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BALOZI
EEIU Nabuur Journal of Eco Ethics



ISSN 0732-4553

Balozi: EEIU Nabuur Journal

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The Balozi Journal (ISSN 0732-4553) is published bi – annually in January and August by the EEIU Nabuur On Campus at the United States International University through the Young Diplomats Forum. Balozi Journal is registered in the Kenya Patent office. Copyright © 2009 by the Project Nabuur Institute and realized through Lulu Self Publishing.

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This Journal is not available for open access for its endowment relation in support of EEIU Nabuur from subscriptions so received. Periodicals postage paid at Citysquare, Buru Buru and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address to Balozi Journal, Institute for African Ecology and Philosophy, P.O. Box 75986 – 00200, Citysquare. Email: jrnblz@iaep.projectnabuur.org.

Annual Print Subscription Rates: \$45.00 for individual; \$125 for institutions. Subscribers in Uganda and Tanzania, add \$3.00 for postage; Outside East Africa, add \$10.00 for air freight. Single Issue Rates: \$12.00 for individual; \$45.00 for institutions. Electronic subscription is unavailable.

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FOREWARD

Boaz Adhengo – Editor in Chief, Balozzi: EEIU Nabuur Journal adhengo@projectnabuur.org

Dear Reader,

If you are accessing this foreword, then you must be struggling to get the contents of the Balozzi Journal online, or must have attempted to know what makes Balozzi Journal an academic binding through EEIU Nabuur. As a copyrighted material, its contents are only available at a price as displayed elsewhere in this material. The present edition critically evaluates different aspects of the international community, from the pejoration of democracy and its challenges towards eco ethics as a life stance. August 2009 displays the first edition of the Balozzi following a successful launch at the United States International University, Nairobi.

For an overview of what reading the Balozzi brings to your opinions, I have decided to attach only one article for open access with hopes that subscriptions to this wonderful initiative will increase as participants struggle for notice and expression.

Adhengo's article gives a great theoretical and practical insight into specific fields of eco ethics, which hopefully addresses a current dilemma within the region that should yield value added to your interests and studies.

Enjoy your preview!



Sovereignty and territorial integrity may not be important as compared to economic and benefits accruing from trading with a neighbor country: A critical discussion with reference to Migingo Island controversy and the East African Community.

BOAZ ADHENGO

With the ongoing challenges of global warming, economies that greatly depend on agriculture are facing turmoil in strategizing for their stability, mainly in the near future. Fish is a major export commodity for Uganda, but with warm waters, fishing is becoming a problem even with a bigger portion of Lake Victoria falling under Uganda's sovereignty. Grabbing safehavens for fish that befall other territories is inappropriate and unethical. Eco ethics is pragmatic, and development is a relative concept. This work addresses the emerging gap of economic governance by a look at the border dilemmas that proliferate sovereignty attempting to make ethics a contested concept.

When we trace the origins of organized government, we have little to think about other than refer to Thomas Hobbes and the “Leviathan”, a book that describes man as egoistic, selfish, brutish with a short time to live, just because the social system is chaotic and all men exist for themselves, thus constantly at war with each other.

A solution to this chaotic system is man entering into a contract with himself, for the purposes of controlling his selfish motives and becoming objective in his living. This brings the elements of subjugation of our own selfish interest for the better good of a society, we invent the constitution and bind our lifestance to the agreements we develop as individuals within a specific niche (or boundary if you wish).

A state could be defined as a community with a defined territory and a government. This prompts the meaning of the word sovereignty, of which we could explain to be the autonomy of a state as defined by its geographical territory and internal mechanisms of government. To this capacity, the state can interact with other states that also have defined boundaries and governments, thereby limiting the term sovereignty to a special locality. There is no world sovereign.

With the respect of sovereignty as a basic ingredient in inter – state relations, we have different states representing different interests at the international front. Nationalism becomes a relative term, just like sovereignty. A state tries to project its national strategic interests in any endeavor to relate with other states and non – state actors in international relations. Bringing in the importance of diplomacy¹ as a tactful skill of acquisition and sharing state resources. What then is the importance of trade with avenues such as diplomacy?

Trade could be crudely defined as the exchange of goods and services through monetary evaluation. With this understanding, we could infer that trade has been a procedure that we humans created for purposes of respecting the social contract and avoiding chaos within ourselves. Realists argue that the purpose of politics is to acquire power² and dominancy. Thus, states in international relations try to justify this in vain, thereby promoting anarchy of the international system. We live in a time when interdependence is more of a virtue than a vice, thus, as much as the international system is filled with anarchy, there is need to develop threads of relation that can enhance mutual benefit if not a peaceful interaction of ideas and goods amongst states. No state is internally self – sufficient, there is need to exchange what we have for what we can acquire and not produce by ourselves.

