

**THE INFLUENCE OF REGIONAL SECURITY CRISES ON NIGERIA'S FOREIGN
POLICY**

BY

HASSAN ABDULRAHMAN

20/022275/ASS

JUNE, 2024

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0. Background To the Study

In today's increasingly interconnected world, regional security has become a paramount concern for nations across the globe. The rise of transnational threats such as terrorism, cyber-attacks, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has significantly impacted the foreign policy decisions of countries, including Nigeria. The impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy is a critical area of study, as it sheds light on how a developing nation like Nigeria responds to and navigates the complex web of regional security challenges.

Nigeria is a significant player in regional politics due to its size, population, and economic potential. Throughout its history, the country has been influenced by regional security concerns that have shaped its foreign policy approach. As such, the impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy is a crucial area of study that requires thorough analysis. For instance, in his research on Nigeria's Foreign Policy and Regional Security, Jacob Uzoma Dozie (2016) analyses how Nigerian foreign policy has been shaped by regional security considerations, particularly in relation to the country's involvement in regional peacekeeping missions and its efforts to combat transnational threats. Similarly, Timothy M. Shaw, in his exploration of Nigeria's foreign policy, considers the ways in which regional security dynamics have influenced the country's engagement with international organizations and its pursuit of a non-aligned foreign policy stance. Moreover, Niyi Akinsiju (2013) on the implications of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy provides a comprehensive analysis of how the evolving security environment has affected Nigeria's diplomatic engagements and interactions with other countries. These studies highlight the multifaceted

impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy, shedding light on the complex interplay between domestic security challenges and international dynamics that shape Nigeria's external relations.

Nigeria's foreign policy has historically been influenced by a variety of factors, including its colonial past, its diverse population, and its economic and geopolitical interests. Since gaining independence from Britain in 1960, Nigeria has sought to assert itself as a leader in Africa and a proponent of peace and stability in the region and beyond (Roache, 2021). As a result, the country's foreign policy has been shaped by its desire to promote regional integration, protect its economic interests, and contribute to regional security.

Regional security has a significant impact on Nigeria's foreign policy. The country has been affected by various regional security challenges, including terrorism, piracy, and transnational crime (Agba E, 2015). For example, Nigeria has faced the threat of terrorism from groups such as Boko Haram, which has not only destabilized the country but also had regional and international implications (Oluwaseun, 2020). Furthermore, Nigeria's position as a major oil-producing nation has made it vulnerable to piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, prompting the country to cooperate with other nations to address maritime security challenges (Ajayi & Onemola, 2019).

The impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy is significant and far-reaching. Nigeria has had to recalibrate its foreign policy to respond to these security challenges, often seeking international cooperation and support to address them. For example, the country has taken an active role in regional security initiatives, such as the Multinational Joint Task Force, which aims to counter the threat of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad region (Aghedo & Osumah, 2018). Additionally, Nigeria has sought partnerships with other countries and

international organizations to address maritime security concerns in the Gulf of Guinea (Adeyemi & Olutomilola, 2018).

The impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy extends beyond regional security concerns. The country's foreign policy decisions are also influenced by regional events, such as conflicts in other regions, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and regional efforts to combat climate change and pandemics. These issues have led Nigeria to engage with the international community and contribute to regional security efforts, particularly through its participation in peacekeeping missions and support for multilateral initiatives (Owoeye, 2017).

The impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy is a complex and multifaceted issue that warrants in-depth study. Nigeria's foreign policy is shaped by its response to regional security challenges, as well as its efforts to promote peace and stability at both regional and regional levels. Understanding the dynamics of this relationship is critical for comprehending Nigeria's role in international affairs and for developing effective strategies to address regional security concerns.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

The impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy is an increasingly important area of study given the growing complexity of regional security challenges and the changing dynamics of Nigeria's foreign relations. Nigeria's foreign policy has been shaped by a range of factors, including historical ties, economic interests, and regional security concerns. However, the effects of regional security, including terrorism, cyber threats, and regional conflicts, present new challenges that must be addressed in the formulation of Nigeria's foreign policy.

According to Adedeji (2015), the impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy remains underexplored. Similarly, Okoli (2018) argues that the existing literature fails to adequately address the context-specific challenges faced by Nigeria in the realm of regional security. Moreover, the existing studies often focus on general aspects of regional security without adequately addressing the context-specific challenges faced by Nigeria. As a result, there is a gap in the literature regarding the intricacies of how regional security concerns influence Nigeria's foreign policy choices, priorities, and engagements.

Therefore, due to the above, the research aims to explore the impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy through an in-depth examination of the country's response to key regional security issues such as terrorism, regional conflicts, and transnational organized crime. By undertaking such an analysis, this study will contribute to a comprehensive understanding of how regional security dynamics shape Nigeria's foreign policy and help policymakers formulate effective strategies to address emerging challenges.

1.3 Research Questions

1. How has terrorism in the Lake Chad region shaped Nigeria's relations with her immediate neighbours?
2. How have transnational crimes like the threat of insurgency and arms smuggling affected Nigeria's foreign policy decisions in the West African sub-region?
3. How can Nigeria's foreign policy improve security in the sub-region?

1.4 Objectives of The Study

2. To examine how terrorism in the Lake Chad region shaped Nigeria's relations with her immediate neighbours.
3. To examine how transnational crimes like the threat of insurgency and arms smuggling affected Nigeria's foreign policy decisions in the West African sub-region.
4. To identify how Nigeria's foreign policy can improve security in the sub-region

1.5 Significance of The Study

Nigeria is a prominent country in Africa, known for its strategic geographical location and vast resources. As such, understanding how regional security dynamics influence Nigeria's foreign policy decisions is crucial in comprehending the country's role and position in regional and international affairs.

Moreover, regional security threats, such as terrorism, cybercrime, and arms proliferation, have become increasingly transnational in nature. These threats pose risks not only to individual nations but to regional stability as well. By examining how Nigeria's foreign policy responds to these challenges, this study can contribute to broader discussions on international security cooperation and the effectiveness of national responses.

The findings of this study can contribute to the existing body of knowledge on regional security and foreign policy decision-making. It can provide a case study on the nexus between regional security challenges and a developing nation's foreign policy, offering valuable insights for scholars, researchers, and policymakers interested in similar contexts or comparative analyses.

Overall, the significance of studying the impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy lies in its potential to enhance understanding, inform policy formulation, and contribute to broader discussions on regional and international security dynamics.

1.6 Scope of The Study

This study will look at the impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy from 2014 to 2023. Also, the key effects, achievement, challenges and perspective by different scholars and academia regarding the impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy.

1.7 Methodology

This study will employ qualitative research method. The data sources of this research work are secondary. These sources were assembled and accumulated from books, both e-books and printed books, magazines such as Journal Storage (JSTOR), EBSCOHost, ResearchGate, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), ProQuest, The United Nations, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), articles, websites, newspapers such as Premium Times, BBC News, Aljazeera, and The Guardian, as well as press releases and official government documents.

1.8 Limitations of The Study

This study has a number of restrictions that must be recognized. The availability of data, access to relevant sources, potential language barriers as well.

Additionally, the political climate and government restrictions to materials poses a challenge to conducting thorough research as well resource constraints. The ever-evolving nature of regional security issues and foreign policy is another challenge.

1.9 Operational Definition of Terms

Foreign Policy: is a country's response to the world outside or beyond its own frontier or boundaries.

Regional security: includes military and diplomatic measures that nations and international organizations such as the United Nations and NATO take to ensure mutual safety and security.

Terrorism: the use of force or violence against persons or property in violation of the criminal laws of the United States for purposes of intimidation, coercion, or ransom.

Cyber warfare: the use of cyber-attacks against an enemy state, causing comparable harm to actual warfare and/or disrupting vital computer systems.

Nuclear proliferation: the spread of nuclear weapons, fissionable material, and weapons-applicable nuclear technology and information to nations not recognized as "Nuclear Weapon States" by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1. Concept of regional security

The concept of regional security refers to the efforts and mechanisms implemented by states within a specific geographic region to ensure stability, peace, and protection against various security threats. Regional security frameworks can address a wide range of challenges such as interstate conflicts, terrorism, arms proliferation, transnational crime, and humanitarian crises. This concept has gained significance in the field of international relations as it highlights the importance of cooperation and collective security among neighbouring states to address common security concerns.

In the context of regional security, cooperative frameworks such as regional organizations or agreements play a crucial role in promoting stability and peace. For instance, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been instrumental in building regional security by fostering dialogue, confidence-building measures, and dispute resolution mechanisms among its member states (Şahin, 2023)). Similarly, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has been effective in managing security challenges and promoting cooperation among European states (Kelley, 2018). The concept of regional security is based on the understanding that security challenges often transcend national borders and require a collective and coordinated response. As such, regional security initiatives are characterized by multilateral cooperation, joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and the development of common security frameworks and institutions. Through these efforts, countries seek to build mutual trust, enhance stability, and promote peace within their region.

Moreover, regional security arrangements also acknowledge the interconnectedness of security issues, as threats in one state can potentially spill over to neighbouring countries. This understanding underpins the need for cooperation and coordination among states to effectively address shared security concerns. Regional security frameworks often involve intelligence-sharing, joint military exercises, and coordinated responses to crises, to enhance collective security (Snidal, 1991). Moreover, regional security involves the promotion of economic development and integration as a means to enhance stability and reduce conflict. The European Union (EU) is a prime example of how economic cooperation and integration can contribute to regional security. By promoting economic interdependence and prosperity among its member states, the EU has contributed to the prevention of conflicts and the consolidation of peace within Europe.

However, the concept of regional security is not without its challenges and limitations. The effectiveness of regional security arrangements can be influenced by power dynamics, diverging national interests, and internal conflicts within organizations. Additionally, regional security frameworks may face difficulties in addressing non-traditional security threats, such as cybersecurity or environmental challenges, which require extensive cooperation and coordination beyond traditional military approaches (Yaacob et al 2022).

Regional security is a critical component of today's international relations, as it fosters cooperation among neighbouring states to address common security challenges. Through multilateral cooperation, security alliances, economic integration, and the promotion of confidence-building measures, regional security initiatives play a vital role in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity within specific geographic areas. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the importance of regional security will continue to grow, emphasizing the need for countries to work together to address complex security challenges.

2.1.2. Threats to Regional Security

2.1.3. Terrorism

Because it directly threatens national stability and citizen safety, terrorism is a serious danger to regional security. Beyond the immediate death toll and material damage, terrorism's effects also include psychological harm, destabilization of the economy, and deterioration of social cohesiveness. Examining the root causes of terrorism as well as the ways it presents itself in various settings is crucial to comprehending the scope of the threat it poses. Terrorism is a multidimensional and intricate phenomenon that can stem from an array of variables, such as political ideology, social grievances, and religious extremism. Terrorist groups use a variety of tactics, such as bombings, killings, kidnappings, and cyberattacks. Their targets are frequently picked carefully to maximize the effect on public opinion and governmental policies (Agba E, 2015). Furthermore, as demonstrated by well-publicized assaults in cities like Mumbai, New York, London, and Paris, terrorism is a regional problem that affects many nations (Horgan 2009).

The difficulty of anticipating and averting attacks is a major obstacle in combating the threat of terrorism, since many terrorist organizations operate covertly and people can easily become radicalized by social media and internet propaganda. Modern terrorism is decentralized and fluid, as demonstrated by organizations such as the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda, which makes it more difficult to combat since it facilitates the spread of terrorist doctrine internationally and the recruitment of adherents from a variety of backgrounds (Schmid, A. P. 2012).

