

**CHALLENGES TO UNITED NATIONS EFFORTS TOWARDS ENSURING INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA**

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**Abstract**

*Subsequent to the dissolution of the Soviet Union on 26 December 1991, the cold war era were terminated. This ushered the world into the post-cold war era. The post-cold cold war era saw the period of rapid advancement in science and technology. New security challenges began to emerge. Despite the United Nations changing strategy to meet up with the new peace and security challenges, achieving international peace and security is still not child's play since after the cold war. This study explored those challenges hindering the United Nations effort towards ensuring international peace and security in the post-cold war era. This is a descriptive study and as well a qualitative design. Sources and methods of data collection were published online and hardcopy materials and realist theory of power served as a framework for analysis. Findings revealed that the struggle for power and hegemony among countries in the post-cold war era accounted for the excessive peace and security threats that try to overwhelm the UN. It was also revealed that the United Nations use of force to restore international peace and security has done more harm than good. The paper recommended that the United Nations Charter needs to be revisited, so as to curtail impartiality in the international system and reinstall transparency and inclusiveness as such will go a long way to ensure international peace and security. Additionally, the use of force in the UN peacekeeping missions in the post-cold war era should be suspended and other more diplomatic instruments should be employed in the United Nations struggle to ensure international peace and security.*

**Key Words:** Peace, Peacekeeping Mission, Post-cold war era, Security, United Nations.

**Introduction**

The United Nations (UN) is a universal organization embedded with the primary responsibility of ensuring international peace and security. The situation that surrounded its evolution made evident the reason for its creation. Its establishment in 1945 was availed following the collapse of the League of Nations. The League of Nations was created in 1919 after the First World War with the main objective of maintaining international peace and security vis-à-vis preventing further universal catastrophe or war, if you will. The failure of the League of Nations became apparent following the outburst of the Second World War in

1939. The Second World War puts the world in a yet another devastating condition. In a bid to correct the lapse of the League of Nations, the world powerful states, chaired by United States, started scavenging for ideas on how to build up another energetic and more robust universal organization that would be capable of ensuring global peace and security. This effort resulted in the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, after the Second World War.

The end of the Second World War saw the beginning of the cold war era that ended in the late 80s. The end of the cold war era ushered in the post-cold war era; new peace and security challenges therefore began to emerge. In response to this, the United Nations Security Council since 1995 has adopted and ushered in a new strategy towards dealing with these new challenges in the dimension of threat to international peace and security. Despite this, the struggle for the maintenance of international peace and security by the United Nations Security Council also faces some challenges which are inimical to the achievement of its primary objective. However, the struggle for global peace and security continues in the contemporary post-cold war era. This study therefore, tries to explore those challenges that militate against the United Nations effort towards ensuring international peace and security in the post-cold war era. The study does this in a bid to raise concrete points upon which it will provide recommendations and/or suggestions on how to deal with these challenges facing the UN's struggle for global peace and security.

### **Methodology**

This study is descriptive study and as well qualitative. For this it relied on documented evidence as a source of collection of data relevant for this study. Data for the study were sourced from published and unpublished materials. Internet, library, media and other related sources are all instrumental to the provision of data for this study. Data collected for this paper are presented textually because of their qualitative nature. Realist Theory of Power served as a theoretical framework for explanation in this paper. The Realist Theory of Power in international relations is an aspect of the broad realist paradigm. The theory sees the state as the central theme in the analysis of international relations. The Realist Theory of Power focused on the struggle for power by nation-states as a way of satisfying their national interest. The apostles of the theory like Machiavelli, Morgenthau, and Hobbes and so on had all earlier argued along that man by nature is selfish and since the affairs of the state are run by men, the state is also selfish. Morgenthau (1967) believed that power was an outstanding instrument, second to none, in the conduct of international relations. He saw power as man's control over the minds and actions of other men. This therefore qualifies power as an instrument for the struggle for national interest in the global system.

Realist theory of power is a sufficient framework for explaining international issues. It focused on state alone as the only actor in the international system. Realists according to Eze (2017) viewed the pursuit of national interests as the major motivational force to all national political actions in the international system. This suggests the enormous importance of power in the struggle for the achievement of countries' national interest the international environment. Economic power, military power, political power and others are all vital in the contest of international right. To the realists, 'might is right' as acquisition of power attracts more powers. As the Political Realists maintain, power is the central organizing concept in the analysis of international relations. They believe that if you acquire power, the rest are additional (Eze, 2017).

