

The Impact of Globalization on Tanzania

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Introduction and thesis statement

Globalization has NOT been good for the people of my country.

Globalization, both cultural and economical, has enhanced the interconnectivity of countries worldwide. Driven primarily by economic and political needs, countries communicate and collaborate with one another to allow the movement of money across borders, and thus keep the economic globalization flowing. Consequently cultural ideas, meanings and values of different traditions have, over time, spread globally. The spread of the United State's culture, such as the global expansion of many American fast-food chains, is an example of how a more powerful country and its respective culture has a larger influence on cultural globalization. However with globalization comes colonization as more powerful countries occupy other less powerful countries. The Maji Maji War against German colonial rule in what is now Tanzania is a reflection of what many colonized nations endured as a result of colonizer oppression, and portrays the magnitude of an impact colonization can have on indigenous populations. The rebellion was triggered in 1905 by a German policy that forced the indigenous population to grow cotton for export and lasted two years with thousands of casualties (Ilfie, 1967). This paper will be investigating the impact of globalization on Tanzania to deduce whether it was beneficial or harmful to the country and its people. This will be achieved by taking into consideration a variety of factors including but not limited to the effect globalization has had on migration, poverty, healthcare, and on the lives of the indigenous population.

History

Pre-colonial period

The earliest introduction of European culture to East Africa can be traced back to the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama's visit to the coast of Tanganyika (now known as Tanzania) in 1498 BC. Initially the Portuguese controlled most of east coast until Germans started to acquire territory. The lives of the indigenous population in Tanzania were not significantly impacted by the rule of the Portuguese since Portuguese merchants were more involved in commodities such as gold and ivory, as opposed to the slave trade that the Germans partook in (Vernet, 2009). The local population however, particularly local merchants and laborers, were in the process introduced to mining of gold and ivory which opened up more opportunities for the locals to make an earning. However this was short-lived towards mid-1880 as German territory increased. The slave trade existed in East Africa long before German occupation as a result of Arab occupation in the ninth century (Fage & William, 1978) however the Germans were heavily involved in the slave trade whilst in power and consequently a large part of the indigenous population suffered as a result of their colonial rule.

Colonial period

In 1886 the Anglo-German agreement was signed and Germany was placed in official power over Tanzania. With Germany in power, the indigenous populations were forced to adhere to the German laws and policies and as a result the lives of and the relationships between the laborer, merchant and consumers were impacted. According to a study carried out that looks at different case studies of the recruitment and conditions of migrant workers in Tanzania during the colonial period the laborers, who were also the consumers during pre-colonization, no longer labored to

produce for themselves but instead for the Germans (Rodney, Tambila & Sago, 1983). The indigenous populations became restricted to selling their produce and as a result local merchants were forced into labor. In 1905 the Germans reinforced a policy forcing the indigenous population to labor in cotton farms, resulting in a long-anticipated rebellion against German colonial rule. Although the rebellion was successful in overthrowing the German rule, thousands of indigenous people were killed and injured in the two-year long war, only for the British troops to take over and mandate over Tanzania in the following years. The people faced further oppression until 1954 when Julius Nyerere, an anti-colonial activist, founded the Tanganyika African National Union. According to the Arusha Declaration, this political party was aimed at working towards giving back the power, as well as means, of production and exchange to the peasants and workers. Tanzania finally won its freedom in 1961, with Nyerere as prime minister, giving the indigenous people their power back. Unfortunately by the time Tanzania gained its independence, the damage on the people and their lives had already been done.

Global period

Tanzania gained independence after the year of the Bretton Woods conferences, and so consequently has been undergoing both economical and cultural globalization since 1961, an era also known as neocolonialism. In this time, although not directly under the power of the British, Tanzania's international trade and investment was heavily influenced by the British - whom were able to control the resources of the relatively weaker Tanzania. This was accomplished through targeting different markets and businesses involved in the mineral mining industry, such as gold, diamond and iron - all abundant natural resources in Tanzania. Although the quality of the lives of the people had greatly improved as a result of the freedom, the indigenous populations were

still forced to be laborers and merchants at very low rates while the British gained the most profits. This contributed to the high rates of poverty that we see today, and over the years since independence (Ådahl, 2007). With increased immigration the local population's demand for jobs increased, further adding to the poverty in rural areas. Furthermore with the increased immigration came the introduction of agribusiness enterprises that bought out the land of local farmers, forcing local families off their land. As a result of no longer having land, local farmers were forced to migrate to urban areas in search for jobs, and to avoid starvation due to lack of self-grown produce. An additional disadvantage of the development of large agribusiness enterprises is the environmental impact it had on the land. Such enterprises use machinery as a form of mass production, which often leave damaging byproducts in the surrounding environment. It can thus be deduced that globalization did indeed impact a variety of aspects of the lives of the people of Tanzania.

