

## TERRORISM AND REGIONAL TRADE: A STUDY OF BOKO HARAM IN THE LAKE CHAD REGION FROM 2012- 2020

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### **Abstract**

*This study examines how terrorist actions, namely those of Boko Haram (BHT), have impacted regional commerce in the Lake Chad Region. This article looks at the terrorist actions and insurgency of the Islamic fundamentalist group Boko Haram in the states of Western and Central Africa. Boko Haram wants to topple the governments of Nigeria and Chad in order to impose a harsh version of Sharia rule over the nation, which is home to over 230 million people of all ethnic backgrounds. Boko Haram started an extremely aggressive insurgency in 2009, which has resulted in the deaths of almost 18,000 people and the destruction of property valued at millions of dollars via explosives and massacres. This has severely harmed the region's economy by affecting trade ties between neighbouring countries in the Lake Chad region and the rest of the globe. The primary focus of the paper is on the political, military, and legal responses of Nigeria and its neighbouring countries to the hazardous acts of Boko Haram, which they see as the most effective means of putting an end to the insurgency. It also discusses Boko Haram's demands and ideology in short. The paper employs a qualitative methodology to examine international relations, with a particular emphasis on the concept of political economics of terrorism. This theory looks at the relationship between economic problems including poverty, inequality, and resource availability and how it relates to terrorism. Scientists with expertise in economics, political science, and sociology collaborated to develop the concept of the political economy of terrorism. According to the report, the insecurity threat posed by Boko Haram assaults prevents foreign investments and significantly halts local business and economic operations.*

**Keywords:** *Boko Haram, Lake Chad Region, Terrorism, Insurgency, Regional Trade, Joint Task Force.*

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Terrorism has had a major influence on regional commerce in Africa, with organisations such as Boko Haram threatening stability and economic growth. Because to Boko Haram's actions in the Lake Chad area, millions of people have been displaced, thousands of lives have been lost, and billions of dollars' worth of property has been destroyed. In addition, Nigeria and other neighbouring nations in the Lake Chad area have been greatly impacted by the bloodshed and instability caused by Boko Haram. Because to Boko Haram's ongoing activities and presence in northeastern Nigeria, there is a general atmosphere of fear and insecurity, which makes it difficult for commerce to grow and for enterprises to function. Regional commerce has declined because investors are afraid to engage in economic activity in terrorist-affected regions. Outsiders will find it hard to believe the Nigerian military's claims of Boko Haram's "technical defeat" since the organisation still poses a serious danger to the local population. Despite attempts to remove it, Boko Haram remains deeply ingrained in the northeast, impeding commerce and local economic growth (Ibukun, 2020).

One way to conceptualise the Lake Chad region is as a regional system that, before the Boko Haram crisis, was organised by trade routes and migratory ties that linked more or less populous zones with great agricultural and economic potential to more unstable sections. Rainfall, which now falls in the middle of the wet (1950–1960s) and dry (1970–1980s) decades, is nevertheless defined by sudden variations that have an effect on the expansion of agricultural resources. The grazing grounds in the northern Sahel and other agro-pastoral and agro-cultural areas (Borno and the Mandara Mountains) are the most vulnerable areas in this environment because they rely heavily on seasonal mobility to and trade relations with areas that have recently migrated and are rich in natural resources, such as Lake Chad and the Benue lands in the south of the study zone, as well as established population centres, such as Diamare, the Yobe River, and the Mundang and Tupuri lands. The two major urban hubs are Maiduguri and N'Djamena. They function as important customer centres and important hubs for long-distance commercial links. Although robust, this system is susceptible to fluctuations in the cost of natural resources, population growth, and uncertain political climates (Magrin, 2018). In the Lake Chad area, terrorism has lately grown to be a significant issue that is hurting local commerce. Trade and commerce in the Lake Chad area, which encompasses Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, have been significantly impacted by the actions of the extremist group Boko Haram. Numerous reasons, such as the shared wetlands resource of Lake Chad, the

existence of violence and displacement, and the establishment of surrounding refugee camps, might be the cause of these disturbances. The notorious terrorist organisation Boko Haram is now responsible for a number of killings in the Lake Chad area. Long-term violence in the area has had a major effect on many aspects of society, including neighbourhood businesses. Understanding the impact of terrorism on regional commerce in the Lake Chad area is crucial, considering the gravity of the problem. Tens of thousands of people have died as a result of Boko Haram terrorism, but the area around Lake Chad has also seen millions of people uprooted and billions of dollars' worth of property destroyed. Boko Haram continues to be a major menace to the northeast and a severe risk to the local population, even though the government has declared a "technical defeat" (Zieba, Yengoh & Tom, 2017).

