

# Security Threats and Nigeria's Economic Growth: Assessing the Effects of Boko Haram Terrorism (2010-2022)

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**Abstract:** *The study interrogated the security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism on Nigeria's economic growth since 2010. Imperatively, the study examined the effects of Boko Haram terrorism on Nigeria's economic growth in the specific areas of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Economic Growth Index (EGI), Investment Freedom Index (IFI), inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Tourism arrivals cum patronage among others which serve as indicators of economic growth. The study is qualitative and descriptive in typology. It employed secondary sources of data; data were gathered through documented evidence which includes annual reports on economy, journal articles, media publications and textbooks. Data were content-analyzed thematically and logically while Systems theory by David Easton provided a meaningful theoretical explanation to the study. Among other findings, the study revealed that security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism has posed serious negative effects on Nigeria's economic growth in the reviewed years. For this reason, the study recommended a sincere dialogue with Northern Islamic leaders and the leaders of the group. More so, there is need for Nigerian government and nationals both home and abroad to step up their international campaign against all forms of security threats; in addition, there is need for Nigerian political elites to take into cognizance the suggestions cum solutions provided by empirical Studies and reports by researchers in the area of terrorism. This will give Nigerian government better clues on how to solve the menace. These aforementioned served as practical solutions and updates in knowledge for further studies.*

**Keywords:** Security threat; Terrorism; Economic growth; Boko Haram; Nigeria

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The history of Nigeria as the most populated country and largest economy in African continent has suffered numerous security threats cum challenges arising from persistent religious, ethnic, political among other globally oriented crises since her independence in 1960. As observed in Mohammed (2016), the country went through a civil war in between 1967 and 1970, followed by Maitasine crisis in the 1980s; sporadic ethno-pastoral crisis/conflict in the Middle Belt, militancy in the Niger Delta region, the oil producing region, which covers about nine (9) states in the Southern part of Nigeria among others, with destructive consequences on lives, properties, economic activities and security of Nigeria.

Amidst the existing aforementioned internal security threats in Nigeria, there was uprising of Boko Haram terrorist group in the country in the early 2000s and the group became more recognized in 2009 when the group's member had a

confrontation with security personnel during a funeral procession for one the group's member (Tawil, 2015). As a result of this incident, several violent attacks were carried out by Boko Haram terrorist group in the Northern part of Nigeria, particularly in Maiduguri (the Capital town of Borno State-Nigeria) where about 800 lives were reportedly lost comprising the civilians, security forces and some members of the group (Mohammed, 2016).

Consequently, for more than a decade in Nigeria, there have been spates of deadly violent attacks linked to Boko Haram group, most especially in the Northern part of the country where thousands of lives were reportedly lost and extensive damage to human's properties with tendency of setting the existing slow economic development/growth of Nigeria backward. As observed in Owoeye, Okafor and Chinonso (2021), the operations and activities of Boko Haram have drawn the attention of Nigerians since July 2009 as a result of its damaging effects on socio-economic activities.

Subsequently, the security threats arising from Boko Haram menace in Nigeria has resulted in the poor ranking of the country by security indexes as Nigeria had been rated for 6 consecutive years (between 2015 and 2020), the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) most terrorized country in the World by Global Terrorist Index (GTI) and frequently ranked between 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> position in the list of the most security's threatened country in the world by the Security Threats Index (STI) as observed in Owoeye, Nduba and Ezeanya (2021).

The persistent increase in death rate arising from Boko Haram terrorism since 2009 has claimed over tens of thousands lives and about 3million displaced Nigerian citizens with destructive consequences on Nigeria's business activities (Center for Preventive Action, 2022). It is imperative to note that Nigeria's economy suffers when terrorists' attack from Boko Haram group began on local and foreign businesses as many business owners migrate to the Southern region of Nigeria while many have closed down due to security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism. As observed in Dunn (2018), over 10,000 shops were permanently shut down in a major market, popularly known as Monday Market when Boko Haram attacked Maiduguri, Borno State of Nigeria while financial institutions were seriously affected and caused many banks to shorten their workings hours daily to curtain the risk of getting hit by terrorists' attack thereby limiting the financial capacities of the people. Consequently, the terrorists' attack from Boko Haram has stalled Nigerian economy as businesses were migrating to safer environments cum countries, many Nigerians began to lose their jobs, tourists arrivals began to decline in number, investors began to withdraw their investments from Nigeria because of security threats and as a result of this, Nigeria has reportedly lost over 1.33trillion Dollars Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) with serious declines in her Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The foregoing established the trends of security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria. The menace of Boko Haram terrorism has defiled all kind of responses for its treatment and its damaging effects cannot be easily measured on the Nigeria's economy. As part of efforts of Nigerian government towards fighting its security threats cum terrorism, the state has implemented various policies in countering terrorism ranging from strong military approach to counter insurgency campaigns. However, despite the efforts of Nigerian Government and various policy recommendations made in previous studies, the security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism is still alarming in Nigeria. It is against this background that the study tended to examine the effects security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism on Nigeria's economic growth.

## 2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

### Security Threats

Before reviewing few definitional attempts of what security threats entail, it is important to review some scholarly definitions of the concept of security. Scholars over the years have viewed security from different theoretical views; despite being socially constructed among Western scholars, the major common element runs through their definition is that security, where national or international connotes safety of lives and property cum protection from dangers.

