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## The New World of Nationalism: A Challenge to Global Peace and Cooperation



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### Abstract

**Purpose:** The article examines the new world of nationalism: A challenge to global peace and cooperation.

**Methodology:** The article utilized qualitative method that relied on secondary data from journal articles, books and internet based materials and data analyzed in thematic content. The article employs protectionist theory to explain how national policy decisions are driven by the need for political and economic stability. It argues that failure to enforce economic safeguards can turn countries into dumping grounds, harming local industries.

**Findings:** The article found that hyperglobalization tends to reduce state/nations sovereignty yet nations still adopt stringent economic policies such as trade ban/tariff and migration restrictions in order to safeguard their nations economic and political domain as well as embrace nations with most friendly economic latitude in order to advance their economic frontal since no nation has reach self-sufficient level and need why nations within the global south see BRICS as the veritable economic alternative and the article concludes that some level of trade protectionism and restricted migrations are essential for national economic development as it serves and, encourage nations to reduce poverty as well as enable nations to prioritize infrastructural development.

**Unique Contribution to Theory, Policy and Practice:** The article recommends that in as much trade protection through tariff and regulation of migration are important to ride the national economies from being the damping ground and allowing migrants that constitute national security risk that nations need be circumspect in the implementation of trade protection and migration bans and regulation if global peace and cooperation could be functional

**Keywords:** *Nationalism, Protectionism, Global Peace, Cooperation, Migration*

## **Introduction:**

The world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is challenged by different kinds of threats: restriction of immigration, racial discrimination, trade protectionism, insurgence, banditry, terrorism and wars with debilitating effects on multilateralism, liberal democracy, global peace and cooperation (Lazarou, 2020; Gautreau, 2020; Bieber, 2018) this trend is sustained through nationalism though Hobsbawm seminal study on nationalism (1990) posits that nationalism was receding while Bieber(2018) argued that Hobsbawm's position was premature and lacked all sense of realism but remarked that the end of Cold War heightens the spirit of nationalism.

Bieber further argued that the world seems messier after the end of cold war with the increasing turf of nationalism globally despite the overwhelming or overarching influence of hyperglobalization. The resurgence of new wave of nationalism particularly from the European nations that see multilateralism and cooperation as threat to their national development and economic wellbeing and the need for trade protectionism, and a cut of official development assistance(ODA) as well as restriction impose on immigration from the poorer nations of the global south( Igwe & Amadi,2025)

This kind of actions prompt the UN secretary General Antonio Guterres to assert that trade protectionism and restriction of immigration are some of the major drawbacks to multilateralism, development and global peace (Lazarou, 2020; Stiglitz, 2020;). Scholars argue that Europe has shouldered the burden of common global good for long and, if not checked Europe would suffer the tragedy of the common especially now the European nations have become the center of different kind of individuals with varying degree of records of crime related cases. It is the tragedy of the common because Europe has become the beacon of destitute that may increase its society risk as individual emigrants come with different kind of behavioral pattern that may manifest once they settle while on the other divide of the argument they see restriction as anti-Semitic in a global society that yearn for peace and cooperation(Environics Institute for Survey Research, 2022) that Europe should not only be the lifeboat but the beacon of hope since they have benefited from these countries from one way or the other.

However nationalism is not a new phenomenon in international relations as it predates the emergence of the modern state system in 1648 in Westphalia where nations exist independently, do their trade, exchange emissaries' to different parts of the world and build fortress that protect their citizens and nations. It is on this basis that scholars have defined nationalism particularly Hans Kohn to mean an individual's loyalty and devotion to the nation-state which is of more important than other individual from different group, interest or nation (Kohn, 2022).

Bieber (2018) believes that nationalism is a group thing, as the group one belongs is more important than the out-group. This depiction of nationalism as the in-group thing would serve the working definition of nationalism in this study, which categorizes nationalism in different typologies; cultural nationalism, religious nationalism, economic nationalism, political

nationalism and technological nationalism, as well as European nationalism, African nationalism and Asian nationalism. Extrapolating nationalism further it connotes patriotism which is an extreme feeling of attachment and commitment to ones region, religion, group, community and nation-state. Little wonder why Donald Trump in his second coming to power as the American 47<sup>th</sup> president in 2025 stated inter-alia that America and American citizens forms his major foreign policy thrust and action in the global political calculus. This line of thinking may not necessarily be selfish as the major thrust of any nation has been its citizens and territory (Fawcett, 2025).