For a long time, states in the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) have battled with a variety of insecurity-related problems, including as banditry, abduction, highway robberies, and cattle rustling. Furthermore, one of the LCB's top security priorities is the Boko Haram issue. In addition to creating issues, violent extremism has made it more difficult and unwilling for these nations to offer human security. These countries include Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. As a result, the emphasis on conflict dynamics in the LCB should be seen as a critical analysis of the various people, groups, and institutions that fuel instability in the region. It should also highlight the Boko Haram phenomenon and how it relates to other conflict or security dynamics. The beginnings of the Boko Haram dilemma may be largely attributed to the State's failings, and the last 10 years have shown that Boko Haram factions have prospered by capitalising on political and socioeconomic vulnerabilities. But years before Boko Haram was created, in 1964, at the Fort Lamy Convention, the LCB countries formed the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), mostly to deal with environmental concerns. After that, the LCBC intended to coordinate actions to stop cross-border crime. The same countries established the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in the 1990s. This force was intended to be founded in 1994 in order to tackle organised crime and banditry in the region, and by 1998 it had been effectively constituted. In response to the regional character of the Boko Haram conflict, the MNJTF's deployment was authorised by the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council in 2015. (Charles, Goni, & Zanna, 2022). This article uses a qualitative research design to investigate the effects of Boko-Haram terrorism on the commerce within the Lake Chad area.

## **2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This paper adopts theory of political economy of terrorism. The political economic theory of terrorism has no single origin since it resulted from the collaboration of researchers from several fields. As the economic drivers of terrorism have come to light more and more, the concept of political economics of terrorism has emerged. This theory makes an effort to look at the connection between terrorism and economic characteristics including resource availability, inequality, and poverty. Together, researchers from the fields of economics, political science, and sociology developed the idea of the political economy of terrorism. However, a number of eminent academics and researchers have significantly improved our knowledge of the political economy of terrorism. Bruce Hoffman, Martha Crenshaw, Alberto Abadie, and Paul Collier are a few eminent academics and researchers who have made substantial contributions to the knowledge of the political economics of terrorism (Enders & Olson, 2012).

The political economy of terrorism theory aims to explain how regional trade dynamics and terrorism are related. This theory contends that the occurrence and severity of terrorism in certain areas are influenced by a complex interaction between political and economic factors. On the one hand, terrorism may have a significant impact on the local economy. Terrorist attacks may alter supply chains, drive up transportation costs, and foster an atmosphere of uncertainty that deters investment and trade. On the other hand, regional commerce may have an impact on the prevalence of terrorism. For instance, regional commerce may intensify already-existing political and socioeconomic disputes, perhaps sparking terrorist activity. Additionally, the idea makes the case that local commerce might provide funds for terrorist outfits. Transnational terrorism has been the main focus of study on the political economics of terrorism in relation to regional commerce. Higher business density areas are more likely to undergo terrorist attacks, according to recent studies. The link between terrorism and regional commerce is taken into account by this theory in a number of ways (De-Mesquita, 2008).

These components include global networks for finance and charity, rationalism in cost-benefit analysis, and game-theoretic methods. The theory acknowledges that economic resentments and regional inequalities may serve as terrorists' primary sources of inspiration. Additionally, it acknowledges that political problems like government corruption and persecution may play a role in the rise of terrorism. The hypothesis also takes into account demographic factors like high unemployment rates or youth bulges, which may result in a population of unsatisfied

