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Review Article
Theories of International Relations and Policymaking
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DRONES, AFRICAN MILITARIES AND THE NATURE OF PROLIFERATION IN AFRICA

Michael YEKPLE¹

Abstract

The face of warfare has changed rapidly; wars have become internal since the end of the Cold War and have inched towards counterinsurgency in recent times. Most importantly, contemporary wars have become more sophisticated, in part because of the propensity of targets of war to be deeply buried within civilian populations. This has led to the quest among national militaries to adopt sophisticated, incisive military stratagem highly steeped in intelligence and high-level technology. America's introduction of drones into the battlefield in its Global War on Terror (GWOT) emerges, for many national militaries as a template for the prosecution of contemporary wars because the tactical and strategic utility of the drone platform, as shown in the American case, has led to many countries adopting the use of drones for their national security objectives. In this paper, I argue that the proliferation of drones is not limited to advanced militaries, but also include African countries who have joined the race in the acquisition of drone technology. I explained the proliferation of drones on the continent in terms of two factors: 1. the high rate of transnational organized crime on the continent in recent times, the combating of which relies on effective aerial surveillance for the generation of unimpeachable intelligence; and 2. the increasing incidence of international terrorist activities on the continents and the consequent American security involvement and cooperation with African militaries had led to the diffusion of drone technology to African militaries. It is concluded that the proliferation of drones among African militaries is assuming a notable trend, to an extent such that, sooner than later, more African countries would acquire drones for their national security imperatives.

Keywords: Drones; Africa; Security; Terrorism; Intelligence

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ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN GHANA: *GLOCALIZING* THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATION

Gilbert TIETAAH¹

Abstract

This article sought to fill a gap in praxis by proposing a role for communication as not just an instrumental (means-to-an-end) but also an existential (end-in-itself) factor in the achievement of sustainable development goals in Africa. It did this through a three-step process. First, the literature was synthesised and analysed to demonstrate the intrinsic link between communication and development. The second step, which really is the primary objective of this article, was to propose a framework of tenets and traits by which the role of communication for development might be constructively appreciated, applied and assessed. It was also the basis for the third step; namely, to review a range of development programmes and projects that were carried out in Ghana under the auspices of the Millennium Development Goals that ended in 2015. The lessons were considered useful for informing future communication interventions for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Introduction

The idea of using communication as a catalyst for international development has its roots in mid-20th century optimism that citizens of the so-called Third World countries could thereby be exposed to, and aspire towards, the social and cultural norms and achievements of Western societies. This ideologically-driven orientation made development synonymous with Westernisation (Ansu-Kyeremeh, 1997). Consequently members of the multilateral organisations that

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THE AFRICAN UNION'S PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE: A GUARANTOR OF PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE CONTINENT?

Henrietta J.A.N. MENSA-BONSU¹

Abstract

After decades of underachievement the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was transformed into the African Union. The institutional rethink of the OAU was needed to find new and more concrete ways of dealing with some of the key problems on the continent such as ending wars and building lasting peace. The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is in line with this new resolve to take ownership of the quest to find lasting peace and security for the African continent. This study examines the APSA's capacity to live up to the billing, "Guarantor of Peace and Security" on the continent. The study holds that the APSA conceptually is an adequate response to the challenge of peace and security on the continent, however the APSA faces structural bottlenecks embedded in the intergovernmental workings of African states, sub regional bodies and the African Union. These bottlenecks range from the apparent impotence of the African Union Commission (AUC) in directing and coordinating activities on the continent, the lack of funding and harmony between Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the lack of commitment to follow up on agreements on the part of member states, to the competence of the persons in charge of driving the APSA. It concludes that the removal of these bottlenecks is a desideratum if the APSA is to fulfil its purpose as the anchor of peace, security and stability on the African continent.

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INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION AMONG SMEs: EVIDENCE FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Frank AGYIRE-TETTEY¹

Abstract

The use of ICT has created new opportunities in the areas of health, climate change, expansion of knowledge, stimulating economic growth and empowering people and communities. ICT plays a significant role in the development of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in developed economies by increasing their access to markets and profit margins. Theoretical evidence abound to indicate that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have the potential to significantly improve on firm productivity by streamlining the production processes through the facilitation of transactions and increase in multifactor and labour productivity. Using data collected on 3,996 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across 14 Sub-Saharan African countries, the study examines the factors that motivate firms' decision to adopt ICTs. The paper employs a seemingly unrelated Bivariate Probit model as well as the novel meta-analysis technique to determine factors influencing ICT adoption decision of SMEs across Africa. The study finds that factors influencing adoption decisions of firm vary significantly across countries. Nonetheless, the meta-analysis identifies common determinants of ICT adoption among SMEs in these countries. The paper finds adoption to be greatly influenced by the number of firms who have already adopted these technologies. Also perception of competition at the national level influences adoption decisions of firms.

Introduction

Information and communication technology (ICT) is increasingly becoming an important element for economic growth and develop-

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