Additionally, the effects of terrorism on regional security go beyond the direct physical damage inflicted by assaults. In addition, it has the potential to escalate pre-existing social tensions, start foreign conflicts, and promote political instability. For instance, the emergence

of extremist organizations in the Middle East has increased refugee flows and exacerbated sectarian tensions in the area, while terrorist incidents in Europe have spurred discussions about immigration laws and the boundaries of multiculturalism.

Countries all across the world have put in place a variety of counterterrorism activities, border security, and improved intelligence sharing as a reaction to the threat posed by terrorism (Agba, E and Olufunmilade F, 2020). Coordination of efforts to combat terrorism and stop the spread of extremist ideology has also been greatly aided by international organizations like the European Union and the United Nations. Furthermore, programs like the G7 Roma-Lyon Group and the Regional Counterterrorism Forum have worked to create best practices for combating terrorism and strengthening the ability of impacted nations to deal with this danger (LaFree, 2017).

Terrorism poses a serious risk to regional security because it can cause political unrest, destabilize entire countries, and erode the rule of law. To properly tackle this challenge, it is imperative to comprehend the multifarious incentives that drive terrorism, the intricate dynamics of its execution, and the interdependent nature of its consequences (Agba, E and Olufunmilade F, 2020). The regional community may endeavour to prevent and lessen the threat of terrorism and promote a more secure and resilient world for future generations by cooperating at the national and international levels.

2.1.4 Nuclear Proliferation

The acquisition of nuclear weapons by many governments or non-state entities, known as nuclear proliferation, presents a serious risk to regional security. In addition to undermining international attempts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, the proliferation of these weapons destabilizes regional security dynamics and raises the possibility of nuclear conflict. The heightened possibility of nuclear war is one of the main worries regarding nuclear

proliferation. There is a greater chance that nuclear weapons will be used—either on purpose or accidentally—with disastrous results when more governments or non-state actors obtain them. Miscalculation, misinterpretation, or unapproved use of nuclear weapons increases the likelihood that a dispute may turn into a nuclear war, which would have catastrophic effects for both human life and the environment. Moreover, international efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons are weakened by nuclear proliferation. One important international agreement that aims to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and advance disarmament is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Nonetheless, the NPT framework is weakened and the norms and principles of non-proliferation are undermined when more states or non-state entities obtain nuclear weapons (Maier 2023).

The dynamics of regional and local security also show how nuclear proliferation destabilizes an area. The ability to launch aggressive policies can be gained by states and non-state actors who possess nuclear weapons, escalating tensions and raising the possibility of conflict. Furthermore, new challenges to regional security arise from the possibility of nuclear proliferation among non-state actors with extremist ideologies or in unstable regions, as these actors might not follow responsible nuclear stewardship norms or traditional deterrence doctrines (Rapp-Hooper, M. 2016). In order to counter the threat that nuclear proliferation poses to regional security, disarmament and prevention initiatives are essential. International cooperation, arms control agreements, and diplomatic initiatives are crucial instruments in halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons and lowering the risks that come with them. Key measures in avoiding nuclear proliferation include fortifying the NPT regime, improving verification and monitoring systems, and holding discussions with states and non-state actors to address their security concerns (Acton, and Lim, 2016).

Because of the elevated danger of nuclear war, the undermining of non-proliferation efforts, and the destabilizing effect on regional and regional security dynamics, nuclear proliferation

poses a serious threat to regional security. In order to counter this threat, the international community must work together to promote disarmament and stop the spread of nuclear weapons, which will lower the risks of nuclear proliferation.

2.1.5 Cyber Warfare

In the twenty-first century, cyberwarfare—which is characterized as the use of digital attacks to target the virtual infrastructure of another country—has grown to be a serious danger to regional security. As a result of numerous technological developments, the globe is becoming more interconnected, which leaves vital infrastructures like banking, electricity, transportation, and communication systems open to cyberattacks. Because of the potential for broad turmoil and disruption, cyberwarfare has become a critical issue for regional security. The possibility of serious economic and societal harm from cyberwarfare is one of the main worries. The economy and public safety might be severely impacted by a successful cyberattack on key infrastructure, which could cause enormous disruptions in vital services like communication and transportation. A cyberattack on Ukraine's power grid in 2015, for instance, resulted in a widespread blackout, demonstrating the potential for cyberwarfare to wreak significant harm in the real world (Chappell, 2018).

Cyberwarfare not only endangers society and the economy, but it also seriously jeopardizes national security. Cyberattacks have the potential to compromise sensitive data, interfere with military operations, and weaken a country's defence capabilities. They are particularly likely to target important government institutions, military networks, and defence equipment. Cyberwarfare can be used to harm a country's vital infrastructure and weaponry, as demonstrated by the Stuxnet worm, a cyberweapon designed to target Iran's nuclear program (McKenna 2022).

Furthermore, because it can be challenging to identify the origin of an assault, cyberwarfare poses attribution challenges. This lack of acknowledgment may increase tensions between countries by causing ambiguity and confusion regarding the proper course of action. It is challenging for international law and norms to hold responsible parties accountable for their activities due to the ambiguity surrounding the origin of cyber-attacks (Jolley, 2017).

Strong cybersecurity measures and international collaboration are necessary to counter the growing threat of cyberwarfare. The dangers of cyberwarfare can be reduced and future escalation can be avoided by working together to create clear standards and regulations for cyberconflict. Furthermore, strengthening defences against cyberattacks and enhancing regional security can be achieved by investments in cybersecurity infrastructure and capabilities as well as the exchange of threat intelligence (Rid & Buchanan, 2015).

The possibility of massive economic and social harm, compromised national security, and difficulties in attribution and reaction make cyberwarfare a serious danger to regional security. In order to counter this threat, the international community must work together to provide clear guidelines, improve cybersecurity, and foster collaboration in order to reduce the risks related to cyberwarfare.

2.1.6 Climate change

The potential for climate change to upset social, political, and economic stability at the regional level makes it a serious challenge to regional security. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) draws attention to this threat in its reports by stating that extreme weather events, sea level rise, food and water shortages, and population displacement will all be caused by climate change (IPCC, 2018). These effects may intensify already-existing hostilities and conflicts and bring up other difficulties that may jeopardize regional security. The threat that climate change poses to regional security includes the possibility that it could

intensify already-existing conflicts and spark new ones. Competition and conflict for natural resources might result from their scarcity brought on by changes in climate patterns, such as water and arable land (Gleick, 2014). As seen by wars over access to water resources in the Middle East and Africa, this has the potential to intensify already-existing tensions between nations and within regions (UN Water, 2015). Furthermore, migration brought on by climate change can intensify intergroup conflict and raise competition for resources, as demonstrated in the Syrian civil war, when social unrest and displacement were exacerbated by drought brought on by climate change (Gleick, 2014). Moreover, the economic effects of climate change have the potential to destabilize nations and regions, sparking civil discontent and political turmoil. Hurricanes and droughts are examples of extreme weather occurrences that can destroy infrastructure and agriculture, resulting in downturns in the economy and the loss of livelihoods (IPCC, 2018). Increased poverty, migration, and social unrest may result from this, endangering the stability of entire countries and regions (Homer-Dixon, 2007). Furthermore, the uneven allocation of climate-related consequences may intensify economic and social disparities, resulting in civil discontent and political instability (IPCC, 2018).

The international community has realized that addressing and mitigating the effects of climate change is necessary in response to the challenges it poses to security. The UN Security Council has asked for greater attention to be paid to the subject of climate change and has explored the implications of the phenomenon for security (UNSC, 2011). Furthermore, the Paris Agreement highlights the need for coordinated regional action to address the issue and underscores the connection between climate change and security by limiting regional temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius (UNFCCC, 2015).

Countries must cooperate to cut greenhouse gas emissions, prepare for the effects of climate change, and build resilience in areas who are at risk in order to properly handle the security challenges posed by the phenomenon (Homer-Dixon, 2007). In addition to investments in

technology, infrastructure, and sustainable development that is climate resilient, this calls for international coordination and cooperation (IPCC, 2018). In addition, conflict prevention and resolution as well as assistance for communities at risk of relocation and social unrest should be included in efforts to address the security implications of climate change (Gleick, 2014).

Because it can intensify conflicts, cause economic instability, and threaten social and political stability, climate change presents a serious danger to regional security. Coordinated regional action is needed to address the security implications of climate change. This includes reducing emissions, preparing for the effects of climate change, and building resilience in areas that are already at risk. Through tackling the security risks brought about by climate change, the global community can strive towards a more stable and secure future that benefits everyone.

2.1.7 Geopolitical Tensions and Territorial Disputes

Globally, regional security is seriously threatened by geopolitical unrest and territorial conflicts. These disagreements can develop into full-fledged confrontations that have a destabilizing effect on an entire region. They are frequently brought on by historical legacies, conflicting national interests, and the pursuit of strategic resources.

Territorial conflicts and geopolitical tensions can endanger regional security in a number of ways. First off, these conflicts have the potential to worsen militarization and damage diplomatic ties, both of which raise the likelihood of armed war. Competing claims made by several states are a common feature of territorial disputes, and they have the potential to spark armed build-ups and conflicts (Buszynski, 2013). For instance, there has been a rise in military patrols and standoffs in the East China Sea due to China and Japan's long-standing territorial dispute over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. This has raised the possibility of a military confrontation that may turn into a larger conflict.

Second, territorial disputes and geopolitical tensions can affect neighbouring nations and destabilize the entire region. Broader regional wars may arise as a result of state-to-state disputes that intensify and attract additional nations with strategic interests in the area. For instance, a complex web of conflicting interests and alliances that has the potential to destabilize the entire area has been created by the confrontation in the South China Sea between China and numerous Southeast Asian countries, as well as the involvement of the United States and other major powers (Casarini, 2016). Economic cooperation and development within an area might be impeded by geopolitical conflicts and territorial disputes. States are less likely to cooperate and trade economically when they are embroiled in territorial disputes, which might impede the integration and growth of the regional economy. For instance, South Asia's potential for economic growth and stability has been limited by the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir area, which has impeded economic cooperation and connectivity in the region (Pérez-Ruiz, Puntigliano, 2016).

Moreover, these disagreements have the potential to erode mutual trust and confidence among governments, which will make it more challenging to handle other security issues the region is facing, such as terrorism, transnational crime, and environmental degradation. Thus, territorial disputes and geopolitical tensions can have a knock-on effect on regional security, making the security landscape more brittle and unstable. Numerous parts of the world have notable instances of territorial conflicts and geopolitical tensions endangering regional security (Uğur, 2016). The rivalry between India and Pakistan, the South China Sea disputes, and the Korean Peninsula disputes are major instances of how territorial disputes in Asia have evolved into enduring causes of instability and insecurity in the area. Territorial conflicts and geopolitical rivalry have exacerbated the conflict between Israel and its neighbours, as well as

the current civil wars in Syria and Yemen, throughout the Middle East, resulting in a generalized state of instability and insecurity.

With ramifications for regional security and stability, Russia and the West are engaged in a geopolitical struggle in Europe as a result of Russia's annexation of Crimea and the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Tensions along the Ethiopia-Eritrea border in the South China Sea and territorial disputes over the Nile River among Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia are just two examples of how conflicts and instability in Africa have been exacerbated by territorial disputes over borders and resources (Fazal, Griffiths 2015). Due to their increased likelihood of military conflict, ability to destabilize neighbouring countries, ability to undermine economic cooperation, and ability to erode trust and confidence between states, geopolitical tensions and territorial disputes pose a serious threat to regional security. These disagreements can impede attempts to resolve other security issues an area may be experiencing and have the capacity to grow into more significant regional conflicts. Therefore, in order to encourage cooperation and discussion and ensure regional security and stability, states must actively engage in diplomatic efforts to settle these problems amicably.

