



**NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

**THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON INTERNATIONAL
DIPLOMACY IN NIGERIA**

M.A THESIS

Babatunde OLUWATOBILOBA

Nicosia

September, 2022

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Supervisor


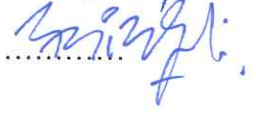
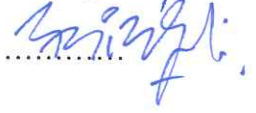
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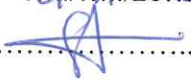
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Approval

We certify that we have read the thesis submitted by **Babatunde OLUWATOBILOBA** titled “**The Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on International Diplomacy in Nigeria.**” and that in our combined opinion it is fully adequate, in scope and in quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of International Relations.

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Declaration

I hereby declare that all information, documents, analysis and results in this thesis have been collected and presented according to the academic rules and ethical guidelines of Institute of Graduate Studies, Near East University. I also declare that as required by these rules and conduct, I have fully cited and referenced information and data that are not original to this study.

Babatunde OLUWATOBILOBA

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...../...../2022



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Abstract

The Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on International Diplomacy in Nigeria.

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Supervisor: Dr. Zehra AZİZBEYLİ

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Diplomacy has been done for a century and it involves various players and places in the past decade. Diplomacy is described as the practice of foreign affairs through negotiations, discussion, or any other technique that promotes harmonious relationships between countries. The outbreak of Covid-19 Epidemic/ Pandemic is believed to be a once-in-a-generation problem with unrivaled economic consequences as compared to the other situations in the recorded human history. In the beginning of the Pandemic, in some regions, problem of Covid-19 was seen not only as the difficulty to contain the virus but also to provide equipment for protection. Covid-19 had significant impact on diplomacy; hence, the machinery of international diplomacy came to a standstill. The impacts of Covid-19 on diplomacy includes but not limited to; Embassies, International ministries, and multilateral organizations could not operate for a given time; the United Nations Chamber was neglected, the Palais des Nations in Geneva became quiet, and NATO's headquarters were inactivated. This study will be carried out using mixed method approach of secondary data on Covid-19 virus and the interview of citizens and government execs in ministry, international organizations and international businesses. Analysis will be carried out by evocative investigation of the secondary data in addition to thematic scrutiny of the interviews.

Keywords: International diplomacy; covid-19; pandemic; multilateral diplomacy; economy.

Öz**Covid-19 Pandemisinin Nijerya'daki Uluslararası Diplomasi Üzerindeki Etkisi****Babatunde OLUWATOBILOBA****Danışman: Dr. Zehra AZİZBEYLİ****MA, Uluslararası İlişkiler Bölümü****Eylül, 2022, 92 sayfa**

Diplomasi bir asırdır yapıp son on yılda da çeşitli oyuncuları ve yerleri içermektedir. Diplomasi, müzakereler, tartışmalar veya ülkeler arasında uyumlu ilişkileri teşvik eden diğer herhangi bir teknik yoluyla dış ilişkiler uygulaması olarak tanımlanır. Covid-19 Salgını/Pandemisinin patlak vermesinin, kayıtlı insanlık tarihindeki diğer durumlara kıyasla rakipsiz ekonomik sonuçları olan, nesilde bir görülen bir sorun olduğuna inanılmaktadır. Pandeminin başlangıcında, bazı bölgelerde Covid-19 sorunu sadece virüsü kontrol altına almanın zorluğu olarak değil, aynı zamanda korunmak için ekipman sağlanması olarak da görülüyordu. Covid-19'un diplomasi üzerinde önemli etkileri oldu; dolayısıyla uluslararası diplomasi mekanizması durma noktasına geldi. Covid-19'un diplomasi üzerindeki etkileri bunlarla sınırlı olmamak üzere; Büyükelçilikler, Uluslararası bakanlıklar ve çok taraflı kuruluşlar bir süreliğine faaliyet gösteremeyip; Birleşmiş Milletler'in ihmal edilmesi söz konusu olmuştur. Cenevre'deki Palais des Nations sessizleşmiş ve NATO'nun genel merkezi etkisiz hale gelmiştir. Bu çalışma, Covid-19 virüsüne ilişkin ikincil verilerin karma yöntem yaklaşımı ve bakanlık, uluslararası kuruluşlar ve uluslararası işletmelerdeki vatandaşlar ve devlet üst düzey yöneticileri ile görüşülerek gerçekleştirilecektir. Analiz, görüşmelerin tematik incelemesine ek olarak ikincil verilerin çağrıştırmacı araştırma ile gerçekleştirilecektir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Uluslararası Diplomasi; covid 19; pandemi, çok taraflı diplomasi; ekonomi.

Table of Contents

Approval.....	iii
Declaration	iv
Acknowledgements	v
Abstract	vi
Özet	vii
Table Of Contents	viii
List of Abbreviations.....	xi

CHAPTER I

Introduction	1
Statement of the Problem	8
Aims and Objectives of the Study	7
Research Questions	11
Justification of the Study	11
Scope of the Study	12
Operational Definition of Terms	13

CHAPTER II

Literature Review	14
Conceptual Review	14
Global overview of Covid-19 Pandemic	15
Overview of Covid-19 Pandemic in Africa	17
Overview of Covid-19 Pandemic in Nigeria	17
Covid-19 and Health Security in Nigeria	18
Nigeria’s Twin Crises	19
Personal Liberties and its effects on Others’ Health	23
Killing for Covid-19	25
The New Face of Trade & Supply Chain	29
Health Multilateralism	31
Digital Diplomacy	33
Impact of Covid-19 on the Nigerian Population	36
Measures Adopted to Mitigate the Impact of Covid-19 in Nigeria	38
Social Effects of Covid-19 on Nigeria Economy	40

Economic Impact of Covid-19 in Nigeria	41
The Implication of Covid-19 on Industries Dependent on Chinese Imports in Nigeria	43
The Trade Balance between China-Nigeria and the Long-Run Implication on the Nigerian Economy	44

CHAPTER III

Methodology	46
Research Design	46
Study Population	46
Eligibility criteria	46
Inclusion Criteria	47
Exclusion Criteria	47
Research Methods	47
Sampling Design	47
Data Collection Process	48
Data Analysis	48
Theoretical Framework	48
Multilateral Diplomacy	48

CHAPTER IV

Data Presentation and Analysis	53
Introduction	53
Discussion of findings	54
Problems that arose during the Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria	54
Tools of international diplomacy	57
Impact of Covid-19 on International diplomacy in Nigeria	59

