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*Book Review*

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# EXPLORING SUICIDE TERRORISM AND ITS THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

PHILIP ATTUQUAYEFIO\*

## ABSTRACT

Suicide Terrorism as a phenomenon dates back to the biblical Sampson and his destruction of the Philistine temple. Modern expressions of the phenomenon are however traceable to the 1972 attack at the LOD Airport in Tel Aviv where a member of the Red Army Organisation blew himself up, killing and wounding several people. The popularity of the phenomenon received a great boost by events of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks against the United States of America (USA). Since then, the international community has witnessed many more of such attacks than had occurred previously. With the popularity of the phenomenon and the continued presence of some of the issues that motivate such attacks, there is no gainsaying that the International Community will continue to witness such attacks. This article attempts to examine the phenomenon of suicide terrorism and the threat it poses to international security. In doing this, it attempts an examination of the concept of suicide terrorism and the motivations or rationale for the phenomenon. In particular, it attempts an explanation of why efforts at managing the phenomenon have not achieved much. The central argument in this regard is that the international community has failed to manage the phenomenon successfully because of certain misconceptions that have influenced strategies developed to deal with the phenomenon. Consequently, such strategies have rather than quell the incidence of suicide attacks, provoked a cycle of retributive actions that in themselves constitute suicide terrorism. It concludes by calling for the deemphasis of harsh military tactics in addressing the phenomenon. In its place, it proposes a transformational approach that utilises both combative and non-

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# THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS): THE SEARCH FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE<sup>1</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a body originally set up to promote economic integration of West African States, has over the past one and half decades been forced to assume two new tasks of managing conflict and promoting democratic governance. Against a brief historical sketch of ECOWAS, this article examines how well or badly the Community has performed in its assumed roles of conflict management and democratic governance. The manner in which the new roles have affected the original ECOWAS objective of regional integration is carefully examined as well. It concludes by outlining the way forward for ECOWAS.

## Introduction

May 2005 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and a three-decade milestone is an important point to pause for reflection. While there may be much to be grateful for, there are many more things to deplore and to correct. In its first fifteen years ECOWAS, like the rest of the world, lived in the shadow of Cold War politics and since then it has experienced the exacerbating effects of violence and conflicts rendering it unable to fulfill its core mission of socio-economic development. Today, ECOWAS is better known for conflict management than regional economic integration. Perhaps, less well known

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# ETHNICITY, ETHNO-CENTRISM, AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN GHANA

KUMI ANSAH KOI\*

## ABSTRACT

The present paper notes the salience and diverse manifestations of ethnicity in Ghana's national affairs; and discusses the implications and dilemma posed by ethnicity for national security and security machinations in the country.

## Introduction

Ethnicity continues to constitute a prime factor and a very important variable in issues of security, even in this epoch of intense globalization and increasing cosmopolitanism when this huge world of ours and its teeming population are commonly said to be in a 'Global Village.'

Neither globalization nor the increasing cosmopolitanism and urbanization of contemporary times have really dulled or actually negated the salience of ethnicity in issues pertaining to security in its various nuances. The increasing emergence, all over, of ethnically - diverse, multi-cultural, communities and groupings in recent times have also not succeeded in playing down the great significance of ethnicity in contemporary life.

Ethnic issues, ethnic considerations, and ethnic realities are very much a part of the complex cause, just as they are of the intricate manifestation, of the mess offered by present-day Iraq, Cote d'Ivoire, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Ethnicity was at the base of the Balkan Crises that culminated in the collapse of the former Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, just as it was monumentally significant in the dissolution of the great Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Ethnic identities and ethnic

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# A DECADE OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN GHANA: THE QUEST FOR INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

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## ABSTRACT

Undoubtedly, Ghana has made tremendous strides in its drive towards democratic maturity. Nevertheless, several nagging issues of institutional ineffectiveness persist. This paper draws attention to critical institutional deficiencies that holds back Ghana's efforts at building a durable democracy. The paper argues that the effectiveness of the functioning of key state and non-state institutions including the legislature, the judiciary, and the bureaucracy are critical for deepening and consolidating democracy. This view ties with the general consensus that the deficiencies of Africa's new legislatures are a major source of the shortcomings of democratic reforms. The paper utilizes a variety of data to demonstrate that the difficulty in achieving the goal of building a robust economy and democracy is due to nagging problems of institutional ineffectiveness that persist under Ghana's neoliberal reforms. Thus, the important agenda for the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) promoting the liberal reforms as well as national policymakers eager to improve their economies, should be that of building credible institutions.

## Introduction

The Ghanaian state, like many post-independence states in Africa, has undergone various cycles of political transformation in an attempt to establish an effective and durable political order that assures the effective deliverance of the basic needs of its society and polity. In these cycles various approaches have been followed, some based on the particular goals

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# THE CHALLENGE OF FULANI PASTORALISM IN GHANA

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## ABSTRACT

This paper examines the acrimonious relationship and the fierce contest between settler farmers and Fulani herdsmen for the vast agricultural resources of the Afram Plains. The complex relationship between farmers, herdsmen, landowners and chiefs in the area as well as the conflicting interests of the various parties are examined in detail. Using unstructured interviews and focus group discussions held in five communities within the Afram Plains, the paper also analyses attempts by the district and national authorities to control the activities of the herdsmen and thus curb the increasingly violent clashes between farmers and herdsmen in the area. These attempts by the Ghanaian authorities to come to terms with the challenge of Fulani pastoralism is placed within the context of the ongoing migration of Fulani herdsmen from the Sahelian countries to the savannah-forest transitional zone in West Africa. Finally, the paper accounts for the inability of the local authorities and national governments to resolve farmer-herder conflicts and examines calls for a supranational body, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to assist resolve the farmer-herder impasse.

## Introduction

Fulani pastoralists have been living in Ghana on a temporary or permanent basis for more than a century. With the exception of those in the Accra Plains, most of them are to be found in the northern parts of the country where they have settled amongst the indigenous population. Besides the cultivation of crops (mainly maize) during the rainy season, they manage their own livestock (particularly cattle) herds as well as those of the host population. It is this ability to establish reciprocal economic relations with

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# ENERGY ALTERNATIVES FOR RURAL AREAS IN GHANA

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## ABSTRACT

Energy is a vital part of life both in the urban or rural areas. It is an essential input into the socio-economic development of any country. It is a requirement for the successful development of industrial, agricultural and commercial enterprises as well as household activities. Most debates and discussions on energy issues have been centered on oil, gas, coal and electricity. These discussions tend to lose sight of the fact that for the vast majority of people living in rural areas the energy problems are entirely different because of the level of poverty of the rural populations. On account of dwindling supplies of fuel wood and the commercialization of traditional fuels like firewood, securing adequate energy supply at a cost that is affordable has become more and more difficult. The inability of rural populations to pay for the use of the commercial forms of energy is one of the major reasons that has retarded their socio-economic development since energy is a necessary ingredient for such development. This paper discusses alternative energy sources that rural communities could use in solving their energy problems.

## The Search for Renewable Sources of Energy

The energy crisis of the mid-1970's, with the resultant rise in oil prices was one of the main factors that prompted the convening of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Nairobi, Kenya in August 1981. The main objective of that conference was to promote the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy.

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