

CHAPTER 18 PEACEKEEPING AND SOCIO-POLITICAL INTEREST OF THE DEVELOPED SOCIETIES

Objectives

After studying this chapter, students should be able to:

- explain the meaning of peacekeeping;
- state the aims and objectives of peacekeeping;
- give examples of internal and regional initiation;
- understand peacekeeping and the social political interest of the developed societies in peacekeeping;
- explain Nigeria's role in peacekeeping programme.

18.1 Definitions/Meaning of PeaceKeeping

The keyword in the term ‘peacekeeping’ is peace. It can be defined as a situation in which there is absence of armed conflicts. Peace is always seen as a veritable instrument or condition for human development and societal progress. No society can ever think of achieving any meaningful progress without first thinking of peace. Conflict is the direct opposite of peace and has almost existed as a social character of man in his environment. When man in his social character interacts, there is every possibility that he can provoke the outbreak of conflicts. When this happens, human existence becomes a problem. In order to eliminate such unwanted situation, there is the need for a peace process that will enable such individual or group of individuals restore peace. There are four identified forms of the peace process, namely: peace keeping, peace enforcement, peacemaking and peace building. Each of these processes expresses a specific articulation of conflict and development. A situation in which conflict processes are low and the conditions for development are limited, the peace process takes the form of peace keeping. This entails the use of peacekeepers to keep conflicting parties apart thereby reducing the conflict level to its barest minimum. However, where conflict is high and conditions for peace remain limited, peace enforcement is needed to create the space for increasing development and reducing conflict. Peace making arises in situations where conflict is high but there are viable conditions for pursuing development, while peace building applies to a situation of low conflict and high prospect for development.

Peace keeping from a direct focus can therefore be defined as an activity that is usually carried out by a third party military force and is designed to separate armed combatants in a civil conflict and maintain a negotiated or proclaimed ceasefire.

Peace keeping missions are often carried out under the cover of the United Nations (UN), or regional organisations such as NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) or closer to home, the

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). These Organisations help to restore peace in countries where there are crises e.g. Liberia and Sierra Leone. The mission of a peace keeping force may include provisions to monitor, police or otherwise, humanitarian intervention.

Peace keeping describes non-belligerent use of neutral military force under chapter VI of the charter, with the consent of all parties concerned with the aim to assist warring parties in reaching a settlement. Although, peace keeping has become widely known as one of the United Nations most important contribution to the maintenance of peace and security, this was neither foreseen in the original charter nor anticipated by founders of the United Nation. Rather, it emerged almost unexpectedly through the imaginative midwifery of Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold after the still birth of collective security functions induced by the seemingly frozen adversarial relations between the East and West Ideological block during the cold war.

18.2 Aims and Objectives of Peace keeping

1. To assist warring parties in reaching a settlement.
2. To maintain peace and security.
3. To provide the military part of ceasefire agreements, armistices or other peaceful conflict resolution methods including systems of ceasefire lines, demilitarised and buffer zones, reduced – arms zone and types of special status regions.
4. To assist in the exchange of territories, if specified by a treaty.
5. To help set up refugee camps and assembly point for displaced persons.
6. To maintain law and order to help organize the activities of civilian authorities within their zones of responsibility.
7. To investigate complaints and claims in regard to armistice violations or violation of cease fire agreements.
8. To organize where appropriate, the collection, destruction and monitoring of certain categories of weapon (e.g. small arms or light weapons).

18.3 Examples of International and Regional Peacekeeping Initiatives

International peacekeeping initiatives can be described as those peacekeeping initiatives which are planned and executed through an international organization like the UNO. In this circumstances, member nations of the UN are required to contribute soldiers, police and finance to ensure a successive peace keeping operation. In this way, the UN has undertaken various peacekeeping operations across different crises ridden zones of the world. The UN sent a peacekeeping force known as the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Middle East in 1956. The organization also sent a similar peacekeeping operation called the United Nations Observer Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL).

There are also the UN peacekeeping operations such as the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) and the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

Both of these missions which continue operating to this day exemplified the observation and monitoring type of operation.