CHAPTER V

Conclusion	62
References	65

Appendices.....	79
Appendix A: Ethic Committee Approval	79
Appendix B: Turnitin Similarity Report	80
Appendix C : Curriculum Vitae	81

List of Abbreviations

1. **ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations**
2. **AU: African Union**
3. **BBC: British Broadcasting Corporation**
4. **EBRD: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development**
5. **ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States**
6. **EU: European Union**
7. **GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council**
8. **GDP: Gross Domestic Product**
9. **GNI: Gross National Income**
10. **GT: Grounded Theory.**
11. **HR: Human Resource**
12. **ICG: International Crisis Group**
13. **ICT: Information and Communications Technologies**
14. **IDI: In-depth Interview**
15. **IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority Development**
16. **ILO: International Labour Organisation**
17. **IMF: International Monetary Fund**
18. **ITV: International Television**
19. **JSTF: Joint Safety Task Force**
20. **KII: Key Informant Interview**
21. **NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation**
22. **NCDC: Nigeria Center for Disease Control**
23. **NGO: Non-governmental Organisation**
24. **NHRC: National Human Rights Commission**
25. **NMA: Nigerian Medical Association**
26. **OEM: Original Equipment Manufacturer**
27. **PPE: Personal Protective Equipment**
28. **PTF: Presidential Task Force**
29. **REC's: Regional Economic Communities**
30. **SDG's: Sustainable Development Goals**
31. **TUC: Trade Union Congress**
32. **U.S: United State**
33. **UCH: University College Hospital**
34. **UK: United Kingdom**
35. **UN's: United Nations**
36. **UNCAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**
37. **UNSC: United Nations Security Council**
38. **USD: United State Dollars**
39. **WHO: World Health Organisation**
40. **WTO: World Trade Organisation**

CHAPTER I

Diplomacy is the art of reaching a settlement between countries that needs collaborative efforts to achieve goals on the interest of all parties involved. This chapter introduces the thesis, stating the problems that arose from the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic, the measures adopted to mitigate those issues and also states the gap of the thesis.

Introduction

Diplomacy, which has generally been linked with skirmish resolve via negotiation, is usually well thought-out as an alternate to war, hence, the outbreak of wars is considered a fiasco of Diplomacy. Over the years, diplomacy has been an integral aspect of the international governmental structure (Ilona et al, 2021). Diplomacy is described as the practice of foreign affairs through negotiations, discussion, or any other technique that promotes harmonious relationships between countries. The definition of diplomacy is to help in understanding the main practical and normative requirements of the global system (Kumar, 2021). This thesis will broaden the readers understanding of diplomacy and also expose the various impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the relationship of Nigeria with other countries.

On the other hand, diplomacy is a tactical strategy, that a nation adopts to achieve its goals concerning other nations, through negotiating with each other. The international system's deep interconnection, and its far-reaching effects on a county's policies concerning other nations, require the formation of some level of planning in their dealings with other countries, to pursue critical objectives. International diplomacy is the method by which such relationships are managed, and it stems from the coexistence of a large number of autonomous governments in an interconnected world. Since Nigeria gained independence in 1960, its government has sought a strong diplomatic relationship in the global community, motivated by a desire to encourage others with Nigeria's rich cultural and economic opportunities, through bilateral and multilateral relations. In a world of multifaceted interdependence among nations as a result of globalization, so many regulation initiatives have been developed to achieve the goal of favorable economic relationships with other countries, spanning from economic discussions, commerce, investment, economic

cooperation, and the advancement of national cultures abroad through the use of soft power. (Hassan M., 2015).

The coronavirus is considered a kind of contagion that brings about infections in one's nostrils, cavity, or upper throats. Some of the viruses (Corona) that are found on earth are not precarious. During the mid 2020, next to the 2019 December outbreak in China, the WHO (World Health Organization) identified SARS-CoV-2 as a new variant of coronavirus. The flare-up instantaneously circulated all over the planet and it was on October 30, 2020, that the coronavirus (Covid-19) afflicted many lives, with 44.8 million known reports and over 1.18 million deaths (Weekly Operational Update on Covid-19, 2020). The Epidemic started to grow in the world, endangering multitudes of healthy people. The number of individuals impacted was dramatically developing and the World Health Organization (WHO) overhauled Covid-19 to a pandemic in March of 2020. Pandemics are known to cause an enormous scope of social disturbance, financial misfortune, and general difficulty, and Covid-19 have been no exemption. As of November of 2021, Worldwide cases of Covid-19 has reached two hundred and fifty (250) million thresholds as the world continues to struggle (Daily Sabah, 2021). Large numbers of people already have died. As a result, many administrations have reacted with broad urgent measures. Some new rules and regulations are inflicted as a measure to cope with the spread of the virus. The massive majority of individuals know the dangers and stick to the rules. Monetary authorities and administrations are offering trillions of euros in compensation for damages, loss, adapting, and restoration. The Covid-19 crisis has a variety of environmental, security, and peace-related impacts. This Pandemic emphasizes once again the necessity for the United Nations to have an integrated and international approach. The independent NGO International Crisis Group (ICG) notes in one of their latest reports on the effects of the predicament on conflict-prone zones as "the epidemic aggravates the shortcomings of failed or unstable nations" (International Crisis Group, 2020). Peacekeeping, benevolence, and peace-enforcing activities, in addition to diplomacy, have by now been hampered, with disastrous significances for impeccable individuals." Syria, Libya, and Yemen demonstrate that international appeals for a truce are ineffective (International Crisis Group, 2020).

The government debates the effective way of fighting the Covid-19 predicament, the disease and its effects on Health Systems, society, and the economy of various nations, medical knowledge of the virus and the optimal general

healthcare methods to fight its advances. If the present Pandemic has taught us something, it is that health dangers and issues go beyond the borders of a country. Covid-19 has demonstrated to the world that international collaboration on global health is critical for operational reasons, particularly in the case of previous epidemics, The World Health Organization (WHO) has limited transnational authority. The power of the World Health Organization is lower not just than that of the WTO and UN, but also that of the ILO which are also part of multilateral organizations. This is because global diseases necessitate a more solid multilateralism and a greater global reaction which the WHO might not be able to produce. WHO needs to strengthen its rules to properly coordinate and guide at the global level. Sadly, the reaction to SARS is regarded as a near-failure, while the responses to AIDS and Ebola are regarded as modest successes as community health workers were sensitized on how to prevent infections. There was also the provision of facilities by WHO; thus, this curbed the spread of these diseases unlike the high rate of the havoc caused by SARS and yet it could still not be curtailed.

