Primordial Causes of Armament, Disarmament, Weaponry and Weapons of Mass Destruction

By

Effiong Ekpo. Ph.D

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

RITMAN UNIVERSITY, IKOT EKPENE, AKWA IBOM STATE

08035428019, 07051248916

dreffiongekpo48@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The entirety of humanity has been confronted with a serious threat to security, especially since after the cold war. To this fact, the concept of conflict and peace situate themselves in the heart of the contemporary man. This paper set to evaluate the level of primordial causes of armament, disarmament, weaponry and weapons of mass destruction. It used the change of attitude which led to the 1995/1996 review conference of the 1981 convention on prohibition or restrictions on the use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to the indiscriminate effect as guide in the study. It traced the intractable problem to the emergence of civil wars of diverse intensity which have painted the world with red, which also facilitated the proliferation and spread of illicit small arms, weapons landmines and weapons of mass destruction. The paper postulates that deadly conventional weaponry and weapons of mass destruction are destructive weapons bearing a symmetrical non pictorial design should be discouraged. Also threats of war, whether explicit or implicit has always

Wukari International Studies Journal, Vol.6, No.2, 2022

been an instrument of policy whereby one government dissuaded another from pursuing certain courses of action, be encouraged. This paper x-rayed the effect of proliferations of armament and weapons of mass destruction. The paper adopted conflict theory as analytical framework. The paper arrives at the conclusion that the causes of armament, disarmament, weaponry and weapon of mass destruction needs concerted effort of all both in Africa and internationally. The paper recommends that considering the anarchical nature of the international system, the world truly needed peace. Armed proliferation, it sources, ranging from technological advancement, offensive and defensive systems, economic boom, expansionist policy, growing disparity between the rich and the poor should back up with effective law creation enforcement and protection.

Keywords: Proliferation, weaponry, mass, destruction, landmines, and disarmament.

INTRODUCTION

It is clear from our study that the worsening state of security through arm acquisition is persuasive and deep. This paper discovered that the distribution of power in the world is a strong source of armament. The paper considered the law of war and discovered the just war theory as a cause of armament that is capable of bringing peace as well as cause war. It equally highlighted certain approaches that can bring peace. However, with the collapse of the cold war and the evolution of the international system several conflicts that the cold war sent to the coolers began to emerge. The era is culminated with the tension posed by armament, arms race and proliferation of small arms. This paper will introduce various reasons why the world is arming and re-arming itself, it discusses the prevalent contradiction in matter of human security round the globe and pins down several factors responsible for the rising tension.

The entirety of humanity has been confronted by a serious threat to security, especially since after the cold war. To this fact, the concepts of conflict and peace situate themselves in the heart of the contemporary man. The causes of armament are persuasive and deep. The promoters of peace the world ever need to consistently engage in debate, pursue political initiatives and promote discussions about the causes of armament, terrorism and all forms of conflict. The issues of armament and disarmament are often incomprehensible to the poor and wealthy nations alike, considering the fact that we live in an era of human history fully contradictions.

SOURCES OF ARMAMENT

The source of armament is several. These ranges from

technological advancement, offensive and defensive system, economic boom, expansionist policy, expansion of the sphere of influence, growing disparity between the rich and the poor and several other sources to conflict and armament. (Barry 1989)

There are several other reasons why there is arm proliferation. Sometimes the causes of armament are also causes of war. Philosophers, world leaders and social scientists have many theories why there is armament. As we noted in this paper the balance of power politics was a major causation to armament. In the words of Rourke (2001) "the distributions of power in the world is one possible cause of conflict". He added that international system is built around numbers of poles (big power) their relative power and whether the poles are stable or influx. The implication is that when a power is rising and another is declining there is power vacuum to fill, this result to armament.

Considering the anarchical nature of the international system, parties take to arm for fear of other actors. This results from the absence of a central authority to try to prevent conflict and protect countries. This is worsened by effective law creation, enforcement or adjudication. The end result of this is insecurity, hence countries acquire arms in part because other countries do: creating a tension-filled cycle of escalating arms tensions, until a flash point is reached.

However, it has been noted that economic factor is one of the causes of armament. These range from global gap between the wealthy and poor countries, the distribution of resources between countries and regions. This could lead to influence of arms. Again territorial dispute can lead to acquisition of arms. Some others may be frustration, aggression and anxiety. These factors may well cause the acquisition of arms. (chestermen, 2001).

COLD WAR AND COLONIAL LEGACY

The worst calamity that can befall a nation" Ahmed kasran' says "is disunity' the fall of the Berline wall in 1989 did not only signal the end of 50years ideological conflict that reached all part of the world. It was also the end of a bipolar world where the balance of power between the Soviet Union and the United States of America created a semblance of normality and stability wind the world.

The world truly needed peace. At that time it seemed that all the enemies and the threat to international security to capitalize on the peace divided and military budget were cut. There was great enthusiasm as the old warsaw fact countries experienced a boom through the invasion of business man who were interested in reaping the reward of the emerging markets. The enthusiasm however did not last. Because, 'as eastern European struggles to rebuild the nations, the ethnic divisions and territorial conflicts that has been observed by the Soviet Union began to surface. Yougoslavia descended into a bleak and vicious war within the former Soviet Union, conflict arose between the central government and regional states such as Azerbaijan and Tajikistan as well as the neighbouring states themselves, (Rupsesinghes, 1998).

It was not difficult to understand the cause of these conflicts as the collapse of any empire is bound to reveal some facts lines that was conceded. The conflict should not have come as a surprise. The spate and speatre of oppression of the Russians could not be laboured by the Georgians. Before now US and the USSR had created and contained small wars and conflicts but with the collapse of Berlin wall those wars and conflicts were now unchecked and the result was the spread of violence and the emergence of desperate groups, ostensibly fighting in the name of ideology, region or ethnicity but seeking to finance their

Wukari International Studies Journal, Vol.6, No.2, 2022

operations through local taxation, plunders and pillage. The belligerents to these conflicts sought all they needed through the instrument of arms, hence armament acquisition became the order (Gandhi, 1987).