As individual decision makers are rational their ultimate concerns been on how to protect their nations against perceived and imagined threats even in foreign policy of nations national interest is the overriding principle among nations. Foreign policy of nations has three basic components; the core/primary interest, middle range/secondary interest and the long range /globalist interest. Amongst these interests nations do not compromise their core interest which hinges on self preservation of their independence, territory and defense of their citizen from internal insurrection and external incursions (Ashiru, 2014) however it was the need to protect and safeguard her territory or sphere of influence that Russia was able to attack Ukraine for her intended relation with NATO nations Russian archenemy particularly US. Russia perceives Ukraine involvement in NATO as a threat to her core interest and when Ukraine remained recalcitrant it declared war against her in 2022 (Berebon, 2023).

This is what nations can do when their core interest is threatened. America did the same in 1962 when Cuba threatened to join Wars pact of Russia which America perceived as a threat to her core interest or sphere of influence that it went all out to ensure that Russia pulled out of Cuba. Again in 1990's when Iraqi invaded Kuwait America and Britain formed allied force that removed Iraqi in order to ensure her core oil interest within the region. Both the secondary and globalist interests can be compromised provided it did not infringe on the core interest. Similarly in John Locke's state of nature there was peace and order when every human being was capable of defending themselves but disorder came when the power to protect and defend themselves was transferred to the leviathan in the social contract of Thomas Hobbes and Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the individual person became powerless.

From the Lockean perspective nationalism is essential for individual nation's interest since it would enable her build a sustainable socioeconomic and political grit but the only pitfalls of this protective and exclusionary stance is that no nation is self-sufficient that it may not require any goods, service or assistance from other nation, however nations have elected to protectionism in different times in human history. For instance in 1940s the Chinese isolated her economy and concentrated on building a virile and strong economic and that policy paid off today as she has become the second largest growing economy in the world even America before the Second World War isolated its economy from the rest of the world to be able to grow it economy and nations. Most times is necessary that a nation or person insulate itself from public/world attention or competition to enable the nation to consolidate and build strong economy and people.

Since the twilight of Washington consensus developing south especially Africa had liberalized her economy which exposes her to more strains and shocks of global economic meltdown especially with the accelerating speed of globalization. It is this pitfalls that scholars like Andrea Gunder Frank, Claude Ake, Samuel Amir and others cautioned the developing south to delink from the international capitalist economy as the only escaping route if the developing south could survive the more competitive and technological driven economy of the West instead the developing south immersed their economy through liberalization of their economy as espoused by the Washington consensus. When nations over liberalize their economy there are exposed to strains, stress and shocks (SSS) that further deepen their perpetual dependence and backwardness.

The debate on North-South partnership and cooperation is gradually threatened with the emergence of south-south partnership and cooperation. This become glaring as the cooperation get from the North has been palliative rather than developmental Aids. This is because the Aids are tied aids or assistance when the donor nations determine where the funds are allocated rather than given the receiving nations the latitude to make decision on how to use the loan/aids to their compelling development needs. The inequitable relationship between the North-South necessitated the emergence of south-south seen in BRICS as alternative. Consequently the paper is structured into ten parts. Part one is the introduction and followed part two the theoretical framework. Similarly part three examines protectionism and its impact on foreign Aid for economic development while part four interrogates how excessive nationalism triggers war and make peace and cooperation rarely difficult to achieve. Again part five identifies European Migration Policy and Remittance to the Developing South while part six assesses the globe without Trade and Migration and what the world would have been, and part seven investigates BRICS as an alternative trade route to south-south countries. Additionally part eight ascertains the importance of state despite increase in hyper globalization and neoliberal economic module while part nine discusses the part findings and part ten the conclusion.

### **Theoretical framework**

#### **Protectionist theory**

Protectionist theory is an economic policy government or states adopt to protect its economy from external influence through the imposition of trade restrictions aimed at boosting domestic economy and growth. Nations from time to time impose trade restrictions through tariff, impose ban on migration in order to prevent its economy from being the dumping ground for the sole purpose of safeguarding labor and service for domestic growth. However most times nations impose trade and services restrictions to create a balance of trade or payment to build their economy. Protectionism is mainly practiced by backward countries with weak industrial growth and capital formation for the preservation of their local industries or economy however protectionism is not only limited to the backward nations of the developing south, the developed North also imposed trade, service and immigration restrictions to safeguard their economy from falling victim of the tragedy of the common.



