



Chukwuemeka Eze Malachy

Order, United Nations and Conflict Resolution in Africa

A case of pacified hegemonism



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*Order, United Nations and Conflict Resolution in Africa: a case of
pacified hegemonism*

By

Eze, Malachy Chukwuemeka

Dedication

To my son Fauster Ifeanyichukwu, the exploited and oppressed peoples of all races and generations, I dedicate this book.

Preface

This book is concerned with the inevitable reality of the domination of the international system by Great Powers at any given epoch of human development and the establishment of structures and rules through which these powers dominantly perpetuate their individual interests. This book is designed to explicate the causal relationship between the pursuit of such interests by the Great Powers and the emergence/persistence of conflicts around the world. Africa had being a major victim.

Deliberately, the book is divided into four sections (A – D] under four clusters of headings; namely: theoretical background, the United Nations, conflicts in Africa, and the UN in African conflicts. I have made attempts in this book to conceptualise Order, conflict, conflict resolution, discuss the evolution, structure and power relations in the UN, conflicts in Africa and the role of UN in their resolution. This exercise was able to settle the puzzle that defied over tens years of inquiry for the explanation of intractable conflicts in Africa, on my part.

I have no doubt in my mind that the book, though limited in the number of case studies discussed, is very relevant to researchers and students at all levels that have the flare for international organisations, peace and security, conflict and conflict resolution, and the political economy of African development.

To all who contributed in any form to my success as an academic and towards the production of this book, I wish to appreciate. I am highly indebted to three eminent scholars who laid the solid foundation for my academic life – late Nduba Echezona (Professor of the Masses), late Rev. Fr. Professor Lambert J. U. Ejiofor, and Professor Godwin Aforka Nweke [Ugbo, you were never the best of friends]. It is my pleasure to thank Professor Miriam Ikejiani Clark and Dr. Alloysius M. Okolie for their pioneering foundation for me. I am equally grateful to Drs. Mike Oddih, Ken Ifesinachi, and Patrick C. Chukwu for their contributions to the various successes that I have recorded in life. Very special to acknowledge and appreciate are three classical scholars whose grasp of theoretical foundations in the Social Sciences and intellectual expertise transformed my personal and academic ingenuity into maturity through their support, encouragement, tutelage and supervision. These are Professor Humphrey Assisi Asobie, Professor Okechukwu Ibeanu and Dr. Ogban-Ogban Iyam, I am indebted. To Professor Elo Amucheazi, your fatherly role in my career can not be forgotten. Thank you.

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The contributions, support and sacrifices made by my parents Chief (Edoga) Sylvester U. Eze (Ugo-nele-Obodo 11) and Mrs Benedette Eze are immeasurable. You sowed the seed in me and with Divine help nurtured it into maturity. Thanks. To my wife and best friend Maureen Adaobi, you are wonderful and great. I am indebted to you for your sacrifices, love, patience and encouragements. To my bosom friend and Spiritual father and his family, Rev. John Bethel Okoye, you are an apostle of purposeful life. Eternally, am grateful. And to my students, readers, friends and critics, your are my encouragements. Thanks. It is not my intention to forget any who may have contributed to my success in life and the emergence of this book. May God favour all of you, Amen.

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SECTION A
THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

It is absurd in the ears of agents of capitalist propagandists, yet an emphatically undefeated fact that the principal laws of materialist dialectics explain socio-political and economic dynamics and development more accurately than any other theory. The interconnectedness, interactions and contradictions that exist between opposites that characterize nature, society and cognition, make it inevitable that conflict must exist. This can be at the level of decision making, implementation, at the intellectual realm, class, state, interest/goal, in the international setting, religion, organization and family levels. Such conflicts arise as a result of opposition to the prevailing order and they pave the way for changes and innovations.

Conflict symbolizes the emergence of a new force seeking for accommodation, independence, and/or domination from the old order. The synthesis of this dynamics is always a structure of power that represents the prevailing distribution of wealth and power in any given society. Such, which may be regarded as representing the state of affairs as they are now, or a peculiar social structure that has remained the same for sufficiently long a time to guarantee its ability to prevail in future, is called 'order' (Northege, 1970:73).

Consequently an order is that which a society needs to guarantee peace, stability and development. The world with its spatial and an unequal distribution of natural wealth such as minerals, fertile lands, water and land mass across the five continents has proven to be an unending source of conflicts among nations in the international community. Evidences from documentable antiquity reveal that the pressure and interest organize the whole world into a single system, which arguably is necessitated by economic interest, began in Europe and with European domination (Watson, 1992:299). It has always been the establishment of a single set of rules, institutions and procedures to govern the human race. Strong actors within the known World define this system and impose it on others, though with increasing levels of development, such arrangement has come to recognize the political sovereignty all member of the International Community. Sovereignty in this case outlawed the use of force by the stronger and bigger nations to impose its will on the weak and smaller states. This immunity from the use of force has been greatly undermined by the economic dependence of the weak states on the stronger.

Exploiting this lacuna, the Western elites from the stronger states initiated movements for colonization and decolonization of the weaker nations in a manner that imposed European model of statehood, rules, and processes on them. This created socio-economic and political dislocation, conflicts and dependence on

colonial masters even in matters of foreign relations, membership of international bodies etc. Consequently, the principle of sovereignty and equality of nations in the international community do not deter the powerful nations from determining the rules, institutions and processes of International relations – hegemony. It is my contention that the struggle, tension and even wars mostly fought in proxy by the powerful nations are rooted in the quest for hegemonic control of the international system. For instance, the inter war years saw the US, Russia, Germany and Japan as the four major centres of power. While the destruction of Germany and Japan during war II saw the United States and Soviet Union as major centres of global politics. Many conflicts in the international system were characteristically products of the rivalry between these two super powers for dominance.

Nonetheless, the rise of Western Europe, Japan, China and some other countries like India, Pakistan Iran, North Korea and many other Arab Nations, together with the fall of Soviet Union and détente changed the configuration of forces within the international community. Anti-American – Russia hegemonic coalition now exist in virtually all the continents of the world with pervasive political agitations or conflicts to oust their puppets and interests. It has been terrorist attacks, anti-governments militia wars, and even inter-state conflicts as can be seen in Iraq verse Iran, and Iraq verse Kuwait etc. These experiences have

necessitated disintegrated but regional integration process, wherein bloc politics seems to be re-emerging in the continental and international politics. Whichever way, these bodies pursue articulation and aggregation of interests and goals to enable them achieve peace and create impact in global politics. However, “historical evidence, including that from Europe, shows that hitherto all international societies with shared values and assumptions have evolved within the matrix of a dominant culture” (Watson, 1992: 307). It is imperative therefore that conflict still exist at the regional level where some states struggle to impose themselves as medium powers. I argue that this has always been achieved with recourse to major powers in the International system.

The above suffice to say that national interest leads to struggle for domination and the emergence of order in the International System to safeguard and or guarantee peace. Thus, the search for order is synonymous with politics and conflict. At the end of Napoleonic war in 1815, the big powers arrogated to themselves the right to impose their collective will on other nations. This form of order was called the concert of Europe (Northage, 1970). After twenty years, the concert of Europe collapsed due to its authoritarian nature and the emergence of new uncontrollable forces. This led to a new order after the end of the Prussian – French War of 1871 known as the league of three Emperors. The principal actor or initiator of this order chancellor Bismarck