The WHO's approach to the pandemic (Covid-19) is viewed as an open test. The performance of WHO was appraised by more professionals as compared to that of the SARS because the pandemic was not announced as early (Zylberman, 2020). Despite this, several nations initially managed to react appropriately to the Covid-19 Pandemic due to a shortage of opulence. Attributable to a lack of info on the recent outbreak and unpreparedness, significant time was spent devising a policy rather than taking tangible steps to combat Covid-19. There is no major institution to blame because it is a representation of a failure of international collaboration as a whole (Policy Brief Health Diplomacy, 2020).

Apart from more resources, new regulations to enhance the World Health Organization's function of transnational coordination and guidance, as well as the WHO's technical cooperation with national governments in the face of nationalist burdens, lack of accountability, and inward-looking self-government regulations are required. The covid-19 pandemic will almost certainly develop into becoming a crucial characteristic of our time. This is not just for the worldwide epidemic will almost certainly have long-term governmental, financial, and societal consequences throughout the world in the upcoming years but it is because of the reason that these implications have the potential to speed up the dynamics, if not completely shift the scales from one global system to another. Covid-19 has shown the limitations of a

governmental system that only observes and advises, rather than enforcing, rules. Moreover, the World Health Organization has been tracking the global spread of the virus using data that governments have voluntarily provided. Nevertheless, certain states, especially those emerging nations or fragile democracies, lack the resources to provide precise figures to the WHO. Some, particularly authoritarian governments like Russia, are adamantly opposed to providing precise figures during the formative days of the Pandemic. The WHO's non-binding guidelines have no implementation, compounding this patchwork monitoring. The present emergency highlights the insufficiency of the existing order, emphasizing the necessity for greater international coordination and cooperation. The global system is insufficient not because there are too many standards, regulations, orders, and organizations; rather, they are far limited and inadequate. The burden is presently on international forums and organizations to demonstrate her potencies or effectiveness, not just in limiting and eventually eradicating the disease and maintaining the world economies, in addition to gaining good long-term experiences from this pandemic, starting with the pursuit of long-lasting advancement (FEPS, 2020).

At the beginning of the Pandemic, in some regions, the problem of Covid-19 was seen not only as the difficulty to contain the virus but also to provide equipment for protection. The worldwide scarcity of personal protective equipment (PPE) for medical professionals in the quarantined zones, for instance, clinical façades, N95 façades, breathing apparatus, hand-disinfectants, hand-gloves, eye protection, one-use frocks, etc., posed an additional issue along with crucially hampering epidemic vigilance. Consequently, these shortfalls posed a serious threat to national and international health safety. In Europe, the high incidence of infections and fatalities in Italy was partly due to medical professionals' lack of access to personal protective equipment (PPE) (Zou, 2014). It is vital to have the right equipment made and circulated so that patients can get the healthcare they need. The scope of such aggressive ambitions is not limited to the medical field in a situation like this. Powerful political determination, dedication, engagement, and mobilization are required across all levels, either locally or internationally, through diverse private-public relationships. PPE was in limited supply in the U.S and some European countries because of resource glitches in the worldwide supply chain. Preceding the epidemic, China produced almost two-thirds of the surgical masks in the world (Ranney M et al, 2020). The exportation of the mask was halted by March 2020,

when the number of cases in China increased (UN Comtrade, 2020). As a show of kindness, China restarted exporting to other countries once the cases in China reduced their speed and the virus began spreading abroad. Owing to current bilateral dissimilarities, the U.S. did not benefit from international trade during the period of the pandemic. As noticed by a diversity of projects, China has habitually proven to be driven by international policy interests as a substitute for achieving health parity or giving global support. As the proliferation of the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated, when a nation has restricted the flow of information, specifically menace communication from its medical practitioners, humanity pays a terrible price. Some international experts believe that China has to be more open, so it should adopt a systematic process, and move away from its administrative, top-down style. In addition, increased data disclosure may have helped to alleviate the existing worldwide medical problem (Husain et al, 2020). Diplomats have typically been responsible for activities in politics, economy, diplomatic affairs, cultural ideals, education, communications, and other related fields. Diplomats have long aspired to be polymaths, at least in theory. However, diplomacy has “gotten to be [a] greater encompassing, knowledge-based system of professionals and institutions” throughout the Pandemic.

The breakout of Covid-19, for example, has heightened the importance of public health conditions. Indeed, the growth of bilateral and multilateral medical collaboration between nations was important prior to the present epidemic emergency. Diplomats have dealt with this problem in the past in nations that have a particular medical system norm. To demonstrate this trend, departments of foreign affairs have begun to mention healthcare as one of the main priorities in their ultimate strategy for 2021 (MOFA Indonesia, 2021). Medical themes, and analysis and evaluation, have become more popular. Developmental difficulties, the situation surrounding the epidemic, its effect on societal and economic life at domestic, regional, and global levels, and the quest for non-standard alternatives to attain previously established objectives are now crucial. Several foreign embassies have been helping in online discussions amongst ministries of health to examine the matter properly. The visible expanded duties of ambassadors at "the intersection between disease management and statecraft" is an important aspect of the current procedure. (Abduazimov, 2021).

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global economy has experienced its worst financial meltdown in 2020, significantly worse than the international economic meltdown of 2008-2009. The World Trade Organization (WTO) said that global trade shrunk by 9.2% in 2020, which is higher than the predicted drop in global GDP. Further trade barriers may also emerge as a result of this circumstance. A country's defense and general health issues, worsened by the epidemic, are offering fresh justifications for the policy of protectionism, particularly in the areas of healthcare supplies and food supplies. The end of the epidemic cause some rebound in trade and commerce, and many restrictions can be lifted. However, it is improbable that the world commerce system would be fully restored as it was before the pandemic. The economy and international commerce will likely undergo significant changes. Other experts predict momentous shifts in global trade: a de-globalization movement marked by growing patriotism and isolationism, fracturing supply chains. Such development appears to be far too bleak. The issue is probable to amplify some political and economic patterns that existed prior to the Covid-19 pandemic (Irwin, 2020).