The protectionist theory was propounded by Friedrich List in 1791 in his 'report on manufactures'. Friedrich was emphatic on the need for developing nations to impose certain measure restriction to enhanced nations to build their industrial growth or base in order to protect their local industries from unnecessary or unhealthy competition from the established economies of the developed nations of the global north. Similarly protectionism is not limited to a region or country but an economic policy which nations adopt to correct their balance of payment or trade disequilibrium but recently the global north who are the megaphone of liberalism have turned to be the major proponents of protectionism. However once nations over liberalize their economy there are exposed to strains, stress and shocks that further deepen their perpetual dependence and backwardness especially the global south. This is on this fact that nations need to be circumspect and discreet in imposing and implementing protectionism since no nation is self-sufficient as to be totally independent in all sphere. It is on this backdrop that this study adoption of protectionism as its theoretical framework is apt.

### **Protectionism and its impact on foreign Aid for Economic Development**

The basis upon which multilateral trade was calibrated or constructed is to engineer global collaborative mechanisms and participatory inclusion that promotes global peace and cohesion among nations (Environics Institute for Survey Research, 2022). It is on this thrust that liberal economists have argued that nations that trade together hardly initiate or go into war however this clichés seem to be out lord by the over bearing influences of some global powers who tended to disequilibrium the global economic system for national quest and prestige with utter disregard of the liberal economic postures of economy of scale which drives growth and development.

The end of world war 11 signaled a landmark increase in international trade through as nations double their production of their goods and services through the instrumentalities of technology and science. This explains the intricate links between trade and global economic growth however the growing increase in economies does not distribute wealth and goods evenly .This state of inequality engender some levels of resentments from developing nations particularly around 1970's when nations began to recline toward protectionism as they argued that unhindered trade is an intrusion and a threat to national economic stability (Heywood & Whitham, 2023, P.153).

Heywood and Whitham(2023) further argue that international trade create a 'shallow integration' that deepens interdependence than create a global economic that benefits all nations equally. What this portends is that developed economies benefit largely from international trade since their economies could withstand intense competition that characterize unrestricted trade not the developing economies that require trade protection to nurture and grow their economies. Based on this backdrop Heywood and Whitham (2023) posit that trade protection promotes development of local industries and national stability.

Recently the North and European developed economies came up with protectionism against the developing south which tend to distort the liberalist view of incremental and unhindered economic

system upon which hinges trade expansion and development depend((Nicolas,2021).this moves makes mess of the Washington Consensus that advocated for unhindered trade and market driven by globalization (Nicolas,2021)

However nations as free moral global agents are at liberty to enter into any economic policy aimed at promoting and protecting its territorial integrity but in doing that must not be oblivion of the fact that no nation globally is self-sufficient that it can stand on its own without product and services from other regions or nations. Nations who impose stringent trade economic policies do so for various reasons from; protecting their local industries from unnecessary competition, to preventing their economy from a dumping ground (Nicolas, 2021).

These basic economic measures may be tenable to the developing economies but not the advanced developed economies that produces at a reduced cost due to their increased technology and scientific innovations, yet despite their level of advancement in technology and science the West has elected to apply protectionism than liberalism particularly against the least develop economy of Africa, Asian, pacific and Caribbean nations. As they tighten their economy it has ripple effect on foreign Aid to the developing south.

Recently US government has reduced or cancelled it donor agencies to the developing south. Nonetheless their progress and advancement they cannot totally obliterate their border/ boundaries rather they make exception to advance their political dominance and power. To put it in another way protection is essential for their national power and global calculus and relevance (Heywood & Whitham, 2023).

A lot of energy is focused on government actions and inaction in relation to trade and migration restrictions without taking into cognizance the role of natural disasters such epidemic and pandemic as it affect economic activities such as trade and migration and its unmitigated consequences globally(Adu-Gyamfi & Tomdi,2025.P.108).The impact of Covid-19 to trade and migration were noticeable as the pandemic or rather scourge impose incalculable restriction on global movement and trade as nations were preoccupied in protecting their nations as the period witnessed slow down in socio-economic activities.