Despite the level of strength and importance in which the theory has demonstrated in the analysis of international relations, the theory still faces some challenges. The chief of these challenges arose from its major standpoint that the state is the sole actor in the analysis international system. This shortfall of the realists became more apparent following the rapid emergence and participation of other non-state actors like multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations and even individuals in the international activities (Agbaenyi and Okechukwu, 2019). This is more noticeable mostly after the cold war. More so, the strict belief of the political realists that power constitute the major instrument of state struggle for national interests across border have been faulted following the emergence of diplomatic instruments. Despite this lapse the theory however has demonstrated its vigor in its capacity to attempt offer a suitable explanation to the issue at hand.

Applying the theory on the study, it is obvious that the cause of the changing dimension of crises in the post-post-cold war era is because of the needs of states, groups or individuals to achieve powers and breakout from the control of others. This has continued to effect changes in conflict strategies, and has also given rise to numerous international peace and security threats in the post-cold war era. States and civil groups are gaining consciousness and have started acquiring and applying new technologies for the protection of their identities. The escalated number of crisis brought upon nations in the post-cold war era as a result of the struggle for powers has posed serious challenges to the UN effort towards ensuring international peace and security.

### **The United Nations**

The need to have an umbrella organization that would bring nations of the world together on a round table to negotiate on how to coordinate international affairs, in order to ensure global peace and security forms the rationale for the establishment of the United Nations. The name United Nations was coined by the Former President of United State, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and was first used in the Declaration by the United Nations of January 1, 1942, during the Second World War when representatives of 26 sovereign nations pledged their government readiness in the continuation of the fight against the axis power.

The United Nations' charter was drafted by representatives of 50 countries in San Francisco in 1945. These delegates also deliberated on the basis of the proposal worked out by the representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United States at Dumbarton Oaks, United States, from August to October 1944. The United Nations Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of 50 countries. Poland, which was not represented at the conference signed it later and became one of the original 51 member states. The existence of the United Nations became official on 24 October 1945, when its charter has been rectified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and majority of other signatories (United Nations Department of Public Information, 2008).

The United Nations Charter established six principal organs of the United Nations: the General Assembly, whose primary function among others is to consider and make recommendations on the principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms regulation; the Security Council, whose primary function is to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations, among other functions; the Economic and Social Council, whose main function is among others to serve as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the United Nations system; the Trusteeship Council, whose function is to examine and discuss reports from the Administering Authority on the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of Trust Territories; the International Court of Justice, whose function is among others to provide the General Assembly and the Security Council an advisory opinion on any legal question; and the Secretariat that is consisting of international staff working in duty stations around the world, which carries out the diverse day-to-day work of the Organization. It services the other principal organs of the United Nations and administers the programs and policies laid down by them. At its head is the Secretary-General, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term.

The United Nations since inception has been committed towards discharging its primary duty of maintaining cooperation among countries of the world through ensuring peace and security, most especially, in this contemporary post-cold war era. The United Nations discharges this particular duty using its Security Council- its structure which has the function of maintaining global peace and security. The United Nations Security council which is made up of fifteen (15) members- five (5) permanent and (10) non-permanent members has been committed towards ensuring international peace. The Security Council is spearheaded by the 5 permanent members which are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The UNs' Security Council maintains its function of ensuring international peace and security in the post-cold war era through intervention and mediation (peace-

keeping operations) in not only inter-state crisis but also in the intra-state crisis, terrorism and other peace and security threatening situations. This we have seen in several occasions for instance the United Nations mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2000; Liberia 2003; Burundi 2004; Sudan 2005 and so on. The United Nations Security Council also adopted a new measure towards dealing with the new challenge of international terrorism and proliferation of nuclear weapons. This it does following the attack of 11 September 2001 on the United States (UNDPI, 2008).

### **The Post-Cold War Era**

Post-cold-war era is the period in world history that dates from the dissolution of the Soviet Union on 26 December 1991. Though the term was criticized for its ambiguity, up till today there is still no other suitable name for the period which we live than the post-cold war. Post-cold war era has mostly been dominated by the rise of globalization, nationalism and populism in reaction. It enabled the commercialization of internet and the growth of the mobile phone system. This is the era as argued by some scholars, where postmodernism and cultural relativism has replaced modernism and notions of absolute ideology.