The end of the cold war cannot be blamed for all conflicts that resulted to armament acquisition. Most conflicts that were experienced in Africa were as a result of former colonial structures. The colonial power led to inter ethnic rivalry within countries like Rwanda and Burundi exerted social destination between Hutu and Tutsui. The scenario was largely determined by the Belgian colonialists and deliberately sustained after their departure. The Tutsui considered as minority retained control of administrative structures while the majority Hutu was increasingly oppressed or marginalised. As years passed the ethnic distinction that was a mere indication for social standing became a determining factor for survival. The conflict in Rwanda led to 1994 genocide that claimed almost a million lives after three months. The conflict became complex with issue of proliferation arms. In every conflict, there comes a time when actors and issues multiply. At such time when several actors come into play and the issue moves from one to one and above is said to be actor or issue proliferation. (Rourke, 2001)

Situation like these are complex that was the case in Rwanda and as result several weapons were brandished, machetes and different kinds of guns. Terror was everywhere as the spate of rape was unimaginable. The entrepreneurship of conflict orchestrated massacres for their selfish interests.

In Burundi, it was still the same colonial creation of the Hutu and Tutsui. Though the immediate cause of the later conflict in Burundi was the fallout of the failed coup d 'etat of 21 october 1993, the protracted nature of the conflict indicated that its origin were neither recent nor

superficial. The colonialist principles of stratification originally embedded in a division of labour between cultivators and pastoralist is a key dimension to the evolution of Hutu and Tutsi in Burundi. The ethnic divide in Burundi and to the death of many.

The cold war super power also maintained overtly corrupt and ruthless leaders in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Such leaders as Mbutu Sese seko of Zarie, Idi Amim of Uganda, Ferdinand and Imela Mercos of the Philippines and several other military regimes and dictators were to be heavy burden and Mecros sources of conflict at the long run. These conflicts generated all forms of arms and this in turn benefited the economies of western countries while the developing nations were impoverished (Ahanapala, 1998).

RESURGENCE OF RELIGION

The revival of Islam that was triggered by the Iranian revolution of 1979 and referred to as "Islamic fundamentalism" was another causation to arms race. This caused a significant shift in the global status quo. For many years past, the world has witnessed an extreme form of "Islamic fundamentalism". The fundamentalism claim to be protesting against western influence and domination.

The fundamentalism are also reacting against the Gulf between the rich and the poor, in the areas where these fundamentalists exist. The clerics always maintain strong power bases amongst the poverty-stricken, have emerged as political figures, calling for a return to basic koranic traditions and a rejection of any form of secularism" (Repesigh, 1998).

The extremist Islamic groups have been responsible for the problems in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iran and even Iraq. The extremists

Wukari International Studies Journal, Vol.6, No.2, 2022

became notorious for stringent Islamic laws. The religious resurgence of Islam is not alone. It was accompanied by a rise in other manifestations of religious extremists. In Israel for instance, orthodox Judaism has gained strength in the political arena. Christianity is also not left out of the extremists. In the United State, the Christian extremists have gained strong voice in the political arena. (Deno, 2000)

Standing with the position, this paper points out that, "at a time which ideologies and utopias are being swept away, religion is muscling its way back into centre stage and, in doing so has emerged as potent source not only of spirituality, but also of identity. The resurgence of religion has no doubt exacerbated arms race. Over the years poverty has brought recourse to conflict. This has eaten deep into the world and reduced human dignity to nothing. People have in response to solve their poverty carried arms especially in states with mineral resources. The case in areas without resource like Somalia is no different. Arms in hands of those who possess it have become a passport to economic well being.

Access to fresh water will be a source of increasing conflict. Throughout history, the world's major shared water like the Nile, the Jordan, the Tigris-Euphrates and the indies have been site of human conflicts. One of the looming dangers of water conflicts is the Nile. Stretching from equatorial Africa to the mediterrean sea, the Nile stands as the longest river in the world, cutting across Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt each of these nations lay claim to the river but it is Egypt that has long used military force over the Nile headwaters. (Bayraytax, 2006) .

APPROACHES TO PEACE

The above notwithstanding, there has been several arms. The most sweeping of those approaches is to disarm. The paper points out

that, the principal argument in favour of disbarment is the idea that without weapons people will not fight. The rests in part on sheer inability.

General and complete disarmament might be accomplished either through unilateral disarmament or through multilateral negotiation. In the situation of unilateral disarmament, the country involved would dismantle its arms. Its safety, in theory, would be secured by its non threatening posture, which would prevent aggression, and its example would lead other countries to disarm also. Unilateral disarmament draws heavily on the idea of pacifism, or a moral and resolute refusal to fight. The unilateral approach also relies on the belief that it is arms that cause tension and not vice versa (Collier, 2002)

On the other hand, there is a more limited approach to negotiated disarmament between two or more countries. There is an agreement between the advocates of this and the unilateralist about the danger of war. Those who toe this path are not in any way true pacifists as they believe that one sided disarmament would expose the peace pioneer to unacceptable risk (Svere, 1998)

This paper concludes that the general and complete disarmament approach has few strong advocate among today political leaders. Even those who do subscribe to the idea also search for intermediate arms limitation steps.

PACIFISM: Pacifism is seen as a bottom –top approach to global security. Pacifism says no to violence. At the individual level of war guidance, security and disarmament, the concept of pacifism becomes an issue. As a way to stop violence, it is simply refusing to fight physically. Pacifism is associated with Gandhian principles of "Ahimsa" but Gandhi affirms that the concept is not new. In his words " I have nothing new to

teach the world, truth and non-violence are as old as the hills" (Gandhi, 1987). Unlike other approaches to security, pacifism is a bottom-top approach that focuses on what people do rather than a top-down approach that stresses government action (Emizet, 2000)

Pacifism originates with the belief that it is wrong to kill, the Russian novelist and pacifist Leo Folsty in 1909 at the Swedish peace conference noted that "The truth is so simple, so clear and so evident... that it is only necessary to speak it out completely for its full significance to be irresistible". He adds that "Truth lies in what were said thousands of years ago on four words, thou shall not kill" (Rourke, 2001).