Covid-19 will almost certainly be a distinguishing characteristic of our time. The reason for this is that no precise medication is currently accessible to prevent SARS-CoV-2 infections. The management approach is primarily decided by the medical attributes and ruthlessness of the malady, and diverse victims receive diverse medical attention depending on their illnesses (Zhou, et al., 2020; Li et al., 2020; Abassi, et al., 2020). In order to maintain adequate caloric intake as well as water and electrolyte balance, patients are typically treated with strengthening support therapy. It is not just because the worldwide pandemic will almost certainly have long-term political, economic, and social ramifications throughout all regions globally but it is because these implications have the potential to speed up the processes, if not completely shift the scales from one global system to the next. Covid-19 has shown the limitations of an administrative system that only observes and advises, instead of enforcing, rules. Looking at the same example: The World Health Organization has been watching over the progression of the epidemic worldwide based on the data provided by countries. Nonetheless, certain jurisdictions, especially those in emerging or unstable situations, lack the resources to give correct and valid data. Some, particularly authoritarian regimes like Russia, are adamantly opposed. The World Health Organization's non-binding guidelines, which have no enforcement

power, compound this patchwork supervision. The present situation highlights the insufficiency of the existing order, emphasizing the necessity for greater worldwide collaboration and coordination. The global system is insufficient not because there are too many standards, regulations, rules, and institutions; rather, there are extremely few and inadequate ones. The ultimate responsibility is now on international systems and organizations to demonstrate their value, not just in limiting and eventually eradicating the epidemic and sustaining the financial system, but also in learning good long-term insights from this disaster, starting with the pursuit of long-lasting development (FEPS, 2020).

Covid-19 had a significant impact on diplomacy; hence, the machinery of international diplomacy came to a standstill. The impacts of Covid-19 on diplomacy include but are not limited to; Embassies, International ministries, and multilateral organizations could not operate any longer; the United Nations Chamber was neglected, the Palais des Nations in Geneva became quiet, and NATO's headquarters were decommissioned. Also, Ambassadors resorted to new technologies to get around limitations and lockdowns while physical diplomacy was prohibited. These and more are the result of how international relations were affected due to the invasion of the pandemic. The pandemic has "increased" the "pace of entry" of Information Communication Technology into several areas, including diplomacy. Covid-19 has pushed the world to the edge of total collapse. With pretty much every nation and region announcing instances of Covid-19, the world is adjusting to another sort of typical. Online gatherings have for some time been viewed as an unfortunate supernumerary for eye-to-eye individuals. Undoubtedly, before the Covid-19 pandemic, ICTs aggressively incorporated into the field of diplomacy the means of digital diplomacy. Nonetheless, prior to the epidemic, ICTs were one of the primary tools for doing diplomatic work, and at the time of the epidemic, they have nearly been the main mode of communication. The use of video conferencing to conduct diplomatic activities at different levels through different platforms has become a widespread practice. For example, on 11th June 2020, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat M. Mirziyoyev, negotiated with the then President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Suma Chakrabarti (Uzbekistan National News Agency, 2020). On 26th June 2020, the President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo took part in the 36th Conference of ASEAN (Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Hanoi, 2020) with the help of

an online platform. The Republic of Uzbekistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Republic of Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had the 8th Round of Political Consultations between both nations on 23rd July 2020 (Uzbekistan National News Agency, 2020). For the first time in its history, the 75th conference of the United Nations General Assembly was carried out differently i.e online (United Nations, 2021). The list of examples might go on and on, but the underlying theme of the current trend is an increase in ICT's unparalleled entry into diplomacy, which is evolving towards an online set of operations. To organize consular assistance, some diplomats made use of WhatsApp groups. Others used social media to communicate with people stuck in far-flung regions. Ambassadors, on the other hand, welcomed video conferencing. Indeed, Zoom-like technology became so common that online conferencing influenced management styles at the time of the epidemic (Manor, 2021).

Coronavirus became a crisis that has achieved a lot of challenges in the global space. To curtail the disease's spread, diplomatic relations have to be affected across countries on health diplomacy, politics of crisis, and border politics since no nation, especially in Africa, can have enough resources and programs to combat the disease and its effect all alone. The diplomatic relations in African countries, including Nigeria, have brought about strains surrounding trades, transports of remedies, exploratory assessments, hospital apparatus and fund reliefs. Thus, with the strain involved, there can be significant changes in the international diplomacy and system of Nigeria and other countries. Thus, the study will address the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on International Diplomacy in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The Covid-19 Epidemic/Pandemic is a worldwide, symmetric crisis that has struck a broad portion of the world system with equal strength at various times. On one hand, policy reactions, have been varied, regardless that the strategies have taken identical methods, the reaction has been asymmetric (first eradicate the epidemic, then restore the economy in a good shape). In addition, the response' has remained fragmented and one-sided. They have all been built around the lock-down principles, and that happens to be the only option when a vaccine is not forthcoming. The lockdown, on the other hand, has a significant adverse influence on the economy,

and also on neighboring economies. In essence, this is the negative side of interconnectedness. (FEPS, 2020).

The World Health Organization has traditionally been against immigration and emigration bans and limitations, seeing them as a deterrent to early epidemic monitoring, as well as a disruption to movement and commerce, and societal consequences, and as not at all times productive health measures in an urgent situation, disrupting resource' (Vaidya, et al., 2020). During the period of the pandemic, the World Health Organization attempted to strike a balance between banning movement or commerce while also providing adequate safety when physical separation was not possible. Disease control regulations placed on borders will continue to strike a balance between health and travel, commercial, and diplomatic issues. The goal of this research is to examine the problems that emanated from the Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria as well as to discover the different tools of international diplomacy to ascertain the impacts of Covid-19 on International diplomacy in Nigeria.

In order to save lives, epidemic policymakers must make severe decisions, such as restricting economic activity. But, because of the unresolved science and conflicting details regarding Covid-19, important choices were taken before people had a clear idea of what they wanted (Lipsy, 2020). Additionally, the anti-globalization reaction has been the dominant political movement for the last ten years. Due to structural causes, the rules, conventions, and organizations that have overseen world commerce and the global financial system for years are no longer necessary. The global economy's center of mass has moved from the United States and Europe to Asia Pacific. We have progressed to a multipolar system, with the developments of the production line in Asia. China used to account for 4% of Gross Domestic Product in the early 2000s, but in 2018, it accounts for 16%, which is 4 times greater and by 2020, it increased to 18.33%. Nonetheless, while the global financial sector and political structure have changed dramatically in the last few years, global international bodies have remained mostly unchanged (Stiglitz, 2018). The epidemic, as well as global reactions to it – such as government initiatives to ban foreign sales of medical care commodities and a reaffirmation of the national dimension – will aggravate the globalization and international system as we know it.