In this contemporary post-cold war period, the United States has emerged the most powerful country in the world and China which was relatively a weak developing country emerged a potential super power. The period sees the merging of Europe into one economy and a shift of power from the Group of Seven (G-7) to the large Group of Twenty (G-20). Moreover, it accompanied the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and also other military and economic globalization (Post-cold war era, 2018). The rapid unanticipated changes in world politics according to Kegley and Blangton (2012) created an uncertainty about the global future. This simply entails that the post-cold era numerous activities have taken a new dimension as it created various issues and developments which directly or indirectly affect the international activities.

### **Peace and Security in Post-Cold War Era**

The post-cold war era following its consciousness on environmentalism accompanied the circulation of the widely accepted evidence for human activity's effect on human climate. This heightened consciousness is equally true of terrorism arising from the 11 September, 2001 terrorist attack in the United States. The attack which was referred to as 9/11 were a series of four coordinated attacks by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda killed 2,996 people, injured over 6,000 others and caused at least \$10 billion infrastructural and property damage (September 11 Attack, 2019). The above notified us about the security challenges and the change in dimension in terrorism strategies in the post-cold war era. This era has created a high level of boldness among countries. Now every state strives to be powerful, by all means including the engagement in the proliferation and distribution of nuclear armed weapons, for instance Iran, Iraq, China and so on. Sake of the rapid advancement in globalization and postmodernism in the post-cold war era, there is a growth in the area of information and technology. This growth enables to some reasonable extent the free flow and dissemination of situations of activities across the globe. Development both positive and negative is in this period commonly enhanced. The realism inclination of this period has kept countries in a continuous fight for their various national interests across boundaries. Peace and security here, stands to face a serious challenge. This point is buttressed with the attack of United States by the Islamic terrorist groups. The question now is, if the almighty United States could be so attacked by terrorists, what could be the fate of the lesser powers of the developing nations? In response to this, countries of super and lesser powers in the international system in the era of post-cold war altogether face the challenge of the changing dimension of threat against peace and security. This is because according to one of the principles of the United Nations, a crisis to one country is a general threat to international peace and security. For this, the United Nations through its Security Council organ tries as much as possible to resolve crisis in any country under its umbrella through peacekeeping. In the post-cold war era there have been a number of countries that witnessed crisis that attracted the interventions and mediations of the United Nations. These countries include the Afghanistan crisis which lasted from 1979-1992; the El Salvador crisis from 1980- 1992; the Haiti crisis which lasted from 1987-1994, and so on (Blum, 1999). These crises evolved as a result of a

political, military or social suppression and escalated to the extent that the United Nations had to intervene and put a stop to their adversities on the masses. Other crisis, however, have occurred in Somalia Rwanda and Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. this crisis are often characterizes by ethnic violence and the lack of internal power structure to deal with security issues and as such results to massive human rights violations. The United Nations peacekeeping missions is also a way of promoting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that was adopted in the United Nations Charter by the General Assembly in 1945 and was declared in 1948, through maintaining peace and security.

Although peace and security had faced a serious security challenges during the cold war era, there is a change of dimension in the peace and security issues during the contemporary post-cold war era. Obikaeze and Iheke (2018) noted that terrorism, intra-state conflict and transnational crime have continued to pose a colossal threat to global peace and security in the post-cold war world. Crises are increasingly shifting from inter to intra-state. Intra state-conflict most especially as it is today in the developing countries rose astronomically after the collapse of the Soviet Union. There have been armed conflicts in Sudan, Mali, Ivory Coast, Rwanda etc. In Nigeria's post-cold war era, Boko Haram, Fulani Herdsmen and so on, have posed a serious security threat in the country. Boko Haram and the Fulani Herdsmen have killed thousands of Nigeria. The Boko Haram and Fulani Herdsmen do not only pose a threat to lives, rather they equally pose a threat to political, economic and social lives of the people; causing food insecurity through destroying of plants and distorting farm productions. The Rwandan genocide led to the slaughter of between 200, 000 to 500,000 people as well as to the upsurge of refugees (Magstadt cited in Obikaeze and Iheke, 2018). This is a clear indication that global peace and security is seriously in a big trouble.