Some pacifism however differs from others. The universal pacifists, who oppose personal violence but would support as a last resort the use of police or military force to counter criminals or aggressors, and anti-war pacifist, who oppose political violence but would use violence as a last resort for personal self-defense (Manscary, 2006).

The idea of pacifism however is to deter war or armament and promote peace. But there are various arguments that the practice of pacifism can either get one killed or conquered , yet there are also arguments that it has been used in the past and was successful. Can pacifism work again? This is the question for now.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SMALLARMS

Small arms are weapons of destruction killing hundreds of people around the world each year. This is far higher than the casualty count from conventional weapons of war like tanks, bomber jets or warships. The term small arms and light weapons refer to weapons that can be carried by a single person, either for military or civilian use. The term is often shortened to small arms or SALW. It covers a wide range of weapons

from pistol, machine guns, and other firearms to grenades, portable anti-tank systems and mortals (Adeniyi, 1998)

FEATURES OF SMALL ARMS

Worldwide, small arms are devastating communities through conflict and crime. This is so because of features possessed by those lethal weapons. Small arms are relatively cheap, they are available in abundances, highly portable, long lasting and so easy to operate that a child as young as eight years old can carry and use them. These characteristics make small arms particularly susceptible to illicit trafficking. They are often sold illegally in exchange for hard currency or goods such as diamonds, drugs or other contraband. In Liberia for instance, Charles Taylor was exchanging mineral resources for arms. These same arms are sometimes recycles from one conflict area to another, thereby exacerbating the conflict and contributing to humanitarian crisis (Coupland, 2005).

The majority of people killed in wars and other armed conflicts are victims of small arms, tens of thousands of deaths each year. Most of these are civilians. Small arms truly have come to be weapons of mass destruction. Small arms kill an additional 200,000 people in "peaceful" nations each year in homicides, suicides, unintentional shootings and shootings by police. In countries like Brazil, USA and South Africa, guns are a leading cause of death among young men. An estimated 2 million children have been killed with small arms since 1990. In addition to those killed an estimated 1.5million people are wounded by small arms each year. It has been noted that over 90% of the victims of the use of small arms are civilians with women and children accounting for 80% of the casualties. The acquisition or possession of these small arms has become

business and a source of livelihood.

Conflict may be functional or dysfunctional. It is often a source of creativity and change. Though the people in conflict may have differing goals or interest, they still relates to one another. However, such conflicts are not usually violent, but when the conflicts turns violent disintegration is the end product. This is because it is used to inflict injury and leads to a profound breakdown of relationships. Violence in conflicts manifests in so many ways. A famous scholar of peace research, the Norwegian John Galtung has drawn attention to three different forms of violence, both social and communal manifesting in society. They are direct, structural and cultural violence.

DIRECT VIOLENCE:- This refers to armed hostile actions. It is when an act of violence is being committed and the oppressor can be identified in conflict times the brandishing of guns alone constitutes violence though it may be psychological but in situations of outright shootings executions, massacre, or ethnic cleansing it is considered a direct violence. Direct violence often emerges from the depth of structural violence (Lawrence, 1998)

STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE:- This is a kind of violence that is built in societal structure. It is in the inequalities of societal structures that is, the gross power imbalance within the society. The mass production of guns from developed to the developing countries is an act of structural violence. The aggressor in a structural violence life, unlike direct violence is intangible and fearless. It is in effect, the system that bears down on every aspect of social and public life. Most times there may be countless incidence of direct violence but the main challenge is in the

system. The system is usually at fault. For instance, the anarchical structure of the international systems allows for a free flow of arms especially small arms (Landahi, 2000)

CULTURAL VIOLENCE:- This can be identified in terms of religion, ideological or linguistic symbols. These symbols legitimize direct and structural violence. The symbols sometimes may be flags and anthems or inflammatory speeches or mythical stories. At any point, these cultural elements are used to provoke or encourage violence. It is said to be cultural, it appears in the concept of a "chosen people". An example of this is the Jews and their Arab brothers in conflict situations. The adversaries use derogatory words to refer to themselves. A good example of this situation was the genocide in Rwanda where the Hutu militia used the term "cockroaches" to refer to their Tutsi counterparts. The adversaries strip themselves of an identity to make the killing less wrong. No wonder the saying that ' If you want to kill young dog you give her a bad name". When the developed countries produce their small arms are they really legitimizing violence? (Boyce, 2000)

In most societies today, a man or woman without a gun is seen as a defenceless human being. In such societies guns have market value. They are almost integrated into the local economy as ordinary cash. In places like Liberia the possession of a gun became pure business. You will recall that on the 12th April, 1980, Master Sergeant Samuel Doe seized power in a violent coup. Doe afterwards executed 13 former cabinet members. Samuel Doe actions in governance charted avenues for the future conflict for Liberia's warlords.

The avenues built extensive informal commercial ties with regional trade networks (Rollium, 2000).

Doe's strategies failed and when Taylor eventually came on board, he used state resources to acquire arms. Exploitation of natural resources in Liberia by Taylors led NPFL to forced labour. People who were unarmed became an additional resource to be exploited to earn hard currency. Guns in the hands of even young people of 10,11, and 12 years was a serious business (Roche, 2003)

Such lifestyle was described as the Kalashnikor lifestyle. The life style "suddenly elevated poor young men to the top of the local economic pyramid and gave them a material incentive in warfare at the expense of others because they were unable to acquire a gun. All these were possible because of the easy accessibility of small arms. The abundance of small arms made this possible. The features of small arms made this possible. The features of small arms themselves constituted violence to the people (Luckowski, 2001)

LIGHT WEAPONS AND LANDMINES

Light weapons are weapons that are man-portable or transportable by light vehicles and that do not require much in terms of service, logistical back up training. Light weapons in its wider category comprise small –calibre canons, light support weapons, combat grenades, anti-personnel minds, mortars, anti-tank weapons, anti-tank mines etc. The proliferation of these weapons has posed a serious threat to the international community, thus the need to curb the menace. The essence is curbing this is to foster conflict prevention. Conflict prevention guarantees human security. But an environment that ensures human security cannot be flowing with arms especially those coming in from conflict region, thus the need for disarmament, demobilization and unification. Also to cut the flow and effects of light weapons, there is also

needs for reparation and reintegration of refugees, several other measures must be in place to check this negative development (Miller, 2006)

The war in Sierra Leone and Liberia was further encouraged by arms proliferation. In a survey assessing the distribution of arms in Sierra Leone, the common types of weapons at the time of collection as they were used in the war were short guns, locally made riffles, automatic assult riffles. Before the war, illicit trafficking routes were rich, structured and highly regular affairs. The Sierra Leone cities like Bo had well-known markets and traders, many of whom were from Lebanon and Syria. However, the border trafficking between Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia started long before the war. The demand of weapons in the category under analysis increased due to fighting in the said areas.

