

The Humanities, Conflict Resolution and African Development

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Abstract

Conflicts are bound to happen in a community. This is because human beings in the course of their interactions usually have interests which they protect. When the interests of various people are in common, the relationship is sure to go smoothly without hitches. However, when there are conflicting interests, this causes a break in the relationship and may lead to the formation of cliques and alliances. Against this background the research aims at discussing causes, effects and solutions to conflicts in Africa. It examines different approaches to conflict management and the situations they are most appropriate for. It discusses the methods of performing conflict resolution in the traditional African society. Africa, a continent endowed with immense natural and human resources as well as great cultural, ecological and economic diversity, remains underdeveloped. Most African nations suffer from military dictatorship, corruption, civil unrest and war, underdevelopment and deep poverty. Should this continue? The study observes ten areas where Africa nations need development viz-a-viz; agriculture, international trade, culture, economy, education, employment, industrialization, politics and health. It uses qualitative research method to collect data. The findings reveal that, conflicts have been a major factor for underdevelopment in Africa nations. This study establishes the significance of conflict resolution as a panacea to underdevelopment in Africa. The researcher recommends humanities as a medium of sensitization for Africa Development.

Keywords: Humanities, Conflict Resolution, underdevelopment, development, sensitization.

Introduction

In the era of the so-called “New World Order”, Africa's conflictsituation

was mostly violent and centre-stage, particularly between the 1980s and the 1990s. Academics from various disciplinary backgrounds (including humanities), policy makers, community leaders and advocates of peace and democracy from various parts of the world, especially (Pan) Africanists, engaged in many robust exchanges and debates about the way forward (Zartman), including the development of the African Union's Africa Peace and Security Architecture (<http://www.peaceau.org/en/topic/the-african-peace-and-security-architecture-apsa>). Conflicts are bound to happen in a community. This is because human beings in the course of their interactions usually have interests which they protect. When the interests of various people are in common, the relationship is sure to go smoothly without hitches.

However, when there are conflicting interests, this causes a break in the relationship and may lead to the formation of cliques and alliance. This is the situation of Africa nations. The history of Africa as a continent is replete with conflict. (Alabi 41). One may even assert that the major current that runs through Africa: from North to South, East to West and Central is conflict and wars. Since the 1960's, series of civil wars had taken place in Africa. Examples include: Sudan (1995-1990), Chad (1965-85), Angola since 1974, Liberia (1980- 2003), Nigeria (1967-70), Somalia (1999-93) and Burundi, Rwanda and Sierra Leone (1991-2001). (Aremu 549) But apart from civil wars, Africa has also witnessed a number of intermittent border and inter- state conflicts notable among which are the following: Nigeria- Cameroon dispute over Bakassi peninsula since the 1970's, Algeria- Morocco conflict over the Atlas Mountains area in October 1963, Eritrea- Ethiopian crisis between 1962 and 1979, Somalia-Ethiopia` dispute of 1964 to 1978 over the Ugandan desert region, Chad- Libya crisis of 1980- 1982, Kenya- Somalia border war of 1963 -1967 in which Somalia aimed at recovering its lost territories including the Northern frontier district of Kenya, Tanzania-Uganda crisis in 1978-79 (Barkindo et al 279-321, Cook and Killingray 183-84, Europa 187).

It is pertinent to say, all these conflicts had causes and likewise negative effects on the development of the continent-Africa. Should we agree or assume the conflicts have ended in Africa? Are all the contributory

factors laid to rest? Are the continent recovered from the effects of conflicts? What were the conflict resolution approaches or methods adopted to resolve the conflicts and are they relevant to the contemporary Africa nations? Is there any way we could avert reoccurrence of conflicts in Africa since we are all aware that it would definitely retard the development or less developed continent among others? All these questions would be serving as a driving force in this paper. The recommendations of the researcher are logically presented to convince us that, Africa can experience relative and perpetual peace if all measures are put in place.