Equally in different conversation that unrestricted or unregulated economy without some levels of restrictions will lead to world economic chaos as happened in Post-world war 1 in great economic depression and its concomitant political extremism and aggression. Borderless economy as converse by hyperglobalist that links the global economy into the web of interconnectedness may be catastrophic in the long run. This is because protection of borders against unhindered international trade drives national economic growth ether through restriction or tariff (Heywood &Whitham, 2023) US one of the leading liberal capitalist economy in the world are now the new face of protectionist policies (Fawole, 2020: P.23) by embarking in aggressive measures in ensuring that America reduces her foreign Aid globally according to the presidency Americans first.

The US Agency for international development(USAID) saddled with the responsibility of granting funds to educational institutions and other donor agencies especially targeted to the developing nations for development is gradually facing proscription by the American government. The policy thrust of USAID is to extend US assistance to countries recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty, and engaging in democratic reform however accordingly USAID has extended over 37 billion USD to Ukraine since it war with Russia began in 2022 (<https://www.npr.org>) although foreign Aid is critical driver it some drawbacks especially as it make receiving nations to dependent to the donor nations; it equally reduced domestic savings and lead to acute inflationary trends(Jhingan,2010:p.374) the reasons for this is that foreign Aid are usually tied or untied. Foreign aid is tied when the donor nations specified the area(s) which the fund would be channeled such as democratic reforms to gully erosion control and resettlement of the internally displaced persons in violent prone areas.

The irony of this tied foreign Aid is that it would be in the control of the donor nations yet the repayment is that of the receiving nations even though that Aid may not be in the priority needs of receiving. The reason the donor nations have continued to give for this tied Aid is that most of the developing nations do not have vibrant productive sector for lack of well-prepared and well-planned project (Jhingan,2010, P.377) as corruption eats the fabric of their economy (Iannantuoni, 2025), nonetheless overtimes this percolates to avalanche of foreign debts leaving the nations worse-off(Jhingan,2010,P.375) despite these shortfalls foreign Aid nonetheless promotes and engineer economic development and growth by making funds and capital available to the developing nations for critical development since most developing nations are faced with paucity of funds and capital (Jhingan, 2010).

As scholars argue what is paramount for the developing nations is strategic planning that is achievable and enhanced trade with the developed nations not Aid projects. Trade is essential for national development(Goldberg & Reed, 2023) as it affords the trading partners the opportunity for participatory economic system that boost their economic development growth than the trade restriction against the developing nations by classifying their goods and product substandard in the international market.

It is to checkmate this unwholesome trade restrictions amongst nations that world trade organization (WTO) the offshoot of general agreement on trade and tariff (GATT) was saddled with the responsibility to regulate global trade through effective framework for trade negotiation, agreements and settling of trade dispute between nations, however the basic thrust of WTO is to ensure unhindered trade which will promote living standard of global population through job creation (Jobirovich, 2025). Again WTO ensures that trade barriers and tariff amongst nations is amicably resolve by ensuring that nations liberalize their trade in order to enhance global economic growth and increased living standard of global population (Jobirovich, 2025).

**Nationalism and Mindless Wars: Can the world Know More Peace and Cooperation**



Since the end of cold war the world has fought more wars both proxy and real. The estimation of world leaders is that the end of cold war would usher the world to a more peaceful and cooperative world instead since the demise of the ideological rivalries between the East and Western bloc the world has been more polarized in different dimensions that the world seems more threatened than ever before with increased nuclear wars and nuclear enrichment that places the world at the mercies of reasons and wisdom (Ge, 2025).

The challenge of nuclear enrichment is that nations have lay claim to it as a vehicle for national protection and security why the world enriched nations of US, Russia, Israel and Britain see its possession as a threat to global peace and stability. It is this drive that has moved the nuclear states of US, Russia and Britain to crack down any other nations aside their league. This singular act tend to pit the nuclear nations at a loggerhead with less nuclear states that want to enrich nuclear either for national development or security purposes (Waltz, 1990).

The fact that states are judges in their own cases in international politics it become expedient that states defend themselves as well. One of the power sovereignty confers on states is the ability to defend their territory from internal or external attacks. For state to carry this task effectively the need to build and develop military capability. Recently this becomes expedient due largely to the presence of different violent non-state actors and threat from other pariah/rogues states and nationalist tendencies amongst nations.

The quest of some nations to exhibit form of superiority over other nations either because of their race or technology triggers hostility and conflict around the world However in building their military hardware states have come under scrutiny especially in the building of their nuclear weapon. Despites the opposition to the development and building of nuclear weapons, states has continued to develop their nuclear weapons. However the question that bothers many analysts is that if states are sovereign why the opposition in building their nuclear weapons? This question is pertinent especially owing to the increasing threats states face from; insurgent and terrorist groups, but this is not the only reason why states embark on the development of nuclear weapons.