people who are more likely to be recruited by terrorist organisations. According to the Political Economy of Terrorism thesis, regions with higher levels of trade are more susceptible to terrorism for a variety of socioeconomic and political factors. Numerous studies that looked at the relationship between terrorism and economic indicators support this idea. Blomberg and Hess, for instance, estimated that terrorism may affect business as much as a 30% tax. Additionally, De Sousa, Mirza, and Verdier's study discovered a negative correlation between trade and terrorism, with a doubling of terrorist-related incidents leading to a 4% reduction in trade. Regarding regional trade, the Political Economy of Terrorism thesis suggests that there is a complex relationship between terrorism and economic factors. This connection may be seen in how terrorism impacts the financial markets, limits corporate investment, and decreases tourism. The idea also emphasizes the relevance of regional trade as a potential source of funding for terrorist organisations. The existence of global financial and charitable networks that facilitate the flow of money to terrorist organisations is one component of the theory. These networks use the connection of international trade to move money across borders and provide funding for terrorist activities. The theory also emphasizes the need of rationalist cost-benefit analyses in illuminating the causes of terrorism (Cohn & Hira, 2020).

The political economic theory of terrorism sheds light on the relationship between terrorism and local trade. This theory contends that both direct and indirect effects on regional trade may result from terrorism. First, terrorism may really ruin manufactured goods. This could happen as unintended consequences of terrorist attacks or when objects themselves are made targets. Such direct damage to traded goods may result in increased trading costs and a decrease in trade volume. Terrorism may also have a knock-on effect on local trade. These "spill-over" impacts occur when countries who are geographically adjacent to terrorist-affiliated regions or states have negative consequences on their bilateral trade. The perception of increased risk and instability in the terrorist-affected areas may be to blame for these side effects. Additionally, the concept of the Political Economy of Terrorism suggests that terrorism could potentially have indirect effects on local trade. This is accomplished via two main channels: decreasing the willingness of countries to do business with unstable regions and trade-restrictive restrictions put in place by governments in response to counterterrorism initiatives. For instance, Mirza and Verdier propose that terrorism primarily affects economic flows by decreasing countries' inclination to engage in trade with unstable regions. Therefore, this theory was utilized to explain how terrorism impacted business activities in the Lake Chad Region

and how it also had an impact on the economies of the member countries of the Lake Chad (Oatley, 2022).

### **3. REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE**

#### **3.1 Trade**

Understanding the purpose of commerce is essential to understanding trade itself. Ricardo observed that the driving force behind trade (of creating a product) was relative costs rather than absolute costs. One country may be more productive than others overall if it can produce any good with less inputs (like labour and capital) than other countries require to produce the same good. A country like as sort would nevertheless benefit from trade based on its comparative advantage, exporting the greatest absolute benefits and buying items with relatively smaller absolute advantages, according to Ricardo's approach. A country will benefit from manufacturing and exporting steel and aeroplanes and importing clothes even if it produces clothing twice as effectively as its trading partners if it is three times as productive in these sectors. If apparel has a relative advantage over these other goods but not a decisive one, exporting it will be advantageous to its partner. The idea of comparative advantage may be used to trade in services such as computer code creation or financial products, not only physical goods. Due to comparative advantage, trade raises the standard of living in both countries (Hooijmaaijers, 2021).

As consumers, we are all interested in doing business with other countries. We often fail to see how trade influences not only the availability and quality of goods, but also their costs. However, we all gain from the greater quantity and diversity of commodities as well as the lower prices made possible by commerce with other people. When trade ceases, nations become isolated. They provide inferior goods and services in comparison to trade countries. Every time we go into a store, restaurant, theatre, or other kind of business to make a purchase, we trade, regardless of whether the goods were created locally or worldwide. To comprehend commerce, one must keep in mind its motivations. Regardless of where they live, people trade because they believe it will improve their situation. Trading merely makes more sense when weighed against the alternative of each of us producing everything on our own (Fergusson, Mcminimy & Williams, 2015).

Comparative advantage is seen as "good news" for economic expansion. "A developing country can trade effectively with developed countries because it will always have a comparative

advantage in the production of certain goods, even if it lacks an absolute advantage in any field." Divergences in comparative advantage may result from a variety of circumstances. The Swedish economists Eli Heckscher and Bertil Ohlin acknowledged the importance of labour and capital, or so-called factor endowments, as a driver of advantage at the start of the 20th century. The Heckscher-Ohlin hypothesis states that countries often export goods whose production makes extensive use of moderately priced inputs. Wealthy countries with factories and other capital assets export things that need a lot of capital, whereas countries that require a lot of labour export goods that require a lot of work. Economists of today think that although factor endowments are important, other important variables also affect trade patterns (Hooijmaaijers, 2021).