2.2 Concept of Foreign Policy

Foreign policy, like many other social science topics, is hard to define, which leaves scholars with differing opinions. In this context, Ade-Ibijola (2016) defines foreign policy as the objectives that a country pursues in its interactions with other peoples around the globe. These aims are the components of an all-encompassing strategy. Ade-Ibijola (2016) claims that every nation has a plan with a few main goals that it attempts to achieve in its interactions with other nations in the international system in order to avoid navigating the seas of international relations aimlessly.

As per Goldstein and Pevehouse's (2014) assertion, foreign policy encompasses the strategies employed by the government to steer its activities at the regional level. Carlsnaes (2016) offered a more comprehensive definition of foreign policy. According to Carlsnaes (2016), foreign policy comprises the acts that state representatives take on behalf of their sovereign communities. These actions can be expressed in the form of clearly stated directives, commitments, or goals, and they are aimed at influencing conditions, goals, and non-governmental and governmental actors that are outside of their territorial legitimacy. This simply suggests that for nations to engage with each other in a productive way, their foreign policies must be clearly defined, well considered, and directed.

Adeniran (2012) asserts that describing foreign policy is the best way to comprehend it. Three elements make up foreign policy, according to Adeniran (2012). The first is a nation's "overall orientation and policy intents" with respect to foreign nations. The second element is the "goal" that a nation hopes to accomplish in its relations or dealings with another nation. Thirdly, there is the "means" by which the particular aim or collection of objectives will be accomplished.

Nwankwo (2018) defines foreign policy as a set of well-defined objectives concerning the world beyond the borders of a particular social group, along with a collection of strategies and tactics employed to achieve those objectives. This comprehension facilitates the identification of strategies and particular methods for implementing those strategies. It is idealistic in that it fails to take into account the facts of the international system, particularly the unpredictability of other nations' actions.

According to Vital (2015), a new paradigm of foreign policy emerged. As stated by Vital (2015), the phrase "foreign policy" actually describes a domain of related but distinct challenges and actions where foreign policy is neither possible nor exists. According to Vital

(2015), choices and policies must be produced in multiple distinct structures and issue areas due to the reality of state behaviour, frequently as a result of pressing pressures and events. Therefore, Frankel's (1978 and 1989) idea of foreign policy as a dynamic process of interaction between changing internal demands and changing external situations is applicable in light of developments in the modern regional political order.

Foreign policy, as defined by Ota and Ecoma (2015), is a strategy that is appropriately developed and designed in a coordinated manner by institutionally appointed decision-makers with the aim of managing the international environment to achieve preset national objectives. This idea holds that countries can respond to events occurring on a regional scale by using their foreign policy as an instrument of power to take action or stop from taking action in order to further their own domestic goals. Ukwuije (2015) asserts that foreign policy is a byproduct of public policy and that certain aspects of domestic policy cannot be fully and appropriately implemented without it. This argument implies that public policy takes precedence over foreign policy since domestic policy is carried out on the global stage through foreign policy.

Eze (2010) put it simply: a state's dealings with other countries or institutions protected by international law, such international organizations, are based on its foreign policy. According to Barika (2014), who supports this point of view, the idea of foreign policy is implicit in the fact that national interest acts as a guiding principle for nations in the creation and implementation of their international policies. But Barika (2014) confidently states that the formulation of foreign policy is limited by treaty obligations, international law requirements, and leadership roles and responsibilities that a state has assumed in international organizations while taking other states' foreign policies into account. Eze (2010) and Barika (2014) have included the significance of international law, non-state actors, and, above all, the foreign policies of other states in these conceptualizations. According to their position,

states should consider the need to comply with international law statutes, their responsibilities in regional or international organizations, and the foreign policies of other states, particularly those that are neighbours, when they begin to develop or restructure their foreign policies. Fulfilling these requirements will enable the state to react to the actions of other governments in the area or around the world, as well as to pursue its national interests in a manner that complies with international law. According to Ade-Ibijola (2016), Nigeria's foreign policy is what motivates its interactions with other nations. He went on to say that it was a state's declared objective. It will be sufficient to simply reconstruct this idea of foreign policy to read as the declared goals of a state toward other states.

2.3 The Determinants of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and a rising regional power, occupies a unique position on the regional stage. Its foreign policy, therefore, presents a fascinating case study of how internal and external factors shape the strategic interests and external engagements of a developing nation. This essay will delve into the key determinants of Nigeria's foreign policy, highlighting the dynamic interplay between domestic realities and international considerations.

2.3.1 Domestic Pillars of Nigerian Foreign Policy

Nigeria's foreign policy priorities are influenced by its national identity and historical background, which include the colonial legacy, the independence war, and the persistence of ethnic and religious divisions within the nation. Nigerian foreign policy continues to be based on the Pan-Africanist philosophy, which emphasizes African unification and decolonization (Adigho, 1980).

Economic Development and Resource Management: Nigeria's vast oil wealth has been a double-edged sword, shaping its relationship with energy-consuming nations and creating

internal pressures for equitable resource distribution (Nwoke, 2013). The diversification of the economy and attracting foreign investment are major foreign policy objectives.

Political Structure and Governance: The country's evolving political landscape, with transitions between civilian and military rule, impacts its international image and engagement. Promoting democracy and good governance in Africa aligns with domestic aspirations and enhances Nigeria's regional leadership role (Omeje, 2011). **Public Opinion and Pressure Groups:** While public opinion polls are not frequently conducted in Nigeria, civil society organizations, media, and religious groups influence foreign policy debates. Issues like human rights, international sanctions, and the treatment of Nigerians abroad resonate with the populace and can shape government decisions (Iwuagwu, 2012).

2.3.2. External Influences on Nigerian Foreign Policy

Regional Dynamics and Security: Active participation in international security initiatives and regional cooperation are imperatives in light of the security issues faced by West Africa, including piracy, terrorism, and porous borders (Egboh, 2014). In regional security alliances like ECOWAS and peacekeeping operations, Nigeria takes the lead.

Regional Power Relations and Alliances: A complex interaction of commerce, investment, aid, and strategic objectives shapes Nigeria's relationship with major powers such as the United States, China, and the European Union. One of the main challenges is balancing these interactions and optimizing benefits for Nigeria's development strategy (Osaghae, 2015).

Regional Issues and Transnational Challenges: Nigeria must actively participate in regional governance systems and help discover answers to climate change, resource scarcity, pandemics, and technology breakthroughs, all of which call for international cooperation (Onyekachi, 2020). **Interdependence and Economic Integration:** Nigeria is moving toward deeper regional and global economic integration as a result of growing regionalization and

interdependencies, notably in trade and investment. Important foreign policy goals include establishing an environment that is favourable to foreign direct investment and joining free trade agreements (Ukaegbu, 2017).

2.3.3 Challenges Facing Nigerian Foreign Policy

i. Afrocentricism Challenge

Relationships between Nigeria and Africa and national interest appear to be at odds with one another. It's obvious that the country is overextending itself in Africa with little to show for it. The phenomenon in question has garnered significant attention from observers of Nigeria's foreign policy. Dr. Obadiah Mailafiya, a policy and economic affairs analyst, for instance, effectively illustrates the aforementioned situation when he states that any nation's foreign policy should center around that nation if it is to be taken seriously as a rational actor on the international scene. He was speaking in reference to Nigeria's foreign policy framework. Each and every action will be evaluated based on how much it advances our goals, objectives, and purposes as well as our national power and influence.

Professor Inno Ukaeje, a different authority on international relations, also stated that "our false generosity abroad and penury at home are proof that we are pretending to be what we are, in reality we have been overstretching ourselves" in her assessment of Nigerian foreign policy. In his book *Beautiful Abroad but Ugly at Home* (2013), Akinboye also highlighted and supported Ukaeje's concerns. Considering how much money the country spends attempting to address different issues in Africa and how much money practically every sector of the nation yearns for inside, one would have to concur with the aforementioned statements. Conversely, the quality of life has been appallingly low. Nigeria has abundant strategic mineral resources, which have allowed it to amass enormous money and finance various initiatives aimed at resolving other African issues. However, the scope of these expenditures

seriously undermines our goals at home. It is clear that the numerous leaders of the previous regimes and administrations have failed to correctly identify their priorities.

ii Leadership and Nigerian Foreign Policy

Currently, one of the factors contributing to Nigeria's inconsistent policy development and implementation has been recognized as the roles that the various administrations' inadequate or non-existent leadership institutions have played, usually in the majority of cases (Okpokpo, 1999). Akinboye (2013) and Abati (1999) provided an intriguing and thorough summary of the impact of a weak and corrupt leadership institution and the role it plays in shaping Nigeria's foreign policy image overseas as well as in the process of developing and implementing it within Nigeria. They correctly pointed out that Nigerian officials have demonstrated extreme naivete in basing their foreign strategy solely on Africa. Before the 1990s, it was a noble objective, but as we approach the new millennium, Nigeria will need to adapt it to fit the demands of modern diplomacy. "Africa as the centrepiece of Nigeria's foreign policy" is no longer adequate; a more comprehensive viewpoint is required. When deciding on her foreign policy, a Nigerian leader should make an effort to take into account the most recent developments in regionalization, human rights, democracy, diplomacy, and international relations (Akinboye, 2013).

Nigerians had to pay this price for their backing of autocratic African regimes. Since we are a democracy now, we must speak up and take a leadership role in the global world. For minor victories within African diplomatic circles, we no longer need to plead with other military dictatorships for help (ibid). Nigeria should no longer have a foreign strategy based solely on its relationship with Africa. Not a single pillar supported the foreign policies of any of the major players in international diplomacy, including the United States, France, and Great Britain. If Nigeria want to participate in the high-level diplomatic circles of today, it shouldn't be an exception.

Another example that is worth mentioning is the devastating blow that Babangida's administration delivered to the foreign policy and image of Nigerians in general, when he annulled the June 12th elections for no good reason at all. At the time, every nation, especially the G7 and most OECD countries, had made democracy, good governance, and human rights crucial factors in international politics and in their relations with developing countries (Ashiru, 2013). It was believed that this period marked the start of Nigeria's miscommunication with the world community, particularly the United States, the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth nations, and the European Union.

2.3.4. Actors in Nigeria's Foreign Policy

The foreign ministry's internal and external policy players are involved in this massive undertaking. The president, foreign minister, ambassadors, embassies overseas, the press, and the business community are among the internal actors actively involved in the development of foreign policy, even though it is largely a foreign ministry matter (Aremu, 2015). We should reevaluate the purpose and location of our embassies. Amateurism is not tolerated in a dynamic, performance-driven foreign policy as it formerly was. It is imperative that our ambassadors and embassies rise to the standards set by the country. Nigeria's foreign policy must benefit both the nation and its people. Since our diplomats are on the front lines of our foreign policy, the training curriculum should be evaluated to ensure that they have the skills needed to practice the art and science of diplomacy (ibid).

We must reevaluate what our essential national interests are. Even with our unwavering dedication to African nations, do we still regard them as the cornerstone of our foreign policy when we receive more respect from other nations than from African ones? What advantages do we receive from this Afrocentric decision if the answer to the question is yes? If the answer is no, we ought to refocus our foreign policy on more lucrative endeavours, such as technical, scientific, cultural, and commercial collaboration with more developed nations, such as those in Asia (Olusanya, 2012).