The reason why states build their nuclear weapon varies from prestige to development. States embark on nuclear weapon for prestige when they develop nuclear weapon as a tool for repression. For instance Syria during the reign of Bashar al Assad Syria deployed weapon of mass destruction on Damascus, and was not charged against war crime or genocide because it has support of powerful nations such as Russia and China (Fawole, 2020 P.13). However it is not only Syria that has developed nuclear weapon other states have nuclear weapons such as North Korea, Israel, Japan, Pakistan ,Iran and Afghanistan.

The Western nuclear powers appear to be selective in their fight against the development and acquisition of nuclear weapons. This selective fight is to weaken and destroy the economy of countries developing nuclear for development such as Iran. The US constant attack on Iran is not

unconnected that if allowed unhindered that Iran in near future may excel even above her nuclear development hence the attack on the Iranian nuclear sites and programs.

However the Russian silence on American attack on Iranian nuclear sites and program despite its close tie with Iran is quite a wrong signal that the West nations are in unity in ensuring that any other nations never had access to nuclear development while some scholars were of the opinion that Russia could not intervene in the Iranian case because it had enough in her hands especially her war with Ukraine. The other group asserts that it may not be true that Russia is been handicapped by her war in Ukraine, that she is still meddled in the Sahel region of West African sub region where it backs the military juntas in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

As the instinct of man drives him for self-preservation, same apply to states in the international politics that they devise every method to ensure that they remain evincible from the attack of other states in the international system. It is this thrust that engineered states to develop their military capability and, in that wise it is to contain the recklessness of those states who wield the assortment of destructive weapon or want to develop nuclear weapon that several treaties, conventions and agencies were created such as international atomic energy agency (IAEA) to check the activities of states who acquire or want to build their nuclear weapons (Ge, 2025). Ostensibly IAEA goal is to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies since its creation in 1957. Since its inception IAEA has engaged in the inspection of states' nuclear weapon facilities to ensure that they do not deploy nuclear for destructive purposes. IAEA had inspected different countries especially Syria, Iran, Iraq Pakistan and Afghanistan and other countries it suspect was engaging in Nuclear for war rather than for peace purposes (Abdel-wahad, Zubizarreta, Polo & Meghzifene, 2017).

### **European Migration Policy and Remittance to the Developing South**

The poor administration systems in the global south worsened by democratic backsliding are some of the triggering factors responsible for the influx of people from the global south to the global North. Despite these reasons migration is either induced by pull or push factors (Piore, 1979). In essence the factors that trigger migration are reinforcing but basically poor governance and backsliding democracies are some of the reasons.

However migration pattern is not only limited to the global south even in the most developed north migration is also prevalent as people migrate for several reasons such as for education, urbanization, climate change, Wars, trade greener pasture and tourism (UNHCR,2022; Adepoju & Arie van der Wiel,2010,P.16). This is because as theories of migration extrapolate particularly the dual labor-market theory that people migrate in order to meet the structural needs of modern industrial economies (Adepoju & Arie van der Wiel, 2010, P.41) while the world system theory suggests that people do not migrate as a result of industrial labour but facilitate the expanded market occasioned by the penetration of capitalism that accelerate mobility of labour.. The world

system theory believe that since the world economic system is interdependent people are likely migrate to other region or nations principally to keep the wheel of commerce and trade in motion.

Even the hump theory holds the view that poor people do not migrate far, but hump theory is challenged because most emigrants abroad are mainly persons from poor background who go through the deserts and Mediterranean seas to European nations. Again this avalanche of factors triggering the phenomenon is as old as world existence and has become part and parcel of human nature and has not been without some restrictions (Heywood & Whitham, 2023, P.241) while world migration report (2025) assert that the major causes of migration are conflict, climate change and challenged economy, nonetheless the causes are reinforcing. Despite the migration patterns nations impose restriction on migration for several reasons to safeguard their nations from global pandemic, to isolate their economy from external intrusions and punitive measures. Similarly Migration check includes the imposition of visa ban or restrictions for a particular region or tribe or states in the international system. When states embark on unilateral visa policies or outright expulsion of foreign nationals it restrains cooperation and endanger global peace, services, trade and diplomatic relations (Ahsan Ullah, 2025).

