

IMPERIALISM AND THE INEVITABILITY OF GLOBAL TERRORISM: AN OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE FIGHT AGAINST I.S.I.S. IN SYRIA: ANY LESSON FOR NIGERIA?*

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ABSTRACT

The capitalist social order is no doubt one of the springboards of imperialism. As a predator, it swoops on weak nations mainly for its economic, political or strategic interests. Therefore, imperialism is not a policy but a necessary condition for the survival of the capitalist system. The Syrian crisis and terrorist activities are manifestations of imperialists' impulses. This study explored the unvarnished motivations for imperialists' activities and unmasked the underhand motives of the United States (U.S.) in its so-called war on terror, particularly its role in the Syrian crisis. Failure to make a puppet of President Bashar Al Assad by the U.S. and its allies necessitated the need for "regime change." The intervention of Russia dramatically changed the power equation in favour of President Assad. It is becoming glaringly clear that the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) mission in Syria is heading towards failure. The Paper submits that with President Vladimir Putin in the driver's seat, the Obama administration seems to be groping for a face-saving exit route via a political solution to the crisis. It argues Nigeria could face the same situation with Syria since it is highly endowed with natural resources such as oil and gas, and currently facing the challenge of Boko Haram, a group that has openly declared allegiance to Islamic State In Syria (ISIS). The Paper cautions the President Muhammadu Buhari administration and indeed Nigerians to be wary of the U.S. in its offer to assist Nigeria in fighting the Boko Haram the insurgents.

Key words: *Boko Haram, Crisis, Imperialism, Insurgency, ISIS, Terrorism*

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INTRODUCTION

In the 19th century, European powers subdued, partitioned, and later colonized most of what is known today as Third World countries under the claim of mission to "civilize" the "heathens".(Pakenham, Thomas, 1991). The unilateral and criminal invasion of Iraq was to "save" humankind from the "Weapons of Mass Destruction" (WMD) which

President Saddam Hussein was said to have stockpiled. The toppling and killing of the Libyan leader, Muammar Ghaddafi was to ease and rid Libya of Gaddafi's "dictatorship" and enthrone "democracy", while the reality is not. (Knyanev, Alex, Skype Interview with Russia TV24). The war on Syria today, though, proxy in some way, is said to "save" Syrians from the heinous claws of President Bashar Al Assad's "dictatorship". All these constituted/constitutes acts of imperialism, whose primary motives are economic, political, cultural and strategic; and which are directed towards the resolution of the contradictions of the capitalist system of production.

Since the September 11, 2001 "terrorists" attack in the United States (U.S.), the U.S. had ferociously embarked on what it calls "War on Terror". Supposedly, to rid the world of terrorism and ensure global peace and harmony, the war has rather worsened the situation. I consider it appropriate to describe the war as War on Peace. Gradually, the real motives of the wars have been brought to the fore through the double standard and manifest interests of the U.S. global hegemony. Today, the U.S. and its allies have left no one in doubt that the contradictions of global capitalism have instigated the need for its resolution through amplified militarism, under the banner of the so-called war on terror. The Syrian crisis has more than any other, exposed the underhand motives of the U.S. mission for "regime change". It has also become glaringly clear that imperialists' interests rather than the so-called war on terror have been the propelling force behind the U.S. and its allies direct/proxy wars. The direct intervention of Russia into the fray seems to have ruffled the U.S. agenda in Syria. The US no longer thinks $2+2=5$!

The dream of a puppet regime in Syria is fast waning. With President Vladimir Putin in the driver's seat, the balance of power is now clearly in favour of President Assad and allies. It is also manifest that the CIA mission in Syria is turning to 'mission impossible'. With such assurance, the U.S. seems to be groping for a face-saving exit route through the diplomatic and political resolution of the crisis. What lesson (s) should we learn? What does history teach Nigeria, especially under the current President Muhammadu Buhari administration?