The African Union (AU) has continued to make progress in the fight against illicit trafficking and circulations of small arms and light weapons on the continent. AU's common position on the light proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons was adopted in December 2000 by the council of ministers of the OAU as African's in put to the negotiations on the United Nations programme of action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade. In small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. Member states under the declaration agreed to identify, seize and destroy illicit weapons. It was also provided in the declaration for the establishment of measures to control the circulation, transfer and use of small arms and light weapons (Needhan, 1986)

The executive council decision of the eight ordinary session of the executive council of the AU of January 2006 called on the AU Commission to take the necessary steps towards the establishment of a legally binding instrument to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit

trade on weapons in Africa. Consequently, the AU commission has established a mechanism for coordinating policy guidance, research and monitoring circulation of small arms and light weapons through the adhoc AU-regions steering committee or small arms and light weapons. It comprises the regional economic communities namely:-

- The East African Community (EAC)
- The Community of Sahel-Saharan State (CEN-SAD)
- The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- The Economic Community of Central States (ECCAS)
- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- The International Authority on Development(IGAD)
- The Southern African Development Community (SADG)
- The Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) (Rourke, 2001)

LANDMINES:- Landmine is a victim –triggered explosive device which is intended to damage its target via blast and fragments. The name originated from the practice of mining, where tunnels were dug under enemy fortifications or forces. Landmines were designed for the main purposes which are to create defensive tactical barriers such as protecting a unit's flanks against infiltration tactics channelling attacking forces into predetermines fire zone or slowing an invasion forces progress to allow reinforcement to arrive and to act as passive area-denial weapons in order to deny the enemy use of valuable terrain, resources or facilities which active defence of the area is not desirable or possible. The current use of landmine is largely and primarily on the first purpose and the reason for their widespread use in the demilitarized zones of likely flash points such as Cyprus, Afghanistan and Korea (Broeli, 1959)

THE NATURE OF LANDMINES

A landmine can be triggered by a number of things including pressure, movement, sound, magnetism and vibration. Anti-personnel mines commonly use the pressure of a person's not as a trigger but tripwires are also frequently employed. Most modern anti-vehicle mines use a magnetic trigger to enable it to detonate even if the forces or tracks did not touch it. Advanced mines are able to sense the difference between friendly and enemy types of vehicles by way of a built-in signature catalog. This will theoretically enable friendly forces to use the mine area while denying the enemy access. Mines may be dropped from helicopters or airplanes. It should be noted that the process of allowing landmines is less expensive than its defection and removal. This process is equally slow and dangerous.

It is difficult to find unmarked mines and anti-personel mines are the most difficult to find, this is due to the fact that they are of small size and many of them are made almost entirely of non- metallic materials, specifically to escape detection. Manual clearing remain the most effective technique for clearing mine fields, though hybrid technique involving the use of animals and robots are being developed. Indeed landmines have become plague to humanity. They wait with menacing silence and near to invisibility in the fields of Cambodia, on the paths of Angola, in the hills of Bosma and elsewhere around the globe. They have been said to be patiently killing and maiming today yet they will wait until tomorrow or many years to claim a victim. They are non-discriminating in selecting a victim; they care not whether it is the boot of a military officer or a child's foot that causes them to sprout and do the damage (Dougherly, 1981)

PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS

The proliferation of small arms has been the trouble of most national, regional and international organizations even the United Nations. The proliferations of arms particularly the small arms have tripled since the end of the cold war. They have become more accessible than ever. Virtually all conflicts in recent times that were dealt with by regional or international organizations have small arms as the primary or sole tool of violence.

This paper points out that most of the countries where these weapons were used in recent times to wreck havoc do not manufacture them. It opines that in most cases neither the manufacturer, nor the exporter nor even the buyer knows the purposes for which the weapons will ultimately be used because unlike the trade in any other category of weapons nearly 40% of the trade in small arms is carried out through illicit means. Included in these accumulations of arms especially in Africa and its sub-regions are those supplied during the cold war (Ekells, 2001)

These massive quantities of weapons are part of those that still go around. However, about two (2) million small arms and light weapons are still circulating in Central America, Seven (7) million in West Africa and estimated ten (10)million in Afghanistan. It must be added that several of these weapons have been used in places far removed from their original places of regular supply. The illicit means of transfer of arms at the international level are believed to involve multi-party deals involving false documentation, concealment and smuggling and coded bank account (Aumen, 2000)

War has proved to be profitable for some in recent times. The increasing spat of conflicts around the world has multiplied small arms as

they are more readily available. There are several campaigns in theory to restrict the trade of small arms that is simply defined as light, portable weapons most governments claim to oppose the illicit trade of small arms which is responsible for arming criminals and insurgent groups, and many governments also favour a code of conduct regulating which countries are deemed responsible enough to buy weapons on the open market on the other hand, the United Nation has already implemented a number of measures designed to restrict the flow of arms, but these have merely illustrated the difficulty of monitoring such flows(Ramsbothem, 1998)

The provision of monitor and control of arms in reality seem to be only a theory. For instance, a 1955 ordinance, on the import and export of arms and ammunition except under import licence shall be guilty of arm offence. The same ordinance also provided that "any person who opposes any small arm unless he is a holder of a current license, shall be guilty of an offence. This paper argues that these provisions were fairly applied during the 1960's and 1970s. It quickly added that in Sierra Leone gun contract largely disappeared. Thus the one party constitution of Sierra Leone was silent over the availability, possession and use of small arms.