However when nations over liberalize their economy they are exposed to strains, stress and shocks that further deepen their perpetual dependence and backwardness nonetheless the migrants remittance constitute a critical pool of global economic growth. Globally as at 2023 remittances to the global south stood at \$656 billion (World Bank, 2024) and contribute to states development in global south (Ahsan Ullah, Ferdous & Chattora, 2022) but remittance for global wealth is faced with mammoth challenges globally as foreign nationals faced deportation, visa ban and other oppositions in most European countries particularly Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Somalia, Sudan.

The outright immigration policy has economic implications on remittance and left-behind families as it as well restrain relationships and pose threat to global peace and cooperation. in spite of migration individual benefits and to left families through remittances, migration has deleterious effect on the domestic politics as most the productive and energetic youth population that would have drive the political engineering of their various countries pay allegiance to the country(s) of their residence (.Heywood & Whitham, 2023, P.244)

Again through migration trends people lose their cultural roots and thereby become transnational individuals by assimilation. Archaeologist posits that culture is a veritable identifier of a groups and once the individual lost its culture which embedded language, clothing food and dance such individual become alienated from its root which in the long run may face backlash by creating the in-group and out-group. These policies also do not only affect the foreign nationals it also lead to job cut and affect productivity in the host foreign countries (Schapendonk & Zoomers, 2011, P.37).

Migration can be checked globally through poverty reduction and enthronement of stable governance that may assuage both pull and push triggers of migration. It was this direction that

led to the UN sustainable development goal. In sustainable development goal 1 which is poverty reduction believed that once poverty is reduced other accompanying crimes that threatened the fabric of global peace is achievable through job creation and more inclusive governance where distribution and redistribution of global wealth is efficiently implemented.

### **Global world without Trade and Migration: A farce or Myth**

Trade and migration are related as one lead to the other. This is because each facilitates the other. During the transatlantic slave trade, slaves merchants from Europe moved and settled in various trade post in Africa to afford them access to slave However there would not have been trade without the migration of people, although trade is not the only precipitating factor why people migrate, but most time people have tended to settle in a particular region to enable them trade and establish relations (Heywood & Whitham, 2023, P.242).

As people trade and settle in a particular area or region it fosters cooperation and peace through inter-religious, intermarriage and other associations. The fact that nations had exited barter economy with it accompanying double coincidence of wants and also the truism that no nation is self-sufficient that it does not need other nations' goods and services, trade and migration come in to fill the gap, yet trade and migration are not without some challenges from the feeling of marginalized to fear of losing the economy to foreign nationals or competition (Saliu, 2020, P.59)

Despite the increasing influence of globalization and the coming on board of world trade organization (WTO) since the cessation of general agreement on trade and tariff (GATT) in 1995 advanced economies have remained reluctant to open their consumer market to the economies of developing south despite the fact that WTO is saddled with the responsibility of resolving different trade disputes for seamless global trade, development, growth and peace.

Nonetheless developed economies particularly America and other developing economies such as Brazil, Nigeria and India have adopted reciprocal trade tariff despite the several trade rounds which tend to distort the adequate flow of goods and service in a world faced with hunger and deprivation. Recently US has been furious and paranoid on high tariff charged her by the developing economies yet America is the largest exporter of services which amount 1.1 trillion USD, and trade surplus of 293.4 billion USD in 2024([www.honrichfoundation.com](http://www.honrichfoundation.com)).

The ineffectiveness of WTO in resolving trade dispute especially to favour the developing economies with weak and poor industrial technology is a pointer that the advanced economies are comfortable with the skewed global trade pattern through tariff which creates global economic dysfunctionalities such as strains, stress and shocks that triggers rivalries between economies with adverse consequences on global stability, peace and cooperation. However, the reasons the European nations give for imposing restrictions on migration is aimed at protecting their security threshold ostensibly believed to have been rendered porous by illegal migrant(Heywood & Whitham,2023).

Schnapendonk & Zoomers,(2011) held a different and divergent opinion as they stated that EU migration policies were bias as it is discriminatory ,and through the process earmark heavy chunk of funds to militarized their border especially Spain under the auspices of international system of external vigilance(SIVE) and the European surveillance system(ESS) by ensuring that all fingerprints of migrants are captured and through the process impose stiff migration policies as borders are closed and visa ban enforced.

