and Agbu (n27); Isma’ila and Othman (n27) 388.

<sup>30</sup> Martell (n10) 2.

redefining the state's capacities, capability and competencies. Thus, a state's autonomy can be threatened, while the internal socio-political and the most sensitive economic affairs of a country are unprecedentedly dependent on occurrences in the political systems of distant states.<sup>31</sup>

Horowitz stated that there are six aims of an electoral system. He argued that some are mutually compatible and others are not, but there need not be the illusion that the electoral system alone can achieve the goals. The six aims are: proportionality of seats to votes, accountability to constituents, durable governments, victory of the Condorcet winner, interethnic and interreligious conciliation and minority office holding.<sup>32</sup> The success of any electoral system requires its free acceptance as legitimate by the people themselves. The effective functioning of electoral systems is linked to political party systems, constitutional developments, the provisions governing legislative bodies, and other institutional framework issues.<sup>33</sup> Thus, scholars have argued that globalisation's influence on national politics itself is not a problem, instead the problem lies in the inability of states to adhere to the rudiments of the modus operandi of the forces of globalisation.<sup>34</sup>

The impact of regional and global organizations such as the African Union and the World Trade Organization creates a process of institution-building, where the organizations are able to determine and dictate what happens in the governance of member states. This is the trend of political globalization. The future would see more states edging to conform to the norms laid down by these organizations. Due to the internationalization of political human rights, a state is no longer free to treat its nationals and aliens the way it pleases and run democracies the way it wishes. It must conform to international standards laid down in various human rights treaties.<sup>35</sup>

The nature of an electoral system is to aggregate preferences and to convert them into electoral results, and no system can do this as a passive transition of individual wishes into a collective choice. More so, electoral systems are rife of biases built into its mechanisms of decision, and these reflect in the structure of choices confronting voters, constraining and changing choices that they might have under other systems. Thus, not only is there imperfect reflection of voter preferences, but voter preferences themselves are shaped by the electoral system.<sup>36</sup>

According to Akinola, the interconnectedness of national economies in the global environment is a veritable means of exerting pressures on weaker countries other than by military might.<sup>37</sup> Inevitably, differences in history, ideals and political goals, result in differences in the political and electoral systems of countries.<sup>38</sup> Due to global permeation, the politics of many weaker states have been persistently infiltrated, and stronger nations have not been immune to external influence.<sup>39</sup> The idea of states as autonomous, independent entities is disintegrating under the combined onslaught of monetary unions, global television, the Internet, governmental and non-governmental monitoring and trade etc.

However, globalization as an economic process, promotes opportunity for growth and increase in wealth of states, but also heightens the socio-economic disparities between people, making nation-states less autonomous and progressively controlled by unions and the more wealthy counties. Governments have to compete for foreign capital and restructure their policies to appease global investors and industries, who may be acting against the best interests of the voters and electoral system and processes.<sup>40</sup> It is not that

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<sup>31</sup> Akinola (n4) 31.

<sup>32</sup> Horowitz DL, 'A Primer for Decision Makers' in Diamond L and Plattner MF (eds) *Electoral Systems and Democracy* (The John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 2006) 3-15 at 4-8.

<sup>33</sup> Soudriette RW and Ellis A, 'A Global Snapshot' in Diamond L and Plattner MF (eds) *Electoral Systems and Democracy* (The John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 2006) 16.

<sup>34</sup> Akinola (n4) 37.

<sup>35</sup> Oji EA and Ozioko MVC, 'Effect of Globalization on Sovereignty of States' [2011] (2) *Nnamdi Azikiwe University Journal of International Law and Jurisprudence*, 256 at 260

<sup>36</sup> Horowitz (n32) 3.

<sup>37</sup> Akinola (n4) 31.

<sup>38</sup> Farrell (n15) 4.

<sup>39</sup> Oji and Ozioko (n35) 257.