Under normal circumstances, this will lead to proliferation of arm, especially with the paramilitary forces found themselves faced with parallel privately owned forces. At this time in Sierra Leone, several arms trafficking took place, sometimes with the connivance of well-placed officers within the state security apparatus (Rubin, 2000)

The need for cutting off the supply of Small Arms, Light Weapon (SALW) cannot be overestimated. The proliferation of small arms account for much of the killing around the world and their availability ensures that society is plagued by violence, long after conflict have ended

in conflict areas. Women and children have always been the victims of small arms especially in conflict times. The case in Sierra Leone was not different as women were the main victims of war violence (Schmid, 2000)

However, women also became aggressor, the hidden truth is that in many instances, women play a significant, "active role in violence". The easy use of small arms and light weapons facilitated women's role as aggressors. It has been noted that small arms require very little training. Women were in connivance with male rebels to rape fellow women. There was a situation where a woman was to be raped and she was not willing to give in but for a women rebel with a gun in her hand she gave in (Shelling, 1984)

FACTORS AIDING PROLIFERATION

We have heavily explored various reasons why violent conflicts erupt among which small arm proliferation is a factor. Several factors contributed to the proliferation of small arms as pointed above. One of such factors is the pivotisation in security. In countries such as Angola, Guatemala, and Nicaragua where official peace has come, poverty, insecurity and fear still plague different levels of society. In situation where a state cannot provide for her citizens, ownership of weapon becomes essential for survival, as noted inter allia, both as protection and as an economic asset. It is believed that the possession of lethal weapon at personnel level alleviates the insecurity but it in turn encourages the spread of violence.

THE PRIVATIZATION OF STATE ARMIES

Is another factor aiding proliferation, the absence of external patronage

conscript armies, or what is left of them are known to sell their arms, equipment or services to the highest bidder. In places like Ethopia, officers were found to be selling arms and ammunitions during the closing years of the war. The case was worst in Zaire as some military commanders ran what was similar to personnel Fiefdom. The soldiers were not paid regular salaries, but were encouraged to loot and pillage local villages, demand contributions at arbitrary roads blocks and commit sexual violence against local women (Brocke, 1959)

Such privatization of state army in Congo (Zaire) arose because of mobutu's repressive and kleptomaniac regime. Mobutu reduced the state army to an insignificant –number, consolidating his power on fear and oppression through network of security personnel that are best described as secret police and army. The command lines of his secrete personnel are frequently changed to enable him control the security system. Mobutu's strategy was to suppress the National Army, reduce its number to only 20,000 and provide little equipment or training. As noted above mobutu concentrated on creating a series of convert special strike oppressive regimes encourage the formation of militia groups which will no doubt lead to small arm proliferation.

Another factor that aids small arms proliferation is the use of children as soldiers. Young recruits and children as young as eight has been evident in a number of long-term conflicts, especially where there is shortage of personnel. The child soldiers have fought in battle frontline and this is not removed from the fact that there is the availability of cheap, light and easy to use automatic weapons. Hence children are recruited and more arms required as small arms require little or no training and coupled with the fact that children are obedient and disciplined, they are used. The end result therefore is arm proliferation and increase in the

possibility of violence (Illman, 1991)

The presence of mercenaries is another factor adding small arm proliferation. When the army of a state is disintegrated during conflict, it gives room for the resurgence of mercenaries and bounty hunters. The worst is that such groups have no interest or concern in the countries or end the conflict. From Sierra Leone to Angola, Sri-Lanka, the middle East and Papua New Guinea, the presence of mercenaries, heavily armed, highly trained, protecting and preserving ramshackle regimes or factions". Such activities not only proliferates arms, it prolongs and intensifies conflicts. The avrance of such groups is always the interest. They may have their eye on oil, gold, diamond and other precious minerals within the region of those who contract them. The primary objective of such organization is to make money and they require arms to accomplish their task, so illicit trade continues to grow and arms –small arms-keep proliferating.

Greed and grievances have also being explored by several scholars as a motivation for groups to rebel. Most groups attempt to have access to resources. Most times the motivation are the benefits, that may accrue through activities such as pillage and looting during conflicts (Goldblat, 1985).

The frustration – aggression mechanism as a response by regimes ignites violence. When regimes are oppressive then violence is the last result. Again, in such state most times, the struggles for democratic governance often lead to violence perpetuated with the use of arms –small arms several other factors aid small arms proliferation.

Some of the weapons are locally made, while some are stolen from government armoury. There are transfers between sub national groups others captured from government agents, some are taken from

demobilised soldiers and so on (Hussain, 1980).

DEADLY CONVENTIONAL WEAPONRY AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Deadly conventional weaponry and weapon of mass destruction as its name implies are destructive weapons bearing a symmetrical non pictorial design. They are conventional because, they came by treat, that is why it is stated above that the power that agree to it are symmetrical, at least to a certain dimension. Deadly conventional weaponry is known to be threats of war. This paper points out that the threat of war, whether explicit or implicit has always been an instrument of policy whereby one government dissuaded another from pursing certain courses of action. To this fact, advanced weapons technology and the fact that technology constantly changes is intimately connected to the calculus of deterrence (Dougherly, 1981).

However, the question aroused the vulnerability of these strategic weapons to surprise attacks. The weapons in the category were considered so highly destructive that the super power especially during the cold war years and precisely the US and the USSR deployed them as a deterrence to check the use and proliferation of weapons in this category.

The two powers therefore deployed numbers of intercontinental baliistic missiles (ICBMs) so as to make it impossible for either power to consider itself capable of launching a surprise first strike against the others missile forces without incurring a heavy damage in retaliation, weapons in this category include nuclear, chemical and biological weapons (Driftled, 1985).

