

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Vol. 5. Issue.1., 2018 (Jan-Mar)

ISSN
INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA
2395-2628(Print):2349-9451(online)

IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON AFRICAN SOIL – A POST COLONIAL READING OF
NGUGI WA THIONGO'S *WIZARD OF THE CROW*

M.KAVIN¹, Dr.M.R.RASHILA²

¹MPhil Research Scholar, Sourashtra College, Madurai

²Head Dept. of English, Sourashtra College, Madurai



M.KAVIN



Dr.M.R.RASHILA

ABSTRACT

This article is an attempt on the critical analysis of Ngugi's latest novel *Wizard of the crow* (2006). The analysis has been done against the backdrop of growing challenges of Globalization in the post colonial Africa in general and Kenya in particular. Globalization will pave the way for capitalism and further it would lead to privatization. Globalization encourages infiltration of a foreign company into a country where the corporate only will reap the benefit. The Second Ruler of Aburiria and his sycophantic ministers has decided to submit the nation on the altar of greed by applying the loan to the Global Bank for the project, Marching to Heaven. The Global Bank is not ready to fund for the project by telling the reason that resurgence of queuing mania and the establishment of women's court for dealing with family dispute in Aburria. Due to the impact of Globalization, the emissaries of Global Bank is well informed of the happenings in African soil before the ruler has been informed by his intelligence service during his visit to America. As per the direction from the US government, the ruler has introduced multiparty democracy know as Baby D. The ruler and the ministers have decided to sell the country to Global capitalism. The Global Bank want to privatize Africa as India was managed by British East India company and Indonesia by Dutch East India company. Africa would be the first corporate colony, a corporany, the first in the global order and it would lead the Globe divided into the incorporating and incorporated. Ngugi has highlighted in his novel that the Global Bank and International Monetary fund do not take the interests of poor people of Aburria into consideration and these financial institutions are primarily responsible for the debts contracted by Africa. Ngugi Wa Thiongo's in his novel, *Wizard of Crow* has highlighted that the social problems such as unemployment and poverty have not been eradicated in African during the era globalization.

Keywords – Globalization, Privatization, Democracy, the Global Bank, and Poverty

Introduction

Globalization is a concept which denotes more trade, foreign companies and even the ongoing economic crisis. Globalization is the free movement of goods, services and people from one part of the world to another part of the world the world. Globalization also refers to countries liberalize their import regulations and welcome foreign investment into various sectors which are the mainstays of its economy. Countries

become magnets for attracting global capital by opening up their economies to multinational corporations. Countries liberalize their visa rules and procedures so as to permit the free flow of people from one country to another. One must understand the various dimensions of globalization and the impact it has had on the global economy as well as in the mobility of people from poverty to middle class status. Globalization has positive and negative effects. The foremost negative impact of globalization is that has widened the gap between rich and poor countries. Globalization had gradually been developed since the Second World war. The term globalization captures the attention of every one and especially economic development researchers. However, despite the prior prosperity promises of globalization has widened the gap between rich and poor countries in its relentless progression while other are unclear about its effect. Although the idea of globalization had gradually been developed since Second World war, its impact gained momentum in the early 1990s; Africa has not been spared from the implications of this recently emerged phenomenon, Globalization.

Discussion:

Most postcolonial writes are very much interested in dealing with issues of globalization and the emergence of global languages. The most prominent literary figure is Ngugi Wa Thiongo from East African. As a writer, he has highlighted various issues in his novels. The main concern of the novelist is that he wants to define what African literature is and to prove that how the African literature can be a part of world literature. The writer has been writing both in English and in Gikuyu language, his vernacular. He prefer to write in native language in order to record the nuances of native culture. So that the future generation of his own country and the rest of the world can be informed of his own culture effectively. According to Thiongo's, highlighting one's own culture is one of the major duties of writer in a literary work and use of one's native language is a form of resistance to globalization. Joseph McLaren in his article, "Satirical Magic Realism in Ngugi's *Wizard of the Crow*", Ngugi counters western form of globalization through writing in the indigenous languages.

On the one hand, his concern for maintain indigenous languages places his interests squarely with in a national and continental framework, but these issues certainly have global implications. What Ngugi has called the hegemony of the English language can be countered by writing in indigenous languages, but at the same time this activity suggests an ethnic preference linguistically. In nations of multi-ethnicities, the question of which language is given privilege over another can be critical. Nevertheless, Ngugi's support of indigenous languages counters what can be another form western globalization through language, where English becomes the language of the world, the lingua franca for commercial, cultural and political transactions. (157)

Nnadozie in his article entitled "Africa at the crossroads of Globalization" talks about impact of globalization in Ngugi's novel, *Wizard of the Crow*:

"Globalization as it relates to Africa is a complex concept. When viewed as "externally and internally driven," both forms exists in Ngugi's formation of the Ruler and his relationship to the West. The "external" form suggests control by Western capital institutions aligned with Western states: In externally driven globalization, an African country has no control over its insertion into the global economic system and therefore can neither dictate nor control the term of globalization. In contrast, internally driven globalization resulting from a deliberate decision by a country to adopt globalism or to become globalist permits the country to control the term of its globalization (Nnadozie,27)