As observed in Afolabi (2016), Security encompasses the presence of peace, safety, security, gladness and the protection of human and physical resources or absence of crisis or threats to human dignity, all which facilitate development and progress of human society. In the view of the scholar, security is all encompassing and covers almost every aspect of human lives. The scholar equally considered security as a fragile and significant issue with different meanings to scholars, policy makers, analysts, organizations and nations across the globe.

Buzan cited in Afolabi (2016) further described security as a concept that encompasses freedom from threat and ability of states to maintain independent identity and their position. Although, one cannot fail to acknowledge the definitional effort of the scholar as it viewed security in terms of ability of states to maintain its sovereignty and its position which is fundamental to states survival in international relations, however, the definition can be less embracing as it failed to take into cognizance, the security at individual levels, such as protection from anything that can deny human rights and freedom.

In the view of Asghar (2015), security connotes the core values of life and has always been a high-priority issue for both nations and people. Furthermore the scholar presented four (4) principal assumptions which underline the concept of security and they are; security of what; security for what; security from what; and security by what means. As asserted by the scholar, the reason for these definitional assumptions is prior to the fact that there is no clear consensus or generally definition of the concept, thus scholarly views on the concept of security are tied to the four (4) aforementioned assumptions. Nonetheless, these assumptions have further lead to the divergent view of the nature and scope of security as a socially constructed concept; that is, a diverse concept that must be studied from different angles cum perspectives before it can be properly understood. From the views of the scholar, security is essential to both human and societal survival because without security human can grow but cannot flourish.

Similarly, as observed in Samo (2020), there is no generally specific definitional attempt of security as the concept are links with virtually spheres of human life and thus; we have economic security, energy security, water security, cyber-security, health security, environmental security, community security among others. Thus, in the view of scholar, any

definitional attempt of security must be geared towards a certain field or area. Similarly, Afolabi (2015) highlighted seven (7) definitional dimensions of security; they include economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security, all which are characteristics cum essential to both national and global security.

On the other hand, scholars have equally considered the concept of security threats to mean the same as insecurities cum security challenges. In the view of Jelilov, Ezden & Briggs (2018) considered security threat/insecurity as a crosscutting and multi-dimensional thought which had been subjected to arguments. As asserted by the scholar, security threat is seen distinctively by various investors and how it affects human lives and properties. In the view of the scholars, any act that threatens investors from engaging in their business activities is considered security threats, however, the scholars ignored other forms of security threats that do not threaten investment nor affect human lives, thus the assertion of the scholar is subjected to the question of whether all security threats affects human lives or necessarily threaten investment. Collins Dictionary (2022) considered security threat as a form of threat that affects the security of a country or nation. From this assertion, security threat is viewed to be having national outlook only, however, security threats can be considered to be both national and international. For instance, Boko Haram terrorism is a serious security threat that cuts across West African region.

### Terrorism

Terrorism as a socio-political cum economic phenomenon has been widely used in literature. However, despite the numerous usage of term, there has been no generally agreed definition on what constitutes terrorism globally. Scholars such as Ogunrotifa (2013), traced the development and popularity of the concept work of some, intellectuals cum philosophers; such as Karl Marx, Auguste Comte and Emile Durkheim during the enlightenment era and effects of French Revolution in 1789 on the European society.

The International Community cum organizations have tried to give a meaningful definition of what the concept entails; League of Arab State (1998) through the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism viewed terrorism as “any act or threat of violence, whatever its motives or purposes, that occurs in the advancement of an individual or collective criminal agenda and seeking to sow panic among people, causing fear by harming them, or placing their lives, liberty or security in danger, or seeking to cause damage to the environment or to public or private installations or property or to occupying or seizing them, or seeking to jeopardize national resources”. From the assertion terrorism connotes any form of criminal activities that poses threats and danger to the people.

Similarly, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1566 cited in United Nations’ General Assembly, UNGA,

(2020) viewed terrorism as criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act. the European Council submits that terrorist offences are certain criminal offences set out in a list comprised largely of serious offences against persons and property which: given their nature or context, may seriously damage a country or an international organization where committed with the aim of: seriously intimidating a population; or unduly compelling a Government or international organization to perform or abstain from performing any act; or seriously destabilizing or destroying the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or an international organization (Council of the European Union, n.d).

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) cited in Pomerantz (1987) defined terrorism as “unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a Government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives”. In view of this assertion terrorism connotes any inhuman attacks on humanities. Scholars have equally made attempts to define terrorism from their different views. In view of Laquer (2001), terrorism connotes ethnic identity conflicts, which is characterized by irredentist and secessionist movements and multiparty civil war. Such as actions guided by religious or ethno-nationalist ideas and characterized by hatreds, fear and genocide and have no declarations of war, few battles and are typified by attrition, terror and violence against civilians. Nevertheless, the definition can be less embracing by considering secessionist (freedom fighters) as terrorists.

In view of Antimbom (2016), terrorism involves premeditated use of violence by individuals or sub-national groups to obtain a political or social objective through the intimidation of a large audience beyond that of immediate victims. From this assertion, the violence is viewed as an emblem of terrorism, to the extent that some terrorist groups do engage in grisly violent behaviour to create extensive tension or revolt. Unlike the previous assertion, they viewed terrorism from violence generated by ethnic and regional groups.