As regards to the change in the dimension of crisis and other peace and security threats in the post-cold war era, the United Nations have increased its effort and effect changes in the strategy of peacekeeping operation. Aligning with this, Schofield (2019) avers that after the cold war, the notion of peacekeeping has progressively broadened in scope. The change in the dimension has made peacekeeping to be more aggressive and encompassing, which are comparatively different with the formal strategy during the cold war era. Arguing on the same lane, peacekeepers have been expected to intervene in intra-state conflicts with the use of force in order to facilitate conflict resolution (Oliveira, 2016).

### **An Overview of the United Nations Peace Keeping Missions in Post-Cold War Era**

As earlier stated in this paper, one of the primary objectives of the United Nations is the sustenance of international peace and security. UN has often been called upon for dispute prevention from escalating to war, to persuade opposing parties to use the conference table rather than force of arms, or to help restore peace when armed conflict ensues (UNDPI, 2008). The United Nations has helped to end numerous conflicts over the decades, often through the actions of the Security Council- an organ of the UN primarily responsible for dealing with issues of international peace and security. The United Nations maintained its boldness in operation from its inception down to the post-cold war era, despite the dynamism in the crisis circumstances in the post-cold war era. Just as it has been explicated earlier in this paper, peace and security threat is an age long occurrence which is as old as man himself. Even in the cold war era, crisis situations had started. The issue now however, remains that the dynamic nature of peace and security threat in the contemporary post-cold war era became more divers. This era began to see the shift and internalization of crisis from inter-state to intra-state. This change in conflict dimension equally brought some level of changes in the United Nations strategy towards maintaining peace and security.

The term peacekeeping mission arose as a result of incessant crises that try to engulf man. Peacekeeping therefore entails a process of intervention in the area of crisis in other to reinstall peace and tranquility. After the cold war, the major world powers increased cooperation in order to ensure that United Nations operations bring peace to its conflicting member states. From 1988 till date, the United Nations peacekeeping operations have been undertaken in so many countries. According to Davis (1993), he avers that;

*these operations have included fact-finding missions, monitoring of border or buffer zones upon the signing of armistice agreements, verification of agreed-upon force disengagements or withdrawals, supervision of the disarming and demobilization of local*

*forces, maintenance of security conditions essential to the conduct of elections and even the temporary, transitional administration of countries (5).*

The above gave a somehow clarification on the nature and purpose of the United Nations peacekeeping missions. It is derivable from this that the UN peacekeeping mission targets where there is a political cum socio-economic issues to revitalize the system and sustain happiness of the masses. The United Nations despite the enormous challenges it has faced, since its inception till this era of post-cold war has been somehow consistent in its struggle to maintain world peace and security. By the foregoing, Ibrahim and Haruna (2014) argue that the United Nations has recorded an outstanding success since its establishment; its ability to resolve some global threat that would have degenerated into a world war for instance the Israeli-Pakistan crisis in the Middle East, the US invasion of Iraq among others proved this fact.

In this contemporary post-cold war era, the UN has upgraded and adopted some new strategies in its peacekeeping mission to step up actions against terrorism and civil conflicts. In dealing with terrorism, the UN Security Council on 28 September 2011 adopted a wide ranging resolution under the enforcement of the UN Charter to prevent the financing of terrorism, criminalize the collection of funds for such purposes, freeze Terrorists financing assets and established Courts, Terrorism Committee to oversee its implementation. To deal with civil conflicts, the Security Council has authorized complex and innovative peacekeeping operations (UNDPI, 2008).

The United Nations peacekeeping operations have been active with its upgraded strategy in order to meet up with the change in dimensions of peace and security threat in the post-cold war era. A Somali Peacekeeping operation (UNOSOM II) in 1993 became according to Blokker and Schrijver (2005) the first mission authorized by Security Council to use force beyond self-defense. This measure according to Chesterman Cited Schofield (2019) resulted to the deaths of twenty-four United Nations peacekeepers and some other fifty-seven injured, after which the Security Council authorized UNOSOM II to take all necessary measures against all those responsible. Other peacekeeping missions were introduced in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) in 1999 and the Observer Mission (MONUC) of the UN in 2000 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). All these were approved to take every necessary measure required to afford civil protection.