The presence of Global power in Aburiria is announced through the arrival of the Global Bank, and the U.S Envoy to Aburirria. Globalization implies that U.S corporations operate within the global marketplace, and in Africa or through exerting their influence in the world Bank. At several points in the novel, "American" monetary policies influence Aburiria: the Global Bank, (World Bank), denies the loan to the Ruler for the Marching to Heaven project, It reflects the U.S policy of control of Africa state initiatives although this particular one is absurd in the context of the Ruler's megalomania. The Second Ruler of Aburiria can with stand for all megalomaniacs in a global perspective. Ruler yields to the aims of "external" globalization despite the denial of his loan application and his " icy relationship" with Gemstone (*Wizard of the Crow*, 746). Globalization is resulted in making Aburiria as", corporate colony a corporany, the first in the new global order (*Wizard of the Crow*, 745-746)

Ngugi exposes how the international financial institution like the World Bank makes the people suffer a lot due to excessive indebtedness by funding to useless projects in the underdeveloped countries. The World Bank does not care about the welfare of the poor people in the economically backward countries. Ngugi satirizes the world bank in the name of global bank. Through the words of Machokali, Ngugi criticizes the real intention of Global Bank:

“The Aburrian masses are ready to forgo clothes, houses, education, medicine, and even food in order to meet any and every condition the Bank may impose on the funds it release for Marching to Heaven. Upward ever, Downwards never. That is our slogan. We will not rest until we get to Heaven’s gate. We swear by the children of the children to the end of the world- yes, we swear even by the generations that may be born after the end of the world- that we shall pay back every cent of the principal along with interest and infinitum. The Ruler is not like some of those Third world leaders who are always whining about their commitments, going so far as to ask that their debt be forgiven (*Wizard of the Crow*, 248)

Ngugi points out that the World Bank is responsible for the debts contracted by the Third World Countries like Kenya in particular and Africa in general. He finds fault with the western countries particularly, the USA for their support to the neocolonial dictators of the crimes against their communist dissidents, The west has given the ruler the material support to the crush the dissidents against his rule. To alarm about the protest and queuing mania in Africa, the US government has sent a special envoy to the ruler something to deal with the burning question:

“There was a time when the cold war dedicated our every calculation in domestic and international relations. It is over. We are in the Post-Colonial war era and our calculations are affected by the laws and needs of globalization. The history of capital can be summed up in one phrase; *in search of freedom*. Freedom to expand and now it has a chance at the entire globe for its theatre . It needs a democratic space to own its own logic demands. So I have been sent to urge you to start thinking about turning your country into democracy. (*Wizard of the Crow*,580)

The novel is really a commentary on the impact of Globalization on African soil. It is evident when the country has decided to build a skyscraper known as, Marching to Heaven, which would surpasses all the tallest buildings in the western countries known as the first World countries. The Eldares Times has highlighted the positive impact of the project, but the media has not focused the protests against the project:

“America, take notice that we will not let you monopolize space. We are right behind. We might be several years behind you in science and technology, but we shall surely win the race like the tortoise in the story, who defeated the hare (23, *Wizard of the Crow*).

Globalization will pave the way for capitalism and further it would lead to privatization. Tajirika has illustrated the impact of privatization on African countries:

“The global bank and the Global Minister of Finance are clearly looking to privatize countries, nations and states. They argue that the modern world was created by private capital... The world will no longer be composed of the outmoded twentieth century divisions of the East, West, and a Directionless Third. The world will become one corporate global divided into the incorporating and incorporated. We should volunteer Aburiria to be the first to be wholly managed by private capital, to become the first voluntary corporate colony, a corporany, the first in the new global order. With the privatization of Aburiria, and with the NGO’s relieving us social services, the country becomes your real estate. You will be collecting rest in addition to the commission fee for managing the corporonial army and police force. (746)

Nyawira clearly indicates that native people of Aburiria will not get any profit from the corporanilism. Corporate companies from the first World Countries will reap from what the natives have sown in the soil:

“In Aburiria there are those who reap where they never planted and those who plant but hardly ever reap what they planted. The first camp, even with its allies aboard, is small, and yet it is able to lord over the second because it divides it along ethnic and sometimes gender and religious lines. Our movement wants to reverse that. We do not ask people what their tribe is but where they stand in the conflicting interests of the two camps.... No, the life of even the least among us should be sacred,

and it will not do for any religion and community are being slaughtered. The wealth of science, and technology, and arts should enrich people's lives, not enable their slaughter. (726)

The Global Bank has rejected the loan for Marching to Heaven project. So the ruler has abandoned the project. As soon as the Ruler has announced the birth of multiparty democracy known as Baby-d, the US government has asked the ministers Tajirika and Kaniuru for the negotiations. Both the ministers have signed, agreement for the loans to enable Aburria to buy arms from the West, and the minister of Finance and business hero Titus Tajirika signed agreements with several oil companies to explore oil and natural gas at the coast and mining companies to prospect for gold, diamonds, and other precious metals in northern Aburria (Wizard of the Crow,710)..