On a separate ground, scholars have also viewed terrorism as encompassing two dimensions; they include ‘domestic and transnational terrorism’. In view of Sandler (2013), domestic terrorism is viewed as home grown which has influence only within the host countries; its territories, residents, institutions, properties and policies while transnational terrorism cuts across borders; its funding, aides, supporters, sponsors, targets, victims of transnational terrorism involves more than one country. Similarly, Owoeye, Okafor & Chinonso (2021) considered transnational terrorism to have links with other violent crimes such as sea piracy, armed robbery, kidnapping,

child trafficking, and fraudulent dealings with foreign exchange. From the assertion of this scholar, the key feature of these crimes is that they are likely to spread across borders and this has been considered by as inter-state crime which was described as crime that have international character.

### **Boko Haram Terrorism**

Nigeria has been considered by scholars as the most populous country in Africa and one of the most diverse countries with over 400 ethnic groups. Since Nigeria her gained independence in 1960, the country has been affected by several security threats cum conflicts based on over-lapping ethnic, political, religious, economic and regional division (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2013).

Terrorism came into limelight in Nigeria following the upsurge of Boko Haram menace in the year 2009. As observed in Augustyn (2022), the terrorist group was founded by Mohammed Yusuf in 2002 and was led by Abubakar Shekau between 2009 and 2021, although it splintered into other groups after Yusuf's death and also in 2015. According to the scholar, the group was formed to purify Islam in the Northern-Nigeria, believing jihad should be delayed until the group was strong enough to overthrow the Nigerian government. Subsequently, scholars have submitted that activities have continued posing serious threats to Nigeria's political system with deadly and destructive consequences.

Scholars have traced the formation of Boko Haram group to 2002 in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State of Nigeria and the largest city in the Northeast-Nigeria. Boko Haram uprising began in 2009, in Bauchi and spread to other northern states, leaving numerous followers, Nigerian security forces and civilians dead. (Dunn, 2018). On the other Antimbom cited in Owoeye, Okafor and Chinonso (2021), traced the origin of Boko Haram to violent movements that plagued Northern-Nigeria in the 1980s while the activities of Boko Haram group became more recognized in 2009.

As pointed out Adesoji (2010), the evolution of Boko Haram is rooted in a bid to oppose western education. In the view of the scholar, the word "Boko" was described to mean either 'book', 'western' or 'foreign' while 'haram' is of Arabic derivation which means 'forbidden', 'sinful' or 'ungodly'. The combination of these two words means book (western education) is ungodly and should be forbidden. It could be on this ground, that many believe that Boko Haram was fundamentally formed to oppose western education.

In view of Matfess (2017), terrorism arising from Boko Haram has killed about tens of thousands of people, in frequent attacks against the police, armed forces and civilians. The scholar also maintained it has equally resulted in the deaths of about 300,000 children while it displaced about 2.3million people from their homes and was during part of the mid 2010s the world's deadliest terror group as

frequently rated by the Global Terrorism Index (GTI). Between 2010 and 2012, terrorism arising from Boko Haram group became more prevalent, these include September 2010 prison break in Bauchi, numerous suicide bombings of Police stations, market places, schools, public gathering, United Nations building office in Abuja (Moore, 2015).

Consequently, report had it that between 2013 and 2014, terrorism became more prevalent in Nigeria due to the continuous increase in the activities of Boko Haram as reported by Matfess (2017), over 2.3 million people were being displaced while about 250,000 people have left Nigeria and fled to bordering countries such as; Chad, Niger, Benin Republic and Cameroon. Subsequently, by 2014, the terrorist group had killed over 6,600 people in 2014 while its other attacks include abductions cum kidnapping of 276 Chibok schoolgirls in Borno State, Nigeria with other serious cases of human abuse such rape, forceful denounce of religion among others (Kessler, 2014).

Terrorism in Nigeria gained more international and local attention because 2014 and 2020, Consequently, Nigeria had been frequently rated 6years consequently as the third most terrorized county in the world (GTI, 2020). Subsequently, while commenting on the menace of terrorism in Nigeria, Varrella (2021) asserted that Nigeria has one of the highest terrorism threat levels in the world. Despite a general decrease in terror-related deaths, subsequently, the country recently recorded the second highest number of people who died of terrorist attacks worldwide, after Afghanistan. Several militant groups are active in Nigeria, leading to attacks on both civilian and military targets. The scholar further maintained that Boko Haram is by far the deadliest security threat in Nigeria, mostly active in the Northern-Nigeria while certain death have also been attributed to conflicts among herdsmen, farmers and ethnic group.

While commenting on the appearance and activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria, Agbaji, Charles, Daruaku, Egor, Pepple and Uduma (2018) asserted that Boko Haram terrorist group has created severe threats to Nigeria thereby causing security threats in terms of death rate, injuries, and disintegration within and from Nigeria's political system. Consequently, as observed in Endless (2019), about 700people were reportedly killed between killed in the first quarter of 2019 (that is, between January and April) and there were more than 1000 deaths caused in related security threats event related to Boko Haram.