The enforcement of restriction on migration has not abated the movement of people from one location to the other. From the earliest time local hunters and food gatherers move from one area to another in search of game or food and by the process settle in areas other than their origin habitat. The settlement is most times peaceful or by force (Heywood &Whitham, 2023.P.241). The reason for this peaceful or forceful settlement is to improve their conditions of living. Here condition of living supersedes the habitat or place of origin. It is a truism that no nation or people could claim that where they now live is where their earliest ancestors live (Heywood and Whitham, 2023)

### **BRICS: A Trade Alternative for global south-south cooperation**

Globally one of the continents that face great challenge in trade and migration is Africa. This is unconnected of corrupt governance structure and worsened by her raw material economy determined by several variables from weak institutional structure to paucity of technology architecture. Even the manner African economy was integrated into global economy through colonialism and subsequently imperialism disadvantaged Africa a great ideal.

Africa could not negotiate her trade relations or otherwise with the imperial powers. It was on the account of this unequal integration into global capitalist economy (Heywood& Whitham,2023,P.642)that incensed scholars such as Andrew Gunder Frank, Samir Amin , Emmanuel Wallenstein(2004), Claude Ake(1982), and a lot of southern scholars to present the delink thesis for Africa. But with the increasing hyperglobalized economy such thesis is no longer tenable rather what would be the currency is for African continent to look inward why they interact with the global economy with great circumspect why they form new trade alliance with other emerging economies within the South-South agenda.

In order to cement south-south trade and cooperation agenda Africa should begin to identify BRICS as partner especially as one of her African country is member South Africa. The emergence of BRICS provide Africa a viable alternative trading partner as China is the second largest economy in the world after US. The joining of other Africa countries to BRICS will be new vista for trade, investment and partnership as it provides trade and investment opportunity alternatives through multi-sector cooperation as it offers Africa opportunity to diversify its trading partners. BRICS economic partnership holds a great potential to the Africa economy especially as its GDP stood at over \$28 trillion in 2022 surpassing that of US. The estimated projection of BRICS economy is expected to triple by 2030 to become the largest economy in the world which would



be of immense economic interest to Africa. This china has identified to potential in her economic by opening her economic to China.

China is not only regional power but gradually becoming a global hegemon as her influence grows in leaps and bounds. The investment of China in Africa is massive through her road-belt initiatives aimed at transforming Africa position in infrastructure and investment. China as one of the principal partners in BRICS its influence in Africa would provide a quick launching pad for African economy to be integrated to the BRICS global economic calculus and relevance. However Africa and Europe has had long history of relationship prior pre-colonial, to colonial and post-colonial periods. It was the need to develop Africa led Africa-EU strategic partnership agreement (SPA) in 2007.

The strategic partnership agreement between Africa and EU included; migration, trade and regional integration, peace and security and climate change in conformity with the framework on trade development and cooperation agreement. The crux of the strategic partnership agreement is to address global challenges such as fair trade, migration, children's rights and gender equality, HIV/AIDS, energy security, terrorism .malaria and tuberculosis (Oluyode, 2010, P.152) as contained in the first plan of action (FPA). Since the independence of southern nations EU has been the major the trading and investment partners' particularly African states as it promotes Africa's development (Oluyode, 2010, P.155).If this infrastructural investment and development is critically assessed the inequality it contributed to Africa is glaring. The trade relations between Africa-EU is based on raw material producer and manufactured good producer that negates strategic partnership agreement that emphasizes on fair trade and migration instead a stiffer trade protection and visa ban as the European nations set mechanism that check legal and illegal migration as they pose security threat to the European societies(Eyinla,2010.,P.133)

There has been argument for and against the relevance of BRICS to global economic equation. The proponents see BRICS as a veritable trade and migration alternative to European economic manipulation of the developing south that challenge Western multilateral and liberalistic economic outlook aimed for the transformative global economic trajectory while the critics see BRICS as an economic phase that would fizzle out in the course of time particularly as the member countries are struggling with different existential crisis: overpopulation and unequal economic metrics and indicators even though they seem at the present promising economically(Gustavo-de Carvalho, Gruzd &Y-Shan Wu,2025). The significance of BRICS is increasing on a global scale especially as US is gradually withdrawing active participation in global international organizations and imposing stringent economic and migration policies