The Conceptual Meaning of Key Terms

Conflict has been defined variously by scholars. To Holsti (Holst 350) Conflict is a particular relationship between states or rival factions within a state which implies subjective hostilities or tension manifested in subjective economic or military hostilities. Coser (Coser) on his part views conflict as a struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power and resources in which the aims of the conflicting parties are to injure or eliminate their rivals. Conflicts could, however, be violent or uncontrollable, dominant or recessive, resolvable or insolvable. This presupposes that violence is not an inherent aspect of conflict but rather a potential form that conflict may take (Omotosho 4). But then, unfolding events in world history suggest that most conflicts are violent, inflicting life- long injuries on their victims apart from monumental loss of lives. (Aremu 549).

Conflict resolution can be described as the process of finding a lasting solution to a disturbing or pressing problem. (Ibenwa 51) It is a variety of approaches aimed at terminating conflicts through the constructive solving of problems. It is the ability of solving the problems that give rise to conflict (Best 94). It is otherwise known as reconciliation, is conceptualized as the methods and processes involved in facilitating the peace ending of conflict and retribution. (Kobani and Nwakaire 30).Development is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic component

Causes of Conflicts in Africa

According to Aremu (Aremu 550), conflicts in Africa may be said to have been caused by a multiplicity of factors such as: arbitrary borders created by the colonial powers, heterogeneous ethnic composition of African states, inept political leadership, corruption, negative effect of external debt burden and poverty and he quoted some scholars to buttress his points:

Creation of Arbitrary Borders by Colonial Powers:

Alabi and Cammack et al have observed that the colonization of Africa by European powers in the 19th century created political units that divided ethnic groups in some cases and combined rival groups in others. As currently composed, boundaries of most Africa states were arbitrarily drawn without regard to ethnic and cultural affinities. In some cases, European boundaries forced starkly different, rival cultures to cohabit within the confines of a single state. The impacts of these borders were felt to varying degrees from one country to the other throughout Africa. For instance, the Akan speaking peoples were split between Ghana and cote d' Ivoire; the Ewe ethnic group has also been split between Ghana and Togo while many Yoruba and Ogu speaking people are found in the Benin Republic and Nigeria. It should be noted that since the 1950's when Africa nations started to gain independence, these arbitrary borders have more often than not become source of conflict. (Alabi 57 and Cammack 13)

Heterogeneous Ethnic Composition of Africa States and the Resultant Problem of Ethnicity.

Carment and the United Nations have submitted that of the over 180 states of the world, only a small number are ethnically homogenous. (Carment 137) This probably suggests that multi-ethnic states are likely to continue to be a feature of international politics and that ethnic conflict is not only a threat to the African continent but also a menace to the whole international community (Ryan 14, Instituto Del Tercer 160). However, one cannot deny the fact ethno political conflicts have been on the increase in Africa throughout the 20th century. This is probably not unconnected with the factor of ethnic diversity. Eminue (Eminue 19) and Osaghae (Osaghae 214) submit that of all the factors, multi- ethnicity is

the most frequently associated with conflict. Truly, given the fact that ethnic cleavages are already deep and political discrimination against minority groups is widely practiced in Africa, ethnicity cannot but be a great potential for separatist activities. Ethnicity has bred the feelings of suspicion, hatred and distrust among members of the various ethnic groups in Africa and has no doubt retarded political integration in Africa. It is therefore not surprising to note that at least twice (1967-70 civil war and 1993 -1999 friction) ethnic rivalry has been the major cause of internal conflicts in Nigeria. Similar stories may also be told of Liberia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, Congo and a host of other Africa states.