2.4. Nexus Between Regional Security and Foreign Policy

The relationship between regional security and foreign policy is a complex and multifaceted one. Regional security refers to the stability and protection of the world's population from various threats, such as terrorism, conflict, and the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Foreign policy, on the other hand, encompasses a government's strategy in dealing with other nations, as well as its approach to international issues and events. The nexus between regional security and foreign policy is evident through the ways in which foreign policy decisions impact regional security, and conversely, how regional security concerns influence foreign policy choices.

One aspect of the nexus between regional security and foreign policy is the role of foreign policy decisions in addressing regional security threats. For instance, the formulation of alliances, trade agreements, and military interventions are all aspects of foreign policy that can directly impact regional security. A study by Carter and Scott (2017) highlights the importance of foreign policy in addressing regional security challenges and identifies how diplomatic efforts and negotiations are critical in preventing and resolving conflicts that threaten regional security.

Furthermore, regional security concerns also play a significant role in shaping foreign policy priorities. The rise of non-state actors, such as terrorist organizations, has prompted many countries to reorient their foreign policy strategies towards counterterrorism efforts and cooperation with other nations in combating this transnational threat (Gerges, 2017). This illustrates how regional security threats can influence the foreign policy decisions of nations.

The nexus between regional security and foreign policy is also evident in the context of weapons proliferation and international arms control. The decision of a country to engage in arms control agreements or to pursue the development of nuclear weapons can significantly impact regional security. For example, the North Korean nuclear crisis has been a focal point

of regional security concerns, leading to various foreign policy responses from nations around the world, including sanctions and diplomatic negotiations (Solingen, 2017).

In addition, the relationship between regional security and foreign policy is highlighted through the role of international institutions and multilateral agreements in addressing security challenges. The United Nations Security Council, for example, plays a critical role in shaping regional security through its resolutions and actions, which are often influenced by the foreign policy priorities of its member states (Mingst & Karns, 2016).

In conclusion, the nexus between regional security and foreign policy is a vital area of study that encompasses the bidirectional relationship between the two. Foreign policy decisions can shape regional security, while regional security concerns can influence the formulation and execution of foreign policy. Understanding this relationship is crucial for policymakers and analysts in addressing the complex and evolving security challenges facing the international community.

2.5 Theoretical Framework

Collective security

Collective security is a concept in international relations that emphasizes the importance of states working together to ensure their collective defence and maintain global peace. According to Mitrany (1943), collective security is characterized by "a system in which all states commit themselves to join in common defence against aggression and to collectively address threats to international security." This concept is based on the belief that the security of one state is interconnected with the security of others, and thus any act of aggression or threat to one state should be perceived as a threat to all.

The underlying principle of collective security is to deter potential aggressors and prevent conflicts through the united strength of states and collective actions. In practice, collective

security is often implemented through institutions such as the United Nations (UN) and regional organizations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the African Union (AU). These institutions provide a framework for member states to collaborate, share information, and take collective measures to address security challenges.

One of the key mechanisms of collective security is the collective defence, where states pledge to assist a victim state that has come under attack. The NATO alliance, for example, operates on the principle of collective defence, so that an attack on one member is considered an attack on all (Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty). This serves as a deterrent to potential aggressors and enhances the security of all member states.

Additionally, collective security involves diplomatic, economic, and political cooperation among states to address security threats. This can include diplomatic dialogues, economic sanctions, peacekeeping operations, and conflict resolution mechanisms. For instance, the UN Security Council plays a crucial role in maintaining international peace and security through its ability to authorize collective military action and impose sanctions.

However, collective security is not without challenges. Consensus-building among member states, conflicting interests, power imbalances, and issues of sovereignty often pose obstacles to effective implementation. Furthermore, the success of collective security relies on the political will and commitment of participating states to fulfill their obligations and act collectively in times of crisis.

In its application to this research the theory of collective security posits that security concerns are best addressed through collective action and cooperation among states (Friedman, 1996). Regional security, on the other hand, refers to the efforts and mechanisms implemented by states within a specific geographical area to address security challenges and maintain stability (Abegunrin, 2007).

In the case of Nigeria, being a country within the West African region, the impact of regional security on its foreign policy is significant. Nigeria's foreign policy is influenced by the security dynamics in the region, including conflicts, spillover effects, and the need to protect its national interests (Adesoji, 2012).

One way in which the theory of collective security is relevant to the research topic is through the concept of collective defence. According to collective defence, states in a region come together to address common security challenges and threats (Glennon, 1994). In the West African region, Nigeria plays a crucial role in collective security efforts by leading and participating in regional security initiatives such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram (Duruji, 2016).

Furthermore, the theory of collective security also addresses the interdependence and interconnectedness of states in the region. Regional security challenges, such as terrorism, maritime piracy, and transnational organized crime, require cooperation among states to effectively tackle them (Ozi, 2015). Nigeria, as the largest country in West Africa, recognizes the importance of regional cooperation in combating these threats and advancing its foreign policy objectives (Aning, 2013).

The theory of collective security is highly relevant to understanding the impact of regional security on Nigeria's foreign policy. It highlights the significance of collective action, cooperation, and regional initiatives in addressing common security challenges in West Africa. Nigeria's involvement in regional security efforts demonstrates its recognition of the importance of regional cooperation in advancing its foreign policy interests.

CHAPTER THREE

AN OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL SECURITY CRISIS IN AFRICA

3.1. Militancy In The Sahel Region

The Sahel region of Africa, which encompasses Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger Republic, has been facing a severe security crisis due to the rise of militant groups and jihadist movements. The region's instability is a result of several interconnected factors including poverty, weak governance, and porous borders that have allowed militant groups to establish a presence and operate with relative impunity. Militancy in the Sahel region has been fuelled by the presence of several jihadist groups, including but not limited to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), Ansarul Islam, and Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM). These groups have exploited the region's vast, sparsely populated desert areas to establish training camps, safe havens, and logistical bases. The porous borders between Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger Republic have allowed militants to move across countries, making it difficult for national governments to contain their activities.

One of the key factors contributing to the rise of militancy in the Sahel is the region's acute poverty and underdevelopment. The Sahel is one of the poorest and most underdeveloped regions in the world, with high levels of unemployment, food insecurity, and lack of basic infrastructure. This has created fertile ground for recruitment by militant groups, who often exploit disillusioned and marginalized populations by offering economic incentives and a sense of purpose through their extremist ideologies (UNDP, 2016). Moreover, weak and corrupt governance in the Sahel region has also contributed to the rise of militancy. Government institutions are often ineffective, lacking the capacity to provide basic services and security to their citizens. This has led to a lack of trust in the state, allowing militant groups to exploit grievances and present themselves as an alternative authority. In addition,

the rampant corruption within security forces has undermined their ability to address the security crisis, as they often lack the resources and training to effectively combat militant groups (Chatham House, 2020). The impact of militancy in the Sahel region has been devastating, as it has resulted in widespread displacement, humanitarian crises, and an erosion of state authority. The violence perpetrated by militant groups has led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, creating a humanitarian disaster in the region. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), over 2 million people have been internally displaced in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger Republic due to the conflict (OCHA, 2021). This has put immense pressure on already strained humanitarian resources and has made it difficult to provide aid to those in need.

Furthermore, the presence of militant groups has undermined state authority in the Sahel region, as they have carried out targeted attacks against government institutions, security forces, and symbols of state authority. This has further eroded trust in the government and has created a sense of insecurity among the population, leading to a vicious cycle of violence and instability (International Crisis Group, 2019). Efforts to address the security crisis in the Sahel region have been challenging and multifaceted. Regional and international actors, including the United Nations, the African Union, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), have deployed peacekeeping missions, such as the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), to support national authorities in addressing the security crisis. However, these efforts have been hindered by the complex and rapidly evolving nature of the conflict, as well as the vast and difficult terrain of the Sahel region (UNSC, 2020). In addition to military responses, efforts to address the security crisis in the Sahel region must also focus on addressing the root causes of militancy, including poverty, underdevelopment, and weak governance. This requires a comprehensive approach that combines security sector reform, development assistance, and

good governance initiatives. International donors and development organizations have an important role to play in supporting the governments of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger Republic in their efforts to address the underlying causes of the security crisis (Metz, 2016).

3.2. The south Sudan conflict

The conflict in South Sudan has been an ongoing crisis with significant implications for regional security in Africa. The origins of the conflict can be traced back to the power struggle between the President Salva Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar, which escalated into a full-scale civil war in December 2013. This conflict has had a profound impact on the security dynamics of the region, exacerbating existing challenges and creating new threats that need to be addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated way. The conflict in South Sudan is a complex web of political, ethnic, and economic factors that have fuelled the violence and prolonged the crisis. The struggle for power between President Kiir and Riek Machar has deepened ethnic divisions and led to widespread human rights abuses, including mass killings, sexual violence, and forced displacement of civilians. The conflict has also had a devastating impact on the country's economy, leading to widespread poverty and food insecurity (Rolandsen, & Kindersley, 2017).

In terms of regional security, the conflict in South Sudan has had significant spillover effects, including the destabilization of neighbouring countries and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The refugee crisis resulting from the conflict has also put a strain on neighbouring countries, leading to increased competition for limited resources and exacerbating existing political and ethnic tensions (Wachilu, 2019). Moreover, the conflict in South Sudan has provided fertile ground for the expansion of transnational criminal networks, including arms trafficking, human trafficking, and illicit trade in natural resources. These criminal activities have further undermined the stability and security of the region,

creating a conducive environment for the proliferation of extremist groups and organized crime. The regional impact of the South Sudan conflict has also been felt in the broader context of African security dynamics. The crisis has strained the capacity of regional organizations such as the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to effectively mediate and resolve the conflict, highlighting the limitations of existing regional security frameworks in addressing complex and protracted conflicts (Kaduki, 2020).

In response to the regional security implications of the South Sudan conflict, there have been various initiatives aimed at finding a peaceful resolution to the crisis. Diplomatic efforts led by neighbouring countries, regional organizations, and the international community have sought to mediate between the warring parties and facilitate a political settlement. The signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in September 2018 was a significant milestone in the peace process, laying the groundwork for a transitional government of national unity (LeRiche, & Arnold, 2016). However, despite these diplomatic efforts, the peace process in South Sudan has faced significant challenges, including the lack of trust between the warring parties, the reluctance to implement key provisions of the peace agreement, and the persistence of violence and human rights abuses on the ground. The fragility of the peace process has underscored the need for a sustained and coordinated approach to addressing the security implications of the South Sudan conflict. In this context, it is essential to consider the broader regional security dimensions of the South Sudan conflict and explore avenues for enhancing regional cooperation and coordination. This could involve strengthening the capacity of regional organizations and national governments to address the root causes of the conflict, including political grievances, ethnic tensions, and socioeconomic disparities. It could also involve enhancing border security and law enforcement cooperation to counter transnational criminal

activities and prevent the spread of violence across regional borders (ICG, 2021). Furthermore, addressing the security implications of the South Sudan conflict requires a holistic approach that integrates political, humanitarian, and development dimensions. Strengthening the rule of law, promoting inclusive governance, and addressing the socioeconomic drivers of conflict are all critical components of an effective regional security strategy. Moreover, addressing the refugee crisis and providing support for host communities in neighbouring countries is essential for mitigating the spill over effects of the conflict and building resilience in the region (EISA. (2016).

The conflict in South Sudan has had far-reaching implications for regional security in Africa, including destabilization, the proliferation of transnational criminal networks, and the strain on regional governance and security mechanisms. Addressing these implications requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach that integrates political, security, humanitarian, and development efforts. By addressing the root causes of the conflict and mitigating its spill over effects, the international community and regional actors can contribute to a more stable and secure environment in South Sudan and the broader region.