The United Nations in furtherance of efforts to maintaining international peace and security has established through its Security Council more than 28 new peace keeping mission since 1995. These peace keeping missions include the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) 2000; the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in 2003; the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) in 2004; the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) IN 2005; and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) in 2006 (UNDPI, 2008). All those above identified missions are initiated to cause peace in the crisis member states. Most interestingly, many of these new peacekeeping missions initiated by the UN have accomplished their mandates, including the more recently mission in the Central African Republic, Burundi and so on.

The United Nations in its new peacekeeping strategy has partnership with the regional Organization in order to ensure effective peacekeeping operations. This was made evident when on the 31 July 2007; the United Nations Security Council authorized a joint United Nations/African Union hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID). It was charged to take necessary actions to support Implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and also to protect its personnel and civilians, without prejudice to the responsibility of the government of Sudan. The United Nations changing strategy for the fight against international peace and security threat saw the establishment of the UN Peace Building Commission in June 2006. The new Peace building Architecture comprises a joint force of the UN Peace building Commission, the UN peace building Fund and the Peace building Support Office. All these prove the United Nations relentless effort to ensure international peace and security (UNDPI, 2008).

From the foregoing, it has been evidently established that the United Nations have undoubtedly pursued continuously its primary duty of maintaining international peace and security. This is obviously proven in the above provided cases of crisis situations where the United Nations had intervened through

peacekeeping missions. The successes which it has achieved through those interventions are not in doubt, though as crises are resolved in the international society, subsequent conflicts ensue. The United Nations persistent effort towards ensuring international peace and security in the post-cold war era has faced some challenges. Even with the resolution of some crises, further crises emerge and in different dimension or shape. International peace and security are therefore placed in a state of a continuous yearning and thirst for help in the post-cold war era, even with the presence of the United Nations insistent effort.

**The Issues: Challenges to UN Effort toward Ensuring International Peace and Security in Post-Cold War Era.**

International peace and security has overtime faced a serious threat. In this contemporary era of post-cold war, peace and security threat became more sever. This is as a result of globalization and its enhancement in positive and negative advancements in science and technology. Conflicts and other peace and security issues began to take another shape. United Nations as a global organization has in reaction to this intensified and upgraded its strategy towards meeting up with these new emerging changes in international peace and security threats. Despite this, the United Nations efforts to ensure peace and security in the post-cold war era still face some challenges. Some of Challenges are outlined and explained below, one after the other as thus;

**Weak Leadership and Corruption of some Member States:** Weak leadership and corruption is one of the factors that militate against the United Nations effort to maintain international peace and security. Political leaders of some member states are so corrupt that they can manipulate actions of the United Nations towards peace and security maintenance, for their selfish interest. The others who are not corrupt but naturally weak finds it impossible to enforce or implement the United Nations international peace and security laws. In other words, they do not give the United Nation's peacemaking machineries the complementary supports towards maintaining the international peace and security. Weak governance and leadership leads to fragile institutions, inept public management and corruption, compounded by the muzzling of political dissent and the media, and the politicizing of the state's security organs (United Nations, 2005).

Corruption makes a country vulnerable by exposing the citizens to many illegal activities as a result of the government failure to curb or control citizens' actions. When this happens, everyone will stand a chance to do what he/she likes. The government being at the center of it has no power to control corrupt activities. When leaders soil their hands with corruption, it creates a level of weakness in them. Embezzlement of the United Nations fund for the fight against international peace and security threat could as a matter of fact occur in some corrupt countries. For this, implementation of some anti-corruption laws will face challenges. Human rights will equally be in danger as everyone strives for his selfish interest. Intra-state, inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflict will start emerging as a result of clash of interests. The United Nations in this situation faces some challenge in successfully maintaining peace because of unsupportive effort which it might get from the government of such member-state.

**The Change in Dynamics of International Conflicts in the Post-Cold War Era:** This is another challenge faced by the UN in maintaining international peace in the post-cold war era. As has been revealed by literature, international conflicts in the contemporary post-cold war era have a change in dimensions. Issues that was seen traditionally in the cold war era as unserious have escalated to pose a very serious threat to this period's peace and security. Intra-state conflicts such as communal violence, land boundary issues, farmers-herders misunderstandings and so many others have adversely advanced into serious issues of international concern.