Inept Leadership

Africa has consistently suffered from the problem of inept leadership which has retarded political integration and unity in almost all African states. Given the heterogeneous composition of most African states, perhaps what they needed most are the virtues of administrative tact, political tolerance and social justice. These essential ingredients are to be provided by the continent's leadership. Unfortunately however, the realities on ground in most African nations have revealed that most African leaders are weak, corrupt and unpatriotic. Apart from retarding national integration and socio economic developments, the attitudes of these rulers have sparked off widespread bloody violence. Sudanese, Nigerian, Algerian and Liberian civil wars lend credence to the fact that African leaders have failed to forge national unity in their respective countries. Judging from the above observation, one cannot but agree with Adedeji when he asserts that:

what African countries have lacked during most of their history, as independent states are leaders who are unifiers, chiefs in the true sense, who bind wounds, hold everything and everyone together, mobilize and motivate their people, pursue a policy of inclusion rather than exclusion and are seen by one and all to be of the highest integrity and beyond suspicion.(Adedeji 11)

The point therefore is that African leadership must be acceptable to all

sections of the community if the process of integration is not to be halted. Until then, a recurrence of conflicts across Africa may continue to be a common phenomenon.

Corruption

One of the major factors responsible for internal conflicts in Africa is the devastating impact of corruption. Corruption, manifested in the embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds, has paralyzed development efforts and caused debilitating immobilize in the march towards socio-economic transformation and political integration in Africa. Africa's resources have been badly managed over the years that masses are fed up with their leaders. This has provoked militant nationalism against Africa leaders. The result, expectedly, is the unending conflict across Africa states. The Africa Union itself acknowledges the debilitating impact of corruption on the political and socio- economic stability of Africa states. This perhaps explains the adoption of the “Africa Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption” by the 2nd ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on 11 July 2003. The convention is meant to, among other things, promote and strengthen the development in Africa by each state party, of mechanisms required to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption in the public and private sectors.

Poverty

Africa is one of the poorest continents of the world. This is largely due to harsh environmental conditions, corruption and huge foreign debt that exacerbate the conditions of poverty (Ilfie 253). For instance, desertification has contributed to famines in a number of African states such as Ethiopia and Mali. As a result, the number of people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa grew from 217 million in 1987 to more than 300 million in 1998 (Corbett 2005). If therefore the saying is true that a hungry man is an angry man, then conflicts may for long be a part of Africa life owing to this situation of absolute poverty prevalent across the continent.

Religious Fanaticism

We cannot deny the fact that Islam and Christianity have also contributed

to conflict in Africa. In fact, there was an intra-religion conflict on the practices, mode of worship and traditions of one sect within a religion. Religion can be a source of conflict if followers lack understanding of one another's religious beliefs. (Muck 14-15). It can be responsible for conflict if religion is linked to politics, ethnicity and division.(Gwamna 2) It has been discovered that some religious teachings and practices can generate conflict in the society(Dodo 128). Religion fanaticism is the bane of peaceful coexistence in Africa nations.

Intrusion from the foreign countries

Since most Africa Nations had gained their independence under their colonial masters, those people (colonial masters) never stopped in interference with the affairs of the continent which include; politics, economy, administration, mineral resources, education, etc this intrusion could affect the peace of the nation involved. The intruding foreign nation sometimes provides ammunition for the country they support to fight their neighboring country.

Effects of Conflicts in Africa

When conflict goes to the extreme it can result into riot, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, institutional violence, genocide, political vigilantism, civil war, protest and strikes which usually destroy lives, private and public property worth billions of Naira (Kabuk 164-165). The unending political tensions, wars and conflicts in the continent have had lasting negative effects on the socio-political, socio-religious and most especially socio-economic development of Africa because socio-economic development cannot be sustained in an environment riddled with violence, instability and insecurity (Conteh 20). Some of these are briefly discussed below.

a. Problem of Reconstruction: - This is perhaps the most debilitating impact of wars and conflicts on Africa's development. All countries coming out of conflict face major challenges of reconstruction in order to avoid a recurrence to violence. It is needless to state that during war times, infrastructural facilities are wantonly destroyed while loyalty, patriotism and mutual relations are broken between hitherto friendly peoples and nations. Such broken relationships must be mended to

ensure lasting peace between belligerent groups while the destroyed facilities are to be replaced. It is worthy of note that this amounts to a total waste of material resources and unnecessary dissipation of energy on unproductive ventures. This has been the general trend of events in Africa and has been retarding growth and development in the region (Global Coalition 7).