### **Economic Growth**

Scholars through their different theoretical view have described economic growth; but the common element that runs through most of their definitions is that it connotes increase cum development in the economic activities of a country or state. In view of Potters and Munichiello (2021), economic growth encompasses an increase in the production

of economic goods and services, compared from one period of time to another. The same scholars further described economic growth in its simplest term; accordingly, it is an increase in aggregate gains in production correlate with increased average marginal productivity; that leads to an increase in incomes, inspiring consumers to open up their wallets and buy more, which means a higher material quality of life or standard of living.

In view of Cornwall (2018), economic growth entails the process by which the wealth of nation increases over time; accordingly, it is often used in discussions of short-term economic performance, in the context of economy theory; it generally refers to an increase in nation's wealth over an extended period of time. Similarly, Oxford dictionary cited in Roser (2021, March) considered economic growth as "the increase in the production of goods and services per head of population over a stated period of time" while Cambridge dictionary sees it as an increase in the economy of a country or an area, especially of the value of goods and services the country or area produces". Roser (2021) later described economic growth as an increase in the quantity and quality of the economic goods and services that a society produces

In Walter Rostows dialect, economic growth begins somewhere between the stage of take-off and the stage of maturity while Clark's terms, it revolves between the stage dominated by primary and the stage dominated by secondary production (Potters & Munichello, 2021). The scholars later maintained that economic growth can be measured through economic activities, such as; Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Gross National Products (GNP) or Gross Domestic Products cum other business and economic activities such as tourism patronages cum hospitality industries. Similarly, Ivic (2015) considered economic growth as changes in material production during a relative short period of time, usually one year. The scholar equally maintained that the concept of economic growth implies an annual increase of material production expressed in value, the rate of growth of GDP or national income.

In the view of Haller (2012), economic growth is a complex, long-run phenomenon, subjected to constraints like: excessive rise of population, limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, inefficient utilization of resources, excessive governmental intervention, institutional and cultural models that make the increase difficult among others. Taking a critical look at the definition of this scholar, economic growth is obtained by an efficient use of the available resources and by increasing the capacity of production of a country. The scholar further maintained that economic growth facilitates the redistribution of incomes between population and society.

Similarly, scholars have conceptualized economic growth as a process of quantitative, qualitative and structural changes, with a positive impact on economy and on the population's standard of life, whose tendency follows a continuously

ascendant trajectory (Balcerowicz cited in Haller, 2012, P. 66). It is on the basis of this assertion that Balcerowicz outlined for dimensions of economic growth cum development; according to the scholar, the initial cum first level is reflected by the income per capita or simply the level existing when the rhythm of development starts being determined; the second connotes human capital or the people's level of education and professional training; followed by the internal economic condition or the economy's structures while he described that last dimension as external economic circumstances.

O'Neill (2022, January) considered economic growth to mean "an increase or improvement in the inflation-adjusted market value of the goods and services produced by an economy over time. The scholar later maintained that statisticians usually measure such growth as the percent rate of increase in the real gross domestic product or real GDP. Similarly, Amadeo and Boyle (2021) described the concept as an increase in the production of goods and services over a specific period. According to the scholar, the measurement must remove the effects of inflation. While commenting on the measurement of economic growth, the same scholar considered Gross Domestic Product as the best way to measure economic growth because it takes into account the country's entire economic output. Accordingly, GDP includes all goods and services that businesses in the country produce for sale.

Scholars have also described economic growth based on its importance, in the view of Sen (2022), economy growth enables states to tax that revenue and gain the capacity and resources needed to provide the public goods and services that their citizens need, like healthcare, education, social protection and basic public services. The same scholar also maintained that inclusive growth brings wider material gains. Growth creates wealth, some of which goes directly into the pockets of employers and workers, improving their wellbeing. As people earn higher incomes and spend more money, this enables people to exit poverty and gain improved living standards. In addition, the scholar asserted that economic growth should be a means rather than an end to development.

In the view of Wells (2021), economic growth is the increase in the goods and services produced by an economy, typically a nation, over a long period of time. It is measured as percentage increase in real gross domestic product (GDP) which is gross domestic product (GDP) adjusted for inflation. The scholar also maintained that Gross Domestic Product is the market value of all final goods and services produced in an economy or nation. Similarly, Corporate Finance Institute, CFI (2022) viewed economic growth as a broad term that describes the process of increasing a country's Gross Domestic Product, GDP. Accordingly, economic growth can be measured as an expansion of real Gross Domestic Product or Gross National Product over a certain period of time. While commenting on the importance of

economic growth, CFI (2022) maintained that economic growth exerts a direct impact on the quality of standard of living; as production capacity rises, incomes increase and consumers can buy more goods and services.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

It is a qualitative paper and adopted Descriptive Research Design. The researcher employed secondary sources of data; data were gathered through documented evidence which includes annual reports on economy, journal articles, media publications and textbooks. Data were content-analyzed thematically and logically while Systems theory of David Easton was adopted to explicate the relationship between security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism and the economic growth of Nigeria.

The development of Systems theory as a tool of analysis in social and political science is traced to 1950s and 1960s to explain the empirical world system. Since its development, theory is found relevant in the analysis of social systems, political system and international relations. Scholars cum philosophers, such as Talcott Parsons, David Easton, Charles McClelland, Karl Deutsch, and David Singer are the major proponents of the theory (Akinboye & Ottoh, 2005). In David Easton's dialect, input is the totality of demand placed on the political system by the environment that needs to be attended to; the various demands will be taken into consideration based on their importance through throughput; whose role is to ensure that the system is not always overloaded. The considered demands will go into the political system for policy formulation and implementation while others will be communicated back to the environment.