As noted by Obikaeze and Iheke, (2018) as a result of the new world order, the suppressed inter-ethnic conflicts, inter-religious crisis in some of the nations in Europe, Asia and Africa suddenly erupted. Proliferation of nuclear weapons by some states formerly viewed as weaker ones is not left out in the list of the changes. To Muzaffer (2008), the end of cold war increased the willingness of government to work through the United Nations and other international organizations to resolve conflict and maintain peace

around the globe, though several new threats have emerged in this era that are indeed beyond the full control of nation-states and even major powers. This escalation in the numbers conflict issues and dimensions has created an overwhelming task for the United Nations. The United Nations in other words, are engrossed with several tedious task of tackling uncountable peace and security issues.

**Rapid Advancement in Science and Technology in the Post-Cold War Era:** Science and technology is good, and as well evil. It is good when channeled towards improving the livelihood of man in the society through innovations and inventions of necessary facilities (like machines, electronics, etc) that can ease man's socio-economic and political activities. On the contrary, science and technology is evil because of its adversary advancement in technology of some life threatening equipments, like nuclear weapons and others. However, science and technology is very vital in the contemporary global society. Suffice it to say that science and technology in the post-cold war era is a necessary evil. The global advancement in science and technology has posed a serious challenge to the United Nations effort towards maintaining international peace and security. Countries began to advance their ideas on nuclear weapons and also go into proliferation as a way of becoming powerful in the international system.

Nuclear weapons were being produced formerly by some few powerful states of United States, Israel, Russia etc, but the level of advancement in nuclear technology after the cold war has seen some countries like China, Iran, Iraq and so on going into production of their own nuclear weapons. Information technology has equally posed a threat to international Peace and security. Kegley (2007) had argued that the high level of terrorism in the world today is due to the rapid spread of new weapons technology and their easy transportation across border. With the invention and outspread of mobile phones, Satellite dish, televisions and so on, the world becomes more globalized in the sense that someone can stay in Nigeria and know what happens in America and vice versa. Information is easily passed across from your destination to any part of the world through internet, phone calls, radio or television news etc. Most of the times, terrorists and other international peace and security threatening agents get information about the strategy of the UN peacekeeping Missions and make counter plans ahead. Transportation technology after the cold war exacerbates the challenges faced by UN to ensure international peace and security. Means of transportation of nuclear weapons became modernized and relatively faster.

**Poverty and Continuous Struggle for Power and Freedom:** Education, political and economic poverty and the struggle to break out from it are one of the challenges being faced by United Nations effort to ensure international peace and security. This is common in some developing countries of Africa and Asia. Poverty has been there right from the time of the cold war, but after the cold war, the excess strive to break out from it and be free becomes intensified amongst people. The hunger for freedom and power has caused many terrorist attacks in the post-cold war era. The Muslim wants to be free from the control of the world by the Christians. The 11 September attack in United States by the Al Qaeda terrorist group led by Osama Bin Laden according to Kegley (2007) made a historical watershed ushering in a new age of global terrorism as it marked the advent of new rules by the weak against the strong, now conducted by ideological terrorists without a territory acting transnationally to transform international status quo. Apart from the US attack, there have been since then other attacks.

For instance, attacks occurred in Bali, Indonesia (in 2002), in Casablanca, Morocco (in 2003). ...other similar attacks in other places. For instance, in 2004, a Madrid computer train in Spain was bombed and 96 lives were lost and more than 1,400 persons were wounded. In 2005, there was also a terrorist attack on houses and subway train in London where 52 persons died. There were further attacks in Lebanon, Algeria, Pakistan, Yemen, Iran, and even Nigeria where a UN building was destroyed by suicide bomber and more than 23 persons were killed and 129 others in 2012 (Ekpe Cited in Obikaeze and Iheke, 2018:233).

The challenges posed by struggle for power and control against international peace and security can never be overemphasized. International peace and security and the United Nations effort to maintain it therefore becomes victimized in the post-cold war era.

**The United State Role of a Leviathan in the United Nations:** With the new advancement in science and technology, some nations that are formally seen as weak and poor are discovering the secret and technology in the building of nuclear weapons. America is the world power because of her capability in the production and distribution of nuclear weapons. This particular position of US in the world politics is enviable. The United States is arrogant because of its position in the United Nations. In its bid to retain the most powerful state among the UN member states, the US always counters any attempt by any country to produce and distribute nuclear weapons and other actions that counters their interests in any country.