Nigeria is the largest producer of crude oil in Africa and the sixth in the world; the most populous black nation in the world, which provides for greater investment opportunities, cheaper sources of labour and great market outlets. The country also boasts of many untapped natural resources endowment, and over-bearing political influence in Africa, especially in the West African sub-region. These attractions has no doubt put Nigeria in the calculation of world powers, especially the West. This paper submits that because of its resources endowment and other attractions, the current Boko Haram insurgency and the offer by the U.S. to help Nigeria in its fight against terrorism, Nigeria should be wary of the West. While 'dining and wining' with them, Nigerian authorities should use long "spoons", otherwise it may be in for a shocker as have been the case with many countries such as Iraq under the late President Saddam Hussein.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Imperialism has always been motivated by mainly economic and political factors considered advantageous by the imperial nation. Imperialism is considered unavoidable under the capitalist system of production due to its inability to completely resolve its contradictions internally. As such, it is compelled to look outward. This is mostly achieved through military intervention of marked sovereign countries using false claims

or excuses. Since the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Centre in the United States (U.S.), the U.S. has, directly or indirectly invaded many countries, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria, under the guise of 'war against terror.' The question is whether it is proper or legitimate for a sovereign power to invade a fellow sovereign state in the name of fighting a cause such as terrorism without the United Nations mandate? What becomes of the fate of weaker countries' sovereignty and world peace?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are to investigate and examine the self-declared and latent motives of the U.S. involvement and role in the fight against ISIS terrorist organization in Syria. The study also intends to have an overview of the humanitarian disaster and involvement of Russia in the war against ISIS. Finally, the study shall try to see the lessons Nigeria could learn from the experience of Syria since the U.S. has offered to assist Nigeria in its efforts to end the Boko Haram insurgency on its shores.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Imperialism: - According to Zinoviev, Gregory, imperialism is a concept that dates back to pre-capitalist epochs of human societies. Epistemologically, it is derived from the Latin word, *imperium* (rule). In its general meaning, imperialism is the aspiration to establish "a single", powerful empire encompassing the entire world; an aspiration which one state or another may realize by conquest, or by colonization, or by a "peaceful" political unification of existing sovereign entities, or by the simultaneous application of all these methods. (Zinoviev). This simply means imperialism is inseparable from the policy of bloodshed, of rape, and of pillage. Ake, Claude (1982: 137); (1981:20-22), Lenin, V.I, in Ake, Claude (1982) also define imperialism as the imposition of foreign domination by a stronger state over a weaker state or region for the purpose of economic and political control. It is carried out through military conquest or "peaceful" means with a resultant relationship of unequal exchange.

In one of his popular works, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*, Lenin (1963), opined that imperialism "is capitalism in that state of development in which the dominance of monopolies and finance capital has established itself; in which the export of capital has acquired pronounced importance; in which the division of all territories of the globe among the great capitalist powers has been completed.", Ake, Claude, (1982:137). This means imperialism is the outward expansion of capital or the internationalization of capital as a result of the contradictions within the imperial country or the global system and, an attempt to resolve those contradictions. Onimode, Bade (1985:228-229). Onimode, Bade (1983:4-8), asserts that imperialism has evolved through four stages, namely, mercantilist; free-trade; monopolist and multilateral. The definitions/explanation offered by V.I Lenin and Zinoviev, Gregory above shall be our working definition in this paper

ii. **Terrorism:** - There is hardly any all-inclusive definition of the term "terrorism" that captures what could be referred to as "classical" or "standard" definition. This lack of universal consensus stems from the fact that in most cases the term is selfishly defined. Accordingly, Yasser Arafat (1974), maintained that "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." Thus, a Palestinian freedom fighter resisting the illegal occupation of his territory and oppression by Israel is seen as a terrorist by mainstream

Israelis; but a hero from the Palestinian perspective. Furthermore, countries engaged in liberation or arms struggle against occupation or colonialism or racist regimes would not accept their liberation struggles as terrorism. However, Rurke, John T. (2008:316)· *International Politics on World Stage*, states that generally, it's agreed that terrorism involves:-

a) The use of violence; b.) It is carried out by individuals, groups, (non-governmental agents) or covert or overt government agents, such as America's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Israeli MOSAD, or Britain's MI5.) It specifically targets civilians or government's agents; d.) It uses secret or clandestine attack methods such as car bombs, suicide attacks, etc. Terrorism could either be politically or economically motivated or both. It could either take the form of state sponsored terrorism or individual or transnational terrorism. In this submission, we shall adopt state-sponsored terrorism as our working definition no matter the form it takes.

iii. **Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (I.S.I.S):-** This ferocious militant or terrorist group that lay claim to puritanical Islam began in 2004 as Al-Qaeda in Iraq before transmuting itself to ISIS in 2006. Basking Wahabbism as its ideology, it controls a large chunk of land stretching from Northern Syria to Central Iraq. Its declared mission is the establishment of an Islamic State in the areas mentioned above. It is alleged by CNN News (2015) that it is the creation of the U.S. in its quest for empire and global hegemony. Headed by Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, it claims to be vehemently anti-Western values, and has been largely active in Iraq and Syria. It is a ruthless terrorist group that has killed thousands of people and destroyed many priced infrastructures.