The exchange of goods and services for money or its equivalent is known as trade. It involves exchanging goods and services for money or money equivalents. Manufacturers or producers create the goods, and then they provide the end user, retailer, and wholesaler. Trade is necessary to meet human wants and is done so both for financial gain and customer service. Trade is an important social activity because society needs a constant flow of goods to meet its constantly expanding, ever changing, and ever developing needs. Trade has existed from the dawn of human history and will continue to do so for as long as humans inhabit this earth. It improves the quality of life for the clients. Therefore, one may argue that trade is an essential social activity. Trade benefits people by allowing them to concentrate their work on their areas of competence or skill. Individuals with specialised training in any of the hundreds of fields found in our economy—carpentry, farming, medicine, education, or any other—produce goods or services that they trade for other necessities. Similar to this, countries trade a wide range of goods and services with one another, specialising in producing the goods and services that they can produce most successfully (Fergusson, Mcminimy & Williams, 2015).

### **3.2 International Trade**

The economic activity of exchanging products and services across nations is known as foreign trade. It represents the total amount of goods traded between countries. In a narrow sense, international commerce is the exchange of goods between businesses located in different countries; it is restricted to products that cross national borders or customs procedures. In addition to the global trade of goods, international commerce also includes the exchange of services (both visible and invisible exports and imports), money transfers, human mobility (tourism), and the dissemination of news and information. The purpose of international

commerce is to rename borders, customs lines, and the territories of buyers (importers) and sellers (exporters) by means of the exchange of goods, services, and other commodities between organisations situated in different countries. Everything is done in compliance with an official free trade agreement. Contracts outline the rights and obligations of each party, and foreign trade is often subject to certain laws and regulations. International commerce only includes products and services that are competitive in terms of quality, price, form of payment, and delivery circumstances (Gordana & Dario, 2010).

International trade is the exchange of goods and services as well as money across national borders. It is the exchange of goods and services between nations on a global scale. To maintain the happiness of its population, any country requires goods and services. Commodities and services cannot be produced without resources. All countries cannot produce all the goods and services they need on their own because they have limited resources. Imported goods are necessary yet cannot be produced domestically or in sufficient quantities. Likewise, countries that generate more goods domestically than they need also export them to other countries. Many companies now have many sites, both domestically and abroad, as a result of advancements in technology, current economic conditions, and enhanced transportation and communication infrastructure. A company is a participant in the global market if it trades goods or services with other nations or participates in direct or indirect international commerce (Grondanovska, Jankulovski, & Bojkovska, 2017).

### **3.3 Regional Trade**

Treaties known as "regional trade agreements" (or "RTAs") provide the liberalisation of commerce in products and services. According to the WTO General Council's "Decision to Establish the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements," free trade zones, customs unions, "economic integration agreements" that liberalise trade in services, and "preferential trade agreements" between developing nations are all referred to as "regional trade agreements" (Bartels, L. 2012). Both bilateral agreements and agreements that are not regional in the traditional meaning of the term are covered by it. It has to do with the term "preferential trade agreement," which is more often used in writings on economics. Several forms of economic integration are built on the foundation of regional trade agreements. They are categorised as preferential trading regions, free trade zones, customs unions, common markets, economic and monetary unions (also known as monetary zones and monetary unions), and finally comprehensive economic integration in increasing order of integration. The participants to a



free trade area agree to remove trade restrictions on products (and/or services) coming from their respective territories. Customs unions are agreements that have a common external tariff. While economic unions are characterised by the harmonisation of various economic policies, particularly monetary unions, common markets further facilitate the free movement of other resources, including labour and capital (Guillin, 2013).