Population

With a population of 44 million people, the Tanzanian population has increased over three-fold the amount it was at independence. The majority of the population is split between Muslims and Christians, primarily as a result of the influence of Muslim-Arab and British occupation. Although most of the population is native to the country, there exist significantly large amounts that are native to the Middle East and India. This is as a result of the many Indians that were brought to the coast of Tanzania by the Arabs upon introduction of the transatlantic slave trade. Migration within the country however occurred as a result of land being lost in rural areas to large agribusiness enterprises. As a result, many local farmers were forced to move to the urban regions of Tanzania. Urbanization in Tanzania is increasingly becoming the solution to many

families living in rural areas, as these are the areas affected primarily by poverty. There are many benefits of urbanization, including varied and better employment opportunities with higher productivity and a wider choice of goods and services. However with urbanization came the issue of lowered standard of living due to overcrowding, lack of resources to provide basic services, more pricey food, and much more (Wenban-Smith, 2017). It can therefore be deduced that, since a majority of the population movement is related to globalization, it has been negative to Tanzania and the life of Tanzanian people.

Hunger and Poverty

For years after colonization was eradicated in 1961 the people of Tanzania faced severe poverty issues, particularly those living in rural areas that relied on labor as a means of income and food. In the years that followed independence, the government aimed to focus on stimulating economic growth and build an independent state. As a result of the preexisting immigration, the economy lay in the hands of the Britain and Asian merchants such as Indians and Arabs. Due to economic policies still remaining the same as those pursued during colonial power, the government established a five-year plan that supported industrial and agricultural development through foreign direct investment (Ngowi, 2009). Since then the government has worked towards improving and strengthening the economy as a way to reduce poverty and in fact adopted the National Poverty Eradication Strategy in 1997, the first of many resolutions to come. In fact it was stated in the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (World Bank, 2017) that since independence in 1961, the government of Tanzania has had poverty reduction as its highest priority. Thus it can be concluded that although the impacts of globalization on the population

movement and thus the urbanization of indigenous populations were negatively affected by globalization, the nation was able to utilize it to the best of their abilities to help turn around the issue of poverty and have been working toward eradication of poverty ever since.

Environment

As a result of the Tanzanian government failing to address the issues of poverty, food security and development in Tanzania, their economy has become heavily dependent on agriculture (Swenya, Kabisama & Kipobota, 2012). Unfortunately with the increase of agricultural business enterprises that continue to displace small family farms, more of the country's resources are exploited. Tanzania's continuous attempt to promote the development of industry as a way to improve economic instability has resulted in devastating impacts on its environment. In a study done in the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, the various negative impacts of globalization were analyzed (Phareles & Andre, 2018). The study showed that growth of industries as a result of globalization, such as agricultural enterprises, have direct impacts on air and water pollution whereby excessive carbon dioxide emission and industrial chemicals are primary contributors, as well as deforestation and the consequent death of some animals. Moreover such multinational companies' mining activities heavily contribute to land degradation which, in addition to the high concentration of people in certain areas due to urbanization, has resulted in the existence of unstructured settlements and thus disasters such as floods. Additionally families that once relied on their farms for source of income and food now turn to illegal fishing using chemicals for easy catches, which not only contributes to water pollution but also the unbalanced diversity of living organisms. The impacts of globalization on the country are further reinforced by the government's inability to pay sufficient attention to the

environmental issues the country and its people face; their focus is instead more on the economical growth of the country (Yhdego, 1995), which includes but is not limited to urbanization, use of cars, industrialization, agricultural enterprises replacing local farms, and the introduction of multinational companies.