Eze (2017) noted that the United States through the use of force bombarded Libya's Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986; invaded Panama in 1989, and removed Noriega for not serving her interest any longer; invaded Iraq in 2003 and so on- devoid of the UN Security Council Authorization. All these invasions as he further stated are contrary to Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits the use of force on the settlement of international dispute of any sort. Some critiques have seen the UN as an instrument through which the United States pursues her selfish interest in the international system. This sounds true some time as we do see United States under the United Nations Security council taking personal the struggle to maintain peace in some countries of its interest. The role of a leviathan played in the UN by the United States has caused some antagonistic actions from some UN member states. This is in their attempt to achieve power and change status quo in the international system.

**The United Nations Force Approach to Ensuring international Peace and Security:** The United Nations adopted the use of force (which is not fully supported by the Charter) as a part of its upgrading effort towards ensuring international peace and security. In its peacekeeping operations, the UN peacekeeping operators (mostly the military) have adopted a force approach which has in some cases resulted to the loss of many lives. The UN Security Council use of force in its peacekeeping mission resulted in the deaths of twenty-four peacekeepers and the other fifty-seven injured in Somalia crisis on June 1993. The Somalia Peacekeeping Operation (UNOSOM II), excessively added force as a follow up and this resulted to the escalation of the conflict and casualties, which gave rise to the notion espoused by Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, the Commander in United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), of crossing the "Mogadishu Line" from peacekeeping to peace enforcement (Weller, Solomou, Rylatt, Chesterman, cited in Schofield, 2019).

The use of force in maintaining peace and security in the international system is not helping issues as some powerful states like America has used it as an instrument of achieving their interest. This has overtime posed a serious challenge to the United Nations effort to ensure international peace and security hence it creates more issues that it can resolve in the post-cold war international peace and security strive.

### **Summary/Findings**

The United Nations was created primarily to serve international interest through the maintenance of global peace and security. Since its creation, it has faced a lot of security issues which it has been on the struggle to resolve. As the United Nations resolve one conflict, another one ensues. After the post-cold war era, the nature and shape of crisis in the international system began to change shape. Peace and security issue began to increase. Power tussle and control began to intensify. Science and technological began to take its rapid advancement. Globalization, modernization and post-modernization are all attached to the change in the post-cold war era. Inter-state, Intra-state, inter-religious, inter-ethnic conflict, international terrorism and proliferation of nuclear weapons by some states began to increase. As international peace and security threats increased, there are also changes in dimensions. Although the United Nations improved in its strategy to meet up with the new challenges of international peace and security in the post-cold war era, the straggle to ensure peace and security in this era still faced challenges as it still yet to be achieved.

Culminating from what we have discussed in this paper, the study therefore found that, in this post-cold war era, international peace and security threat increased as a result of over struggle for power and freedom by some countries, groups and other actors in the international relations. This they pursue following the idea of realism that "might is right", and every actor wants to be powerful.

Secondly, United Nations effort to maintain international peace and security are also marred by leadership idiosyncrasies of some member states' leaders. Implementation of United Nations international peace and security budgets in some countries have be manipulated and diverted for personal interest in some countries because of corruption.

Thirdly, rapid advancement in science and technology since after the cold war has posed a serious challenge to the United Nations struggle for international peace and security. People are negatively using technology to create many problems.

Furthermore, the study found out that the United Nations over concentration on the world powers specifically the United States have caused a serious damage to its effort to ensure international peace and security in the post-cold war era. This has created a somehow impartiality and some member states are rising against it.

Finally, the study found out that the United Nations adoptions of the use of force in its peacekeeping operations has creates more problems than it can solve.

### **Recommendations**

The study having revealed its findings therefore provides some recommendations, which could be applied for an improvement on the UN effort to ensure global peace in the post-cold war era.

Firstly, the United Nations should revisit its Charter, so as to improve in its level of impartiality, by so doing fairness, transparency and inclusiveness will be recalled in the system so as to ensure serenity in the international environment.

Secondly, on the side of the leaders of member states, there is a great need to abstain from corruption and implement serious laws against acts of corruption. This will charge everyone to place hands on deck and assist the United Nations in its fight against threats of international peace and security.

Finally, the use of force by the UN peacekeeping missions in their operations as it contravenes the UN Charter Article 2(4) should be terminated. The UN should utilize other diplomatic means like negotiation, dialogue, economic sanctions, aids ban etc as instruments of dissolving conflict in the international system.

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