3.3. Congo Conflict

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been embroiled in a long-standing crisis that has had profound regional security implications in Africa. The crisis in the DRC is complex, with underlying issues including ethnic tensions, weak governance, corruption, natural resource exploitation, and external interference. This has led to a protracted state of conflict and instability, with far-reaching consequences for the region.

One of the key factors contributing to the crisis in the DRC is the legacy of colonialism and the subsequent struggle for power and resources following independence. The country's vast natural resources, including minerals, timber, and fertile land, have been a source of both wealth and conflict. Various armed groups and foreign actors have exploited these resources,

leading to competition and violence. The lack of effective governance and uneven distribution of wealth have exacerbated tensions, leading to widespread human rights abuses and the displacement of millions of people (Autesserre, 2012). The weakness of the Congolese state has also been a significant factor in the crisis. The government's authority is limited, especially in remote and resource-rich areas, where armed groups and militias have filled the power vacuum. This has led to continued cycles of violence, as these groups vie for control over territory and resources. The government's inability to provide security and essential services has eroded trust in state institutions, further fuelling instability.

Moreover, the DRC's crisis is interconnected with broader regional dynamics, with neighbouring countries playing a significant role. For instance, Rwanda and Uganda have been accused of backing rebel groups in the eastern part of the DRC, further complicating the situation. This interference has deepened the conflict and hindered efforts to achieve a lasting peace. The involvement of these neighbouring countries has had spill-over effects, contributing to regional insecurity and instability. The crisis in the DRC has also had severe humanitarian consequences, with millions of people affected by the protracted conflict. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are over 5 million internally displaced persons in the country, in addition to hundreds of thousands of Congolese refugees in neighbouring countries. The displacement of people and the breakdown of social and economic structures have created a humanitarian crisis, with widespread poverty and limited access to basic necessities such as healthcare and education (Tull, 2006).

Additionally, the crisis in the DRC has had adverse effects on regional stability, with the potential to destabilize neighbouring countries. The easy flow of small arms and light weapons across porous borders has contributed to insecurity in the region. Furthermore, the presence of armed groups and militias in border areas has led to cross-border attacks and the

proliferation of violence. As a result, the crisis in the DRC has posed a significant challenge to regional security, with the potential to spill over into neighbouring countries. Efforts to address the crisis in the DRC have been complicated by the scale and complexity of the challenges involved. The United Nations and the African Union have been actively involved in peacekeeping and mediation efforts, with MONUSCO (the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) being one of the largest peacekeeping operations in the world. However, the mission has faced challenges in fulfilling its mandate, given the vast territory of the DRC and the presence of multiple armed groups (Weigert, 2001). Furthermore, achieving a lasting peace in the DRC requires addressing the root causes of the conflict, including governance issues, resource management, and regional dynamics. Efforts to build state institutions, promote good governance, and foster economic development are essential for creating the conditions for stability and peace. Additionally, regional cooperation and dialogue are crucial for addressing the cross-border dimensions of the crisis and preventing further escalation (Vlassenroot, & Raeymaekers, 2006). The crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo is a significant regional security challenge in Africa, with far-reaching implications for stability and peace. The complex interplay of historical, governance, and regional factors has contributed to the protracted conflict and humanitarian crisis in the country. Addressing the root causes of the crisis, promoting good governance, and fostering regional cooperation are essential for achieving lasting peace and security in the DRC and the broader African region.

3.4. Al-Shabab In Somalia And The Horn Of Africa

Al-Shabab, which means "The Youth" in Arabic, is an Islamic militant group that operates primarily in Somalia and the Horn of Africa region (Agba E and Olufunmilade F M, 2020). The group emerged in 2006 as the militant wing of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), which briefly took control of Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, before being ousted by Ethiopian

forces in December 2006 (Wilson, 2016). Al-Shabab has since evolved into a transnational terrorist organization with a presence in Somalia, Kenya, and other parts of the Horn of Africa.

Al-Shabab's primary goal is to establish an Islamic state in Somalia based on a strict interpretation of Sharia law. The group has engaged in a range of activities, including guerrilla warfare, terrorism, and targeted assassinations, to achieve its objectives. Since its inception, Al-Shabab has been responsible for numerous attacks on civilian, government, and international targets, resulting in significant loss of life and widespread suffering in the region. Al-Shabab's tactics have included suicide bombings, assassinations, and attacks on public spaces such as hotels, restaurants, and markets. The group has also carried out high-profile assaults on government installations and foreign interests, such as the Westgate shopping mall attack in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2013, which left over 60 people dead and hundreds injured (Lobregat & Buchy, 2015). These activities have not only destabilized Somalia but have also had far-reaching implications for the entire Horn of Africa region.

One of the key factors contributing to Al-Shabab's resilience and endurance is its ability to exploit the complex web of clan and tribal dynamics in Somalia. The group has been successful in leveraging existing grievances and exploiting clan-based divisions to garner support and recruit fighters from disenfranchised communities (Menkhaus, 2007). This has enabled Al-Shabab to establish a foothold in both rural and urban areas, making it a formidable force in Somalia and the surrounding regions. Moreover, Al-Shabab has proven to be highly adept at adapting to changing circumstances and evolving its tactics in response to military pressure and changing political dynamics. For instance, in response to increased targeted attacks by U.S. and African Union forces, the group has shifted towards asymmetric warfare and insurgency tactics, further complicating efforts to defeat or degrade its capabilities (Rosenau, 2020).

The regional security crisis in the Horn of Africa has been exacerbated by the transnational nature of Al-Shabab's activities. The group has carried out attacks in neighbouring countries such as Kenya, targeting security forces, civilians, and tourist hotspots. These attacks have not only caused significant loss of life and economic disruptions but have also inflamed inter-communal tensions and strained diplomatic relations in the region. While the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali security forces have made significant gains in pushing back Al-Shabab from major urban centres, the group continues to maintain a presence in rural areas and remains a potent threat in the region (Pham, 2016). Furthermore, internal political instability in Somalia, weak governance, and a lack of effective state institutions have hampered efforts to address the root causes of extremism and prevent the resurgence of Al-Shabab. The regional implications of Al-Shabab's activities have also been felt beyond the Horn of Africa. The group's links to international terrorist organizations, such as Al-Qaeda, have raised concerns about the potential for the export of extremism and the spread of radical ideologies across borders (Jenkins, 2012). This has prompted countries such as the United States to expand their counter-terrorism efforts in the region and engage in targeted operations against Al-Shabab and its affiliates.

3.5. The Insurgency And Conflict In Libya And The Violent Extremism In The Lake Chad

The insurgency and conflict in Libya and violent extremism in the Lake Chad region are interconnected and have contributed to the regional security crisis in Africa. These conflicts have had far-reaching consequences, including the displacement of millions of people, the breakdown of state institutions, and the spread of extremist ideologies and violence. Understanding the dynamics of these conflicts is crucial for devising effective strategies to address the regional security crisis in Africa.

The conflict in Libya dates back to the 2011 uprising against the regime of Muammar Gaddafi, which led to his overthrow and the subsequent power vacuum in the country. Since then, Libya has been plagued by factional fighting, with various armed groups vying for control of territory and resources. The lack of a strong central authority has created a breeding ground for extremist groups, including the Islamic State (IS) and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), to establish a presence in the country (De Mesquita, 2015). The flow of weapons and fighters from Libya has had destabilizing effects on neighbouring countries, particularly those in the Lake Chad region. The Lake Chad basin, which encompasses parts of Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, has been the epicentre of a major insurgency by the extremist group Boko Haram. The group has carried out a campaign of terror, including suicide bombings, mass abductions, and attacks on civilian populations, in its quest to establish an Islamic caliphate in the region (Akinyemi, 2016). The links between the conflict in Libya and the insurgency in the Lake Chad region are multifaceted. First, the porous borders in the Sahel region have facilitated the movement of weapons, fighters, and illicit goods between Libya and neighbouring countries, providing a lifeline for extremist groups. Second, the collapse of state institutions in Libya has created a permissive environment for arms proliferation, with weapons from Gaddafi's stockpiles being smuggled into the hands of various armed groups and insurgents in the region (Depagne, 2020). This has significantly exacerbated the conflicts in the Lake Chad basin and beyond.

Moreover, the spill over effects of the conflict in Libya have contributed to the humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad region. The displacement of populations, along with the destruction of infrastructure and basic services, has left millions of people in need of humanitarian assistance. This has placed a significant strain on the resources of the affected countries and has further exacerbated socioeconomic grievances that extremist groups have exploited in their recruitment efforts (UNOCHA, 2020). Furthermore, the ideology and propaganda of

extremist groups in Libya and the Lake Chad region are interconnected, with the two conflict zones serving as hubs for the dissemination of violent extremist narratives. The internet and social media have been used by these groups to radicalize and recruit individuals from across the region, promoting their extremist ideologies and justifying their violent actions (Blanchard, 2019).

To address the regional security crisis in Africa, it is imperative to adopt a comprehensive and coordinated approach that addresses the root causes of the conflicts in Libya and the Lake Chad region. This involves efforts to stabilize Libya through inclusive political dialogue and state-building initiatives, aimed at rebuilding state institutions and fostering national reconciliation. The international community, including regional organizations such as the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), should play a pivotal role in mediating the conflict and supporting peacebuilding efforts in the region (Abisiga, 2021). Furthermore, addressing the flow of weapons and illicit goods from Libya requires enhanced border security measures and cooperation between countries in the Sahel region. This includes capacity-building support for security forces, as well as initiatives to strengthen governance and border management systems. Additionally, efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad region must be prioritized, including support for refugee and internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as initiatives to promote sustainable development and resilience in affected communities (UNDP, 2020). Addressing the spread of violent extremism in the region requires a multifaceted approach that combines security measures with efforts to counter extremist narratives and address the underlying grievances that fuel radicalization. This includes community engagement and empowerment initiatives, as well as support for educational and economic opportunities for at-risk populations. Furthermore, countering the online propaganda of extremist groups necessitates cooperation

with social media companies and online platforms, as well as efforts to promote alternative narratives and build resilience against radicalization (UNODC, 2018).

3.6 Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria

The Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria is one of the most significant security crises in Africa. Boko Haram, which translates to "Western education is forbidden" in the Hausa language, is a jihadist militant group that aims to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria. The group is based in the north-eastern part of the country and has been responsible for widespread violence, including bombings, kidnappings, and attacks on both military and civilian targets. The insurgency has led to widespread displacement, death, and economic devastation in the region (Cook, & Vale, 2018).

The origins of Boko Haram can be traced back to the late 1990s when Mohammed Yusuf, a Nigerian cleric, established a religious complex in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, where he preached against Western education and the Nigerian government. Boko Haram formally emerged as a militant group in 2002, and its insurgency gained momentum with the death of Yusuf in 2009. Following his death, Abubakar Shekau assumed leadership of the group and intensified its violent activities, leading to a significant escalation of the insurgency (Ipaye, 2016). Boko Haram's insurgency has had profound implications for regional security in Africa. The group's attacks have not been limited to Nigeria but have also spilled over into neighbouring countries such as Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. The Lake Chad region has been particularly affected by the spill over of violence from Nigeria, exacerbating existing security challenges in these countries. The cross-border nature of the Boko Haram insurgency has prompted regional cooperation and coordinated military efforts to combat the group, reflecting the broader regional security implications of the crisis (Omoweh, 2017). The socio-economic impact of the Boko Haram insurgency has been devastating, particularly

in the north-eastern region of Nigeria where the group is most active. The conflict has resulted in widespread displacement, with thousands of people fleeing their homes to escape the violence. The displacement crisis has strained humanitarian aid efforts and placed significant pressure on already limited resources. Additionally, the insecurity has disrupted agricultural activities, leading to food shortages and economic hardship for the affected communities. The Nigerian government's response to the Boko Haram insurgency has been characterized by a combination of military operations, counterinsurgency strategies, and efforts to address the underlying socio-economic grievances that have fuelled the group's activities. Military operations, particularly in collaboration with regional partners, have targeted Boko Haram strongholds and leadership. Concurrently, the government has also initiated programs aimed at addressing the root causes of the insurgency, including youth unemployment, poverty, and lack of educational opportunities (Ipaye, 2016).