In March of 2021, pharmaceutical industries projected that by December of 2021, production of approximately twelve billion doses of the Covid-19 vaccines

would have been manufactured that will be sufficient to fully immunize at least 70% of the world's population (Duke, 2021). A vaccine entry criterion is not only a criterion for evaluation of health; it must weigh the priorities of multiple various actors and account for variances in requirements between nations that cannot be justified solely with or without presence of the vectors. Even with a slew of new vaccinations in the works, many of which could have less adverse reactions, other health measures will continue to be important. If there is no vaccine or appropriate treatment quarantine may still be employed, or it may be used in conjunction with immunization if availability is limited. In the wake of subsequent epidemics, like SARS in 2003, most of the other worst-affected nations resorted to quarantine as a means of containing the disease (Vanderslott & Marks, 2020). Most of the previous studies have not considered Covid19 when studying international diplomacy while some considered Covid-19 with other forms of diplomacy (not international). Hence, for this reason, this research pursues to establish originality in discovering the link between the Covid-19 pandemic and international diplomacy, by taking Nigeria as a case study. Therefore, this research investigates the Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on International Diplomacy in Nigeria.

Aims and Objectives of the Study

In light of the above context given, the primary objective of this thesis is to address the underlying causes of the negative impacts of Covid-19 on international diplomacy in Nigeria. This research seeks to observe the variations in Nigeria government's relationship with other nations before and now that nations is now learning to live with the Covid-19 pandemic and also to discover the different tools of international diplomacy adopted by various nations and lastly, to determine the impact of Covid-19 on the International diplomacy in Nigeria.

Significance of the Study

The life-threatening aftermath of Covid-19 revealed that the study of International diplomacy and the impacts of the recent worldwide epidemic on the relationship of countries proves to be a tremendous method to achieve a better understanding of universal issues. The subject matter of this thesis is such a stimulating and weighty one as it concentrates on Economics, Culture, Education, as well as Political Science as it investigates their effect on the general public. Global

transmission and the interruption of internal political processes by an externally originating threat characterized the epidemic. The Covid-19 reaction began to be viewed as a measure of national strength or weakness, with occurrence and mortality data serving as nationwide performance metrics regardless of their flaws and vulnerability to falsification. Hence the essence of critically analyzing the effect of Covid-19 on the International relations of Nigeria

Limitations of the Study

The primary goal of this thesis is to examine the problems that arose during the Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria, as well as to discover the different tools of international diplomacy. The thesis focuses on the years March 2020 to June 2022 and provides an in-depth perspective on ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease that is regarded as the beginning of a new era. Furthermore, one of the study's major limitations is that it can be subjective, and its findings follow media sources, government reports, research papers, news articles and academic articles. Furthermore, the emphasis is on the outbreak of the virus and the changes in diplomatic affairs in the following years. Another limitation is the fact that the study will describe what will be observed while interviewing the few participants and therefore will not be generalized. Also, there are other factors like geographical factors that could have influenced international diplomacy at that time, but such factors were not put into considerations because such factors as geographical factors are not so obvious in relation to international relations.

Research Questions

Following the research objectives, specific research questions of this research are as follows:

- i. What is the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on international diplomacy in Nigeria?

Justification of the Study

This study becomes imperative because of the growing effects of Covid-19 on the diplomatic policies in Nigeria. The impact of globalization manifesting in communication, transportation and cross border financial flow sweeping through

globally has raised the question of if it is still meaningful to perceive the nation-state as a basis for international diplomacy. Recently, global health has become a great concern to the international system. It should be noted that the study of humanity and the threat of infectious disease can be beneficial to individuals since humanity have always coexisted with the infectious diseases due to the increase in population growth in the Global south. As a result, several individuals have moved into formerly uninhabited areas, exposing them to new disease risks. Similarly, researchers must investigate why humans' ability to migrate from continent to continent makes it impossible to limit outbreaks to a single location.

Worldwide healthcare is possibly the one sector where, despite the conflicts, there is a near-universal agreement that more interdependence is needed. However, because health is not (yet) an international relations domain, it stays beyond the scope of traditional actors in the field, necessitating the need for greater global research on health relations among countries. According to scholars' assessment on the epidemic situation, there is optimism that humans will be capable of overcoming the condition shortly. However, a real assessment of the present circumstance will help to discover the recovery process, to have important effect on diplomatic practice. This research will aid in the development of a speedy, comprehensive, coherent, whole-of-government strategy to combatting the Covid-19 epidemic in Nigeria and rebuilding better health services as the country adjusts to a "new normal."

Scope of the Study

Nigeria, located in West Africa shares her territorial borders with Niger in the North, Chad in the Northeast, while in the East with Cameroon, and Benin republic in the West. Nigeria's economy is African's most expanded and the 24th biggest economy in a global scale with nominal GDP and purchasing power equivalence of almost \$450 billion and \$1 trillion, correspondingly. Nigeria has over the years been regarded as the "Giant of Africa" owing to its vast size and density, and the World Bank classifies it as an emerging economy. It has also been designated as a regional power among African countries, a middle power in global relations, and an evolving force internationally. Nevertheless, it is ranked as the 158th nation worldwide on the Human Development Index, and the country is categorized as a lower middle-income nation, with a Gross National Income (GNI) ranging from \$1,026 to \$3,986. The

growth of the Nigerian economy one way or the other is a fallout of her relationship with other nations and for this reason, the scope of this study is defined from a different dimension, geographical space, data to be used and time frame. The geographical scope of the research in Nigeria. This also represents the study population. This study also utilizes primary data to obtain the necessary information from the study population through the use of Key Informant interviews in grounded theory. The study's time frame is from 2020 to 2021. The time frame is selected to assess the impact of Covid-19 on international diplomacy in Nigeria.

Operational Definition of Terms.

International Diplomacy: The management of a relationship or an act of negotiation between two or more countries.

Covid-19 Pandemic: The widespread Coronavirus Disease across the world in 2019 as a contagious ailment instigated by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Globalization: The proliferation of trades round the world, principally by great syndicates manufacturing and dealing in various goods in various nations, becoming a headway to improve transnational impact or begin operation on a global scale.

Public Health: It is the health of a given population as a whole, especially concerning the measures put in place to improve the health of people living in a community.

Thesis Structure

The main goal of this thesis is to examine the root causes of Covid-19's negative effects on Nigeria's international diplomacy, to track the variations in that country's relations with other countries, to learn about the various instruments of diplomacy abroad, and to assess Covid-19's impacts on that diplomacy in Nigeria. On the other side, the lockdown has an austere adverse impact on both the local and global economy. This is essentially the unfavorable aspect of interconnection. The study follows the logical steps of establishing the research questions, developing the methodology, gathering the information through data collection and drawing the conclusions. The study is organized into four chapters as follows:

Chapter One of this research starts with the introduction to elaborate on the topic of the impacts of the Covid-19 on the International diplomacy of Nigeria. It also provides the Statement of Problem, Research Questions, Significance of Study and Methodology.

