

External examiner's report

Dissertation thesis: **Human security and the culture of youth violence in Nigeria**

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2020, 173 pages

In contemporary African society the security and violence are highly important topics connected with overpopulation and urbanization, with social and property differences. All these factors are reinforced by some specific traditions conserved in various regions. Making use of his field work experience gathered at the University of Ibadan (Peace and Conflict Studies) the author analyzes causes and consequences of youth violence in order to propose effective measures to be taken. The Nigeria case study is extremely advantageous for the research purposes.

Introduction (pp. 8-18) explains the query of the human security taking the specific conditions of Nigeria into consideration. From the beginning the author supports terms and notions used with relevant sources. He stresses the unemployment as one of important causes of the urban violence. The research problem covers the health security and personal security with respect to the traditional culture of violence. Economic, social, political circumstances are taken into account, the temporal and territorial scope of the thesis is stipulated as well as the organization of study.

Chapter One (pp. 19-66) gives definitions of the main concepts of security and human security with relation to Africa and particularly Nigeria, where development programs like MDG and/or SDG failed. Problems of youth and youth violence also are specified within the Nigerian society and its culture in individual parts of the country. Thus, the causes of radicalization of youths in Nigeria are explained. The significant and revealing theme of cultism and secret societies enables the understanding of the very specific spiritual impact on the norm infringing and violence at schools and universities.

Chapter Two (pp. 67-86) uses the theory of relative deprivation as a theoretical framework of the thesis. Within the theory the author deals with economic, religious and resource-based factors when explaining the application of the theory in African conflicts. However, more practical than theoretical approach prevails in the preceding and following text.

Chapter Three (pp. 87-91) mentions interviews and questionnaires as a base of the thesis methodology. Unfortunately, no questionnaire is introduced and no interview questions/topics are presented. In the same way, no sociological sample of the youth interviewed is specified.

Chapter Four (pp. 91-132) "Findings and Discussion" elaborates the findings concerning the political, religious, economic, resource-based and ethnic causes of youth violence in Nigeria by means of the qualitative and quantitative analysis. Specifically analyzed cases like The Bakassi Boys, The Odua People's Congress, The Almajiri and cultism at secondary schools should be considered as the substantial enrichment of the whole author's work.

Chapter Five (pp. 137-140) contains some recommendations, the final Conclusion (pp. 137-140) summarizes the topics researched.

The extensive References (pp. 141-171) do not distinguish the primary sources (documents, direct source of knowledge) and literature (secondary source, opinions, elaborated themes). In addition to it, the alphabetical order of authors is based partly on the first names, partly on the second ones, which is totally confusing. Appendix (pp. 172-173) presents two images of the Borno youth.

It seems a bit strange that in the current globalization period no external/global influences are mentioned in the thesis. The culture of violence certainly affects broader spaces than Nigeria or Africa causing an undesirable feedback in individual sensitive regions.

The text is written within the advisable scientific style. Some graphic irregularities appear as unsubstantial exceptions: Where begins the quotation on the page 86 (only final quotation mark is in place)? Compare the graphic forms Chapter Three (p. 87) x CHAPTER FOUR (p. 91). Gadaffi (p. 80) is usually written Gaddafi.

A profound knowledge of the everyday life conditions in Nigeria makes it possible to characterize exactly the problems of security and violence. Regardless of the methodological imperfection the analysis of factual phenomena like cultism and/or regional societies is a valuable contribution for the political and social science focused on Africa. The thesis is a prove that the “from inside” approach brings more scientific effect for understanding Africa than the usual application of European or American theories. The whole text is organized in a logical way, suitable diagrams support the realistic generalization of the results achieved.

When taking into account the positive contribution of the work characterized above I recommend the dissertation thesis to be defended and appreciated.

Hradec Králové, 3 March 2020

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