The international community has also played a significant role in addressing the Boko Haram insurgency. International partners, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, have provided military assistance, intelligence support, and humanitarian aid to help Nigeria and its neighbours combat the insurgency and mitigate its impact. Additionally, multilateral organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union have been involved in promoting regional cooperation and addressing the humanitarian consequences of the crisis (UNOCHA, 2021). The Boko Haram insurgency has also raised broader questions about the effectiveness of international counterterrorism efforts in Africa. The group's ability to sustain its operations despite military pressure and the regional dynamics of the conflict have underscored the complexity of addressing security challenges in the region. The insurgency has also prompted debates about the effectiveness of military approaches versus comprehensive strategies that address the underlying grievances and vulnerabilities that fuel extremist groups.

CHAPTER FOUR

NIGERIA'S ROLE IN REGIONAL SECURITY CRISIS IN AFRICA

4.1 Impacts of Nigeria security landscape

As one of Africa's most populous nations and largest economy, Nigeria plays a significant role in shaping regional security dynamics across the continent. However, the country faces numerous security challenges that have wider implications for Africa's security landscape. The impacts of Nigeria's security landscape on Africa as part of its role in regional security crisis in Africa are multifaceted, ranging from the spread of terrorism and violent extremism to the displacement of people and the destabilization of neighbouring countries.

4.1.2 The Spread of Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Nigeria's long-standing struggle with the Boko Haram insurgency has had far-reaching implications for regional security in Africa. The group's activities have extended beyond Nigeria's borders, with neighbouring countries such as Cameroon, Chad, and Niger also experiencing attacks and destabilization as a result of Boko Haram's activities. The Lake Chad region, in particular, has been severely affected by the spill over effects of the insurgency, leading to significant security challenges for the countries in the area (Dempsey, 2019). Boko Haram's links to other terrorist groups, such as the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), have further complicated the security landscape in the region. The group's activities have disrupted trade and economic activities, leading to heightened insecurity and instability across the Sahel and West Africa. Moreover, the spread of violent extremism has resulted in increased levels of radicalization and recruitment, posing a significant threat to peace and security in the region (Yadudu, 2017). Nigeria's efforts to combat Boko Haram and other terrorist groups have also strained its relations with neighbouring countries, as cross-border operations and intelligence sharing have been met with various challenges. The lack of

coordinated regional responses to the insurgency has allowed Boko Haram to exploit porous borders and establish footholds in neighbouring countries, contributing to the overall insecurity in the region (Eze, 2018).

4.1.3 The Displacement of People

The protracted conflict with Boko Haram has led to large-scale displacement within Nigeria and across its borders. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Nigeria has one of the largest internally displaced populations in Africa, with over 2 million people displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency (IDMC, 2021). This displacement has strained the resources and capabilities of neighbouring countries, as well as regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU), which have been tasked with addressing the humanitarian and security challenges posed by the crisis. The influx of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) has placed significant pressure on host communities and has exacerbated social and economic tensions in already fragile environments. The presence of large numbers of displaced people has also heightened the risk of radicalization and recruitment by terrorist groups, leading to a further deterioration of the security situation in the region (UNHCR, 2019).

4.1.4 The Destabilization of Neighbouring Countries

Nigeria's security challenges have had a destabilizing effect on neighbouring countries, particularly those in the Lake Chad region and the Sahel. The spillover effects of the Boko Haram insurgency and the activities of other armed groups have contributed to broader security crises in countries such as Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. These countries have had to contend with the displacement of people, attacks on civilians, and the disruption of economic activities, all of which have strained their capacities to address the security and humanitarian challenges within their borders (Briggs, 2020). The destabilization of neighbouring countries

has also had geopolitical implications for regional security in Africa. The lack of effective regional cooperation and coordination in addressing the security challenges emanating from Nigeria has undermined efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region. Furthermore, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons across Nigeria's borders has fuelled conflicts in neighbouring countries, leading to increased levels of violence and insecurity (Adebowale, 2020). The impacts of Nigeria's security landscape on Africa as part of its role in regional security crisis in Africa are complex and multifaceted. From the spread of terrorism and violent extremism to the displacement of people and the destabilization of neighbouring countries, Nigeria's security challenges have wider implications for regional security in Africa. Addressing these impacts requires a coordinated and comprehensive approach that involves not only Nigeria but also its neighbouring countries and regional and international stakeholders. By addressing the root causes of insecurity and strengthening regional cooperation, Nigeria can play a more constructive role in mitigating the security crisis in Africa and contribute to lasting peace and stability in the region.

4.2 Interventions By Nigeria In Regional Security Crisis

Nigeria has taken an active role in addressing regional security crises in Africa by employing various interventions to address the root causes and consequences of these conflicts. Nigeria's involvement in regional security interventions is driven by its commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the African region as well as protecting its own national interests.

Nigeria's involvement in regional security interventions is underpinned by the principles of collective security and regional cooperation, as enshrined in the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The country has been a key player in the peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts within the region, deploying troops, and contributing to various regional security initiatives. For instance, Nigeria has been actively

involved in peacekeeping missions in countries like Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Mali, demonstrating its commitment to addressing regional security crises. One of the key interventions by Nigeria in regional security crises is its involvement in peacekeeping missions. Nigeria has consistently contributed troops and resources to support peacekeeping efforts in conflict-affected countries within the region. The country's military has been deployed to various peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the United Nations and regional organizations such as ECOWAS. For example, Nigeria played a significant role in the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) mission in Liberia and Sierra Leone during the 1990s, where its troops were instrumental in restoring peace and stability in the two countries (Akande, 2018).

Additionally, Nigeria has been actively involved in peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts in the region. The country has played a key role in mediating conflicts and facilitating peace talks among warring parties. For instance, Nigeria's diplomatic efforts contributed to the resolution of the electoral crisis in the Gambia in 2017, where the country played a pivotal role in brokering a peaceful transfer of power and averting a potential conflict (Adelabu, 2020). Furthermore, Nigeria has been involved in providing humanitarian assistance and support to countries affected by regional security crises. The country has contributed humanitarian aid, including food, medical supplies, and other forms of assistance to populations affected by conflicts within the region. Nigeria's humanitarian interventions have been aimed at alleviating the suffering of civilians, particularly in conflict-affected areas, and addressing the humanitarian consequences of regional security crises.

Nigeria's interventions in regional security crises have also extended to addressing transnational security threats such as terrorism, extremism, and organized crime. The country has been actively involved in counter-terrorism efforts within the region, particularly in combating the activities of Boko Haram, an extremist group that has ravaged parts of Nigeria

and neighbouring countries. Nigeria has collaborated with other countries in the region to address the transnational nature of security threats and has contributed to initiatives aimed at countering terrorism and extremism within the region. The success of Nigeria's interventions in regional security crises can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, Nigeria's military capabilities and experience in peacekeeping have positioned it as a key player in addressing regional security challenges. The country's military has a long history of participating in peacekeeping missions and has demonstrated its capacity to contribute effectively to regional security interventions. Additionally, Nigeria's diplomatic efforts and mediation skills have been crucial in facilitating peace processes and resolving conflicts within the region. The country's ability to leverage its diplomatic influence has contributed to the success of its interventions in regional security crises. Furthermore, Nigeria's role as a regional power and its strategic position within West Africa have enabled it to play a central role in addressing regional security challenges. The country's leadership in regional organizations such as ECOWAS has provided it with the platform to influence and shape regional security initiatives. Nigeria's active engagement with other countries in the region has facilitated cooperation and collaboration in addressing common security threats, thereby contributing to the success of its interventions.

However, Nigeria's interventions in regional security crises have also faced challenges and limitations. One of the key challenges is the resource constraints facing the country, particularly in terms of funding and logistical support for its interventions. Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping missions and other security interventions requires substantial financial and material resources, which have posed challenges for the country, given its economic constraints and competing domestic priorities (Nwolise, 2018). Additionally, Nigeria has faced criticism over the conduct of its military forces in some peacekeeping missions, with allegations of human rights abuses and misconduct, which have tarnished its

image and reputation in regional security interventions (Hanson, 2019). Furthermore, Nigeria's interventions in regional security crises have also raised questions about the country's motivations and interests in its engagement with its neighbours. Some observers have raised concerns about Nigeria's motives in its interventions, suggesting that the country may have pursued its own strategic interests at the expense of regional cooperation and solidarity (Ibikunle, 2017). This has led to diplomatic tensions and suspicions among some countries in the region, which have at times complicated Nigeria's efforts to address regional security challenges.

Nigeria's interventions in regional security crises in Africa have played a significant role in addressing conflicts, supporting peacekeeping efforts, and promoting stability within the region. The country's involvement in peacekeeping missions, peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance, and counter-terrorism initiatives has demonstrated its commitment to addressing regional security challenges. While Nigeria has faced challenges and limitations in its interventions, its active engagement in regional security crises has underscored its role as a key player in promoting peace and stability in Africa. Moving forward, Nigeria should continue to prioritize its role in regional security interventions and address the challenges it faces in order to effectively contribute to peace and stability within the region.

4.3 Positive Impact Of Nigeria's Role In Regional Security Crisis In Africa

Nigeria has been actively involved in peacekeeping operations in various African countries, where its military forces have made significant contributions to the restoration of peace and security. The country has deployed troops to conflict-affected countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Sudan, where they have played crucial roles in maintaining peace and stability. For example, during the Liberian Civil War, Nigeria deployed a peacekeeping force under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), which helped to stabilize the country and pave the way for the resolution of the conflict (Adesoji, 2011). Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations has not only helped to prevent further escalation of conflicts but has also contributed to the protection of civilian populations and the rebuilding of affected societies.

Furthermore, Nigeria has been actively engaged in diplomatic efforts to resolve regional security crises in Africa. The country has played a key role in mediating conflicts and facilitating peace talks in countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea-Bissau. Nigeria has used its diplomatic clout and influence to broker peace agreements and encourage dialogue between warring factions, thereby contributing to the resolution of regional conflicts. For instance, Nigeria facilitated the peace process that led to the end of the Sierra Leonean Civil War, demonstrating its capacity to influence regional stability through diplomatic channels (Emuze, 2020). By leveraging its diplomatic relationships and regional influence, Nigeria has been able to play a constructive role in resolving regional security crises and promoting peace in Africa.

Moreover, Nigeria's contributions to regional security have also been evident in its efforts to combat transnational security threats such as terrorism, piracy, and organized crime. Nigeria has been at the forefront of regional efforts to combat Boko Haram, an extremist group that has posed a significant security threat in the West African region. Through its military operations and cooperation with neighbouring countries, Nigeria has made substantial progress in addressing the Boko Haram insurgency and reducing the group's capacity to carry out attacks. Additionally, Nigeria has also been actively involved in regional maritime security initiatives aimed at combating piracy and securing the Gulf of Guinea, which is a critical maritime transportation route (Okorie, 2019). Nigeria's proactive approach to combating transnational security threats has contributed to enhancing regional security and stability.