A distinction was made between "positive integration," which is represented by the harmonisation of standards and other cooperative policy initiatives, and "negative integration," which calls for the removal of discrimination and border barriers at the point of product and service consumption (Tinbergen, 2015). Good integration along these lines may occur even within a free trade area, defying Balassa's notion. Greater levels of integration and customs unions are often combined with a more expansive political goal. The German Zollverein (German Customs Union) (Zollvereinigungsvertrag [signed 22 March 1833, entered into force 1 January 1834] (1833) 83 CTS 219) and the Treaty of Union of the Two Kingdoms of Scotland and England (done 22 July 1706, entered into force 1 May 1707) are two notable historical examples. More modern examples include the European Union and MERCOSUR, which are distinguished by the establishment of a new legal framework whereby individuals possess rights that are immediately enforceable. Sovereignty sharing is an inevitable part of these sorts of integration. The Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ) was asked to provide an advisory opinion in 1931 regarding whether Austria was allowed by various treaties to pursue a proposed Austro-German Customs Union. The question of whether such a development was legal in light of treaties guaranteeing the independence of a State was raised (Murshed, 2021).

### **3.4 Terrorism**

The act of imposing one's political beliefs via forceful intimidation is known as terrorism. The obvious goal of terrorists is to upend the political and economic structures of a country. Because terrorist strikes need immediate government rescue, cleanup, and reconstruction efforts, they are costly. Long-term societal fear and uncertainty brought on by terrorism boosts costs for products and services (terrorist premium on crude oil prices, for example) and reduces willingness to invest in new initiatives (Attia, 2018).

The revolutionary radicalism of the nineteenth century, particularly the emergence of "anarchist," "collectivist anarchist," and "anarcho-communist" groups, is where modern terrorism had its start. For example, starting in the middle of the 1800s, a number of anti-

establishment movements received support from groups led by or inspired by Frenchman Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, the author of *What is Property?* (1840), Karl Marx, and Mikhail Bakunin. Within ten years, similar structures started to spread across Asia, the Balkans, and Western Europe. The German revolutionary Karl Heinzen used the term "freedom fighter" in his well-known 1853 article *Mord and Freiheit*, which described the first instances of individuals using violence—even mass murder—to affect political change. But when more traditional means, like handing out political pamphlets and leaflets encouraging riots and uprisings to put pressure on the government, failed to spark a widespread social revolution among the peasantry, these early radicals turned to violence in the hope of enforcing political reform and undermining the State. This is how the political action technique known as "propaganda by the deed" came to be important in European anarchist politics (Attia, 2018).

Terrorism is a diverse and sophisticated sickness that has afflicted civilizations all over the globe for decades. Developing an appropriate and commonly accepted definition of terrorism has proved difficult in academic and governmental circles. The events of 9/11 heightened public attention in the topic of terrorism. Since then, academics, professionals, and politicians have worked hard to construct a comprehensive definition that captures the essence of terrorism. Despite ongoing attempts, consensus on a definition of terrorism remains elusive. Academics first defined terrorism as the use of violent activities to instil fear and accomplish political ends. However, as our knowledge of terrorism has evolved, so, too, has the need for a more nuanced definition. According to study, the scientific literature alone has over a hundred potential definitions of terrorism, highlighting the concept's complexity and ambiguity. One term that has gained popularity is the use of illegal violence or the threat of unlawful violence to inspire fear and force governments or communities for political, religious, or ideological objectives. The United States Department of Defence defines terrorism as the intentional use of criminal violence or the threat of unlawful violence to instil fear and coerce governments or society (Lutz & Lutz, 2019).

#### **4. EFFORTS IN CURTAILING BOKO HARAM ACTIVITIES IN LAKE CHAD REGION**

##### **4.1 The Nature of Trade and the Dynamic of the Conflict in Lake Chad Region**

Describing the nature of trade in the Lake Chad region, Participant C, F and B said it spans across several countries including Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon, it is known for its

vibrant trade. The trade in the region is predominantly informal and characterized by cross-border transactions between traders from different countries. The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), a regional organization created to promote the sustainable development of the Lake Chad Basin, estimates that informal cross-border trade accounts for up to 90% of total trade in the region. This informal trade is driven by small-scale traders who operate in open-air markets and along trade routes. The most common goods traded in the Lake Chad region include foodstuffs such as cereals, fish, and livestock, as well as textiles, household goods, and other basic necessities. The trade is facilitated by the region's network of rivers and waterways, which connect traders across the various countries (Mahmud, Jia & Zhu, 2019).