¹ In this paper, the author intends not to delve into defining diplomacy, but will assume that its objective meaning gets explained in the deeper discourse of the concepts we intend to explore.

² Ability to influence others into your expectations.

When something becomes a problem, it means that actors think that government's policies or institutions can provide solutions. Governments occasionally decide to make joint policy decisions to regulate some aspect of their relations. These policies, rules and norms that they decide upon have received the name institutions in the world politics literature (Geertz: 2003, 169). In other areas, they may be called regimes, but they add up to the need to stem out of anarchy and promote harmonious relations among states as much as promote distributive development at the region and globe as a whole.

The argument of this paper is that trade exists for the purposes of profit³, best understood as economic interests or trade benefits. Without these profits, no state finds it appealing or even relevant to continue a quest on a specific type of trade. We all enhance our capability to a certain activity if we know what benefits we could accrue. To this end, the immediate neighbours usually provide better terms of trade than the far fetched relations. To take an example of Kenya, our profit will mainly come from trade with Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan and even Rwanda if not Burundi. This is because, national interests change within territorial boundaries, and we need not go into new continental zones to experience change of national interests. Uganda is therefore different from Kenya.

Paul Tiyambe (1993:296) argues that while no reputable historian can now argue that trade in East Africa started as a result of external stimuli, many historians still discuss pre-colonial East Africa trade almost exclusively in terms of long distance trade from interior to the coast and between the coast and the Indian Ocean Commercial world. Tiyambe claims that the various states in the region saw trade as an important source of revenue, so they made attempts to control or participate in it. The most common method used by East African states to control or benefit from domestic trade was taxation. With respect to sovereignty, taxation was limited to territorial zones with exception to the current move by Uganda on expanding towards Kenya. We could also talk on the issue of irredentalism⁴, which is a political term for integrating individuals in line with their ethnicity. The problem with this concept is that, ethnicity is shared greatly along the colonial boundaries that we inherited from the western administrators. We just need to live with them given that each and every country historical fought for its own sovereignty within the colonial boundaries as defined.

Migingio Island is located within the Lake Victoria, a water mass that is shared by Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. We should note that the major export commodity from the lake is the Nile Perch⁵ which is reportedly said to be moving to deeper waters due to Climate Change. The fish moves to cool waters which is at the bottom or around isolated zones (islands). At the moment of this writing, Migingio Island is one of the areas around Lake Victoria that is enjoying a dominant supply of fish, and this prompts countries to check well on how to sustain their sources given that trade adds up to internal political stability by substituting other areas of welfare that the citizenry may need.

Uganda has thus made a move to secure the zone, and into undiplomatic justification, forced the residents of Migingio Island to pay revenue, yet they all lay their allegiance to the Kenyan flag. Also, to dilute this fundamental necessity, the Ugandan government has been reported⁶ to have several flags in the island. Any foreign aircraft flying above Migingio Island will automatically translate that Migingio Island is Uganda.

As much as the global financial crisis is affecting most African countries, this does not justify the need to develop colonial tactics of divide and rule. We need to enhance diplomacy and we need to enhance

³ Whether this profit means acquiring what we don't have by exchanging for what we have, or whether this profit translates to increasing our monetary gains.

⁴ Irredentalism first became a major issue in Kenya during the Cold War era when Somalia tried to claim parts of Kenya that were habited by the Somali speaking people, it claimed that sovereignty was defined ethnically and not in geographical perspectives. This resulted to war, and the issue was resolved.

⁵ Nile Perch was introduced by the Britons who live in port Elizabeth late in the 1960s (see Adhengo, 2007 at www.eei.org/chapters/nabuur/reports.html)

⁶ In the Month of April 2009, the Kenyan Newspapers and Television channels unmasked what was happening in Migingio, and the author saw as news footage that Ugandan flags were planted in many great zones of Migingio Island.

territorial integrity, which makes expansive mechanism as practiced by Uganda to be more evil or inappropriate. Himbara (1994) argues that the colonial masters of East Africa failed to see any economic value within the region, other areas had minerals but what did Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania hold of economic value? In his words, he says, apart from geopolitical value to imperial Britain, the regions commercial worth remained in question. That most pre – colonial East African societies were based on subsistence economies in which people produced food stuffs and goods principally for their own consumption. The external world was not a priority.

The value of trade to many countries in the world is substantially influenced by the nature of the regional cooperation and trade agreements which enable economies of scale to be tapped and international competitiveness to be attained (Samuel Wangwe et.al. 1998). The perception that countries have to compete to produce policies that are credible in the financial markets has put the deflatory bias at the heart of economic policy making. Adesina (2006) argues that the vulnerability of many of the economies to external shocks, and severity of the balance of payments and current account crisis in the early 1980's – which applies to 2009 – in many African countries indicate problems that are more fundamental (emphasis added). This approves the need for regional buffer zones that could put a check to the effect of globalization.