Furthermore, Nigeria has demonstrated its commitment to regional security by actively participating in regional security organizations and initiatives. The country has been a key member of regional bodies such as ECOWAS and the African Union (AU), where it has played a leading role in shaping regional security policies and responding to security challenges. Nigeria's participation in regional security initiatives has enabled the country to collaborate with other African countries in addressing shared security concerns and fostering cooperation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. For example, Nigeria has been instrumental in the deployment of peacekeeping missions under the auspices of ECOWAS and the AU, reflecting its commitment to regional security cooperation (Agbibo, 2014).

4.4 Negative Effect

One of the most significant negative impacts of Nigeria's role in regional security crises in Africa is the exacerbation of instability in the region. Nigeria has been involved in several conflicts in West Africa, including the civil war in Liberia, the civil war in Sierra Leone, and the conflict in Mali. The country's involvement in these conflicts has contributed to the prolongation of instability in the region. For example, Nigeria's support for various factions in the Liberian civil war prolonged the conflict and contributed to the suffering of civilians in the country. Similarly, Nigeria's intervention in the conflict in Mali has been criticized for exacerbating the violence and instability in the country. These interventions have had a detrimental impact on the security and stability of the region, making it difficult for affected countries to recover and rebuild (Adeniran, 2016). Nigeria's involvement in regional security crises has also led to increased human rights abuses in the region. In many instances, Nigerian troops have been accused of committing human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and sexual violence, while participating in regional peacekeeping operations. For example, Nigerian peacekeepers deployed to Liberia and Sierra

Leone during their respective civil wars were accused of committing human rights abuses against civilians. These allegations have damaged Nigeria's reputation as a regional peacemaker and have undermined the legitimacy of its interventions in regional conflicts. Additionally, the perpetration of human rights abuses by Nigerian forces in these conflicts has further contributed to the suffering of civilians and undermined efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region (Staniland, 2017).

Furthermore, Nigeria's involvement in regional security crises has fostered terrorism and insurgency in the region. Nigeria has been grappling with the Boko Haram insurgency for over a decade, and the group has expanded its operations to neighbouring countries, such as Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. Nigeria's inability to effectively address the Boko Haram insurgency has allowed the group to establish a presence in the neighbouring countries, destabilizing the entire region. In addition, Nigeria's military interventions in regional conflicts have created opportunities for terrorist groups to gain a foothold in the region. For example, the presence of Nigerian forces in Mali has been exploited by jihadist groups to launch attacks and expand their influence in the region. This has further complicated the security situation and has contributed to the spread of terrorism and insurgency in West Africa (Oshita, & Ahire, 2019).

Moreover, Nigeria's involvement in regional security crises has strained its resources and diverted attention from addressing domestic challenges. The country has dedicated significant military and financial resources to its interventions in regional conflicts, which has strained its armed forces and depleted its defence budget. This has had a negative impact on Nigeria's ability to address domestic security challenges, such as the Boko Haram insurgency and communal conflicts. Additionally, Nigeria's involvement in regional security crises has diverted attention from addressing other pressing issues, such as poverty, unemployment, and corruption, which are critical for the country's development and stability (Fawole, 2018).

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1. Summary

Given how interconnected the world is becoming, regional security is now a top priority for all countries. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyberattacks, and terrorism are examples of transnational threats that have had a substantial influence on foreign policy decisions made by nations, including Nigeria. Studying how regional security affects Nigeria's foreign policy is important because it clarifies how a growing country like Nigeria handles the intricate web of difficulties related to regional security. The research provides a comprehensive overview of the historical context of the influence of regional security crises on Nigeria's foreign policy with the use of secondary data, highlighting the diverse array of set of security crisis that have plagued the continent over the years. The study from the theoretical perspective of Collective security. In the case of Nigeria, being a country within the West African region, the impact of regional security on its foreign policy is significant. Nigeria's foreign policy is influenced by the security dynamics in the region, including conflicts, spillover effects, and the need to protect its national interests. The research further delved into an overview of regional security crisis in Africa, from militancy in the Sahel region, the South Sudan conflict, Congo Conflict, Al-Shabab in Somalia and The Horn of Africa, and the Insurgency and Conflict in Libya and The Violent Extremism in The Lake Chad. Into the final stages of the study concludes that Nigeria's role in regional security crisis in Africa is deep positively and negatively from the spread of terrorism and violent extremism to the displacement of people, the destabilisation of foreign countries.

5.2 Conclusion

Nigeria's size, population, and economic potential make it an important participant in regional affairs. The nation's foreign policy stance has been affected by worries about regional security throughout its history. Therefore, a critical area of research that necessitates in-depth consideration is how Nigeria's foreign policy is affected by regional security. The analysis focuses on how Nigeria has responded to transnational threats and participated in regional peacekeeping missions. Numerous variables, such as Nigeria's colonial background, its diverse population, and its economic and geopolitical interests, have historically shaped its foreign policy. Nigeria has aimed to establish itself as a leader in Africa and a supporter of peace and stability in the continent and beyond since obtaining independence from Britain in 1960 (Roache, 2021). Consequently, the nation's aim to further regional integration, safeguard its economic interests, and bolster regional security has influenced its foreign policy. Nigeria, having the largest economy and one of the continent's most populous countries, is a major influence on the dynamics of regional security throughout the continent. But the nation is confronted with a host of security issues that affect the security environment in Africa more broadly. Nigeria's involvement in the regional security issue in Africa has had a variety of effects on the continent's security environment, from the rise of violent extremism and terrorism to population relocation and the instability of neighbouring nations. Nigeria's participation in regional security initiatives has enabled the country to collaborate with other African countries in addressing shared security concerns and fostering cooperation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. Additionally, Nigeria's involvement in regional security crises has diverted attention from addressing other pressing issues, such as poverty, unemployment, and corruption, which are critical for the country's development and stability.

5.3 Recommendations

The regional security crisis in Nigeria significantly impacts its foreign policy. To mitigate this influence, the following solutions and recommendations are to be considered:

1. **Regional Cooperation:** Strengthen partnerships with neighbouring countries to address shared security concerns, such as Boko Haram and terrorism.
2. **Diplomatic Engagement:** Enhance diplomatic efforts to build alliances and collaborations with regional and international organizations to address security challenges.
3. **Economic Development:** Focus on economic development and poverty reduction to address the root causes of insecurity and instability.
4. **Security Sector Reform:** Reform and strengthen Nigeria's security sector to improve its effectiveness and accountability.
5. **Conflict Prevention:** Implement conflict prevention and early warning mechanisms to address potential security threats before they escalate.
6. **International Support:** Seek support from international organizations and partners to address security challenges and build capacity.
7. **Regional Integration:** Promote regional integration and cooperation through organizations like ECOWAS to address shared security concerns.
8. **Dialogue and Mediation:** Engage in dialogue and mediation efforts to resolve conflicts and address security concerns in the region.
9. **Capacity Building:** Build capacity for security sector personnel and institutions to address security challenges effectively.

10. Human Rights: Ensure that security efforts respect human rights and the rule of law to maintain legitimacy and credibility.

By implementing these solutions, Nigeria can effectively address the influence of regional security crises on its foreign policy and promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

REFERENCES

- Abegunrin, O. (2007). Security and development in West Africa: Perspectives from Nigeria. *Africa and the New Globalization*, 2(3).
- Abisiga, F. (2021). The African Union's approach to peace and security in Libya. *Africa Insight*, 43(1).
- Acharya, A. (2009). *Whose ideas matter? Agency and power in Asian regionalism*. Cornell University Press.
- Acton, J., and Lim, B. (2016). Preventing nuclear proliferation through regional arms control. *Survival*, 58(3).
- Adebowale, S. A. (2020). Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation in Nigeria: Implications for Regional Security. *Strategic Analysis*, 44(5), 482-493. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09700161.2020.1818330>
- Adedeji, A. (2015). Nigeria's Foreign Relations: Issues and Challenges. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 9(2).
- Ade-Ibijola, O. A. (2016). Overview of National Interest, Continuities and Flaws in Nigeria Foreign Policy. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 3 (1).
- Adeniran, T. (2012). Foreign Policy, External Image and International Relations in Sam Oyovbaire (ed.) *Governance and Politics in Nigeria: The IBB and OBJ Years*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.
- Adesoji, A. (2012). Regional hegemony and Nigeria's foreign policy. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 30(3).
- Agba E (2015). 'Terrorism in the 21st Century: An Analysis of the Threat to Human Existence', *African Journal of Politics and Diplomacy (AJPD)*, Vol. 1, No. 1.
- Agba, E. and Olufunmilade, F (2020). 'U.S Counter-Terrorism Strategies and The Decimation of Al-Qaeda: Lessons for Nigeria's War on Terror', *Perspectives on Boko Haram Insurgency*. Okada: Buratai Center for Contemporary Security Affairs (BCCSA). ISBN: 978-978-947-060-2
- Agba, E and Olufunmilade, F (2020). *An Introduction to Conflict and Peace Studies*. Abuja: Cephas Printing Press. ISSN:978-978-947-060-2
- Akande, N. (2018). Nigeria's Role in ECOWAS and African Peacekeeping: Progress, Challenges, and Prospects. *Journal of African Peace and Security*.
- Akinboye S.O. (2013). Nigeria's Foreign Policy. In R. Anifowose and F. Enemou (eds.) *Elements of Politics*. Lagos: Malthouse

- Akindele, R. A. (2017). Nigeria's foreign policy and security challenges in the 21st century. In A. Imobighe & Z. Okunlola (Eds.), *Nigeria's national security: Issues, challenges, and prospects* (pp. 73-90). Ibadan: University of Ibadan Press.
- Akinterinwa, B. (2016). *Nigerian foreign policy: Underpinnings, basic elements, and strategic framework*. Ibadan: University Press PLC.
- Akinyemi, A. (2016). Boko Haram: Fighting insurgency. *Africa Security Brief*, 32.
- Aning, K. (2007). Nigeria's Security Policy and the Democratic Experience. *African Security Review*, 16(2).
- Aning, K. (2013). Nigeria and West Africa in the international system: Challenges, prospects and responses. In B. F. Ibitoye & B. F. Abubakar (Eds.), *Nigeria's foreign policy thrust under civilian rule, 1999-2007* (pp. 134-151). African Books Collective.
- Autesserre, S. (2012). *The Trouble with the Congo: Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding*. Cambridge University Press.
- Barika, N. L. (2014). Nigerian Foreign Policy from 1960-2015: Implications for Present and Future Leaders. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 19.
- Blanchard, L. (2019). Islamic State in Libya dwindles under pressure, but remains a threat. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/29/world/africa/islamic-state-libya.html>
- Briggs, D. (2020). Understanding Nigeria's Boko Haram Crisis. *African Security*, 13(2), 155-176. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19392206.2020.1743484>
- Buszynski, L. (2013). Territorial Disputes and Geopolitical Tensions in East Asia. *Security Challenges*, 9(3).
- Buzan, B., & Weaver, O. (2009). *Regions and powers: The structure of international security*. Cambridge University Press.
- Carter, C., & Scott, E. (2017). The Role of Foreign Policy in Addressing Regional Security Challenges. *International Studies Perspectives*, 18(4).
- Casarini, N. (2016). Territorial Disputes and Regional Security in the Asia-Pacific. In P. Weber (Ed.), *Spatializing International Politics: Analysing Activist Geopolitics* (pp. 93-113). Routledge.
- Chappell, B. (2018). How a power grid was hacked. Retrieved from <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/03/16/593641153/how-a-power-grid-was-hacked>
- Chatham House. (2020). *Addressing corruption risks in fragility and conflict: The case of the Sahel*. Chatham House.
- Cook, D., & Vale, J. (Eds.). (2018). *Understanding Boko Haram: Terrorism and insurgency in Africa*. Routledge.