Chapter Two introduces the Literature review, Conceptual review, Empirical review and the Theoretical framework of the research, it also identifies relevant research methodology and research design that are used to provide answers to research questions in the study.

Chapter three focusses on analysis of Data and its Presentation, findings, and discussion.

Finally, chapter four will provide the summary, conclusion, and recommendations for further research study.

CHAPTER II

Literature Review

Conceptual Review

Conceptual review is one of the forms of conceptual framework. This embodies the scholar's blend of past works on international diplomacy and Covid-19. It shows different perspective of researchers and it charts the actions essentials in the sequence of this research, given his prior understanding of past scholar's view points as well as his opinions on the focus of the investigation. This part of the thesis focuses on the historical background of the pandemics as well as the impacts of the Covid-19 epidemic on the International diplomacy in Nigeria. As part of the conceptual review, the Theory of Multilateralism is also reviewed in this section. Multilateralism as an organizational principle that is separated from other practices by 3 characteristics: inseparable, indiscriminate standards of conduct, and disperse affinity. Rather than being additive, detachable indications of multilateralism, these three traits should be considered as a cohesive ensemble that is itself indivisible (Caporaso, 1992). Despite the fact that multilateral diplomacy is a strongly discussed topic among foreign affairs professionals in research and educational circles, current practice in international organizations confirms its importance as a current practice in international affairs.

Global health is a burgeoning topic of research that contributes to fundamental thoughts in addition to discussions in International Relations. At the same time, worldwide tactful (Diplomatic) harmonization surrounding health has increased significantly, not slightest in reaction to worldwide epidemics (such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, and 'swine flu'). This can be seen in how key global organizations, including as the UNTC (United Nations Security Council), the UN's General Assembly, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO), have banded together to address a slew of new global health challenges. The sheer magnitude of global health challenges, as well as its confluence with International Relations theory, allows for new views on the concepts and approaches that have shaped the subject. The rise of feminist in International Relations, Critical Security Studies, Constructivism, and Poststructuralist International Relation has been crucial for the exploration and acceptance of Worldwide Health in the discipline (Davies et al., 2014).

A Brief History of the Previous Pandemics in the World

The Influenza epidemic of 1918 was considered as the first of the 3 Flu epidemics caused by H1N1 and it was also considered as the nastiest in contemporary antiquity. The epidemic was triggered by an H1N1 virus carrying Avian Genes. Though, there is no agreed agreement on where the virus originated from, it went round the world during the course of 1918-1919. It was initially detected in military soldiers in the U.S during the Spring of 1918. This disease was believed to have infected about fifty million persons. The casualty was thought to have ranged to not less than fifty million worldwide, with an estimate of about six hundred and seventy-five thousand (675,000) occurrences in the U.S. Children under five years of age, twenty to forty years of age, as well as sixty years and beyond had the greatest death rates. One distinctive aspect of this epidemic was the great death rate amongst healthy persons, notably those within the age bracket of 20-40. Different countries pulled resources together to enforce a control mechanism worldwide which were limited to non-Pharmaceutical interferences such as separation, confinement, excellent sterility practices, use of antiseptics, and restraints on unrestricted congregations, which were applied irregularly, this was because of the absence of vaccines to forestall the influenza infection and there were no Antibiotics for the treatment of reinfection that can be connected with influenza infections. (CDC, 2018)

Global Overview of Covid-19 Pandemic

As mentioned above, Covid-19 is a respiratory ailment that is capable of spreading from one individual to another. The infection that leads Covid-19 is a novel Covid that was initially distinguished as a contagious infection triggered by the SARS-CoV-2 virus during a research concerning a crisis in Wuhan, China (CDC, 2020a). Furthermore, various health professionals agree that the newly Covid variant was discovered in bat or pangolin. The initial spread to human being was first discovered in Wuhan, China, amongst individuals related to an indigenous seafood's marketplace ("wet market"). The majority of the previously discovered case or cases had a type of contact history with the authentic seafood market (Li et al., 2020). From that point forward, the infection has generally spread through individual to-individual getting in touch (Aaron, 2020). Common signs of Covid-19 infection are:

high fever, chesty coughs, respiratory difficulties, muscle aches, headache, Sore Throat, Diarrhea, Runny Nose, Tiredness (CDC, 2020b, MFMER 2020). The period of maturation takes up to fourteen days (Gallagher, 2020), and the signs may manifest between two to fourteen days after contact (Minnesota Department of Health, 2020).

Many people that were contaminated with the Coronavirus infection encountered gentle to normal respiratory sickness and recuperate without extraordinary therapy. Notwithstanding, the illness can be critical and surprisingly lethal. Older people, and those with other critical health conditions like cardiovascular infection, diabetes, serious respiratory sickness, and malignant growth are bound to contract the virus (WHO, 2020a). Coronavirus prevention measures comprise consistent hand washing; recurrent usage of alcohol-based disinfectants; practicing of a respectable social distance of two meters (social distance); wearing surgical masks in public places; evading facial contact with a diseased individual; avoid of making contacts with your face; coughing into your elbow; If at all possible, stay at home; seek medical attention as soon as you feel a fever, cough, or trouble breathing; discard used tissues; Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected; staying updated; and heeding the advice of health-care professionals (CDC, 2020c; WHO, 2020b).

Viruses are always changing and adapting. Every time a virus replicates itself, i.e. variants, the structure of the virus has the capacity to alter. Each of these modifications is referred to as a "mutation." Some mutations can induce changes in the virus's key properties, such as those that influence its capacity to propagate and/or cause more serious sickness and death. Although it is natural for viruses to evolve, scientists continue to monitor this phenomenon intently because of the potential for serious consequences. Hundreds of different strains of this virus have been discovered so far around the world. Furthermore, most of the variations has little or no influence on the virus's properties. However, the location of the mutations in the virus's inherent material may have an effect on the virus's features, for instance the spread or virulence. SARS-CoV-2 is usually transferred from individual to another, however, evidences has shown the transfer of the virus between human beings and animals. As a result of the interactions between humans who has been discovered to have the virus, numerous animals such as minks, cats, raccoon dogs, etc. were also discovered to tested positive of SARS-CoV-2 (WHO, 2021).