Dialectically, Talcott Parsons argued that every social cum political system must have the capacity to maintain itself against a hostile environment, which is sometimes disastrous. In essence, according to Parsons, socio-political is not a unique because it is featured by terrorism, war, ethnic crises, violence protest, revolutions among which serve as disturbances to the system. Thus, the system must maintain an equilibrium standard by adapting, adjusting and responding to these changes cum disturbances.

### 4. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### **Ascertaining the Major Ideological Cause/Factor of Boko Haram Terrorism in Nigeria**

Interrogating the dominant ideological cause of terrorism in Nigeria (Boko Haram) has in the past resulted to so much intellectual disagreement since the group has not up till the time of this study pronounced their basic ideology. However, view of scholars cum different literature will be presented and analyzed in order to untangle the controversy to whether an ethnic terrorist group, religious motivated group, socio-

political or economically motivated among others. Thus, this will help focus solution to solve its root causes.

A study conducted by Eseoghene and Efenodor (2016) traced the ideological cause of terrorism in Nigeria (Boko Haram) to Maitatsine doctrine cum a brand of Islamic zealots and fundamentalists introduced in Northern-Nigeria in the year 1945. Similarly, this is also evident in the work of Ajayi (2012), who argued that Muhammad Marwa (the leader of Maitatsine group) based on religious fanatics believe that Islam had been corrupted by modernization. As observed by the scholar; Maitatsine group spearheaded religious uprising in Kano in 1980 which further spread to Yola and Maiduguri in 1982 and subsequently developed as a terrorist group. As evident, these two scholars considered religious uprising as the basic ideological cause of Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria.

More so, as observed by Antimbom (2016), the ideological cause cum origin of Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria is traced to the continuation of the violent movements. Accordingly, the scholar maintained that; the tradition name of the dominant terrorist group in Nigeria (Boko Haram) is Ahl al-Sunna li al Da'wawa al-Jihad. This is also evident in the work of Zenn (2018: P. 26) who claimed that the Jihadist insurgent movement of Boko Haram has established itself as one of the relatively few Jihadist movements to capture; control and govern the territory in Africa. Similarly, from the above assertions, it is evident that the ideological movement of terrorism in Nigeria is rooted in the quest for Islamic domination of the entire African countries.

Thurston (2016, P. 5) claimed that the ideological cause of terrorism in Nigeria is often described and comprises two stances; opposition to democracy and rejection of Western-style of education, more so, the scholar maintained that "Boko Haram" is a Hausa language, meaning 'Western education is forbidden by Islam'. However, the scholar asserted that that the term is not only referred to schooling but to socio-political ills that result from western domination of Nigerian state. From the assertion of the scholar, it is evident that terrorism in Nigeria is socio-politically motivated, as the terrorist group opposes western values and culture; consequently, this has manifested in the bombing and abductions of school children as rampant in the Northeast Nigeria.

A report by Walker (2012) traced the ideological cause of terrorism in Nigeria to Islamic domination. According to the scholar; "the origin lies in a group of radical Islamist youth who worshipped at the Alhaji Mohammed Ndimi Mosque in Maiduguri. Subsequently, the scholar maintained that Boko Haram group believes that politics in the Northern-Nigeria has been seized by a group of corrupt, false Muslims; therefore, the group wanted to wage war against them and the Federal government of Nigeria so as to create a pure Islamic state ruled by Sharia law. Taking a critical look at this assertion, it is evident that the major motivation for terrorism

in Nigeria is geared towards Islamic domination; and by implication, the ideological cause of terrorism in Nigeria is rooted in Islamic religious domination and supremacy.

More so, while interrogating the root ideological causes of terrorism in Nigeria, Adedire, Ake and Olowojolu (2016) affirmed that “terrorism and insurgency in Nigeria started with Islamic fundamentalist, Boko Haram who regarded western education as forbidden. The scholars later maintained that just like in Nigeria, religious has become the major key motivator for several African countries and the world at large. They also affirmed that “among the organizations and individuals who have been religiously inspired to adopt terrorist violence, those who espouse a radical interpretation of Islam are predominantly singled-out. From the assertion of the scholar and as evidently observed; he ideological cause of terrorism in Nigeria is rooted in the religious domination of Islam in the country.

More so, while ascertaining the root causes of terrorism in Nigeria, Majekodunmi (2015: P. 135) pointed out Islamic domination. As affirmed by the scholars “Boko Haram can be understood as an Islamic insurgency that has risen from political to religious discontent with Nigeria” The scholar equally maintained that Boko Haram is ideologically Islamist sect which seeks political and religious reforms within Nigeria with the adoption of Sharia law with beliefs based in the practice of Orthodox Islam. Taking a critical looks at the assertion of the law, it is evident that terrorism in Nigeria is a reflection of Islamic domination of the Nigerian society.