<sup>40</sup> Akinola (n4) 31.

these governments are unable to run their states, but to survive, they must increasingly engage national politics in such a way as to adapt them to the pressures of trans-national market forces.<sup>41</sup>

With the influence of globalization and global politics on economies, leadership of any independent nation becomes not only a national affair but multi-national and global one. Due to this, global external influences and market forces not only sway electoral systems, processes and votes, but also influence governance and state policies in general.

It can therefore be expressed at this point that no electoral system simply reflects voter preferences. Every electoral system shapes and reshapes the features of the environment factored by key economic and political players across borders. It is this state of affairs over a nation's electoral system, process and governance and the role globalization plays in influencing these democratic issues that made Horowitz to emphasize that the assertion that the best electoral system is that which straight-forwardly and accurately reflects the preferences of voters is rather a mere assumption.<sup>42</sup> If it is understood that electoral systems shape and constrain the way in which politicians and constituents behave, then it is reflective to further state that they are only one small part of the forces affecting the total constellation of behavior; especially political behavior.<sup>43</sup>

#### **4.0 Global Interference on Governance and Electoral Systems: The Nigerian Situation**

There is no gainsaying the fact that economic and political independence and interdependence are interrelated. Many have asserted that globalization benefits everyone. It generates and distributes wealth, it delivers cheaper and more varied products and services, and it encourages democratization.<sup>44</sup> Despite these assertions, which are evidenced by the dramatic growth in foreign investment over the past decades, the overwhelming majority of foreign investments still occur between the world's richest nations. Even within the developing world, it is still the stronger nations that receive the bulk of foreign investment.<sup>45</sup>

Most small states believe that globalization leads to dominance of the weak by the rich and powerful states. Anti-globalists view globalization as an instrument of imperialism, which further expands the inequality between the Global North and South countries while eroding the national sovereignty of states as well as creating homogeneity, violence, dislocation and inequality.<sup>46</sup>

To them, globalisation has failed the south, dividing the populations of many countries as well as regions of the world into winners and losers, and is the reason why African states seem unprepared to cope with the expansionist character of the prevailing world order, and is the reason for the weaknesses arising from the colonial hangover; heavy external indebtedness; dependence on foreign donors leading to limited capacity to embark on meaningful international bargaining and negotiation etc.<sup>47</sup>

The voting booth has internationally become the accepted instrument of political change. Electoral systems cannot be discussed without knowledge of a country's historical, cultural and sociological traditions and characteristics.<sup>48</sup> Although globalisation seems to facilitate appreciable levels of economic and political development in Nigeria, it has subtly impeded the expansion of democratic values in Nigeria, as the piper's player dictate the tune to which the nation dances. It was ascertained that globalisation could only flourish in an atmosphere of unhindered trade liberalization and unobstructed

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<sup>41</sup> Giddens A, *The Consequences of Modernity* (Stanford University Press, 1990) 64; Chase-Dunn C, 'Globalisation: A World Systems Perspective' [1999] (5) (2) *Journal of World- Systems Research*, 186-215.

<sup>42</sup> Horowitz (n32) 3.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, 4.

<sup>44</sup> Karky RB, 'Globalization and Least Developed Countries' in C. C. Nweze (ed) *Contemporary Issues on Public International and Comparative Law: Essays in Honor of Professor Christian Nwachukwu Okeke* (Vandeplas Publishing, 2009) 75; Kudrle RT, 'Three Types of Globalization: Communication, Market and Direct' in Raimo Vayrynen (ed) *Globalization and Global Governance* (Lanham, Rowman & Littlefield, 1999)

<sup>45</sup> Oji and Ozioko (n35) 259.

<sup>46</sup> Popoola J, 'Globalization and Nigeria's Economic Development: A Study of the Interconnectedness' [2020] (10) *Open Journal of Political Science*, 460-480.

<sup>47</sup> Akinola (n4) 36.

