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# HARMONISING MARITIME POLICIES FOR SUB-REGIONAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF WEST AFRICA

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## Abstract

Accounting for about eighty percent in value terms and ninety percent in volume terms of international trade, maritime transport is undoubtedly, the wheel of international trade which in turn, fuels national development. Beginning from the early eighties, policy advocates within the maritime industry initiated calls for some form of international co-operation in the industry. While some regions have adopted such measures to remarkable levels, others have not. This paper makes a case for harmonising maritime policies in West Africa. It notes that apart from current trends in the international maritime industry which suggest a high level of international co-operation, other prospects, make a strong case for a harmonised maritime policy in the West African sub-region. Thus, the main objective of this paper is to present the prospects for harmonizing maritime policies in West Africa and how they augment sub-regional trade and economic development. In this regard the paper suggests that reduction in cost of maritime transport, effective implementation of International Maritime Conventions and facilitation of transit-traffic among others, all bear potential for augmenting sub-regional trade and economic development. It concludes by calling on West African States to de-emphasize concerns of national sovereignty and in its place, show unprecedented political will towards maritime policy harmonisation in West Africa.

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# THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE: AN ASSESSMENT

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## ABSTRACT\*

The African Union now has a draft Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance which intends to help consolidate democratic culture on the African continent. This article examines the draft Charter, its essential provisions and assesses its potentials and weaknesses with particular reference to term limits and political succession.

## Introduction

In July 2006, at its meeting in Banjul, Gambia, the AU failed to adopt the Draft African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance raising concerns about the AU's commitment to democracy and good governance.

The Draft Charter calls for elections to be organized by independent commissions and pledged signatories to eliminate discrimination and human rights abuses.<sup>1</sup> More significantly, it seeks to discourage unconstitutional changes in government and banning of incumbent presidents from extending their term limits through changing their national constitutions. In effect, the Draft Charter is supposed to make it easier for power to change hands through the ballot box.<sup>2</sup> However, AU ministers meeting ahead of the summit removed the Draft Charter from the agenda for lack of consensus on the very clause on presidential term limits.<sup>3</sup> But in the context

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# DANCING AROUND THE FIRE: THE PRIVATE DIVIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IN ARMED- AND POST- ARMED CONFLICT SITUATIONS

LINDA DARKWA\*

## ABSTRACT

There is no contention on the need to protect women as one of the vulnerable groups in times of armed-conflict. What is still unclear is the question of how far the state or the Protecting Agency may go in protecting these rights. Although the public/private divide categorization is presented and debated in many discourses, it is hardly heard in the area of women's rights protection in armed conflict. Yet, it is impossible to pretend that this classification is inapplicable in times of armed conflicts.

I argue that although the public/private divide is an artificial construct, malleable to the mutable dynamics of historical time and space, it is nevertheless an important phenomenon which needs to be acknowledged, unpacked and analysed to determine its impact or otherwise on all human behaviour. Therefore to have effective protection of women's rights in armed conflicts, it is imperative to ensure that the constituents of the two divides are appropriated correctly.

Although the twenty first century has seen tremendous improvement in the promotion and protection of women's rights in armed conflicts, this has not transcended into all areas of women's rights. Efforts at protecting women's rights have not taken the new and peculiar challenges presented to women in contemporary armed conflicts into account. Thus attempts at promoting and protecting the rights of women have not taken these challenges into account.

I posit that the new dynamics that arise during armed conflicts and often become part of the power structure in post armed conflict situations necessitates a rethinking, redefinition and re-conceptualisation of the public/private divide in times of armed conflict. The emergence of new rules and roles in

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# THE SOUTH-EAST ASIAN TSUNAMI DISASTER OF 2004: LESSONS AND TRAINING NEEDS OF THE NIGERIAN ARMED-FORCES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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## ABSTRACT

Disasters, especially those of the magnitude of the Tsunami waves that devastated some South-east Asian countries on December 26, 2004 are a serious security problem. Security, in this sense, includes anything that has to do with the protection of human lives. Two major security-related questions are posed in this paper: [1] what role should the Nigerian military have played in managing the kind of complex humanitarian crises stirred up by the Tsunami disaster? [2] How would the \*military have protected its identity and national security in such moments of complex humanitarian emergencies? In answering these questions the paper compares and contrasts how the national army of the countries affected by Tsunami [assisted by some foreign troops] managed the disaster and how the Nigerian army responded to the disasters caused by the 2002 Ikeja Cantonment bomb explosions in Lagos, Nigeria. The latter also makes it necessary to critically review the effectiveness of the existing relationship between the Nigerian military and the National Emergency Management Agency of Nigeria [NEMA]. Issues pertaining to security sector reforms and training are given due attention towards the end of the paper.