Overview of Covid-19 Pandemic in Africa

On 14th February 2020, Egypt recorded the first occurrence of Covid-19 in Africa, accompanied by Algeria on 25th February 2020. Algeria is among the thirteen nations that WHO has recognized as a highest concern for emergency preparedness because of their direct connection or high number of people traveling to China. Following then, other African nations began recording their index cases. The disclosure of the first Covid-19 verified occurrence in Sub-Sahara Africa was in Nigeria. Instead of China, the majority of the confirmed imported cases in Africa came from Europe and the U.S. (Ruth, 2020). On 18th March, 2020, a female patient of 62 years old with an existing diabetic issue died in Burkina Faso, marking first death caused by Covid-19 in Africa (Abdulazeez, 2020). The transmission of the virus in African countries as stated by WHO regional office in Africa from the 14th February of the index case to 6th May 2020, carrying out test for the virus has been a challenging in the continent. The African Centre for Disease Control's Director General claimed in a tweet on 4th May via his Twitter handle @AfricaCDC that the breakdown of international collaboration and absence of worldwide unity had pushed Africa out of the worldwide coronavirus diagnostic market. He, on the other hand, criticized Africa's poor Covid-19 screening rates, stressing that no nation could achieve the epidemic's eradication alone that every nation needs the help of other nations (World Health Organization Regional Office). Africa (2020).

Overview of Covid-19 Pandemic in Nigeria

Coronavirus uncovered the lasting shortcoming of Nigeria's institutional and administrative designs at all phases, just as the dangerous condition of its nation. In the process of developing a national strategy to battle Covid-19, it was discovered that Nigeria has lesser than five hundred ventilators for a populace more than two hundred million. This shows the constraints of the country's general wellbeing foundation. Considerably more disturbing is the way that in spite of oil and gas income adding up to US \$340 billion since the 1970s, the federal, state and local government administrative can't give monetary palliatives to residents who for the most part work on the edges of the standard economy. Indeed, measures contrived to

give palliatives needed straightforwardness and spread, which to some extent discloses protection from lockdown measures in Lagos, inciting cruel reactions by security work force (Fidel Abowei, 2020).

The outbreak of Covid-19 epidemic had a substantial detrimental effect on the Nigerian economy as a result. All commercial activity came to a complete stop as a result of the restrictions on movement brought on by Nigeria's lockdown. There were no local or even international flights, and companies and industries were closed (Nwodim & Obinna 2021). The Presidential Task Force (PTF) on Covid-19 was created three weeks after the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) received the first report of the coronavirus (Covid-19) disease in a citizen of Italy who had arrived in Nigeria on February 28, 2020. The National Emergency Operation Centers were immediately activated to Level 3 to trace and detect all of his contacts (Ebenso & Otu, 2020). One week after China initially announced the first case of Covid-19, Nigeria was amongst the first nations to realize the risk and began early preparation of the endemic curve. One of the management measures is that the complete internment of schools in the slightest degree levels throughout the world. There is no denying that the Coronavirus pandemic's influence has created a number of difficulties for the Nigerian educational system (Samuel 2020).

Covid-19 and Health Security in Nigeria

Covid-19 is framed as a war by a number of international dignitaries. The UN's Sec. Gen., António Guterres, is the first to be named in this regard, describing the epidemic as "the biggest challenge that we have encountered collectively since the foundation of the United Nations" (BBC News 2020). The framing of the issue was done by him in Peace and Security terms when he observed that "The epidemic also poses a huge risk maintaining world peace and security — perhaps resulting in an increase in social upheaval and conflict that would substantially weaken our efforts to combat the viral infection," (Besheer 2020). began, Xi Jinping declared a "people's war" against the epidemic. As it got to the U.S., President Donald Trump avowed "our war against the Chinese virus" as his reaction. He intended to be known as a "wartime president" and regarded as such. "We have to behave like any military administration," UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson stated, considering how his nation ought to react to the crisis. Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, called it a "Battle against an intangible foe," French President Emmanuel Macron remarked,

"Nous sommes en guerre [We are at war]" (Schwobel-Patel 2020; Serhan 2020). Italy's chief commissioner stated that his nation requires a "War economy" to combat the epidemic. A lot of international leaders use military metaphors to describe the epidemic as the frontline spreads worldwide: healthcare facilities, residences, shopping centers, markets, sports facilities, and airports. Defining the epidemic in military jargon aids authorities in communicating the urgency of the global health threat and rallying people behind their unconventional problem-solving techniques. It also allows these politicians to portray themselves (and not the health care professionals at the combat zone) as great commanders or superheroes deserving of public praise for their intervention techniques. As a result, when the President of United States, Donald Trump repeatedly referred to himself as a "wartime president," he was carving into the hearts and souls of People in America a critical issue he would address if he ran for re-election. Those who wanted to criticize him for not following through on all of his campaign pledges would be reminded that the Covid-19 outbreak was a major issue. The Nigerian aspects of the concerns are given special focus in the following sections.

Nigeria's Twin Crises

Prior to the first instance of Covid-19 case discovered in Nigeria, Nigeria was experiencing violent conflict conditions which borders around Boko Haram insurgent, Herdsmen brutality, ceaseless kidnapping by unknown gunmen; however, the first Covid-19 case it was reported on 27 February, 2020 (Dan-Nwafor, et al, 2020). The deadliest of the hostilities is the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria's North-Eastern part that, as noted by to the Global Conflict Tracker, that has caused over 37,500 fatalities, and caused displacement for over 2.5 million individuals in the country, and 244,000 fugitives since 2009 (CFR 2020). Additional issues comprise thievery and livestock theft in the North-Western area, as well as the Niger Delta in the South-Southern part, that has persisted notwithstanding militants in the area being given amnesty since 2009. (Albert 2019). Even beyond international borders, all of these crisis circumstances continue to claim people's lives and result in displacement. Covid-19 is an added problem to the ones that are already exist. Nigeria was thrust into two types of unconventional combat as a result of the epidemic: an asymmetrical battle with Boko Haram and the rest, as well as an unseen battle with Covid-19. For this reason, Nigeria must devise its own version of a twin

crises or a "two-war" defense plan in order to combat the two adversaries of terrorism of Boko Haram and health scare of Covid-19. Several insights might be gained from the United States' engagement in a similar type of conflict, aiming to defeat China, Russia, and North Korea on one hand, and Radical Islamists and their backers in the Middle East on the other. This is another serious peace and security issue that cannot be addressed here but will be addressed later by future students of strategic studies.