b. Unemployment: Conflicts in Africa have combined to compound the problem of unemployment in the continent. Today, throughout Africa, high rate of unemployment, particularly of youths, is a major source of concern. It has been growing at an annual rate of 10%. In countries coming out of conflict, many young people not only lack employment; they have also been denied education and economic empowerment because of war. It is instructive to note that without other means of economic support, there is a danger that unemployed former combatants will engage in criminal behaviour, especially with the many small arms in circulation in war-torn countries. This has been suggested as one of the factors that birthed Boko Haram in Nigeria at the onset.

c. Death / Loss of lives: A great number of Africans: young, old, male, female, civilians and military men alike, have lost their lives to various wars and conflicts on the continent. For instance, in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, (Global coalition 7) about 800,000 Rwandans were reportedly massacred. Similarly, the Burundi civil war claimed over 200,000 lives as at the year 2000. In Liberia, over 250, 000 lives were lost in the country's fourteen year civil war between 1990 and 2004. The same may also be said of Sierra Leone in which an estimated 200, 000 people were killed during the nation's civil war between 1991 and 2001. But perhaps the most pathetic situation occurred in Sudan. The civil war in Sudan has been one of the longest and costliest on the continent with an estimated two million lives lost to the war (Global Coalition 10). It is disheartening to note that this unprecedented loss of lives in Africa as a result of wars and conflicts is having debilitating effects on human resources available to Africa. The services of the departed souls whom God has endowed with great skills, talents and potentials are no longer available to be harnessed for Africa's development.

d. Refugee problem: One of the attendant effects of wars and conflicts in Africa is the emergence of numerous number of displaced persons who have become refugees in different nations across the continent (Instituto Del Tercer 45, Uwechue 16). According to Article, 1 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Convention Governing the Specific/ Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (1969) a refugee is a person who, owing to well- founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country, who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events in unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it” or “ every person who, owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country of origin or nationality, is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his country of origin or nationality” It is sad to note that violence and lawlessness have caused a severe humanitarian crisis in Africa as many displaced people are now spread throughout the continent. For instance, in Liberia, the 2004 Report of the Global Coalition for Africa (Global Coalition for Africa 8) noted that an estimated 700,000 were internally displaced as at 2003. The spill- over effects of the Liberian conflicts were felt in neighbouring countries through increased refugees flows. About 3000 Liberians were hosted by Nigeria at the height of the crisis while an appreciable number of them also became refuge in Guinea. In Sudan, an estimated 4.7 million Sudanese were displaced during the nation's prolonged civil war. As at 2004, the total number of African refugees was put between 15 and 20 million (UNHCR). They became refugees in neighbouring countries in the region. As refugee, the affected persons have been exposed to serious risks of diseases and hunger.

e. Poverty: Continued strife and political instability in most countries of Africa hurt the continent's economic fortunes. Indeed, the disruptive effects of war and crisis on the economy of Africa have been considerable. The political stalemate and periodic eruptions of violence have resulted in significant cumulative declines in Gross Domestic

Product (GDP). This problem has been compounded by the frequent recurrence of drought in some sub- regions of Africa. Prospective investors in Africa have been turned away of fear of instability, low profit and loss of investment to looting and arson during wars. Hence, the persistent failure to raise investment rates have translated into low GDP growth rates which had ranged between 3 and 4 percent for several years as against the 7 percent annual growth required to reduce poverty and reach the Millennium Development Goals. This has promoted poverty across Africa. As at 2003, an estimated 340 million Africans were living below poverty line. In all, the persistence of low growth rates across Africa means that most countries will not be able to make significant reductions in the 50% of their populations that fall below the poverty line.

f. Hampering of Educational Growth: Conflict hampers educational growth of children of the victims. Schools are closed down and some parents may not be able to afford the fees of the schools they want to admit their children. Conflict is a major obstacle to the development of education in Africa and is a problem that deserves to be more clearly identifies (Kathryn retrieved online). And whenever the children education is affected, the future of that community is in jeopardy. This could be one of the reasons for retarded growth in some Africa countries.

g. Population Displacement: A major consequence of conflict in sub- Saharan Africa as well as elsewhere is the displacement of populations. This carries significant economic fiscal and social costs for the region. For instance, 5 million people were displaced in 1980 and 18 million people in 2012. (Xiangming, Siddharth et al, 29). Whenever there is displacement, population of the affected nation would be decreased and this drastically affects other sectors like, economy, education, workforce etc.