- De Mesquita, B. (2015). What to do in Libya. *Foreign Affairs*, 94(6).
- Dempsey, P. S. (2019). Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin: The Shifting Terrain of Conflict. *African Security*, 12(2), 100-125. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19392206.2019.1614922>
- Duffy, H. (2012). The regional war on terror: Africa and the Middle East. *Journal of the Middle East and Africa*, 3(2).
- Duruji, M. M. (2016). Boko Haram and terrorism in West Africa. In A. O. Edoja (Ed.), *West Africa and the politics of security* (pp. 105-119). Palgrave Macmillan.
- EISA. (2016). The Conflict in South Sudan: A Comprehensive Review. <https://www.eisa.org/pdf/EISAConSouthSudan.pdf>
- Eze, K. C. (2018). Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: Security Implications for the West African Sub-Region. *Conference Proceedings: African and Western Security Strategies*, 224-243. <https://doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.76103>
- Eze, O. C. (2010). Interrogating Nigeria's Interest. In O. C. Eze (ed.), *Beyond 50 years of Nigeria's Foreign Policy: Issues, Challenges and Prospects*, Victoria Island. *The Nigerian Institute of International Affairs*, 79-92
- Fafowora, O. (2018). Nigerian foreign policy: Alternative futures. In A. Agbu (Ed.), *Nigeria's foreign policy alternative futures* (pp. 1-19). Lagos: Starling Publication.
- Fazal, T. M., & Griffiths, R. (2015). The Geopolitical Consequences of Territorial Disputes. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 59(7).
- Ferguson, N. M., & Cummings, D. A. (2008). Mathematical models to guide pandemic response. *Science*, 324(5934).
- Foucault, M., & Sennett, R. (1999). *Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison*. Vintage.
- Frankel, J. (1963). *The making of foreign policy*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Friedman, T. (1996). *The lexis and the olive tree: Understanding globalization*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Garrett, L. (2007). The next pandemic?. *Foreign Aff.*, 86, 3.
- Gerges, F. A. (2017). *The New Middle East: Protest and Revolution in the Arab World*. Cambridge University Press.
- Glennon, M. J. (1994). Limits of collective security. *The Harvard International Law Journal*, 35(2).
- Greenaway, C., & Castelli, F. (2021). Infectious Diseases and Regionalization. In *Regional Environmental Health*. Springer, Cham.

- Hanson, S. (2019). *Nigeria and the Politics of Regional Power: Decentering Africa's Regional Powers*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Heymann, D. L., & Shindo, N. (2020). COVID-19: what is next for public health? *The Lancet*, 395(10224).
- Horgan, J. (2009). *Walking Away from Terrorism: Accounts of Disengagement from Radical and Extremist Movements*. Routledge.
- Ibikunle, O. F. (2017). Critiquing Nigeria's Foreign Policy in West Africa: The ECOWAS Quest and the Challenges of Leadership. *American Journal of Social Science Research*, 3(4), 281-290.
- IDMC. (2021). Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. Nigeria: Over 2 million still displaced by insurgency, related violence. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria>
- Ihonvbere, J. (2000). The quest for democratic governance in Africa: Nigeria's needs for a foreign policy paradigm shift. *African Studies Quarterly*, 4(4).
- Jenkins, B. (2012). The future of terrorism: What al-Qaida really wants. *Foreign Affairs*, 87(4).
- Jolley, J. D. (2017). Attribution, state responsibility, and the duty to prevent malicious cyber-attacks in international law. *State Responsibility, and the Duty to Prevent Malicious Cyber-Attacks in International Law (October 21, 2017)*.
- Kaduki, B. B. (2020). *The Role of Individual Member-states in Sub-regional Organizations Conflict Management: a Case of Kenya in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Nairobi).
- Kelley, J. (2018). Ethnic politics and European regional security coordination. *Security Studies*, 27(4).
- LaFree, G. (2017). *Countering Terrorism*. Brookings Institution Press.
- LeRiche, M., & Arnold, M. (2016). *South Sudan: From Revolution to Independence*. Oxford University Press.
- Libicki, M. C. (2009). *Cyberdeterrence and cyberwar*. RAND Corporation.
- Lobregat, R., & Buchy, P. (2015). Al-Shabab in Somalia: The History and Rise of the AQ Ally. *Small Wars Journal*, 11(1).
- Maier Tolic, G. M. (2023). *The Status of Nuclear Weapons under International Law*.
- McKenna, C. (2022). *Will cyber war happen? Conceptualising cyber warfare as acts of war* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Birmingham).
- Menkhaus, K. (2007). Somalia: State Collapse and the Threat of Terrorism. *Adelphi Papers*, 47(384).

- Metz, H. C. (2016). *The roots of instability in Mali: Malaise, migration and militant Islam*. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College.
- Mingst, K. A., & Karns, M. (2016). *The United Nations in the 21st Century*. Westview Press.
- Morgenthau, H. J. (1948). *Politics among nations: The struggle for power and peace*. Knopf.
- Nwankwo, O. (2018). Shifting the Paradigm in Nigeria's Foreign Policy: Goodluck Jonathan and Nigeria's vision 20:2020. *Social Sciences, Science Publishing Group 2*.
- Nwolise, O. B. (2018). *Nigeria's Military Engagement in Africa's Security Issues*. Munich: GRIN Verlag.
- Nye, J. S. (2006). *Understanding international conflicts: An introduction to theory and history*. Longman.
- OCHA. (2021). *Sahel crisis: 11 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance*. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
- Okoli, O. (2018). Regional Security Issues and Nigeria's Foreign Policy: An Appraisal. *Journal of Political Studies and International Relations*, 12(1).
- Okpokpo, E. (1999). The Challenges Facing Nigeria's Foreign Policy in the Next Millenium 3(2): 4.
- Olaniyi, J. O. (2015). Nigeria's foreign policy under military rule: The Abacha period. *Africa Development*, 40(2).
- Olusanya G.O. (2012). The Fundamentals of Nigeria's Foreign Policy and External Economic Relations. In *Nigeria's External Relations: The First Twenty-five Years*, Olusanya & Akindele (ed) Ibadan: University Press Ltd.
- Omoweh, D. O. (2017). The Boko Haram insurgency and its impact on Nigeria's internal security. *Journal of International and Global Economic Studies*, 10(1).
- Onuoha, F. (2017). Responding to Nigeria's Boko Haram crisis: Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and vigilante groups. *Africa Security Brief*, (34).
- Ota, E. N., and Ecoma, C. S. (2016). Nigerian Foreign Policy and the Democratic Experiment: The Lessons of History and Options for the 21st Century. *International Journal of Applied and Advanced Scientific Research (IJAASR)*, 1 (1)
- Ozi, E. N. (2015). Maritime piracy and security challenges in the Gulf of Guinea. *Institute of African Studies Research Review*, 31(1).
- Pérez-Ruiz, A., & Rivarola Puntigliano, A. (2016). Geopolitical tensions and the shifting balance in Asia-Pacific: a return to classic geopolitics. *Journal of China and International Relations*, 4(1).
- Pham, P. J. (2016). Somalia: A Government at War with Itself. *World Affairs*, 179(3).

- Rapp-Hooper, M. (2016). The problem with nuclear weapons? *Nuclear security. Survival*, 58(3).
- Rid, T., & Buchanan, B. (2015). Attributing cyber-attacks. *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 38(1-2).
- Rolandsen, Ø. H., & Kindersley, N. (2017). South Sudan: A political economy analysis. *Norwegian Institute of international affairs*, 5.
- Rosenau, W. (2020). Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram: Recruitment Strategies and the Myth of Exceptionalism. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 43(5).
- Sagan, S. D. (2010). The spread of nuclear weapons: An enduring debate. *International Security*, 34(1).
- Şahin, S. (2023). Conflict Management Capacity of ASEAN in the Context of Regional Peace and Security: An Evaluation on Its Normative and Institutional Power. *Turkish Studies-Economics, Finance, Politics*, 18(3).
- Schmid, A. P. (2012). *The Routledge Handbook of Terrorism Research*. Routledge.
- Snidal, D. (1991). Relative gains and the pattern of international cooperation. *The American Political Science Review*, 85(3).
- Solingen, E. (2017). Regional security and foreign policy in the post-Cold War era. *The Oxford Handbook of International Security*. Oxford University Press.
- Tull, D. M. (2006). *U.S. Foreign Policy and the Democratic Republic of the Congo: From Mobutu to Kabila*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Uğur, G. (2016). Geopolitics and territorial disputes in the Middle East. *Perceptions*, 21(2).
- Ukwuije, C. (2015). Reflections on Nigerian Foreign Policy Posture Under Musa Yar'Adua and Goodluck Jonathan on National Progress and International Relations. *International Policy Brief Series*, 5 (1)..
- UNDP. (2016). *Journey to extremism in Africa: Drivers, incentives and the tipping point for recruitment*. United Nations Development Programme.
- UNDP. (2020). *Lake Chad Basin: Annual Report 2020*. United Nations Development Programme. Retrieved from <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/development-impact/the-lake-chad-basin-annual-report-2020.html>
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2015). *Terrorism prevention*. Retrieved from <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/terrorism-prevention.html>
- UNHCR. (2019). *UNHCR Global Appeal 2020 - Nigeria*. <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/nigeria.html>

- UN News. (2017). Boko Haram insurgency, more than nine years on. Retrieved from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/05/557932-boko-haram-insurgency-more-nine-years>.
- UNOCHA. (2020). Lake Chad Basin: Humanitarian Overview 2020. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Retrieved from <https://www.unocha.org/nigeria/about-ocha-nigeria/lake-chad-basin-humanitarian-overview-2020>
- UNODC. (2018). Preventing violent extremism in the Sahel. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Retrieved from https://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/Publications/UNODC_Sahel_Report_2018_web.pdf
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2021). Nigeria: Boko Haram crisis. Retrieved from <https://www.unocha.org/nigeria/about-us/north-east-nigeria>.
- UNSC. (2020). Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali. United Nations Security Council.
- Vlassenroot, K., & Raeymaekers, T. (2006). Conflict and Social Transformation in Eastern DR Congo. Ghent: Academia Press.
- Wachilu, A. M. (2019). *The Impact Of Ethnic Conflict On International Trade: A Case Of Kenya-south Sudan, 2011-2017* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Nairobi).
- Waltz, K. (1979). Theory of international politics. Addison-Wesley.
- Weigert, S. L. (Ed.). (2001). The Democratic Republic of Congo: Economic Dimensions of War and Peace. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Wilson, K. (2016). Al-Shabab in Somalia: The History and Ideology of a Militant Islamist Group, 2005-2012. Oxford University Press.
- Yaacob, N. A., Yusof, M. I., Nurudin, S. M., Zain, Z. M., & Mustapa, N. A. (2022). Recognizing ASEAN Nations' Realization and Commitment to the Issues of Non-Traditional Security (NTS). *Journal of Business & Economics Review (JBER)*, 7(2).
- Yadudu, B. (2017). Boko Haram Insurgency: Combating Terrorism in Nigeria and the Wider Sahel Region. *African Security*, 10(4), 295-316. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19392206.2017.1374226>
- Zetter, K. (2014). Countdown to Zero Day: Stuxnet and the launch of the world's first digital weapon. Crown.