MASSIVE RETALIATION BEGINS

The Second World War ended with over 150,000 Soviet troops stationed in Eastern Europe. This was to maintain the balance of power in Europe but two options however were available to NATO leadership. One was to master masses of conventional forces from NATO war weary member states and the other was to have the number of conventional forces decreased. NATO was to mobilise for this while relying on the growing nuclear arsenal of the United States. Troubled by the casualties from the Korean War and the rebuilding of Western European nations, the United States were hesitant to counter the soviet force by purely conventional means, thus the leadership of NATO at a meeting in Lisbon in 1952 choose to balance the Soviet conventional forces with the nuclear arsenal of the United States. The United States had led the world in the early 1950s in the design and manufacture of nuclear weapons and weapons delivery system (khallilged, 1955)

The leadership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) felt secure in relying on American nuclear might to counter Soviet Conventional Power in Eastern Europe following the large and growing fleet of intercontinental bombers and a large stock pile of variety of nuclear weapons of the US. The United States began deploying tactical nuclear weapon to NATO military bases across Western Europe in 1952. The reliance of NATO on the United States kept the balance of power for a short time while until technological advances in both the US and the Soviet Union once again upset the international balance of power.

Within the same period, the two states possessed some sort of fusion bomb. The technological advances increased soviets nuclear capabilities, levelling the nuclear playing field slightly between the USSR and the US while the United State dominated realm of long-range

bombers Soviet Union's mid range bombers could easily strike targets in western continental United States. The region of NATO and the US in nuclear technology was shown to be supreme, while the Soviet Union was catching up to prepare against a Soviet attack, NATO officially adopted a strategy of massive retaliation in 1956 under massive retaliation, NATO resolved to respond to any attack on itself with an extensive nuclear retaliation (Quan, 1985)

A TRANSFORMED WORLD: THE CHANGE IN THINKING

The revolution in Eastern Europe in 1989 marked the end of the soviet empire and by extension global security. The transformation was also in politics and economy. The politics of the once monolithic Soviet empire at its transformation changed the problem of securing in Europe.

The outcome of the actions of the above alliances was a "dangerous synergism". Besides, so long as international tensions remained relatively low, each of these military organizations exercised a powerful deterrent effect on other. The two organisations were caught in a whirlwind of confrontation over Germany. The alliances ofcourse having two ideological blocks. Each of the states considering its economy served as the anchor of the ideological blocs" possessing the most powerful armed forces other than those of the blocs super powerful. This paper argues that the symbol of this division not simply of Germany but of Europe itself, was the formidable barrier of masonry barbed wire, sensors and minefields constructed by the East Germany and their Soviet patrons on the frontier between the two German states and a similar barricade surrounding the city of west berlin (Jansen, 1979)

In November 1989, the closed border between the two German states suddenly became wide open and marked the collapsed of East

German communist regime. The ideological bloc between the two states became in the words of Richard Ullman, "a historical anachronism". This action altered the hair-trigger confrontation of blocs and gave a different set of security arrangement.

EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF WMD

The advance in technology significantly improved communications, command control and intelligence, which made it possible to hit target with exactness in both air and ground wars. In todays war, civilians and their habitants are the real targets. Most times in recent wars, civilians casualties are many times larger than the military.

The end of a cold war witnessed a looming threat of considerable significance and pressure for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction following the regional tension and conflicts in Africa and Europe. The efforts to reduce the proliferation were threatened by some challenges. This paper sees these challenges to be the increase of ethnically and racially based conflicts aiming at reflecting maximum casualties on the opponent and the widening gap between the high technology military capacity of the technically advanced countries and the standard and sometimes even rag-tag quality of the weapons and equipment of most developing countries (Rogov, 2001)

The gap constitutes a temptation for major developing countries to compensate for that difference by striving to acquire massively destructive weapons. With these challenges in mind, there are obvious reasons why the international treaties should reviewed, that is the treatise and norms which have been agreed upon with the aim of eliminating existing weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and preventing their proliferation (Alie, 2006)

The spread of scientific knowledge no area of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons has been for a significant number of years yet the "fine points in engineering chemistry and biology are difficult to master". Globalization is seen as a threat to our collective security, thus it contribute greatly to the proliferation of WMD (Chesterman, 2001)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

This paper points out that there is a disturbing trend or erosion of the implementation of the verification provisions of the chemical weapon conventions (cwc). The non-implementation of the verification provisions diminished the effectiveness of the activities of the conventions organizations for the prohibitions of chemical weapons (opcw), which act as one primordial causes of armament, disarmament and weapons of mass destruction. The decision making body of opcw however had several modifications to the rules of verifications. These modifications as noted by this paper makes it possible for states parties to evade defection by restricting evidence that could document their own non-compliance (Mc Carthy 2005)

A special case of non-compliance to the cwc was the Iraq's use of chemical weapon against its own population (Halabja) in 1980 and massively against Iran during Iran-Iraq war. This case was a total violation of the 1925 Geneva protocol prohibiting the use of biological and chemical weapons which Iraq was party to and also ratified the treaty. State parties to the convention reacted out rightly against the violation. The paper notes that political expedience and almost unanimous backing of Iraq in its war with Iran explain this regrettable lack of defence of the Geneva protocol. Iraq's action should be registered as non-compliance with its obligations as regards chemical weapon which encourage weapon

of mass destruction (Grandahubi, 1990).

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

Biological weapons were considered for a long time not to pose any severe problems. The issues of security in the year of the cold war were seen from the perspective of military adaptability and practicability. Biological weapons were not the battle field weapon of choice because it had a delayed effect on the enemy, hence the biological and toxin weapon convention (BTWC) was negotiated. This was quickly done that no one bothered to lead the convention with verification, control and compliance provisions. Few years later, precisely in 1975 and BTWC came into force with concerns whether the Soviet Union really took seriously its obligation under the convention. The study reveals that "after the collapse of the Soviet Union it was revealed that a massive biological weapons (BW) programme had been conducted by the country, starting simultaneously from the moment when the Soviet signature was put on the convention. Weapons of mass destruction terrorised the world population on a large scale as mass murder was the outcome of biological warfare most time with states that signed and ratified the BTWC.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty (NPT) came with two understanding, the first was the undertaking not to acquire nuclear weapons and the second was the undertaking to negotiate for the disarmament of the nuclear weapon states in good faith. Iraq is an NPT party in good standing but it came as a blow to the non-proliferation system when the state was exposed as a major viola for the fundamental undertaking of not to acquire nuclear weapons (kingma, 2006)