Conflicts Resolution and Africa Development

Under Managing Human Resources, Nmadu Teresa M. quoted Flippo who listed seven approaches of reconciliation of conflict as follows; i. Win/lose fashion where one party forces the other to concede. ii.

Withdrawal and retreat from argument "silence is golden". iii. Smoothing or playing down differences. iv. Compromising-splitting the difference and bargaining in search of intermediate acceptable positions. Recent research indicates this can be arrived at by negotiation. v. submission to an outside third party for decision; and arbitrator. vi. Inviting an outside party to mediate and help the two primary parties reach reconciliation. vii. Problem solving or confronting through open exchange of information. Obviously the last is the best but not without its bottlenecks. (Nmadu 295)

Aremu opines that, as a way out of the predicament of wars and conflicts that have bedeviled Africa, it is apt to offer some valuable suggestions based on a thorough analysis of the causes of the problem. In this wise, two major broad solutions may be experimented with to bail Africa out of recurrent conflicts and wars. These are committed and sincere leadership and eradication of poverty. (**Aremu 550-552**)

(a) Committed and Sincere Leadership

African states need committed and sincere leaders that will lead by example and who act as good, responsible and responsive fathers to all the component sections and peoples in their countries so as to promote peace and harmony within the confines of their respective countries. This can be done in a number of ways:

- (i) Even distribution of resources:** African leaders must ensure an even distribution of resources among the various geo-political zones in their countries. Marginalization of one unit/ group should not be allowed in order to win the support and cooperation of all and sundry and to avoid any feeling of alienation.
- (ii) Promotion of rule of law:** African leaders should also endeavour to promote the rule of law. This involves equal access to justice by all citizens irrespective of their status, respect for court decisions by the government and influential, and conduct of free and fair periodic elections among others. When and where leaders promote the rule of law as indicated above, there are a guarantee of peaceful coexistence among people and a peaceful transition of power from one government to the other. Succession dispute related conflicts that are very rampant in Africa may thus be easily eliminated.

(iii) **Protection of Fundamental Human rights:** African leaders should also promote, protect and guarantee the fundamental human rights of their citizens. In particular, the fundamental rights of freedom of speech, association and religion should be guaranteed. People should be free to assess and criticize the performance of government without fear of persecution. Opposition must be tolerated while the fourth realm of government, the press, must not be censored. In this wise governments would always be kept on her toes to provide qualitative and sincere leadership in their countries.

(b) Eradication of Poverty

Without much controversy, one may boldly declare that poverty is the root of all evils in Africa. A poor man, who has been economically humiliated and financially traumatized may not be said to be in his right senses. Hence, it may be apt to observe that a hungry man is a mad man. He can steal, kill, maim and destroy. Poverty can demean a man and affect his psychology negatively. Hence a major policy instrument for peace and stability in Africa that is riddled with wars and conflicts is the eradication or at worst, a reduction of the monster of poverty. This can be achieved in a number of ways as suggested below:

(i) **Equal access to qualitative education:** Governments in Africa should give their citizens equal access to qualitative education. The importance of education to the socio-economic development of a nation has been well articulated in the Millennium Development Goal. Education, no doubt, is a lever to human and societal development. Apart from imparting skill and knowledge in the citizens, it will also eliminate ignorance. Education will also empower citizens for employment in the future. It makes labour more mobile across the globe. Opportunities for survival are very much available to the educated people.

(ii) **Provision of gainful employment for the youths :** Governments in Africa should also strive to provide gainful employment for all their citizens especially the youths. Industries and factories should be established to absorb the teeming graduates of higher institutions of learning in African countries. Government should also encourage farming through mechanized agriculture. Modern

farm implements and technology should be provided for farmers at cheap prices. Apart from eradicating the problem of hunger, this will no doubt equally enhance the economic empowerment of youths and eradicate idleness.