### **End of Cold War and Return of State Active Participation in Global Politics**

Prior the emergence of state and it relevance in global politics in 1648 in Westphalia nations were living in more or less beast like with the prevalence of wars. During this state of perpetual wars lives were nasty and brutish as there were no constant territories but wars and taking of hostages

as there were equally no official boundaries and populations were often fragmented. Consequently with the emergence of states nations began to lay claims on areas and territory with aggregated population and the creation of government upon which authority was exercised. Despite the emergence of states wars were not totally ruled out because states were interest seeking entities. Since these interests often clash the tendency of conflict cannot be eliminated. It is the drive for prestige and fame to conquer nations that birthed the first and second world wars. Again it was to prevent the scourge of wars that several international organizations came into being. These international organizations were incremental from the League of Nations to United Nations organization. From the preamble of the United Nations charter it aimed to prevent the outbreak of third world war and to save nations from the scourge of wars as well as to promote international peace and security.

Immediately the cold war ended in 1945 the super powers particularly U.S and Russia began to see global events and issues in different lenses. This different world views manifested in the ideological rivalries between US-Russia and, as the world became ideologically polarized into blocs it usher in the epoch of arm race and proxy wars. During the epochal rivalries between the US-Russia as manifested in blocs hegemonies many states in Africa, Asia, Caribbean and pacific consolidated their political independence yet the states became porous through the sponsors of proxy wars.

However analysts have argued that although the period was fearful and uncertain that the period witnessed enduring peace and fewer wars. As the global system transits from cold war era to a much unipolar or multipolar world states intensifies their assertiveness for global power relevance especially as states become more threatened in different areas: border conflicts, trade inequality, influx of migrants, poverty, climate change, intra-national wars, terrorism, hunger and increase in small and light weapons and the increasing decline of borders. However states imposition of trade restrictions, regulation of migration through visa ban or outright ban, fight over borders especially the Russian-Ukraine war, Israel –Palestine war and US imposition of travel ban and trade restrictions of European nations portray the relevance of states system in the hyperglobalized world (Heywood& Whitham,2023,P.186). Yet the neoliberal economies emphasis laissez faire economy with market having the overwhelming control is not without compelling challenges as states become porous and the need to reassert and reintroduced measures to get grips of economy as economy is the substructure upon which political structures stands, although both are complimentary.

### **Discussion of Findings**

Despite the stark reality that hyperglobalization has made national borders porous or almost obliterated yet nations have come to realize that over liberalization of their national economy and border for trade and migration portends adverse consequences which may disarticulates their local economies by making their economy the dumping ground and stifle local industries at their infancy stage to withstand competition from goods or services from the advanced economies and thereby

requires some measures of restriction in order to safeguard their economy. This is because any nation that would want to call it short or respected in international politics it must be economically viable and independent otherwise it would be controlled by economically advanced nations as economic viability is the substructure upon which other superstructure stand in the international power calculus and influence. Again the study found that trade and migration are interrelated and reinforces each other and no matter the immigration laws and trade restriction both would continue to be part of global economic system and can only be checked when there is reduction in poverty and redistribution of global wealth to favour the global south. The study further found that South-South cooperation agenda through the instrumentality of BRICS provides a viable option for Africa's development and trade partners' diversification and cooperation. Although BRICS bloc has an African member state South Africa in its fold, African states before joining the bloc should ensure they would be treated fairly based on reciprocity and respect than what obtain between Africa and the global North where it is treated with disdain. In order not to be treated with disdain in the BRICS bloc African states are expected to embrace science and technology while its leaders eschew corruption and ethno-religious and ethno-cultural wrangling

### **Conclusion**

Having examined new nationalism: a challenge to global peace and cooperation under various subheadings: Protectionism and its impact on foreign Aid for economic development, nationalism and mindless wars: can the world know more peace and cooperation, European migration policy and remittance to the developing south, global world without trade and migration: A farce or myth, BRICS: the alternative trade route for African states and end of cold war and return of state active participation in global politics the paper concludes that some levels of trade protectionism and migration regulations are essential for national economic development as it serves and, encourage nations to reduce poverty as well as enable nations to prioritize infrastructural development

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### **Author Contributions**

Dr. Livinus NWAUGHA conceptualized the study and did the theoretical survey. Dr Olayinka Babatunde. Adebogun and IREWUNMI Banwo added to the theoretical survey. Dr Livinus Nwaugha discussed the results and drafted the manuscript. Dr Olayinka Babatunde Adebogun and IREWUNMI Banwo further critical references while all authors partake in the review of the final version of the manuscript.

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