The second undertaking of the NPT was seen as the safeguard system of the NPT. Though the safeguard regime has gone through reform and strengthened it still does not constitute a comprehensive verification arrangement. In January 1992 the United Nation Security Council adopted a statement to the effect that weapon of mass destruction proliferation constitute a threat to international peace and security. To this end, this paper observed that in 1997 the UN secretary-general proposed a strengthening of the disarmament capabilities of the secretariat with inter alia a small number of weapon experts in order to serve the Security Council better in its declared ambition to prevent the proliferation of wmd (Nair, 1979).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Weaponry and weapon of mass destruction has been a threat to humanity, during and after the cold war. The term weapons of mass destruction are characterized by complexion of definition and usage. A weapon of mass destruction is a weapon that kills and brings significant harms to a large number of humans, it can as well cause damages to manmade structures like buildings, natural structures like mountains or to the biosphere in general. The scope and application of the term has evolved over the years and it is been dispatched. The term was coined in reference to aerial bombing with chemical explosives, it has come to distinguish large scale weaponry of other technologies, such as chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear. The term was formerly differentiated from small arms, but in recent time small arms are said to have killed more people than the above mention weapons.

Small arms are relatively cheap, they are available in abundance, highly portable, long lasting and so easy to operate that a child as young as

Wukari International Studies Journal, Vol.6, No.2, 2022

eight years old can carry and use them. These characteristics make small arms particularly susceptible to illicit trafficking. They are often sold illegally in exchange for hard currency or goods such as diamonds, drugs or other contraband. In Liberia for instance, Charles Taylor was exchanging mineral resources for arms. These same arms are sometimes recycled from one conflict area to another thereby exacerbating the conflict and contributing to humanitarian crisis.

The majority of people killed in wars and other armed conflicts are victims of small arms, tens of thousands of deaths each year. Most of these are civilians. Small arms truly have come to be weapons of mass destruction.

RECOMMENDATION

Small arms described above are the real weapons of mass destruction pose the greatest threat to human security. The inhabitants of Paris, Beijing, New York and London may find it difficult to imagine that small arms, that is great bulk of which are produced in their countries are causing great harm. It is unfortunate that the inhabitants of these great countries get only a glimpse of the reality of daily life permeated by violence and fear through the use of the instruments of gun. People in places like Nigeria, Burundi, Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia, Tripoli, Liberia and several other countries are living with this reality.

People in these areas know it too well that due to the accessibility of small arms militia men, Boko-haram, herdsmen appear to you at night with wielding guns and machetes to raid your homes, churches, schools and families. The world truly needed peace. At that time is seemed that all enemies and the threat to international security were gone. The governments of the west were quick to capitalise on the optimism. They

were talks everywhere by politicians on the peace dividend and military budget were cut. There was great enthusiasm as the old warsaw pact countries experienced a boom through the invasion of business men who were interested in reaping the reward of the emerging markets.

On the strength of these, this paper has to make the following recommendations:-

- ✓ These small arms are sometimes recycled from one conflict area to another, thereby exacerbating the conflict and contributing to humanitarian crisis this practice should be discouraged.
- ✓ The proliferation of small arms has been the trouble of most nations and have become more accessible than ever, their manufactured factories should close down by the government.
- ✓ The illicit means of transfer of arms at the international level are believed to involve multi-party deals involving false documentation, concealment and smuggling and coded bank account be discouraged.
- ✓ The increasing spate of conflicts around the world should be discourage, it has multiplied several arms as they are more readily available.
- ✓ Several other measures must be put in place to check the negative development of light weapons and weapon of mass of destruction.
- ✓ The use of landmine should be discourage, it is a victim-triggered explosive device which is intended to damage its target via blast and fragments.
- ✓ The world's resources are sunk into arms that have destroyed several communities and nation-states United Nations and world leaders are advised to look into this
- ✓ Disarmament is seen as a multilateral negotiation its goal is the

consolidation of existing short term security to form the basis for lasting peace, this should be encouraged.

- ✓ Disarmament opposes the orthodox notions of national security and political will and questions their effectiveness in promoting human security, it needed encouragement.
- ✓ The issue of demobilisation should be treated with care because disarmed combatants are afraid of losing their chances of rejoining the national army.

REFERENCES

Barry, J. A (1998), "The sword of Justice: Ethics and coercion in international politics', Westport: CT. Pracger.

Chesterman, S. (2001), "Just War or just peace? Humanitarian intervention and international law" New York: oxford University Press.

Gandhi, M.K (1987), "An autobiography or the story of my experiments with truth', Ahmedabad: Novajuvan Publishing House.

Rouke, J.T. (2001), "International politics on the world stage', United States: Mc Graw Hill

Ahanapala, J. (1998), "The challenge to controlling international small arms transfers', In sverer Lodgaard and Cersten F.Ronnfuldt (Eds). A moratorium of light weapons in west Africa, Norway: Norweagian: Institute of international affairs.

Reno, W. (2000), "Liberia and Sierra Leone: The competition for patronage in resources –rich economics, In: E.Wayne Natziger (Ed), war, Hunger and displacement: The origin of humanitarian emergencies, vol.2, New York: oxford University Press.

Repesighe, K. and Anderline, S.N.(1998), "Civil wars civil peace: An introduction to conflict resolution', London: Pluto Press

Bayraytay, A. (2006), "Arms control policy under threat: dealings with the plaque of corruption, In: Anatole Ayisi and Robin E. Poulton (eds)Bound to cooperate: conflict, peace and people in Sierra Leone Geneva: UNIDIR

Collier, P and Hoeffler, A. (2002), "Greed and grievance in civil wars,' policy research working paper 23, Washington DC: world bank.

Svere Lodgaard and Carsten, F. Ronafiedlt (eds) (1998), "A moratorium onlight weapons in West Africa, Norway: Norwegian institute of international affairs

Emizet, K. N.F(2000), "Congo Zaire corruption disintegration and states failure', In: E Wayne Natziger, et al (eds), war hunger and displacement, the origin of humanitarian emergencies, vol.2, New York: Oxford University Press.