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE OF ANALYSIS

The study adopted the Marxist-Leninist theory of imperialism as its theoretical framework because it best captures the phenomenon of the U.S. involvement and role in the fight against ISIS terrorist organization in Syria.

Lenin's theory of imperialism has so far been the most exhaustive and authoritative of all other theories of imperialism. According to the theory, imperialism is not a policy but an inherent aspect of capitalism. This is because capitalism is a system built on the domination and exploitation of weaker classes and weaker states by the powerful groups within a society and by powerful nations within the international system. Therefore, advanced capitalist countries have been compelled to expand across their borders in search of solutions to the internal contradictions of the capitalist system with which they have become entangled. Lenin (1963). The capitalist system of production periodically faces problems of overproduction and the realization problem due to market saturation (the inability of the capitalist to dispose of his goods), high costs of labour and raw materials, the falling rate of profit, etc. In view of these factors and many more, imperialism becomes not really a matter of choice but an imperative for the solution of the crises these nations have become engulfed.

This, according to Lenin (1963), had resulted in the emergence of large companies coming together to form monopolies. These monopolies swallow smaller companies and still larger companies swallow large companies: a case of big fish swallow small fish! Therefore, military expedition and conquest, colonialism, neocolonialism and the creation of puppet leadership are visited on the militarily weak but economically rich states. Hence, the direct or indirect occupation, domination and exploitation of the resources of weaker countries, especially the Third World states becomes inevitable. The First and Second World Wars were no doubt the inevitable consequences of inter-imperialists rivalries and competition in the partition and control of global territories for mainly economic and political considerations.

Contemporary military aggression, direct or proxy wars, as are the cases in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, the Cold War between Russia and the U.S. and its NATO allies, captures the mood of imperialism at its monopoly and multilateral stage.

As noted by Hobson, J.A. (1902) and Lenin, V.I (198), the main drivers of imperialism are the competition for world markets, for industrial products, by the advanced/industrialized countries as well as the opportunities for higher returns on investment (super profits), cheap sources of raw materials, cheap labour, strategic military outposts, etc. One of the pervasive and crudest mechanisms of imperialism that has pervaded all the phases of imperialism is the use of violence: wars, military expedition, colonial control, etc. This has been the case in the imperialist wars of occupation in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria. The US, which has emerged after World War II as the undisputable “champion” of contemporary imperialism, is in Syria today under the false claim of fighting ISIS terrorists’ organization. Imperialism is essentially and politically pregnant with violence and militarism.

Apart from annexing and directly colonizing territories, imperialism also tries to create puppet regimes that are mainly economically and politically pliant and answerable to the imperial power. Relevant example was the toppling of Salvador Allende of Chile in a CIA sponsored coup in 1973 and installation of General Augustus Pinochet as a puppet of the U.S. (Kim, J., 2005)

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION AND DATA ANALYSIS

Methods of data collection are the approaches used by the researcher to obtain data on the subject matter of the study, while data analysis has to do with the method of the interpretation of data, which, eventually is used to answer the research questions and realize the objective of the research work. The paper employed qualitative method of data collection and analysis through the application of qualitative content analysis. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative data collection techniques involves the use of systematic methods such as interview, questionnaire administration, participant and non-participant observation, review of articles/journals, books, audio tapes, maps, electronic and print media sources, and so on. In this study, data were obtained through secondary sources using library research. Books, journal articles, Newspaper articles, electronic data bases/internet and radio audio tapes were consulted. Findings were critically analysed against the background of the official U.S. objective of unilateral invasion of Syria, which is, the fight against ISIS terrorists, and the objective realities of its role in the Syrian imbroglio. Data collected shows how the U.S. undermined the U.N. and World peace. Could the action of the U.S. invasion of Syria be described as imperialistic? What becomes of the fate of other Third World states like Nigeria within the international system?