The ideological cause of terrorism in Nigeria is evident in Anugwom (2018: P. 1) who affirmed that;

.....Boko Haram is largely an independent development with roots dating back to 2002. At the early stage, it was known as Yusufiyya; a loosely organized group of believers swayed by the preaching and peculiar interpretations of the Qur’an by Yusuf. The group began crystallizing into a proper sect around 2005 when Yusuf resurfaced in Nigeria following a hiatus in Saudi Arabia after Kanama episode in 2003. It was shortly after 2005 that the group re-emergence of Yusuf that the group began being referred as Boko Haram.

From the assertion of the scholar, it is evident that terrorism in Nigeria is religiously motivated and its ideology is based on true interpretation of Qur’an. While interrogating the ideological cause of terrorism in Nigeria, Adesoji (2010, P. 101) pointed out that it ideologically rooted out to oppose western education; laying emphasis on the coinage of the name “Boko Haram” which according to the scholar means book is ungodly and that western education should be prohibited and forbidden. From the assertion, it is evident that terrorism in Nigeria is ideologically based upon the influence

of foreign explanation that terrorist movement in Nigeria strictly opposes and out-rightly rejects western education, western culture cum values.

Similarly, the ideological cause of terrorism in Nigeria is confirmed in the work of Olofinbiyi (2020) who affirmed that the ideology of terrorist group in Nigeria is deeply rooted in traditional and Islamism in the Northern-Nigeria and is infused by the Qu’ranic phrase which reads: ‘Anyone who is not governed by what Allah has revealed is among the transgressors. This is also evident in Zenn, as observed in Olofinbiyi (2020, P. 142) which reads; “Boko Haram stands for the principle that its members are for Jihad, and our Jihad is to put an end to democracy, to western education and western civilization. The Jihad is intended to make we, Muslims return to the original state of Islam”. From the assertion of the scholars, it is evident that that the ideology of Boko Haram is based on austere and fundamentalist interpretation of Islam.

More so, a report by Campbell (2014) affirmed religious (Islam) domination as the ideological cause of terrorism (Boko Haram) in Nigeria. The report reads; “...its (terrorism) goal is to create God’s kingdom on earth through justice for the poor achieved by the rigid application of Islamic law, or sharia. Anything that gets in the way of this goal must be destroyed” the scholar equally maintained;

“The group adheres to strict understanding of ‘tawhid’ (the oneness of God or monotheism). According to Boko Haram rhetoric, a secular nation promotes idolatry, i. e. state worship. The pledge of alliance to the flag and singing of the national anthem are manifestations of such idolatry and hence punishable by death” (P. 2).

From the assertions of the scholar, it is evident that terrorism in Nigeria is a product of Islamic ideological movement that conceives Nigerian state as nest of corruption that exploits the poor; sustained by western education and values, both of which according to the terrorist group (Boko Haram) are against the will of Allah.

While ascertaining the basic ideological cause of terrorism in Nigeria, Ayima (2019: P. 2) viewed terrorism in Nigeria as ideological influence of the Salafist philosophy. As affirmed by the scholar “This belief, in part, seeks to restore the orthodox Islam that was practiced by the Sahabah who was a companion of Prophet Mohammed and the two generations thereafter”. This above assertion is also supported by Moghadam cited in Ayima (2019: P. 3) who asserted that “its overarching intent is to overthrow the current secular government through a jihad and create a puritanical Islamic state that depends on the dictates of Sharia in Nigeria. The jihadist ideology is a form of Islamic civilization that connects beliefs, thoughts and myths together to action” The same scholar equally maintained that terrorism ideology in Nigeria

has also been linked to Wahhabism and the Salafist Jihadist ideology, that is; a religious ideology associated with extreme religious principles that call for absolute loyalty and commitment to a jihadist cause.

From the foregoing presentation and analysis of documented evidence on the ideological cause of Boko Haram terrorism, it is imperative to note that all the data analyzed except one, considers dominations by Islamic religion as the motivational factor for Boko Haram terrorism.

**Examining the effects of Security Threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism on Nigeria’s Economic Growth**

**Table 1: Global rank of Nigeria by Global Terrorism Index between 2012 and 2021**

S/N	Year	Position of Nigeria in the list of most terrorized countries globally; by GTI Ranking
1	2022	6 <sup>th</sup>
2	2021	6 <sup>th</sup>
3	2020	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4	2019	3 <sup>rd</sup>
5	2018	3 <sup>rd</sup>
6	2017	3 <sup>rd</sup>
7	2016	3 <sup>rd</sup>
8	2015	3 <sup>rd</sup>
9	2014	4 <sup>th</sup>
10	2013	Data unavailable for the year
11	2012	7 <sup>th</sup>

Source: Adapted from database of Global Terrorism Index (GTI)

The table 1 demonstrates 11years ranking of terrorism impacts from database of Global Terrorism Index from 2012 to 2022. The security threats arising from Boko Haram has

earned Nigeria the 3rd position in the list of countries with most terrorist impact in 6 years consecutively (2015-2020) without significant decline in terrorist activities.