Mansary, B (2006), "Women against weapon, A leading role for women in disarmament, In: Anatole Ayisi and Robin E. Polton(eds), Bound to cooperate: Conflict peace in Sierra Leone: Geneva: UNIDIR.

Adeniyi, Odu (1998)' "Regional arrangements to constrain that flow of arms into central Africa" In: svere lodgeard and carsten F Ronnfeldth(eds), A moratorium on light weapon in west Africa: Oslo: Norwegian institute of International affairs.

Wukari International Studies Journal, Vol.6, No.2, 2022

Coupland, R. (2005)' "Modelling armed violence: A tool for humanitarian dialogue in disarmament and arms control' In: John Borrie and vannessa martin Randin (eds), alternative approaches in multilateral decision making: disarmament as humanitarian action: Geneva: UNIDIR

Lawrence, E. J. (1998)' "Moratoriums on small arms and light weapons: Conceptualization and application to Central America' In: Svere lodaand and carsten F. Ronnfeldth (eds), A moratorium on light weapons on West Africa, Oslo: Norwegian institute of international affairs.

Lundahl M. (2000)' "Haiti: Towards the Abyss? Poverty, dependence and resource depletion, In: E. Wayne Natziger, et al (eds) war. Hunger and displacement: The origins of humanitarian emergencies, vol. 2, oxford university press.

Pastor, M and Boyce, J. K (2000)' "El-salvador: Economic disparities, external interventions and civil conflict', In: E. Wayne Natxiger, et al (eds), war, hunger and displacement: The origin of humanitarian emergencies, vol. 2. Oxford university press.

Roche, D. (2003), 'Human right to peace, "Ohawa: Novalis, saint Paul university press.

Lackwski, Z (2001), "Conventional arms control in Europe', In: Ian Anthony and Adam, D Rotfeld (eds), A future of arms control agenda:, New York: Oxford university press.

Miller, D. Et al (2006), "From Research to Road Map: Learning from the arms for development initiative in Sierra Leone: Geneva: UNIDIR

Needham, J. (1986), "Science and civilization in China,' vol. 5 No. 7, Taipai: cover books world stage', United States: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

Brodie, B(1959), "The Anatomy of deterrence in world politics, xl, London: Institute for strategic studies.

Dougherly, J.E and Pfalzraff, R. L.(1981), "Contending theories of international relations, New York: Harper and Row.

Ekeus, R (2001)', "Compliance or non-compliance with arms control and disarmament, In: Ian Anthony and Adam D. Roffeld (eds), A future arms control agenda, SIRRI, Solna: Oxford university press.

Auvineri J and Kivimaki, T. (2000), "Somalia: The struggle for resources', In: E. Wayne.

Ramsbotham, O and Woodhouse, T. (1998), "Humanitarian intervention in contemporary conflict, Cambridge: Polity press.

Rubin, B. R (2000), Afghanistan: The last cold war conflict, the first post cold war conflict: In: E. wayne Natziger, et al (Eds), War, Hunger and Displacement: The origins of humanitarian emergencies vol. 2, New York: Oxford University press.

Schmid, A. (2000), "Thessaurus and Glossary of early warning and conflict prevention terms' London: fewer press.

Shelling, A (1984),' The Nigerian Army in the civil war,' In: Tekeng Tamuno(ed), The civil war years, Zaria: Gaskuya cooperation.

Brodic, B. (1959), "The anatomy of deterrence in world politics, Xl London: Institute of strategic studies.

Ullman, R.H(1991), "Securing Europe', New Jersey Princeton university press'.

Goldbet, T.(1985), "Discussion and recommendation In: Jozet goldbet (ed), Non-proliferations.The why and the wherefore, London and philadephia: Taylor and Frances.

Hussain, M.A (1980), "Third world and disarmament: Shadows and substance,' Third world quarterly vol. 2 (1).

Dougherly, J.E and Pfalzgraff, R. L (1981)' "Contending theories of international relations,' New York: Harper and Row.

Drifte, R. (1985),' Nuclear weapon states not party to the NPT: IB China,' In: Jozof Godlbet (ed), Non –proliferations: The why and the wherefore, London and Philadelphia Taylor and Frances.

Khalilzad, Z. M. (1985), "Nuclear weapons states not party to the NPT: Pakistan,' In: Jozof goldbet (ed), Non-proliferations: The why and the wherefore, London and Philadelphia Taylor and Frances.

Quan, X.W (1985), "Nuclear weapons states not party to the NPT: China', In: Jozet goldbet (ed), non-proliferations: the why and the wherefore, London and

philadephia Taylor and Frances.

Jenson, J. W (1999)' "Nuclear strategy: differences in Soviet and American thinking, Air university period, March-April.

Rogor, S. (2001), "Towards a cooperative arms control regime', Ian Anthony and Adam D. Rotfeld (eds), A future of arms control agenda: New York: Oxford university press

Alie, J. A(2006), "A price for peace? Justice and reconciliation in post war Sierra Leone', In: Anatole Ayisi and Robin Edward Poulton (eds), Bound to cooperate: conflict peace and people in Sierra Leone Geneva: UNIDIR

Chesterman, S. (2001)' "Just war or just peace? Humanitarian intervention and international law, New York: Oxford university press.

Mc Carthy, P. (2005), "Deconstructing disarmament: the challenges of making the disarmament and arms control machinery responsive to the humanitarian interactive', In: John Borrie and Vanessa martin randin (eds) Alternative approaches in Multinlateral decision making: Disarmament as humanitarian action: Geneva: UNIDIR

Gidahubi, R. G(1990), "From armament to disarmament: conversion, soviet style, economic and political weekly.

Kingma, K and Gehyigon, G (2000)' "Trend in Armed forces and demobilisation in sub Saharan Africa, In: kees kingma (Ed), Borin international centre for conversion.

Nar, Vijak (1979)' "China's nuclear strategy and its implication for Asian security, China brief, vol. 4 (3).