- (iii) **Adequate remuneration of civil servants:** Government workers should be adequately remunerated while promotion should also be based on competence and performance. Their salaries should be enough to sustain their families. This will go a long way at reducing the incidence of misappropriation and embezzlement of public fund that have always starved African governments the much needed fund for development. The writer agrees with all these points raised by Aremu in resolving the issue of conflicts in Africa. He is also convinced if all these can be put in place, the development of Africa nations would not be in doubt.

(c) Bring the Spiritual Dimension into the Peacemaking Process:

This can create access to the more deep seated, affective base of the parties' behavior, enabling them to examine critically their own attitudes and actions. Religious leaders on both sides of the conflict can be mobilized to facilitate peace. (Obaje 103). The roles of Christian, Muslim, Traditional and other religious leaders in conflict resolution cannot be undermined in Africa since Africa Nations are known to be religious.

Innovative Approaches to Conflicts Management or Resolution in Africa

Smock (Smock 5-7) comprehensively discusses innovative approaches to conflict management in Africa. His submissions are discussed below. The need for innovative approaches to managing conflict in Africa is immediately evident from daily headlines about war and killings in such countries as Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, Sudan, Zaire, and Somalia, and growing tensions in others such as Nigeria. In assessing the state of war and peace in Africa one must, however, balance the daily tragedies in these countries with the impressive achievements of peace and increasing normalcy in others like South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, Uganda, Eritrea, and Zimbabwe. The fact that there are remarkable stories of successful peacemaking in many African countries helps to

remind the predictors of continent-wide jects, and interventions that have succeeded, and indicates the wide applicability of some. Lessons are drawn from each case about how either to replicate successes or turn past failures into future success.

Case material is drawn from many parts of the African continent—from Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Angola, South Africa, Mozambique, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea, Uganda, Zaire, Mali, Benin, Tanzania, Burundi, and Rwanda. The cases cited are not isolated anecdotes, but provide empirical findings linked to broader theories of peace-making.

- **Innovative American Diplomatic Initiatives:** Herman Cohen asserts that the United States has a special image in Africa and in turn a unique role to play in peace-making and peace building there. To play this role effectively, the State Department's Africa Bureau needs to make full use of U.S. embassies in key African countries; give American ambassadors in the field maximum leeway; co-opt the U.S. national security community in its efforts; start early; and bring multilateral agencies into the process at an early stage.
- **African Mediation:** Gilbert Khadiagala points out that the greatest strength of African mediators lies in their proximity to the disputes and their understanding of historical context. But neighbourly interest does not necessarily translate into capacity for effective mediation. African mediators often do not have the necessary information available to them to be effective. The use of heads of state as mediators is usually constrained by their inability to devote the extended time that intensive and prolonged mediation requires.
- **NGOs Engaged in Preventive Action:** Barnett Rubin describes the effect of the Burundi Policy Forum in assisting NGOs to form innovative partnerships with governments and multilaterals that are trying to limit further violence in Burundi. Elizabeth Cabot and Sir John Thomson report on a collaborative project between the Minority Rights Group and the United Nations in planning a strategy for the UN and other external powers to help reverse the process of state and societal collapse in Zaire. Their principal recommendation is that priority be given to the stimulation of civil

society in Zaire from the grassroots upward. The role of external factors should be limited to that of catalyst, offering information and modest financial support. The importance of local peace initiatives in the Horn countries which use the traditional peacemaking roles of elders and rely on traditional peacemaking methods. Wal Duany describes a very significant peace process in 1993, built on traditional practices, organized to manage intra ethnic conflict among the Nuer of southern Sudan after 1,300 people had been killed.