**Table 2: Security Threats Index: Nigeria in Global ranking (2010-2020).**

S/N	Year	Nigeria’s rank in the list of most least secured countries
1	2022	10 <sup>th</sup>
2	2021	-
3	2020	13 <sup>th</sup>
4	2019	9 <sup>th</sup>
5	2018	15 <sup>th</sup>
6	2017	9 <sup>th</sup>
7	2016	5 <sup>th</sup>
8	2015	5 <sup>th</sup>



9	2014	7 <sup>th</sup>
10	2013	11 <sup>th</sup>
11	2012	11 <sup>th</sup>
12	2011	12 <sup>th</sup>
13	2010	10 <sup>th</sup>

Source: Adapted from TheGlobalEconomy.com

The table 2 demonstrated the global ranking of Nigeria by Security Threats Index (STI) between 2010 and 2022. The high rise of Boko Haram terrorism in 2015 resulted in higher rank of Nigeria by STI. As observed in

theGlobeconomy.com, Nigeria is frequently found in the midst of Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia which are well known for terrorism and insecurity.

**Table 3: Investment Freedom Index; Nigeria in Country rankings (2008-2022)**

Year	Value of Nigeria's Investment Freedom	Average Value of all Countries	Nigeria in global rank
2010	40	47	116 of 178 countries
2011	40	50	118 of 178 countries
2012	40	51	119 of 178 countries
2013	40	52	124 of 180 countries
2014	40	55	136 of 182 countries
2015	40	55	138 of 182 countries
2016	40	56	141 of 181 countries
2017	40	57	137 of 179 countries
2018	45	57	137 of 182 countries
2019	45	57	135 of 181 countries
2020	45	57	134 of 180 countries
2021	Not found	-	-
2022	45	57	133 of 175 countries

Source: adapted from annual report of the GlobalEconomy.com

The table 3 presented the status of Nigeria in the global rank of Investment freedom using factors that threatens investment as indicator, particularly terrorism. As evident in the reviewed years, the extent to which Nigeria enjoys economic freedom was very low as it fell below average value compare to the

rest of the world between 2010 and 2022. In essence, the persistent security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism has resulted in reduction in her economic growth rate in the reviewed years.

**Table 4: Nigeria's Foreign Direct Investment Inflow amidst Security threats arising from Boko Haram Terrorism; Percent per GDP (2010-2021)**

Year	Value of Nigeria FDI	Average Value of all Countries	Nigeria's global rank
2010	1.67	9.73	134 of 187 countries
2011	2.18	9.3	118 of 187 countries
2012	1.55	10.07	137 of 186 countries
2013	1.09	5.26	146 of 186 countries
2014	0.86	6.28	150 of 186 countries
2015	0.63	12.68	153 of 184 countries
2016	1.10	10.01	135 of 184 countries
2017	0.93	7.44	149 of 184 countries
2018	0.50	4.01	155 of 183 countries
2019	0.74	4.15	148 of 178 countries
2020	0.55	3.99	137 of 180 countries

**Source:** adapted from the annual report of theGlobalEconomy.com

The table 4 presented the impacts of terrorism in Nigeria on her economic growth through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) between 2010 and 2020. The highest value of Foreign Direct Investment into the country in the reviewed years is 2.18 in 2011; this is two years after terrorism (Boko Haram) began its deadly and destructive operations in Nigeria, although, there was a low FDI into Nigeria and far from the average of all countries (9.56). Consequently, with the increase in terrorism, Nigeria's lowest value of FDI within the reviewed year was in 2018 with the value of 0.50, this was due to terrorism arising from Boko Haram group which had terribly affected economic growth, followed by 2015, 2017 and 2019 with the value of 0.63, 0.93 and 0.74 respectively. Between 2015 and 2019, Nigeria's FDI continued to encounter serious decline due to frequent security threats from Boko Haram and evidently,

Nigeria was consistently ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> between 2010 and 2020 in the list of most terrorized countries in the world (Global Terrorism Index, 2020). This is an indication that security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism has posed serious negative effects on Nigeria's economic growth as no foreign investor would like to invest in an unsecure environment. Similarly, a study carried out by Joseph *et al* (2015) affirmed that terrorism has great effects on international business. Similarly, Otto and Ukpere (2012) maintained that terrorism in Nigeria has negative effects on her Foreign Direct Investment because it scares away foreign investors, reducing productive capacity, draining economic resources among others. In essence, all these are causes of concern for any potential investor thinking of investing in Nigeria's economy.

**Table 5: Gross Domestic Product, in billions of U.S. Dollars (2010-2021)**

Year	Value of Nigeria GDP in billions	Average Value of all Countries	Nigeria's global rank
2010	361.46billion	404.77billion	31 of 194 countries
2011	404.99billion	446.55 billion	30 of 194 countries
2012	455.50 billion	452.28 billion	28 of 193 countries
2013	508.69billion	463.63 billion	27 of 194 countries
2014	546.68 billion	475.97 billion	23 of 194 countries

2015	486.80 billion	444.62 billion	24 of 193 countries
2016	404.65billion	452.27 billion	28 of 193 countries
2017	375.75 billion	480.75 billion	32 of 193 countries
2018	397.19billion	512.24 billion	31 of 193 countries
2019	448.12billion	522.75 billion	27 Of 191 countries
2020	432.29billion	524.45 billion	27 of 184 countries
2021	440.78billion	614.56billion	31 of 176 countries

Source: adapted from the annual reports of theGlobalEconomy.com

The data presented table in table 5 illustrates the annual Gross Domestic Product in billion U.S. Dollars from 2010 to 2021. The first 5 years showed a gradual increase in GDP of Nigeria from 361.46billion in 2010 to 546.68 billion in 2014. However, there were security threats from Boko Haram terrorist activities but not as high as in 2015-2020 when Nigeria had her highest ranking as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most terrorist country in the world; and consequently, Nigeria GDP declined (from 546.68 billion to 486.80 billion; a loss of 100billion U.S dollars between 2014 and 2015) the first in the reviewed years due to increased terrorist activities in the country, In essence, Nigeria was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> most terrorized country from 2015 to 2020, and this has resulted to decline in her GDP in those years. Thus, since GDP is one of the major indicator of economic growth, the terrorist activities in Nigeria, particular between 2015 and 2018 had terribly battered the economic growth of Nigeria.

