



THE REPERCUSSION OF XENOPHOBIC ATTACKS ON NIGERIA AND SOUTH AFRICA RELATIONS

Why I choose this topic?

Because of the recent xenophobic attacks on Nigerians and other African nationals in South Africa. These attacks have created hostilities between various African states. Businesses and properties belonging to Nigerians in the local township in South Africa were destroyed also lives have been lost.

Why is it worthy of attention?

Nigeria is a major player in West Africa while South Africa is a major player in the Southern African Development Community region. Sustained tensions would be to the detriment of both countries and Africa as a whole.





Research question

What Impact does the 2019 xenophobic attacks had on the economic and diplomatic relations of Nigeria and South Africa?

- I posed this question because past xenophobic attacks on Nigerian nationals have brought no impact on the diplomatic ties and economic agreements between both nations.
- However, The 2019 xenophobic attack on Nigerian nationals in South Africa has caused South African owned businesses in Nigeria to close down due to the fear of retaliation. The Nigerian president has expelled South African diplomats from Nigeria due to these attacks.

HYPOTHESIS

- 1) The reduction of the unemployment rate in various urban townships in South Africa will result in a drop in xenophobic attacks against immigrants.
- 2) If there is an increase in the police force in the urban townships, then it will cut down the looting of foreigners businesses and killing of innocent foreigners in South Africa.

Concept

- Xenophobia is the perceived fear, hatred or dislike of a non-native or foreigner in a particular country. The word 'xenophobia' derives from two Greek words 'xénos' which conjures a person that appears different, a guest, stranger or in common parlance a foreigner and 'phóbos' which translates literally to an experience of fear, aversion or horror.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Xenophobic Attacks Surge in South Africa Ahead of Elections. (2019, April 3). Retrieved from <https://www.voanews.com/africa/xenophobic-attacks-surge-south-africa-ahead-elections>

This article discusses and helps to find the correlations between the increase of xenophobia and election in South Africa. The article also gives an insight into how various South African politicians have used these attacks for political gain. I found this article very helpful in finding the instigators of Xenophobia in South Africa. The article tries to find solutions by suggesting that the police and the government of South Africa should do more in other to prevent the reoccurrence of Xenophobia in South Africa, especially in urban areas.

Mbamalu, S. (2017, February 24). Nigerians strongly react to xenophobic attacks in South Africa. Retrieved from <https://thisisafrica.me/politics-and-society/nigerians-strongly-react-xenophobic-attacks-south-africa/>

The article narrates the unfriendly relations between Nigeria and South Africa. This is as a result of the rise in xenophobic attacks in South Africa against other immigrants living in urban townships. Nigeria has been the most affected group of these xenophobic attacks which has led 116 people dead. The article talks about the retaliation of these attacks in Nigeria. This is an Honest and descriptive article reflecting the real impact xenophobia in South Africa has had on its fellow African countries. It provides the reaction of the Nigeria government to the killings of fellow Nigerians in Africa. The article has a lot of information on what are the causes of the rise of xenophobia in South Africa.

Thank You



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ABSTRACT

Nigeria and South Africa are two economic powers in Africa that have contributed to the relative peace and security in Africa. Nigeria is located in West Africa, while South Africa situated in southern Africa. They both in pursuit of their national interest, have for more than five decades been close allies, with their diplomatic, defense, trade, and socio-cultural ties having the conflict, cooperation, and competition attributes. The absence of racial segregation was forecasted for South Africa after the end of apartheid, but this has not been the case for South Africa. Foreigners face constriction and prejudice in South Africa. The migration of both legal and illegal people into South Africa is seen as a threat by local South Africans. They see these people as threats trying to compete for a few jobs available. The xenophobic attacks have been majorly on Africans nationals. Xenophobic attacks have also occurred against other groups of people, for example, Pakistani migrants, Chinese migrants as well as some south Africans from minority language groups. This has had damaging repercussions on Nigerian nationals living in South Africa. Nigerians living in South Africa have been victims of several forms of attacks, such as looting. A lot of Nigerians have lost their lives as a result of severe xenophobic attacks. The goal of this literature review is to investigate the repercussion or consequences of xenophobic attacks on Nigerians and South Africa relations and ties. A historical approach was adopted for this paper and the qualitative method of secondary data collection. Theoretically, conservatism and the frustration-aggression theory were used in this literature review.