## Introduction

The work of the military is generally assumed to be limited to fighting battles. Current trends around the world, however, show that the military play important roles in humanitarian intervention. The few people that have written on the role of the military in humanitarian intervention,

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# ISLAM IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: FROM THE FLIGHT FROM MECCA IN THE SEVENTH CENTURY TO THE CURRENT QUAGMIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IRAQ

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## ABSTRACT

The present study discusses the roots, nature, nuances, objectives and concerns of Islamic activist involvement in contemporary global affairs. It falls on Huntington's notion of an on-going 'clash of culture and civilizations' for its theoretical and conceptual underpinnings and framework. It concludes that disruptive and unwelcome aspects of Islamic political activism in the contemporary era, such as the September 11, 2001 anti-American terrorist attacks and the current mess in Iraq and the Middle East, take their roots from complex historical inequities dating from the past and can be successfully addressed not merely through vigilance and tightened security but only if justice, equity, sensibilities, and sensitivities are taken into account on all sides.

## Introduction

Francis Fukuyama, in his epoch-marking study of the abrupt and swift transition into the post-Cold War era, sweepingly concluded that mankind had, by that transition, reached the 'end of history' in the Hegelian sense, and in the process practically ensured the demise of ideological posturing and ideology-based conflicts and confrontations.<sup>1</sup>

Following in the example of G W F Hegel<sup>2</sup> and Francis Fukuyama's<sup>3</sup> separate over-arching studies of epochs and their essential features and ultimate significance in point of time, Samuel P Huntington (in a project on 'The Changing Security Environment and American National Interest) provocatively asserts that with the emergence of the on-going post-Cold War era, global politics and power-play have now entered into a new

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# IN PURSUIT OF A UNION OF AFRICAN STATES: THE STATE SYSTEM AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION IN AFRICA

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## ABSTRACT

The work appraises the challenges and difficulties that the continent grapples with to achieve what one of Africa's renowned leaders, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah called a Union of African States. It traces the genesis of this process from the decade of African independence in the 1960s, which resulted in the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). It reflects on the role of that organization in the emancipation struggle, the transformation of the OAU into the current African Union (AU) and the institutional dilemmas that the new organization has to confront, primarily the issues of sovereignty and supranationalism. As a solution, the study recommends a functionalist approach that blends the institutional and technocratic resources available to the continent for deliverable results in the effort at continental unity and integration.

## Introduction

A recurrent theme in the works of African scholars on one hand<sup>1</sup>, and political elites on the other,<sup>2</sup> regarding continental unity is the issue of a united Africa that is economically and politically integrated. This pan-Africanist ideal or thinking has, to a large extent, re-emerged since the institutional transformation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union, beginning with the adoption of a new treaty, the Constitutive Act in 2000. Apart from accomplishing the political objective of continental emancipation from colonial subjugation, most of the reasons that informed the formation of the OAU back in the 1960s, particularly continental unity and economic development, seem not to have changed in any significant way. This led to practical steps and policy measures by African leaders to pursue the dream once again under the Constitutive Act

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# REGIONALISM AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN AFRICA: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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## ABSTRACT

Over the years trade blocs have emerged as viable economic edifices that assure their members guaranteed access to larger markets, efficient intra-bloc trade, lower business transaction costs and easier movement of goods and services. Such a system of regional arrangements is what is normally called regionalism. Regionalism has since the post-War years been the central force, directing both regional and global development. Invariably, the creation of a large number of economic groupings in virtually every region of the world has been as a result of the massive liberalisation of world trade as well as easy access to international finance. One other phenomenon that has lent more vim to the tendency towards integration or trade blocs is the inevitable strive towards optimal currency areas and common currency. Africa's effort at integration dates as far back as independence. While regionalism remains the central force of global and regional development, the political and economic peculiarities of Africa continue to hinder the effectiveness of African integration. This essay seeks to highlight the main problems hindering integration in Africa. It traces the history of integration in Africa and catalogues the problems that militate against the successful implementation of integration schemes in Africa. The contention here is that until these challenges are surmounted, prospects for a viable regional integration in Africa remain bleak.

## Introduction

Regionalism has since the post-War years been the central force, directing both regional and global development. This trend has been reinforced by the imperatives of the 'market', as economic liberalism gains more grounds in the determination of trade policy direction of countries. Indeed, the

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