Another negative effect of terrorism on Nigeria’s economy is the terrorist attack on Sukur World Cultural Heritage in Madagali, Adamawa state, Nigeria. The Cultural centre was formerly designated by United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture as its first World heritage site in 1999 and also, a jewel of Nigeria’s tourism as noted by Oluwafemi and Stephen, (2018, P. 146). The site was the biggest international tourist centre in Nigeria and Africa’s first cultural landscape being patronized by significant number of international and domestic tourists on daily basis before the frequent attacks of terrorist group on the area. In essence, the terrorist attack on Sukur community in 2014 resulted to decline in patronage as; many traditional architectural structures were reportedly burnt, including about 70 horses were; livestock and other cultural materials. Consequently, over 200 billion Naira were lost, this would have boosted economy of Nigeria.

**Table 6: Economic Growth Index- Nigeria in Country rankings (2008-2021)**

Year	Value of Nigeria’s Economic Growth	Average Value of all Countries	Nigeria’s global rank
2008	6.76	3.81	41 of 191 countries
2009	8.04	-0.05	15 of 191 countries
2010	8.01	4.33	28 of 194 countries
2011	5.31	3.74	68 of 190 countries
2012	4.23	3,65	77 of 189 countries
2013	6.67	3.01	30 of 189 countries
2014	6.31	3.1	31 of 191 countries
2015	2.65	2.75	107 of 190 countries
2016	-1.62	2.98	176 of 190 countries

2017	0.81	3.35	164 of 190 countries
2018	1.92	3.28	136 of 189 countries
2019	2.21	2.83	108 of 188 countries
2020	1.78	-4.86	55 of 185 countries
2021	3.65	5.13	112 of 175 countries

Source: theGlobaleconomy.com

The table 6 presented the trend of economic growth in Nigeria between year 2008 and 2021. As evident in the table, Nigeria had an increase in economic growth between 2008 and 2009, this were the years terrorism activities were very minimal. Between 2009 and 2010, Nigeria economy became stagnant due to emergence of terrorism (Boko Haram) and it fluctuated between 2011 and 2014 while declined significantly from 6,31 to 2.65 in 2015. Meanwhile, the year also marked first highest rank of Nigeria in the report of Global Terrorism Index (2015), while Nigeria consequently declined from 31<sup>st</sup> to 107 from 2014 to 2015. In essence, the significant decline in Nigeria's economic growth is a reflection of being highly rated as 3<sup>rd</sup> most terrorized. More so, it is imperative to note that Nigeria between 2015 and 2020, Nigeria had a stunted economy growth, meanwhile for 6 years, Nigeria was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> most terrorized country. This is an indication that terrorism has serious negative impact on economic growth.

Aro (2013) affirmed that security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism has brought some destructive effects to Nigerian economy and business operations. As reported by the scholar, terrorism has both led to the closure or abandonment of people's business activities within the affected region and immigration of people from the affected region. In essence, billions of dollars had been lost by manufacturers which have resulted to decline in Nigeria's Foreign Direct Investment while many investors have abandoned Nigeria for other countries with stable and peaceful environment, this equally depicts a serious smack on Nigeria's economy.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The main thrust of this paper geared towards establishing the effects of security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism on Nigeria's economic growth over the years. From the data previously presented and analyzed, it is evident that Boko Haram terrorism has become a serious security threat to Nigeria's economic growth in the reviewed years as revealed in the annual reports; such as Foreign Direct Investment Index, Economic Growth Index, and Investment Freedom Index among others which are indicators of Economic Growth. Based on this, an urgent solution is needed towards combating Boko Haram terrorism which has become a serious threat to Nigeria's Economic Growth for more than a decade.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on findings from data previously presented and analyzed; the following recommendations are made. Meanwhile, they serve as solutions to the problem.

- Since the quest for Islamic domination is the dominant reason for the trend of terrorism in Nigeria, there is an urgent need for Nigerian government to have a sincere dialogue with Northern Islam leaders and the leaders of the group. This will help reach a consensus on the issue of terrorism (Boko Haram) in Nigeria.
- More so, there is need for Nigerian government and Nationals both home and abroad to step up their international campaign against terrorism; this will go a long way in encouraging the foreign investors, tourists among others to visit and invest in the economy.
- As evident in the paper, different studies have been conducted to proffer solutions to the security threats arising from Boko Haram terrorism but the menace is still alarming. Thus, there's need for government to take into cognizance the suggestions cum solutions provided by empirical Studies and reports by researchers in the area of terrorism. This will give Nigerian government better clues on how to solve the menace.

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