In the meantime, UN peacekeepers continued their long term operations in the Middle East, Asia and Cyprus, with continued crises in a number of countries and regions. The essential role of UN peacekeeping was reaffirmed. Since the second half of the 1990's, the UN Security council had authorized new UN operations in Angola – UN Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III) and UN Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA). Bosnia and Herzegovina – UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH). Croatia – UN confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) and UN Civilian Police Support Group (UNPSA). In the former, Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, there was the UN Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP). In Guatemala, we have the UN Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINIGUA) while in Haiti; there was the UN support mission in Haiti (UNSMIA), UN Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMIH) and UN Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH). All these are International UN sponsored peacekeeping forces which were deployed in these regions to ensure restoration of peace.

Regional peacekeeping initiatives are those peacekeeping operations planned and executed by regional organizations in a member country that is engulfed in a crises or conflict. A good example of regional peacekeeping initiative should include ECOMOG peacekeeping initiatives in West African sub-region. OAU peacekeeping force in Chad is also a good example of regional peacekeeping initiatives. Also, was the intervention of ECOMOG peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

18.4 Achievements and Failures of peacekeeping Forces

Peacekeeping forces have recorded some tremendous achievements and have also failed in some areas.

Achievements:

1. Peacekeeping forces have helped to maintain world peace, order and human right monitoring.
2. They have provided most conflict torn countries with the necessary military part of ceasefire, agreements, armistices or other peaceful conflicts resolution methods including systems of ceasefire lines, demilitarisation and buffer zones, reduced arms zones and types of special status regions.
3. They have helped in building sustainable institutions of government. A good example was the case of ECOMOG in Liberia.
4. Peacekeeping forces have helped in setting up refugee camps and assembly points for displaced persons.
5. They helped in implementing complex peace agreements and stabilizing the security situations in war torn countries of the world.

6. They have always assisted in security sector reforms and in the reintegration of former combatants.
7. They have ensured the demobilization and disarmaments of combatants in post conflict countries.
8. They help post-conflict societies to elect new government and build democratic institution.

Failures/Challenges of Peacekeeping Forces

Peacekeeping forces have experienced a lot of problems which have impacted on their performances.

1. ***Political Constraints:*** Most peacekeeping missions have failed because of political constraints. For example, since the end of the cold war, many Western governments have become reluctant to commit their national troops to multilateral peacekeeping mission, unless they have a major national interest at stake. This is so because of the political problems that erupt back home if there are casualties among the soldiers. The trend became evident after the ill-fated intervention by American troops in Somalia in 1993 and was displayed clearly again in Kosovo when most friendly countries were unwilling to provide ground troops to the NATO campaign.
2. ***Failure to Act Promptly:*** A major failure displayed by the peacekeeping forces is their inability to act promptly when crises arise and to deploy peacekeepers quickly to reduce the potential impact of such crises. Because they are structured in a way that they require consensus on decision making and are administered by large bureaucratic institutions, they can be slow to respond even when there is sufficient advance warning of a looming crises. The process of getting agreements and mobilizing contingents to conflict zones in time is extremely difficult. The UN and other regional bodies who control these peacekeepers do not have a rapid deployment stand-by force that can be used in such instances.
3. ***Logistics:*** Most governments cannot provide their battalions with the equipment they need for operating in peacekeeping operations abroad. While some equipment are provided by troop contributing countries, a great deal of equipment has to come from the United Nations, including equipment to fill gaps in under-equipped national units. The UN has no stockpile of such equipments.
4. ***Lack of Fund:*** The UN and other regional bodies that deploy these peace keepers do not have the capacity and the needed fund to finance these operations. They have always relied on a “special fund” donated by members nations. Since they could not finance peacekeeping deployment from their budgets, finance had remained a problem since they would have to wait for member nations to pay up first.

18.5 Peacekeeping and the Socio-Political Interest of the Developed Societies

The developed societies refer to the industrialized countries of the world. They include America, Britain, France, Russia and China. Peacekeeping operations across the globe are heavily influenced by

the socio-political interest of these developed societies. The reason is that more often than not, they are the ones that approve and finance these operations.

In keeping the peace therefore, they tend to be influenced by their economic, social and sometimes humanitarian factors.

Economic Factors: Wars and conflict always obstruct the free flow of economic activities. In a situation where such conflicts will obstruct their sources of raw materials or the market for their industrial produced goods, they will not allow such to continue. This explains America's interest in the Gulf and the Middle East. Since America needs free and steady flow of oil from these zones, she will not allow any conflict that will stop the free flow of trade in that region.