SYRIA: BACKGROUND TO A CRISIS

The Syrian Arab Republic is a secular state and has been under the leadership of the Assads for quite some time. It is predominantly Muslim, made up mainly of the majority Sunni and minority Shia Alawite sects. President Assad belongs to the latter.

Sometime in March 2011, in the southern city of Deraa, a protest against Assad’s rule erupted; calling for President Assad to step down. Despite the government’s attempts to

resolve the matter amicably, the “pro-democracy” protesters refused and later took up arms against the government. This led to the worsening of the situation. The Assad government perceived the “Pro-democracy” protesters as a group of foreign-inspired agents bent on destabilizing Syria and wasted no time in taking stringent measures against them. By labeling these pro-democracy activists as foreign-inspired agents of destabilization, President Assad may be trying to be on his toes, being conversant with the case of Muammar Ghaddafi of Libya, where, the so-called “Pro-democracy” “rebels were actually led by Al Qaeda infiltrated paramilitary brigades coordinated and supervised by NATO Special Forces.” (Chussodovsky, M., in Tal, M.K., 2015:6). Eventually, Syria was plunged into a civil war that later pitched foreign powers against each other. As rightly noted by Tickell, O. (25:11:2015), the war in Syria has produced three but invariably two hostile camps:

- i. The Syrian state under the leadership of President Bashar Al Assad, supported by this Russian, Iranian, Iraqi and Hezbollah (Lebanon) allies and some sections of the international community or groups. This group constitutes the resistance.
- ii. The imperialist kings -pin and godfather of imperialism, the United States of America in league with its Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Qatari puppets, United Kingdom and the state of Israel who operates behind the shadows.
- iii. ISIS and allied terrorist groups like Al Nusra Front. However, evidence abound that the US-led group and ISIS and other terrorist groups “are actually one and the same.”

A credible prove of the U.S. group’s support for ISIS is the downing of a Russian Fighter Jet, SU24, by Turkey, a coalition member of the US led group and NATO organization. In a reaction, U.S. President, Barrack Obama said Turkey had the right to defend its airspace, even though Russia insisted the plane was shot down a full kilometer inside Syrian airspace. President Putin described the incident as “a stab in the back delivered by terrorist’s accomplices.” (Tickell, O.2015).

THE ROLE OF THE U.S. IN THE SYRIAN CRISIS

As the Syrian crisis smoldered, the U.S. finally decided to intervene, with no mandate either from the Syrian government (as is the case with Russian intervention), or from the United Nations (U.N.). By international laws of engagement, the U.S. had committed, and has continued to commit serious acts of aggression against the Syrian state and peoples. The US claimed her intervention was a continuation of its commitment in the war on terror, this time against ISIS/Daesh and other terrorist groups on ground. But as the U.S. troops settled in Syria, it became obvious that its mission was/is to topple President Bashar Al Assad who has refused to play the imperialist puppet. Syria is a strong ally of Russia and one of the last spheres of Russian influence beyond the borders of the former USSR. Apart from this, the U.S. view Syria as a threat to its Israeli ally in the region.

As the war continued, Glenn, M. (2016), observed, it became clear that the U.S. fight against ISIS in Syria was “an illusion.” Kelley, S. (2016) also described it as “a complete farce.” Fundamentally, the main targets of U.S. imperialism in Syria are “regime change”, the isolation of Russia and the destabilization of its economic and geopolitical interests, the balkanization of Syria into weak and unviable vassals or failed states. Susli, M. (2015). It is on record that the CIA had trained thousands of so-called “vetted” ‘moderate rebels’ not to fight ISIS but to fight and overthrow Assad. *The Washington*

Post also reports that the C.I.A. has since 2013 trained some 10,000 rebels to fight Assad forces. The U.S. has continued to recruit, train and arm terrorist groups, in their onslaught against the Syrian government. It was reported that the so-called “moderate rebels” from the so-called “Free Syrian Army,” 16th Division, linked up with Al Nusra Front, an affiliate of Al Qaeda, and attacked “the Kurdish city of Sheikh Maqsd in Aleppo.” Records also proved that past attempts at arming “vetted rebels” had resulted in dangerous weapons such as “TOW anti-tank missiles” ending “up in the hands of Al Qaeda.” That notwithstanding, the U.S., has continued to arm terrorist groups and “sending yet another shipment of TOW missiles.....through its ally, Saudi Arabia.” Furthermore, a footage filmed by the Iraqi forces of an oil refinery under the control of ISIS, revealed “US supply crates full of food and weapons having been delivered to Islamic State militants by parachute.” Last year, footage of US supply was dropped to ISIS in Kobane, Syria. Susli, M. (21:10:2015).