<sup>48</sup> Soudriette and Ellis (n33) 16.

exports of capital, but political stability and individual sovereignty could only be guaranteed by liberal democracy which globalization affects.<sup>49</sup>

In Nigeria, where the level of literacy is low; especially of electorates, with poverty ravaging a greater percentage of the populace, modern governance has assumed a lot of complexities and rationality both in terms of decision making and implementation because only a well informed and educated citizenry can be trusted to play active role with government in the governance of Nigeria.<sup>50</sup> Since it was earlier identified that electoral effects are not shaped by electoral systems alone but are also heavily contingent upon other structures and institutions,<sup>51</sup> how the Nigerian society is structured in terms of ideological, religious, ethnic, racial, regional, linguistic and/or class lines, becomes important constructs over voting and good or bad governance. Presently, Nigeria is an established democracy but unfortunately, she combines authoritarian features with formal democratic ones.

The Nigerian electoral system is not fully understood by the average electorate, especially over the effects of choice of leadership.<sup>52</sup> Naturally, the integrity of the election process is fundamental to the integrity of democracy itself. The election system must be sufficiently robust to withstand a variety of fraudulent behaviors and must be sufficiently transparent and comprehensible that voters and candidates can accept the results of an election. Unsurprisingly, Nigeria's history is littered with elections being manipulated in order to influence their outcome to the advantage of special local and foreign interest groups.<sup>53</sup>

As Nigerians battle with their legislators and executives over changes in certain structures and electoral processes in favour of the 2023 general elections, it is important to remember that choices of electoral designs are not technical but political, and the effects of changes to electoral systems are not likely to become manifest within a short period. Wrong decisions and choices pushed by special interests make room for more negative external interference with unqualified economic effects on the nation, which reflect in the long run. This is because the electoral system is not the remedy for all national problems, but its influence should not be underestimated.<sup>54</sup>

Currently, Nigeria lacks the financial and managerial resources needed to build safety social nets. Yet, trade liberalization continues all over the world, and the negative effects of trade, debt policies on democracy, governance and election of leaders may increase, with selfish interests and corrupt maneuvering of national wealth on the minds of ruling parties and politically elected representatives. The growing capital mobility accompanying globalisation produces a political dilemma of economic competitiveness and democratic political accountability. The mobility of capital reduces the Nigerian government's ability to respond to popular demands for social welfare and effective economic management.<sup>55</sup> Globalization, at this stage of transnational alignment has made the 'invisible hand' in market force - described by Adam Smith, to become visible.<sup>56</sup>

Thus, the nation's political and economic acts are no longer secrets, and the exchange of goods and services can no longer be mutually beneficial to all participants in her field of governance. Poor leadership choices and bad decisions in economic management continue to create erosion of the state's economic power and engenders an unguided market, bad economic performance and financial and political crisis that impedes the government's ability to maintain generous welfare spending on her people.<sup>57</sup> It is often believed that globalization is more directly related to the economic than the political sector but this line is practically thin. In fact, economic globalization rather than the globalization of

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<sup>49</sup> Akinola (n4) 39.

<sup>50</sup> Ajagba, Gberegbe and Agbu (n27) 59.

<sup>51</sup> Cox G, *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems* (Cambridge University Press, 1997).

<sup>52</sup> Rocha (n20).

<sup>53</sup> Inuwa I and Oye ND, 'The Impact of E-Voting in Developing Countries: Focus on Nigeria' [2015] (30) (2) *International Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences and Technology*, 43-53 at 44.

<sup>54</sup> Popoola (n46) 475.

<sup>55</sup> Akinola (n4) 29.

<sup>56</sup> Adam Smith used this expression to describe the natural force that guides free market capitalism through competition for scarce resources.