The UNDP Report (2021) states that in the last 12 years, the violence has had a serious negative effect on communities. About 350,000 people—mostly civilians—have died in attacks, clashes, and bombs in Nigeria alone since the crisis started. Nonetheless, the 350,000 figure is almost ten times higher than earlier estimates of 35,000 deaths for the whole LCB region. A plausible rationale for this might be the incorporation of incidental fatalities stemming from the wider aftermath of the conflict, such illness and famine. At least 2.8 million individuals have been forced to relocate inside their own country as a result of the violence so far; nearly 2 million of them are in Nigeria alone.<sup>5</sup> At least 265,000 people have sought safety in neighbouring countries, including Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, while over 280,000 people have been forced to flee their homes and return to their countries of origin. Furthermore, as time has gone on, these figures have been rising, overwhelming the need for humanitarian aid, which has been made worse by additional unfavourable circumstances (drought, floods, COVID-19). According to OCHA, there are 3.3 million people experiencing food insecurity and 11.5 million people in need of humanitarian relief in the Lake Chad Basin, and there is a US\$ 2.5 billion funding gap. These tendencies, which unfortunately seem to be becoming stronger, are regrettably reflected in the dynamics and patterns seen across the period of time covered by this investigation. The terrorist activities of Boko Haram have had a gravely negative impact on the region around Lake Chad's human development. Millions of people in the region, including children, were forced to flee their homes due to the ongoing attacks. Many of them were also forced to drop out of school, and the disruption of educational opportunities had long-term effects on the advancement of humankind. It also had a negative impact on people's health since it complicated access to healthcare services by upsetting the local healthcare system. This has increased the number of preventable diseases and health issues, particularly in populations that have been relocated. In addition, Boko Haram has increased

gender-based violence in the region by specifically attacking women and girls. This has significantly harmed women's and girls' physical and mental well-being as well as their ability to participate in social and economic activities. UNDP (2021).

Furthermore, the Lake Chad region also falls behind in important human capital indexes. In comparison to the national average, the Lake Chad region has a much lower literacy rate (15 years of age and older) and a lower primary school completion rate (ages 14 to 25). The state of child health in the region is equally appalling. For example, compared to other countries, the prevalence of child stunting in the Lake Chad region is around 10-15% higher. These results are in line with other studies and are the result of unique analysis done for this article. For instance, the International Crisis Group (ICG) reports that the gross school enrollment rate in the Chadian Lake area is less than 30% and that "community teachers," who are mostly the parents of the students, usually fill in for licenced teachers. There is just one doctor per 140,000 inhabitants on the Chadian side of the lake, or one-fourth of the national average. The destruction of both governmental and private infrastructure resulting from the conflict has exacerbated the region's poor access to and quality of education, health, and other services (UNDP, 2021).

#### **4.2 Military Cooperation: The Multinational Joint Task Force**

Military cooperation in the Lake Chad Basin before Boko Haram's formation. The development of armed groups and common banditry was made possible by the security systems of the basin states' vulnerability and their porous borders. Due to smuggling and criminal activity in the area, the member states of the LCBC decided to establish a joint security force in 1994 during their 8th summit (de la CBLT, Abuja, 21–23 March 1994). However, at that time, only Nigeria committed troops (Musa, 2013). By creating the Multinational Joint Security Force (MNJSF) in 1998, more LCBC member countries were added to the security force. "To conduct military operations in the Lake Chad Region, check banditry activities, and to facilitate free movement of member states' troops across their common border" was the creation's original mission. Although the LCBC functioned as a political forum, it did not actively participate in these first events (Musa, 2013).

The MNJSF was reformed in response to the 2009 "Boko Haram Uprising," which claimed over 1,000 lives in Northern Nigeria. The MNJSF was relaunched as the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in 2012 in response to the insurgency's increasing cross-border nature

targeting Nigeria and its neighbours. According to Zamfir et al. (2017), this reorganisation increased the MNJTF's operating capacity to an estimated 10,000 troops, which was initially requested by Nigeria. Up to January 2015, when Boko Haram took control of the facility, the MNJTF was stationed in Baga, Nigeria. Eventually, the MNJTF's military headquarters were moved to N'Djamena, and the African Union and its African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) came to have political authority over the force. By no means is the MNJTF the only structure available for cooperation; both national and bilateral deployments occur often. For instance, when Boko Haram took over the town of Bosso in June 2016, Chad sent 2,000 troops to Niger, forcing 50,000 residents to escape. First and foremost, the MNJTF serves as a framework for coordinating various national military operations (Zamfir, 2017). Personnel deployed to the MNJTF are those who operate first and foremost within the nations' boundaries. However, they are allowed to operate within a limited area on other countries' borders under certain circumstances (Assanvo 2016).