INTRODUCTION

Xenophobia has become a crucial aspect of life in Africa. From North Africa to the East and across Southern Africa, Xenophobia attacks against non-nationals, mainly African nationals, have plummeted. "With the dismantling of the apartheid regime and the emergence of constitutional democracy in 1994, immigration inflow into South Africa witnessed a sharp increase particularly from neighboring African countries" (Ogunnubi and Amusan, 2018:61). In 1994 when south Africa gained independence and freedom from its colonial masters, a new state was born free of torture and marginalization. South Africa was leaving a society that was white-dominated in the past. These resulted in the migration of many nationals, and mainly there was a massive influx of migrants from neighboring African countries into South Africa. Some of these migrants were running from persecution from their home countries, while others were migrating in search of better opportunities. Nigeria and South Africa have gained recognition from the world for various reasons. Nigeria is the world's most populated African country with a population of about 200million people. South Africa, on the other hand, is a country with a population of about 55 million, and it was famous for its apartheid regime, which dominated its

society in the past. Xenophobia has been on the rise for decades in South Africa. There have been various people who have tried to give a logical reason for how South Africa, who has suffered years of oppression during the apartheid regime, will be racists towards their fellow Africans. According to Crush (2008), he states that exclusion, based on the idea of being 'non-native,' has existed in Africa since independence (and was codified during colonialism). Bounded concepts of citizenship have lived in Africa for two centuries, and contemporary xenophobia can be seen as one of the most recent manifestations of this feature.

In South Africa, their immigrants who they call 'Amakwerekwere' (a derogatory South African word for foreign visitors to a township (Wiktionary, 2019)). These immigrants are called these because they seem to be blamed for the economic and societal problems and also drug trafficking and rising crime rate facing the nation. Hence, foreign nationals, mostly African immigrants living in South Africa, have frequently been an object of xenophobic attacks in May 2008, April 2015, March 2019, to mention a few. Foreign nationals have been victims in occasional xenophobic attacks in South Africa, notably in 2008, 2015, and recently in 2019. These xenophobic attacks have affected the neighboring African countries, such as Nigeria. Nigeria has seen a lot of its nationals reported dead in local townships in South Africa nowadays. The attack on these Nigerian immigrants has led to public outcry and condemnation in the international community.

From 2008 it was recorded that about 135 people died as a result of these xenophobic attacks leaving nearly 670 dead. South Africa has encouraged cultural impunity. These have encouraged injustice and mob attacks against Nigerians and other African nationalities living in South Africa, which includes the documented and undocumented people. This literature review will discuss the repercussion of xenophobic attacks on Nigerians and their relation to South Africa. It will also discuss the historical relations between the two countries.

CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION

Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. Xenophobia can involve the perception of an ingroup toward an outgroup and can manifest itself in suspicion of the activities of others, and a desire to eliminate their presence to secure a presumed purity and may relate to a fear of losing national, ethnic or racial identity. Thus, technically xenophobia is used to refer to fear of that which is foreign or alien. English dictionaries variously define xenophobia as some kind of intense fear, hatred, or strong dislike for anything foreign (Dictionary.com, 2019; Cambridge.org, 2019). Xenophobia is then some kind of metaphysical construct founded on an attitude of hate or dislike for things, ideas or phenomena outside one's immediate culture or environment (Steinbauer, 2019)

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF NIGERIA-SOUTH AFRICA RELATIONS

Nigeria and South Africa relations can be traced back as far as to march 1960. The South African police force killed Seventy-two people, and about 184 people died during this also (Zabadi and Onuoha, 2012). These came to be known as the Sharpeville massacre. This particular incident began a problematic and confrontational relationship between Nigeria and South Africa.