International financial crisis is a global phenomenon that could be tactfully addressed with the enhancement of regional organizations in dominant economic zones. East Africa and South Africa are integrated within COMESA⁷ which even increases the exchange zone.

The East African Community exists as a way of promoting free trade amongst the countries bounded within its agreement, and it occupies the East African zone within the continental map of Africa with exception of Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan which were expelled for reasons of civil unrest within their territories that greatly affected the development of East Africa Community as a bloc. This trend trickled to Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi which were also let go, thereby reducing the community to Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda who were politically confined, economically stable and territorially connected. Territorial integrity proved a worthy course in enjoying globalization and protecting against the negative impacts that globalization brought along⁸. Including cultural influences that impacted negatively to our internal societies e.g. the global spread of HIV/AIDs.

The concept that sovereignty and territorial integrity may not be important as compared to economic interests and benefits accruing from trading with a neighbour country remains a pregnant argument that has negative connotations. This paper challenges this kind of perception and argues on the contrary, that we must not compromise territorial integrity and sovereignty of states for the benefits accrued in regional trade. We must develop institutions that constantly check and balance our interests on this front. As much as sovereignty exists coherently with cultural attitudes, it must not exist in isolation of norms and values that best justify our ethical systems.

Realists such as Machiavelli have argued in many different ways that actions are not just actions without an analysis of their consequences. An act is right if its consequences could be justified, and to this end, we could even talk of utilitarianism as a term that could unite sovereignty and trade benefits. This paper argues that an action is right if its consequences bring a common good to a greater majority and as a benchmark, we could use East Africa as a measure of the majority. Thus, does Uganda claiming Migingo Island a common good to greater East Africans?

This question cannot be answered in this paper, and it remains in need of greater analysis, maybe a survey, but we cannot use the measure of population to justify the ethics of an issue. The colonial legacy has it that Migingo Island is within the Kenyan territorial understanding, but others argue that those maps are antique and cannot be used to justify the development and timely claims by either side.

⁷ Common Market for East and Southern Africa

⁸ Globalization is connected with growing economies and fake commodities that constantly infiltrate the African markets. With standardized ways of economic regulation, regions are better put in a better place to buffer these infiltrations within their zones as they apply common economic policies.

This paper argues that as much as lack of political stability has always resulted to regional disintegration, territorial integrity can as well be amongst two states. We could use the common laws of sovereignty that imply that the enemy of my enemy is my friend, thereby permitting Kenya to continue trade with Uganda, but by proxy⁹ hence retaining our political understanding and self realization as we have celebrated for forty five years now.

More so, Uganda being a land locked country, it is geographically paralysed and in biased position to help the rest of the region other than through buying our commodities. The fact that it borders DRC Congo remains an untapped advantage since the country is still under civil war, Kenya can therefore not rely on its contact with DRC for any good. What we can get from Uganda, we can also get from Tanzania. And if negotiations relate to balance of trade, we might as well depend on institutions other than direct contact for exchange of commodities.

Conclusion

With the increased interdependence amongst nations, there has been connectivity in terms of communication, transport and academia which has facilitated the exchange of policies, commodities and services for the advancement of lifestance and humanity as a population of the planet. Nothing comes for free, and connectivity makes it only right to create strings attached to our services, just for the purposes of realizing profits, economic benefits or better terms of trade. This makes national strategic interests to be economically biased as opposed to the general welfare of a people in concern at any particular area of analysis.

It must also be noted that a state can only enter into regional negotiations if it has the capacity to exercise its sovereign rights which are basically defined geographically with special influence of patriotism. It therefore follows that trade as an activity of a state can only progress with realization that a state is autonomous, capable of developing its systems of regulations, realizing profits and having a sway in regional economic development plans. Migingo remains one of the zones within Lake Victoria where Nile Perch (a form of fish) is easily fished; it remains a zone that can effectively sustain the fish business which yields greatly to the economic revenue of East Africa given that Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania all target to benefit from the waters.

If Migingo has never been an issue of respective state concerns, there is no need to develop revenue collection from such a zone, and if it is in dispute, politics must best justify the economic gains that are to be expected from the Island.

We are in a time where expansionism is a process that results from mutual contract as developed between states, it is no longer a process of coercion. There is need to ask the people of Migingo to define their patriotic status, states must not inflict nationality on a people just for the purposes of benefiting economically from what that particular area can produce and supply.

To this end, I hold that sovereignty and territorial integrity are of greater importance than economic interests or benefits accruing from trading with a neighbour, after all, Uganda is not our only neighbour and we maintain, justifiably that Uganda is landlocked with much to loose other than benefit in its lose of contact with Kenya.

Kenya must hold on to Migingo, not for the purposes of trade, but for continued celebration of our status as a republic.

⁹ An indirect trade of buying from Tanzania what they acquire from Uganda.

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