Disease and Healthcare

Factors such as water contamination have drastic effects on the population's health and in fact Tanzania is regarded to be a higher-endemic country in regards to waterborne diseases just as Hepatitis. For example, the waterborne Hepatitis A virus infection results from contamination of water by fecal matter principally in areas of low sanitation. Another major contributing factor to the increasing amount of people diagnosed with Hepatitis in Tanzania is due to the lack of availability of the necessary drugs and tests, as well as the inability of a large percent of the population unable to afford them (Kilonzo, Gunda, Mpondo, Bakshi, & Jaka, 2018). While access to healthcare is still a predominant obstacle many in rural parts of Tanzania face, the government has made efforts to prevent it by offering vaccinations for children, preventing mother-to-child transmissions, and prevention in the healthcare setting. Although lack of water sanitation and adequate access to healthcare services affects the overall health of the population by increasing the risk of Hepatitis A, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the disease that contributes the most to mortality rates in Tanzania is HIV (CDC Global Health, 2016). Both Hepatitis A and HIV are transmitted via infected bodily fluids and blood, which is common in rural areas that lack education on the importance of the prevention of the spread of infection. Overall the cause of the high rates of Hepatitis, HIV and other sexually-transmitted diseases is primarily due to a combination of the lack of access to the

needed resources, both healthcare and educational, in addition to the stigmatization that many indigenous people hold in rural areas towards conventional approaches to medicine and treatment, as opposed to more traditional practices and beliefs.

Indigenous Populations

Although Tanzania voted in favor of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ten years ago and is home to at least 125 different ethnic groups, it fails to recognize nor respect the existence of indigenous tribes. The many different ethnic groups fall mainly into the four categories of Bantu, Cushite, Nili-Hamite and San (IWGIA, n.d.). Although these different groups are spread across the country and are different in tradition and culture they, to this day, all still face obstacles in regards to land insecurity, poverty and inadequate political representation. With increased urbanization and industrialization, many indigenous populations lose their land and thus face the challenges of overcoming poverty without being able to hunt and gather due to lack of land. Moreover, the environmental implications they are forced to deal with as a result of pollution - climate change in particular. An example would be the Masai people in Tanzania who are currently facing alarmingly high temperatures due to climate change (Hutchinson, 2016); given their lifestyle, such increases in temperature makes it difficult to survive in such conditions. While in the past the Masai people were able to survive because of their ability to migrate to different parts of the country depending on season, they are no longer able to do so as easily anymore. This is due to loss of land and limitations due to urbanization and they are thus forced to give up their traditions and lifestyle for a more sedentary lifestyle.

Peasant Protest

As a result of the Tanzanian government prioritizing the improvement of the economy by depending on agriculture, the introduction of multinational enterprises and tourism, the population - particularly the rural population - has suffered greatly. An example would be of a recent present protest that occurred in Tanzania that stemmed from the sudden decrease in the price of cloves. Cloves, being an important ingredient in many spicy dishes, is heavily relied on by local farmers in Tanzania as a source of income. However they have seen dramatic price falls as of recent (Kikeke, 2014), primarily due to the government's attempts to make it more affordable and thus increase exports. This unfortunately backfired on the people that relied on the income for cloves, and they were not pleased. Initially what started off to be a peaceful plea to the government to help sustain the crop, which they have been farming for generations, eventually became a more violent protest. This was primarily because of the dissatisfaction with the government's inaction, which peaked in the early 2000s, and the negative impact the drop in price had on the lives of the peasants. They stopped silently protesting and instead began to set their clove trees on fire, to send out a strong message that they were being serious about changes being made (Jiwaji, 2016). The protest was not a great success and for a long period of time local Tanzanian farmers were forced to turn to alternatives such as illegal fishing using chemicals (Phareles & Andre, 2018). This was primarily because larger agribusiness enterprises and the country in general were benefiting from the lowered cost of cloves, meaning they were able to get more profits for a reduced price. However towards 2014 things improved a little as the international prices of cloves increased, giving local Tanzanian farmers a leg up in terms of

earnings. However by this time the damage was done, and the farmers relied on international prices instead of their own government in order for a difference to be made.

Conclusion

All in all, although globalization has given the country benefits in the sense that increased industrialization and introduction of foreign multinational enterprises gave many more job opportunities, the impacts globalization has had on Tanzania and its people are mostly negative. Economically the government focuses more on turning local farms into large businesses and depends on them for economic stability, while turning a blind eye to how the rural population is affected. Moreover according to a paper that proposes an environmental pollution management system for Tanzania, the country promotes development of industry at the expense of the exploitation of natural resources all in an attempt to improve its economy (Yhdego, 1995). The author suggests that the reason this is, is primarily because Tanzania lacks the economic base and resources to implement a regulatory and corrective strategy to control pollution damages, amongst other reasons. Therefore globalization has not been good for Tanzania, as the negative impacts outweigh the positive.

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