Another report revealed “...few days ago the US airdropped 50 tons of ammunition into Hasake region of Syria where there has been a lot of ISIS activity.” In spite of the US’s “war” against terrorism in Syria, there is overwhelming evidence that ISIS has continued to grow from strength to strength and has continued to record huge successes against the Syrian State. No wonder, as Gottinger, P. (2015), noted, the US State Department reported that the “incidents of terrorism have increased by 6,500% since the “War on Terror” began “in 2001.” The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the FBI Director, James Comey, agreed that US wars against ISIS have not been yielding the desired results. Comey “told Congress that the U.S. wars on ISIS have only increased support for the group.” Because of the gang up between imperial U.S. and the terror groups in Syria, the Syrian army were outnumbered and outgunned by ISIS. This led to ISIS gaining ground across the country, seizing and controlling key oil fields, earning it a reputed 1.5 million dollars in oil sales a day. Such was the situation until the intervention of Russia in September 2015.

RUSSIAN INTERVENTION AND IMPACT ON THE SYRIAN CRISIS

Before the Russian intervention, the balance of power was in favor of the U.S. Camp. Russia’s entry into the fray rapidly changes the situation in favor of President Assad and army. After camping at the Latakia air base in Western Syria, Russia immediately embarked upon the bombing of ISIS positions with ferocious propensity and However effectiveness. (Tickell, Oliver). Emboldened by Russia’s successful attacks of the terrorists’ positions, the Syrian ground forces working under the effective air support began to recapture lost territories and key facilities, such as the Kweyris military base ease of Aleppo. The terrorists have continued to suffer huge losses at the war front. This has greatly demoralized not only ISIS and other terror groups but also their US “godfather” and undisputable de facto global terrorists’ leader. In view of these developments, and in order to secure a face-saving exit route, the U.S. suddenly became committed to a “roadmap to peace” through U.N. sponsored ceasefire. (Whitney, M.: 23:12:2015).

However, Russian successes against ISIS and her allies have not been without huge sacrifices. A Russian Fighter Jet, (SU 24) was shot down by Turkey. But more worrisome was the bomb that ISIS placed in a Russian tourist aircraft returning from Sharm-el-Sheikh to St. Petersburg on October 31, 2015, killing all the 224 people on board above Sinai desert in Egypt. (Tickell, O. 2015).

Despite these set backs, the Russian intervention has produced some positive developments in favour of the Assad government. ISIS/terrorists fighting force were massively decimated. Their ammunitions and other strategic infrastructures were destroyed and terrorists arms and food supply chains were of destroyed. Oil sales and smuggling activities were disrupted, while “regime change” dream of imperialist U.S. shattered. The U.S. was compelled to capitulate: seeks exit route through ceasefire agreement and political resolution of the crisis under the U.N. mandate; Russia and its allies dictate the terms of the peace talks; and U.S. imperialism in Syria humiliated and defeated!

HUMANITARIAN DISASTER

The Syrian crisis has not been without dire consequences. According to the UN report, so far, the war has claimed over 250,000 human lives. Since the start of the crisis, more than 4.5million people, most of them women and children have fled to Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and some European countries. (BBC News). Furthermore, 6.5 million people are internally displaced while 1.2 million were driven from their homes in 2015. To overcome the situation, the UN says 3.2 billion US dollars is required to rehabilitate the 13.5 million people, including 6 million children, this year. About 70 percent of the populations have no access to adequate drinking water. More than 2 million children are out of school, and 4 out of 5 people live in poverty!

ANY LESSON FOR NIGERIA?

Nigeria is no doubt a prosperous nation as it is the largest producer of crude oil in Africa and sixth in the world. It has many untapped natural resources endowment. The most populous black nation in the world, Nigeria boasts of tremendous political influence not only in the West African Sub-region but also in the whole of Africa. It is a plural society made up of different ethnic groups, tribes, religions and social classes. All these attractive credentials could be manipulated against her. As it stands out today, Nigeria is a neo-colonial, Third World country and occupies a subservient position within the international division of labour of the world capitalist system. As noted above, the basic motivation for imperialism are economic, political, cultural and social.