- **Democratic Reform and Reform of African Militaries:** Julius Ihonvbere argues that religious conflict in Nigeria largely arises from political manipulation, and that the most effective means of managing it is through the introduction of genuine democratic reforms. Robin Luckham points out that the democratic transition underway in many African countries must include special attention to the future role of African militaries, civil-military relations, and consideration of whether the military is best controlled by excluding it from politics or by recognizing and institutionalizing its political role. Eboe Hutchful describes the instructive process through which Ghana's civil authorities have achieved democratic control over Ghana's military. The process was facilitated by the fact that Ghana's democratically elected president has a military background and brought special knowledge of the military to his civilian leadership.
- **Training for Peacemaking:** Hibaaq Osman describes the effectiveness of a training program for Somali women in conflict resolution and the impact it is having at village and district levels. The most notable finding is the impact that women can play as peacemakers even in a male-dominated society like Somalia.
- **Building on Locally Based and Traditional Peace Processes:** John Prendergast illustrates Owusu describes the critical peacemaking roles of traditional chiefs as well as church leaders in Ghana. Wolfgang Heinrich reveals the very limited effectiveness of the introduction of district councils to manage conflict in Somalia during 1993-95, primarily because the councils were viewed as rivals of traditional clan structures, as well as because the UN was too rigidly prescriptive and hasty in its efforts to

organize them.

- **Humanitarian Aid and Conflict Prevention:** Prendergast outlines a series of guidelines to ensure that humanitarian aid contributes to peace rather than exacerbating conflict. Aid givers, he says,
- **Culture of Peace:** There is a need to do independent assessments of needs, be astute and flexible in the types of aid provided, study the effects of targeting and distribution methods, commit to independent monitoring and evaluation, and promote intercommunal trade and exchange. Carolyn Nordstrom points out the degree to which a “culture of peace” that reinforces progress toward peace and reconciliation has developed in Mozambique in the post-settlement period. She also contrasts Mozambique with Angola, where no parallel culture of peace has appeared.

In his reaction to these approaches discussed by Smock in conflict management and resolution, the writer views that, what the scholars is trying to say is, for resolution of conflict in Africa, foreign nations have role to play since they could also be the cause of the conflict or they have experienced one before and they were able to overcome it. And not that alone, African leaders also have prominent roles to play in making sure that the nations are peaceful. Non- governmental organizations could also intervene to the issue of conflict to get it resolved since this is among their aims and objectives. We cannot deny the facts that most conflicts are orchestrated by the democratic and military leaders. Therefore, the systems of government must be reformed. The impacts of our training institution cannot be underestimated. Hence, there is a need for training people for peacemaking and co-existence and that is where humanities comes in as a relevant body that is shouldered with responsibility of training the citizens on culture of peace, humanitarian aids, conflict prevention and resolution among many others. There are ten areas where Africa nations need development. These are agriculture, international trade, culture, economy, education, employment, industrialization, politics and health. These developments can only thrive in a conflict free environment.

Recommendations/ Conclusion

Since conflict is natural in human relationship, but if it is well managed it can bring positive results to people. Hence, if most of African nations would experience drastic development in all the aforementioned areas, conflict resolution is inevitable. It is a popular saying that, prevention is better than cure. The writer recommends that, there should be domestic, public and private institutions most especially the department of Humanities and religious centers trainings to orientate Africa youths on the need to shun conflict. All Africa nations should sustain democratic system of government as against autocratic (military). But the emphasis should be laid on it that the democratic system must make sure that, godly, God fearing and patriotic leaders are voted in. All societal vices must be eschewed in Africa. Though, African nations can be in partnership with foreign nations to boost their education, economy, agriculture, finance institution, health among others, but not to the extent of allowing them to dictate for them. In case conflict brakes out, African Nations Union leaders should be able to resolve it amicably. Individuals, Non- government bodies, intra and inter religious leaders, political leaders or leaders of the party involved must be able to control their followers. Conflicts not often lead to development of a nation rather destruction of it. If we want Africa to be peaceful it is a joint effort of all of us.

This paper has been able to address the major causes of conflicts in African nation. It also logically presented the effects of conflict on the continent by citing examples of the affected nations. Conflict resolutions through its methods and approaches to it as suggested by some writers are examined with rational input of the writer. One could conclude by saying, conflict is better averted than proffering solutions. However, whenever it has happened, reconciliation must be done promptly.

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