From the agreements signed by the two ministers we may infer that the Global bank will exploit the natural resources in the African soil it will help the ruler to suppress the dissidents against corporationalism through the supply of arms from the US government. In another incident impact of globalization is clearly reflected, when the ruler tries to conceal the murder of his Foreign Affairs minister, Machokali by accusing him of plotting against his regime and seeking asylum somewhere else in the world. The ambassador denies his statement by saying, "intelligence services all over the world are telling us that your minister is not seeking asylum anywhere as your statement indicated"(Wizard of the Crow,641). The happenings in Aburria become known to the global bank emissaries before the ruler is informed about it by his intelligence service during his visit to New York. The representatives from the world bank first inform him about queuing mania and men are beaten by women in Aburria. One country your women are challenging the natural order of things, even setting up what they call people's courts; and the queues challenges the social order (*Wizard of the Crow*,499.). Globalization has been unfavorable to most of Africa and countries regions of the planets in terms of employment, as well as countries that have no asserts or whose skill base is not stable and adaptable.

According to Mohamed and Kenton, in Africa transnational corporation only benefit due to globalization:

"It is unlikely that globalization enables the development of Africa, and especially with the following reasons: i) Low income and resource of Africa; ii) World prices and demand for African crops (the main sources of foreign exchange) fell in the 60s. Moreover, competition from capital – intensive agriculture in Asia and Latin America has further aggravated the plight of African farmers; iii) African countries with average incomes firstly derive their wealth from mineral exports, which tend to primarily benefit transnational corporations and developed countries that turn these raw materials into consumer goods. Ironically, they sell these products to developing countries by making lavish profits; iv) A majority of Africans live in rural areas where the economic cycle depends on an unpredictable weather. The population increase, which goes hand with very limited job opportunities, results in a rapid growth of labor without land and which survives on the fringes of the economy; vi) This trend also feeds migratory flows towards middle-income countries like South Africa; vii) Despite the call for an African rebirth, the world's capitals find only very limited (Africa Face Globalization: Point of View of Labor Union)

It was expected that globalization would cause a great increase in production and indirectly lead to development. This mean that globalization would lead to an increase in production followed by social welfare. Instead, it has benefited rich and further widened inequalities between industrialized and poor countries. The problems of unemployment and poverty have not been eradicated in African countries during the era of globalization in this novel, Ngugi Wa Thiong'o did not given any explicit solution to save Africa from the ill effects of globalization. In this article subversion and carnivalesque, Images of resistance in Ngugi Wa Thiongo's Wizard of the Crow as a critical attack on globalization in the twenty first century. Ngugi's latest novel is even more revolutionary, more virulent, and outrageously satirical in its critical attack on the native ruling elite, on the one hand, and on the other globalization and structural adjustment programmes as reinvented ideologies of colonialism and global racism in the twenty first country. (348)

Conclusion

In this article, the effect of globalization on the marginalization of Africa with reference to Ngugi's Wizard of the Crow has been analyzed. The wealth of Africa is its human potential. The Africa youth should be

well educated, well trained, and should aware more about the latest technologies and should be well equipped for the economic integration of Africa in to the global economy. African leadership still face a lot of challenges like internal conflicts, economics dislocations, severe environmental crisis, poverty, access to basic human needs, HIV/AIDS, gender inequality, building and nurturing new leaderships, reforming their educational systems for relevance to the present day context responding effectively to globalization. African leaders should abandon the habit of getting loans from the Global Bank for such useless projects like Marching to Heaven. The African leader should not be selfish. He should keep in mind the welfare of his citizens whatever the project he undertakes. He should take steps to eradicate corruption in Africa. The leader must adopt the good behavior and promote good government, deepen democracy and local governments for the sake of poor and underprivileged people in Africa. In this novel, *Wizard of the Crow*, Ngugi Wa Thigo the social problems of employment and poverty have not been eradicated in African during the era of globalization.

Works cited

- McLaren, Joseph. "From the National to the Global: Satirical Magic Realism in Ngugi's *Wizard of the Crow*". *The Global South*, vol. no,2008,pp.150-158.JSTOR,www.jstor.org/stable/40339265
- Mohamed N, Kenton V. *Africa Face Globalization: Point of View of Labor Union*. www.ilo.org/wcmp5/groups/public/---ed.../wcms-112478.pdf.(1999)
- Nnadozie, Emmanuel. "Africa at the crossroads of Globalization". *Africa Regionalism and Globalization*. Ed. John Mukum Mbaku and Suresh port, CT: Praeger, 2004.
- Tembo, Nick Mdika. "Subversion and Carnavalesque: Images of Resistance in Ngugi Wa Thiongo's *Wizard of the Crow*". *Matatu*.39(2011):337,361,708. Proquest.web.26Feb. 2018.
- Thiong'o, Ngugi Wa. *Wizard of the Crow*. London:Vintage Books, 2006. Print.