We have seen in the Syrian case, some imperialist nations under the leadership of the U.S. are fighting to unseat President Assad and install a puppet regime because of the above factors. Syrian oil resources, its strategic relationship with Russia and Iran, are major factors that have given birth to U.S. imperialism in Syria. Were President Assad to accept to be an imperialist goon or puppet, the West would have been praising and projecting him as a quintessence of a democrat and, Syria, as one of the bastions of democracy on the World map. Currently Nigeria is fighting a bloody war with the Boko Haram terrorist group. This group is an affiliate of ISIS/Al Qaeda and has since pledged loyalty and allegiance to the ISIS terrorists, which, under the tutelage of the U.S., battles the Syrian government today. The U.S. has offered to assist Nigeria in her fight against terrorism or Boko Haram. The same U.S. and her allies claim to be fighting ISIS/terrorism in Syria, but research findings have proved the U.S. and its Gulf states puppets strongly support and promote ISIS.

It is therefore the submission of this paper that Nigerian leaders and Nigerians from all works of life should be wary of the West as they offer to assist in the fight against Boko Haram. Just as the U.S. plots to partition or deconstruct Syria to suit its globalist dreams, Nigeria could one day become a victim should the need arise. Nigeria's challenges or fault lines of religious, tribal, ethnic, regional (Biafra and Niger Delta secessionists) outbursts could easily be exploited in this regard, just as the Sunni and Shi'a sectarian divide has been exploited in Iraq and Syria to divide and conquer the people. Nigeria should also learn to be firm and resolute in the face of challenges as many Syrians are demonstrating today.

CONCLUSION

The pseudo U.S-led military coalition and campaign against ISIS and other terrorist groups in Syria so far, is for all intents and purposes, a phony war. For example, in the one year of U.S. intervention in Syria, the U.S. conducted only 15 airstrikes a day. If we put this number into perspective, during the 1991 U.S. aggression against Iraq, code-named, "Operation Desert Storm", the U.S. launched 1000 airstrikes against innocent Iraq in a day. Again, Shaaban, B. (1:2:2016), maintained that during the 2003 invasion of the same Iraq, U.S. "Air Force carried some 700 airstrikes a day." So rather than the fight against ISIS, the U.S. coalition are strongly behind the creation, arming, and facilitation of terrorism in Syria, with the aims of overthrowing the legitimate government of President Assad; balkanization or deconstruction of Syria into weak, fractured and unviable vassal states; and installation of puppet regimes for effective neo-colonial agenda.

The intervention of Russia has clearly shifted the goal posts in favour of Assad and the army. Sensing imminent defeat, the U.S. found ceasefire as an attractive tool to forestall further annihilation of its ISIS allies and likely subsequent military humiliation. However, the U.S. may be using the ceasefire arrangement to buy time and re-strategize as it is not likely to close its door against any plausible alternative that may tilt the tides in its favour. President Assad and his allies must take cognizance of this. Syrians have continued to demonstrate strong spirit of resistance and uncommon courage in their challenge of U.S. imperialism and global terrorism against their country.

Nigeria should try as much as possible to cultivate a strategic friendship of a superpower as part of its foreign policy agenda. This is very important as the case of the strong ties between Syria and Russia has shown. Nigerian leaders should demonstrate high sense of accountability in service so that its citizens would be prepared for any form of national sacrifice when the need arises, as is being demonstrated by Syrian citizens in their country's trying period. Nigeria should learn to imbibe the Syrian spirit as it may hardly be insulated against the preying eyes and insatiable requirements of imperialist powers. The rest of the world should join forces with Russia, China, and Iran, to exterminate terrorism and Western imperialism and all that it represents. Neither Russia nor China is free from terrorism and Western imperialism, let alone the Third World nations. As we count our losses today, we must genuinely brace up for the challenge if we must count our gains tomorrow. But can we really succeed under our contemporary social order that is terribly hawkish, predatory and socially Darwinist? This paper submits that there is urgent need for a peoples' democracy, as the present global world system has grossly betrayed humanity. This clarion call is mainly directed at the Third World countries who have continued to be beasts of burden under the contemporary exploitative system of global capitalism. Nothing is difficult when the resolve and commitment to the realization of a dream is considered sacrosanct and not taken for granted.

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