Political Factors: The political factor always come to play when the conflict ridden area has some form of military, ideological and colonial ties. In this case, they see such a society as an allied one.

Humanitarian Factors: Sometimes, the developed societies have shown concern by interfering and keeping peace in conflict areas because they do not appreciate the way and manner in which armless and helpless civilians are wasted by armed combatants.

18.6 Nigerian Role in Peacekeeping Programme

Nigeria since 1960, have shown reasonable interest in peacekeeping. She has donated both human and material resources to both the United Nation, OAU now AU and have singlehandedly bore over 70% of ECOMOG peacekeeping operations in Liberia and Sierra Leone. This role have been played because they fall in line with Nigeria's foreign policy objectives which centres on Africa and world peace.

Economically, the hike in the prices of oil since 1973, provided Nigeria with enormous financial resources which gave her the moral boost to front herself as not only a regional power but also as a continental power. Today, Nigeria is regarded as the giant of Africa.

Another factor which have always propelled Nigeria's role in peacekeeping is her richness in human resources.

Militarily wise, Nigeria can only be considered as a middle range power.

Summary

- Peacekeeping is an activity that is usually carried out by a third party military force and is designed to separate armed combatants in a civil conflict and maintain a proclaimed ceasefire.
- The aims and objectives of peacekeeping is to sustain a proclaimed ceasefire, to allow the parties in conflict to work out a peaceful means of settling their conflicts for the actualisation of sustainable peace.

- UN financed, planned and executed peacekeeping operations in Angola, India and Pakistan are good examples of International peacekeeping initiatives.
- The OAU and ECOMOG planned, financed and implemented peacekeeping initiative in Chad, Liberia and Sierra Leone are good examples of regional peace keeping initiatives.
- The achievements of peacekeeping forces include maintenance of world peace, human rights monitoring, building sustainable institutions, governances and implementation of complex peace agreements.
- Most notable failures/challenges of peacekeeping forces are – political constraints, failure to act promptly, logistics and shortage of funds.
- Developed societies socio-political interest in peacekeeping lies in their Economics, Political and Humanitarian interests.
- Nigeria's consistent involvement in both international and regional peacekeeping, is rooted in her national interest and economic prosperity from oil windfall and her rich healthy human resources endowment.

Objective Questions

1. Peacekeeping operations are usually carried out by _____
 - A. Heads of government
 - B. First party in a conflict
 - C. Third party military force
 - D. Diplomatic elites from both conflicting countries
2. The primary concern of peacekeeping is _____.
 - A. to separate armed combatants in civil conflict and maintain a proclaimed ceasefire.
 - B. to boost the strong holds of the combatants
 - C. to create opportunities for the military to come out of their barracks
 - D. to expose the causes of the conflicts
3. Which of the following is not an achievement of peacekeeping forces?
 - A. World peace
 - B. Human right monitoring
 - C. Implementation of complex peace agreement
 - D. Renewal and escalations of fighting.
4. ECOMOG peacekeeping operation is initiated by _____.
 - A. UNO
 - B. Arab League
 - C. ECOWAS
 - D. USA
5. UN peacekeeping operations are authorized by _____.

- A. UNO
 - B. AU
 - C. ECOWAS
 - D. Arab leagues
6. Which one of the following is not a known challenge to global peacekeeping forces?
- A. political constraints
 - B. failure to act promptly
 - C. Dual command structure
 - D. Logistics
7. Which one of the following peacekeeping operations was not authorized by the UN?
- A. UNEF
 - B. UNOGIL
 - C. ECOMOG
 - D. MINUGUA
8. In what year did the UNO authorized (UNEF)?
- A. 1973
 - B. 1962
 - C. 1956
 - D. None of the above
9. The UN sent peacekeeping force (UNEF) to where?
- A. Africa
 - B. America
 - C. Middle East
 - D. Europe
10. The Nigerian outstanding role in peacekeeping operations are fully rooted on _____.
- A. Nigeria's Love for human lives
 - B. Nigeria's foreign policy objectives
 - C. Nigeria's secular religious belief system
 - D. Nigeria's love for power.

Essay Questions

1. What is peacekeeping force?
2. List and discuss four achievements of peacekeeping forces.
3. Discuss the basic principles, which guide UN peacekeeping operation.
4. Explain the three main factors which account for Nigeria's centre stage position in peacekeeping operations.
5. Compare and contrast international and regional peacekeeping operation.