The government of prime minister to Nigeria in the '60s was challenged and faced intense pressure from both home and abroad to create certain measures or policies to combat south Africa apartheid policies. The policies Nigeria undertook included some sanctions politically and economically. The Nigerian government bans the importation of goods coming from South Africa. In the year 1961, Nigeria's prime minister in the person of Tafa Balewa went to the commonwealth conference held in London. At this conference, South Africa got suspended. (Seteolu and Okuneye, 2017). From the commonwealth. The head of this diplomatic outcome was the prime minister of Nigeria. These were as a result of the massacre that happened in Sharpeville in south Africa. (Ajala, 1986 & 1993).

In January of 1966, there was a military coup in Nigeria. The military replaced the parliamentary system that had which came into existence after Nigeria gained its independence. The authoritarian regime spare headed by Aguiyi Ironsi did not have any political or economic policy against Apartheid South Africa. The reason for this was due to the vast insecurity that happened in Nigeria.

General Aguiyi Ironsi was assassinated and was succeeded by Yakubu Gowon. He made a slight change to the policy towards South Africa. The policy was a confrontational and exclusion. He banned all-white South Africans from entering Nigeria. During the civil war of 1967-1970 in Nigeria, tensions between both nations reached a peak. These came after Nigeria realized South Africa was trying to influence the outcome of the civil war. These further enabled Yakubu Gowon to strengthen his anti-apartheid policy against the rainbow nation of South Africa. Nigeria discovered oil and became economically buoyant, and this contributed to its GDP. Nigeria was able to be engaged in a more dynamic role in international affairs then. (Ajala, 1993).

Over the next couple of decades in Nigeria, there was the various head of states who ruled Nigeria, and they continued this anti-apartheid policy that had been created by Yakubu Gowon in the late '60s. This policy came into action from 1960 TO 1993. The reason for Nigeria taken such a plan was to eradicate all forms of racist regimes in Africa. Although Nigeria established a hostile policy towards South Africa, both countries were able to agree on February 24, 1994, to terminate the apartheid policy.

South Africa finally became a democracy in the year 1994. The post-apartheid relation was also not significant. These were because the South African government disagreed over Nigerian

domestic affairs. At this time, Nigeria was ruled by General Sani Abacha dictatorial regime from 1993-1998. The Nigerian state committed a lot of human rights atrocities, such as the killing of any person that dares oppose the government. These also led to the suspension of Nigeria in the commonwealth at a conference held in Auckland, New Zealand, in the year 1995. This occasion led to the first strain in relations between Nigeria and South Africa post-apartheid. The Nigerian state responded to this by suspending diplomatic ties to South Africa. (Ibeanu and Nwachukwu, 2004).

During the transition of Nigeria from the dictator military regime of the past 30 years to democracy, the relationship between Nigeria and South Africa improved. This transition ushered in several bilateral and multilateral agreements between the two nations. The bilateral commission, which was signed in October of 1999, was an example of the improvement of the relationship.

Nigeria and South Africa recognized their importance on the continent and began to discuss the diplomatic transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union. Nigeria and South Africa also established an African development initiative. These were the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). In May 2000, both countries took a step further by forming the Nigeria-South Africa Chambers of Commerce (NSACC), a forum established to promote bilateral trade between both economies (NSACC, 2019). From 1999 to 2007, the trade relationship between Nigeria and South Africa registered substantial growth from R181 3578 000 to almost R11 billion in 2007 (DIRCO, 2010).

On March 2, 2012, The South African government deported 125 Nigerians for possessing an invalid yellow fever vaccination card. These resulted in a state visit by the president of Nigeria. He addressed the parliament and spoke to the president of South Africa Jacob Zuma about the situation. However, Nigeria responded to these events by deporting 128 South Africans, claiming they lacked proper documentation.