There have been and are anticipated to be increased tensions about the mandate. While it is occasionally suggested that the LCBC institutionally strengthen itself by returning its attention to its original core mandate of water management, the violence of the Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria and, as of 2015, the wider Lake Chad region has made security a more pressing concern since the late 2000s. Thus, potentially, LCBC might coordinate advancements in regional cooperation in security-related industries via the MNJTF (Assanvo 2016.)

The 2015 joint audit concluded that, despite current policies and legislation, member states have not given enough priority to Lake Chad's future and noted a lack of institutional coordination on water resource management in the basin. This is because the LCBC is facing significant challenges in carrying out its core mandate, which is to coordinate and promote the development and safeguarding of the lake.

### **4.3 Security Cooperation and the Fight against Boko Haram**

The convergence of member state interests in military cooperation and security is quite different from the hydro-political dynamics of the LCBC, and it even stands apart from conversations and transactions related to infrastructure development and water cooperation. As previously mentioned, the rise of Boko Haram-ISIL since 2009 has led to the reactivation of the MNJTF, which was first commanded by Nigeria and is now headquartered under the LCBC and functions as a sub-regional "umbrella." Since Boko Haram's operations are centred on

Nigeria, both that country and its neighbours tend to see the group as a Nigerian issue. However, the organization's increased cross-border activity in recent years has drawn in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, forcing Nigeria to look for help in its struggle to subdue the elusive enemy (Chuter & Gaub, 2016).

Nigeria is, not unexpectedly, the main power in the region. It has one of the biggest armies in Africa and the biggest in the region. (Although other countries spend a larger proportion of their GDP—as GDP—on security. The Boko Haram insurgency has always been addressed by the Nigerian government as a "Nigerian problem." This made it more difficult to work with other countries and regional organisations like LCBC. Issues like the disarmament of Nigerian soldiers by the Cameroonian military after they invaded the country while fighting Boko Haram (Reuters, Nigeria troops invade north Cameroon following Boko Haram base attack, August 26, 2014) made it evident that a more coordinated regional response was required. In order to combat the insurgency, President Goodluck Jonathan granted bilateral permission for troops from Chad and Niger to enter Nigerian territory in 2014–2015. The absence of a persistent military commitment meant that Boko Haram would reappear in certain areas, therefore the gains were not long-lasting (Théroux-Bénoni, 2015).

Nigeria has either diplomatically withdrawn from the MNJTF or ensured that it was at the forefront of any military effort by, for example, leading the MNJTF. Nigeria's goal to display military leadership in the region and remain firmly in command of the security response in the region is demonstrated by this policy. One of the primary foreign policy objectives of Nigeria's then-newly elected President Muhammadu Buhari was to engage with LCBC member states in order to revitalise the MNJTF after Baga fell. At a June 2015 meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Lake Chad Basin Commission in Nigeria, President Buhari restated Nigeria's commitment to contribute \$100 million towards the MNJTF's operationalization. According to the Nigerian authorities, this obligation has been fully fulfilled. (President Buhari also requested that Nigeria retain its position as the MNJTF's Force Commander at the summit (PM News, 2015).

Boko Haram operates in the northern part of Cameroon. The inhabitants are similar to those in northeastern Nigeria in terms of language and culture. In the past, the Cameroonian government has allowed weapons to be brought into Northern Cameroon, or even refused to intervene at all (International Crisis Group, 2014, 2016b). (There is evidence linking armed bandit groups to Boko Haram, and there is also questionable involvement from local tribal chiefs; some are

thought to be jihadist collaborators.) Cameroon has not always been a willing regional partner (International Crisis Group, 2016b). Due to strained relations with Nigeria over a border dispute, which was resolved in the middle of the 2000s but nonetheless weakened mutual trust, Cameroon was not a member of the MNJTF in the 1990s (Assanvo, Abatan & Sawadogo, 2016, Abatan & Sawadogo, 2016).