<sup>57</sup> Akinola (n4) 32.

democracy is the defining framework of the post-war era. One caveat on globalization is the pronounced emphasis on its political consequences.<sup>58</sup>

Consequently, there is a call for genuine development anchored on quality leadership and justice, and in community equity, positive democratic values and political development. On the reason why the government of Nigeria is unable to take advantage of globalization, is because Nigeria is still heavily relying on sales of natural resources and lacks diversification, as well as stumpy investment in human capital development which has led to the failure of government. The government of Nigeria has refused to diversify the country's economy from an oil based economy to a technological and industrialized economy.<sup>59</sup>

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

Globalization is not the problem of Nigeria. Nigeria has a purposeful leadership problem. The country is faced with so many 3<sup>rd</sup> world challenges, but there is need to tackle the issue of poverty of mind and of 'pocket.' Poverty/wealth determines 'the economy.' If the Nigerian economy is sound, poverty would reduce, businesses would thrive, consumption will increase, insecurity will reduce, employment will be created, and investments will come into the system and be created within the system. What this means is that the electoral system, its process and the electorates have a duty to the country, a duty that globalization did not create and globalization cannot take away. The development of any economy is not spiritual or 'magic.'

Globalisation allows countries to specialize according to their comparative advantage and initial endowments and this should lead to increase in GDP which can be used to reduce poverty. Globalisation also involves dynamic effects of increasing competition and reaping economies of scale. Trade, investment and migration can all lead to gains and losses for different groups in society. The distributional effects depends on how globalisation processes affect the demand and supply for the different groups in a country.<sup>60</sup>

There is therefore the need for states to recollect the essence of the social contract which was a surrender of innate rights to be protected by the government in return for legitimacy. As long as Nigerians continue to receive bribe and intelligently vote in leaders who are interested only in personal gains without a thought about the effects of policies on the economy, or the effect of economic decisions on local businesses and foreign investments which ought to increase GDP and create funds to be used to develop other sectors such as healthcare and education, then there is not much the best form or practice of globalization can do for Nigeria.

Where the nation fails to improve her electoral system and system of governance, then she should prepare to be comfortable in the 3<sup>rd</sup> world seat for more decades to come. Nigeria and Nigerians cannot keep blaming developed countries and global trade for her pitiable economic and political situations. We must learn to take responsibility and know that borrowing without producing, exporting or developing internally can never result in progress.

Democracy relies on voters having well-founded trust in the processes used to collect and count their votes. No system is perfect, but some are clearly more vulnerable than others; as is the case with Nigeria. Rebranding the electoral process therefore is imperative and entails infusing more features like technology, e-voting, e-transmission of election results, independent candidacy and other modern election management mechanisms that will help in changing the negative perception of the people as well as that of the international community through the adoption of international best practices in the conduct and management of the political process and structure.

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<sup>58</sup> Nyewusira V and Nweke K, 'The Impact of Globalization on Political Development in Nigeria (1999-2007)' [2012] (9) (3) *LWATI: A Journal of Contemporary Research*, 186-201 at 193.

<sup>59</sup> Ewvieurhoma and Amah (n1) 414; Jotia L, 'Globalization and the Nation-State: Sovereignty and State Welfare in Jeopardy Agreement' [2011] (B2) *US-China Education Review*, 243-250

<sup>60</sup> Willem te Velde D, 'Pro-Poor Globalization' in Vandana Desai and Robert B Potter (eds) *The Companion to Development Studies* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Hodder Education UK, 2008) 206, 209.



Nigeria needs to develop every sector of her economy to have various streams of income that will improve the per capita income and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. Political corruption also needs to be exterminated. With the rise of corruption, there can be no positive change in the Nigerian economy and her debts will continue to rise. Thus, if successful growth and development are to take place in Nigeria, working institutions must be able to track the smooth operation of each sector and ensure full income and growth, which in turn provides the citizens with investment and employment opportunities. Clearly, a political leadership with values that drive genuine development will relate with the forces of globalization in a way that advances the interest of its people. The challenge of such leadership should be restructuring the state to be effective and capable of supporting the necessary projects to encourage private and collective initiatives. This is an economic truth.

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