REPERCUSSION OF XENOPHOBIC ATTACKS ON NIGERIA AND SOUTH AFRICA RELATIONS

The repercussion of the xenophobic attacks has been unfortunate. The extra-judicial killings and xenophobic attacks in South Africa have affected Nigeria the most. There have been 117 Nigerians who have been killed as a result of these xenophobic attacks between 2016 and 2018 for one insubstantial reason.

These killings have a negative repercussion or consequence on Nigeria South Africa relations.

DIPLOMATIC REPERCUSSIONS

In light of these attacks from 2008 until Nigeria and South Africa have tried to work together and improve their relationships. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries to reinforce diplomatic ties and prevent future xenophobic attacks (Babalola, 2017). However, these attacks have continued. Nigeria Acting high commissioner was invited to South Africa by the administration of President Goodluck Jonathan for discussion following the

xenophobic attacks against Nigerians in Johannesburg and Durban (Channels Television, 2015). The diplomatic relations of South Africa and Nigeria relations were not severed.

ECONOMIC REPERCUSSION

As a result of the xenophobic attacks and the looting of Nigeria, owned businesses in South Africa have resulted in the massive destruction and looting of prominent South African companies in Nigeria. MTN (a South African owned telecommunication company), Stanbic IBTC Bank, Multichoice Africa (DSTV), Shoprite (supermarket) have all experienced some attacks such as total boycotting these businesses, looting these businesses and in some cases, they have had to shut down. If anti-foreigner violence continues against Nigerians in South Africa continues, all these companies mentioned will be prone to future attacks.

SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL REPERCUSSION

The attacks of Nigerians leaving in South Africa has sown a seed of fear in the hearts and minds of various Nigerians over the world. The concern is based on the idea of visiting Nigeria and the Nigerians living in South Africa. A section of the South African community, especially in the township, has secluded their fellow African brothers and sisters. Those Nigerians that have been subjected to xenophobic attacks have been discovered to be suffering from (PTSD). Nigerians living in Nigeria now rethink visiting south Africa for holidays, business, schooling, and even performing in concerts in South Africa (Nigerian musicians and artists). These are all due to seeing all these xenophobic attacks on tv, social media, newspaper, and other forms of media.

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH QUESTION: What Impact do the 2019 xenophobic attacks had on the economic and diplomatic relations of Nigeria and South Africa?

There is no theory in international relations to give a reasonable explanation for xenophobic attacks in South Africa and its repercussions on the relationships between Nigeria and South Africa. The two methods I decided to use are the constructivism theory and the frustration-aggression theory. The frustration-aggression theory states that aggression is caused by frustration. When someone is prevented from reaching their important goal or satisfying one of their essential needs, they become frustrated. This frustration can then turn into aggression when the right trigger is present. These have been used in various fields of study to explain aggressive human behaviour.

The frustration-aggression theory explains and makes us understand that the increase in anti-foreigner violence, especially against Nigeria, is as a result of the frustration of poverty-stricken and unemployed South African nationals. The locals have been annoyed and frustrated that there

are not enough jobs for them in their country and that the foreigners have taken all their jobs. Frustration aggression theory enables us to see the cause of the aggressive behavior of south Africans against other African nationals.

Constructivism as a theory in international relations is the claim that significant aspects of international relations are historically and socially constructed, rather than inevitable consequences of human nature or other essential characteristics of world politics (Wikipedia) Ever since South Africa entered the post-apartheid regime, many countries have tried to establish sustained diplomatic and economic ties with South Africa. Since the killings of several African nationals in South Africa, it has painted south Africa as a no-go area and a xenophobic country. This image of South Africa has influenced economic and diplomatic relations with other affected countries. Nigeria has continued to maintain a good relationship diplomatically with south Africa despite recent attacks on Nigerian nationals.

CONCLUSION

Nigeria's relation with South Africa has been through a lot of obstacles. Their Socio-cultural, diplomatic, and trade ties have gone through good and bad times. South African leaders must become more accountable more than ever before. The massive killing of Nigerians nationals, especially, has harmed the relations between the two countries. South Africa must take the necessary steps and actions to prevent further xenophobic attacks of Nigerians living in the country and also other African nationals.

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