#### **4.4 Niger and Chadian Military Support Against Boko Haram**

Nigeria has asked its northern neighbour, Niger, for help in attacking the Boko Haram rebels, and West African countries are banding together to stop the spread of radical Islam. The militants in Niger report that security is present along the sparsely populated border. In an effort to identify Boko Haram militants who have fled the attack on their base in Nigeria, military police are searching for automobiles. The Nigerian Minister sent a request for assistance to Nigeria's capital city of Niamey on Monday, May 20, 2013, but omitted any details about the anticipated situation facing Nigerians. In October of 2012, Niger and Niger inked a mutual security agreement. The Nigerian Armed Forces launched an offensive against the Boko Haram-formed rebels in the military-controlled zone last month after forces from Niger and Chad joined them (Eizenga, 2020).

Hundreds of terrorists were killed in the military campaign on the Boko Haram stronghold, according to a Nigerian official. One of the strongholds of Islamists and radicals, the Sambisa Forest Reserve, was the target of an attack on Thursday, May 24, 2013. They murdered hundreds of insurgents by unleashing an artillery barrage on the city. The head of the Defence Intelligence Agency, Brigadier General Chris Olukolade, said that coordinated attacks were launched against militant concentration sites in all three states, with many of them taking control or being destroyed, including Borno Norte and Centro, the hub of the uprising. On Friday, May 25, 2014, he told the Global Post that the operation is meant to go on for as long as it takes to accomplish the mission's objectives, but he did not provide an estimate of how many people might die. In a subsequent press release, Olukolade said that they were in charge of international borders to stop "extremists from escaping or launching attacks." The general declared: "Public and national interests are at risk when citizens support Boko Haram (BHT) terrorists." At a press conference, Nigeria's head of civilian military affairs, Mobolaji Koleoso, said that President Goodluck Jonathan, who had declared a state of emergency in the region, had stated that the slaughter committed by Boko Haram is no longer considered a crime or a war (Eizenga, 2020).

Al Jazeera News said on March 9, 2015, that Chad and Niger have initiated a joint military campaign against Nigerian militants from Boko Haram. The two countries launched a "air and ground" battle against Boko Haram in eastern Nigeria, according to Nigerian government sources. We can certify that this morning's strike was launched from Niger by the armed forces of Nigeria and Chad. Colonel Bemanda, a spokesman for the Chadian Army, confirmed that the offensive had begun on Sunday. In the fight against Boko Haram, Niger will enter Nigeria for the first time with this invasion. It mostly defended itself against invaders in border areas in the past. Hundreds of miles north of Nigeria, Chad has already sent troops to seize the party's border with Cameroon. More than thirty cities have been recaptured by Chad and Niger since they joined forces with Nigeria and Cameroon to fight Boko Haram. A regional force of up to 10,000 troops was approved by the African Union on Saturday in response to the recent assault to counter possible allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Islamic State of the Levant (Maza, Koldas & Aksit, 2020).

## **5. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the threat of insecurity posed by Boko Haram attacks discourages foreign investment, cripples' corporate existence of Nigeria's sovereignty, hinders business and commercial activities, especially in Northern Nigeria and the Lake Chad region, and delays the development of infrastructure and education. However, the reality and the actions of the did not reflect their own primary purpose. It seems like they are using the religious elements to further their objectives. Maybe as a result of their own government's unfair treatment, which renders them power-blind? The power in this remark alludes to illicit power; they utilise this authority to kidnap women and children and to further destabilise the Nigerian economy. Furthermore, because it is difficult to draw conclusions about how terrorism affects an economy's structures in countries where there is ongoing conflict, it is said that terrorism can have a negative impact on an economy's growth and output. Nevertheless, no country has been specifically affected by terrorism, and as a result, it is clear that the sect only seeks authority through actions, policies, regulations, and services that are under government control. To seize control of the region's wealth, they want to overthrow the government that oversees Lake Chad. Owing to this circumstance, we have established standards that might potentially halt Boko Haram's activities.



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