Nigeria's fundamental flaws emerged in several ways when the country reacted to Covid-19 in the midst of the Boko Haram catastrophe: The masses loss of faith in their political leaders' ability to get things done selflessly; the infiltration of unhealthy regional integration and idle religious belief into managing crisis; the high likelihood of funds intended for problem-solving being looted; and representatives telling lies naturally that cause disbelief in their citizens. Several people in Nigeria still think the news about Covid-19 is false, not because they are obstinate, but because they do not trust what is said by politicians. This caused by the fact that the authorities that can lie during peacetime would have a hard time to trust during warfare. That is the Nigerian present state of affairs in a nutshell. As the government wrestles with these governance deficiencies, it also faces a more daring shock: the global drop in oil prices, which has forced the nation's economy to seek for foreign aid. What kind of help can the nation expect when the so-called donor countries are also facing an impending world economic downturn, if even depression? These are the most pressing challenges concerning stability and harmony in the Nigerian state of affairs. It is worthy of note to state here that, the relationship that existed amid China and Nigeria since the outburst of the Covid-19 changed as a result of the multilateral trade agreement between the two country. As the world economy began to edge towards the brink recession, of cause which most countries of the world has plunged into, the pandemic has unveiled the large deficit between African nation and China and most importantly, the over-reliance of Nigeria on importation from China. In recent times, the small-scale industries in the home soil are getting a colossal setback from the outburst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Hence, in the absence of importation of goods from China, several small and medium enterprises in Nigeria stands the danger of been grounded to cessation. Though, this cause disturbance on the economic process of Nigeria among this pandemic period. Furthermore, most productive industries have in recent times decided to significant reductions in the

number of their employees owing to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic; this has in turn led a significant reduction of the country's GDP (IBIS world, 2020). The persistent scourge of the Covid-19 pandemic has also paralyzed the small, medium and large-scale companies in Nigeria and inevitably wrecked the Nigerian economy (Imanche et al, 2020).

According to The Guardian (London), China is increasingly focusing on Covid-19 survey programs in order to manage the events surrounding the epidemic. It reflects in the removal of webpages from Chinese higher education institutions' digital media platforms that are designed on the subject or are conducting study into the topic, notably on the virus's genesis (Kirchgaessner et al. 2020). Those wishing to research on Covid-19 are also required to submit their works for verification before they are accepted for publishing. The Financial Times Express remarking on the issue noted that "The department of education's science and technology unit has procedural measures to at least 2 higher institutions concerning the issuing of study pertaining to identifying the roots of the SARS CoV-2 virus; any such study must first be verified by the university's educational review panel before being sent to the department of science and technology for more review before being approved for publication." (The Financial Express 2020). Is China concerned because of health, economics, or politics? The epidemic began in China, which was the first country to be affected was assumed that it had lots of time to study the condition and communicate its various characteristics with others. As a result, the country has been criticized by a number of foreign countries. Several of China's allied nations, particularly Iran, challenged the country's documented infection and death figures, Brazil mentioned that the epidemic was a tactic for China to advance its international management ambitions, while other western countries, particularly the United States, criticize China of tactical cover-ups and unlawful silence (Wang 2020). When Australia decided to launch an autonomous investigation into the roots of Covid-19, China responded quickly, calling the move "hazardous." It threatens to ban its students and travelers from travelling to Australia straightaway. Given that international student income is Australia's 3rd largest export, valued more than \$30 billion, this was a significant pressure strategy (Hanrahan 2020). As the United States and other major nations joined the emerging countries to see how wellness matters could be utilized to advance unsavory foreign relations, Nigeria took the opposite tack by calling the Chinese to help with the Covid-19 epidemic. Nigerians

were informed of this by the Health Minister, Dr. Osagie Ehanire. However, a few Nigerians believe that China can help the country manage the epidemic. Nigeria had previously established a better reputation for ensuring a higher recovery rate from the sickness than many other countries across the globe. The few lives lost in Nigeria as a result of the epidemic was because they mishandled the condition by not reporting their state of health or seeking care extremely late. So, what China is going to educate Nigeria on how to combat the outbreak? If the country requires any aid, it is to help them to build additional screening centers and obtain the necessary screening tools to test more Nigerians. The House of Representatives Minority Caucus, the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC), and the Nigerian Medical Association were among those who criticized the visit (NMA). The Nigerian Medical Association issued a lengthy proclamation on the subject, which was signed by its National President, Dr. Francis Faduyile. It professed to have been deeply disappointed and dismayed by the announcement (Onyeji 2020). The Association had no objections to the Chinese providing diagnostic instruments to Nigeria or commenting online on the current activities in Nigeria. It labelled the Chinese summoning to be mistimed with no importance; as well as a “shame to belonging to the Association and other medical personnel that sacrifice all for the epidemic under appalling working circumstances, and a delicate health system”. This resistance to the Chinese summons featured (i) "the Chinese who, according to existing information, are not out of the woods either." The entry of the Chinese in the pretense of providing help coupled with an increase in the incidence and casualty figures from Covid-19 in Italy” (ii) the U.N. recently complimented Nigeria's achievements thus far (iii) that the administration did not consider the extant rules managing the exercise of medicine in Nigeria as preserved in the Medical and Dental Council Act. Under these circumstances, the Nigerian Medical and Dental Council should be turned to in order to issue required permissions to non-nationals to engage with patients in Nigeria.” Instead of inviting the Chinese, the NMA believes the government should have encouraged Nigeria's enormous number of medical personnel that are not employed or underemployed to assist their senior colleagues in combating the devastating disease, as has been done in various nations. The Organization anticipates the authorities to have supplied the instruments needed by Nigerian medical personnel on the frontlines, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), testing kits, and screening facilities, which are in small quantity throughout the

country. The health staff who dealt with the Covid-19 episodes were claimed to be completely uninsured. If the Administration follow through the Chinese summoning, the Association has warned to reassess its participants' involvement in the battle against Covid-19. Despite the preceding, on April 8, 2020, a team of Chinese health personnel came in Nigeria with medical devices valued at approximately 1.5 million US dollars. On the exact day that Nigeria welcomed 15 "experts" from China in Abuja, a nationwide newscast showed the military arm of Nigeria received weaponry from China in preparation for the battle against Boko Haram. The combat materiel comprised VT-4 combat vehicles, SH-5 self-propelled howitzers, and a few more items that were intended to help Nigerian ground troops fight Boko Haram extremists. The weaponry must have been in Nigeria prior to the Chinese physicians' arrival, but it was kept hidden from the general populace for strategic communication.

However, just because the supplies "landed" on the exact day as the Chinese medics does not mean they intended to give charity or gifts. Starting from 2019, Nigeria has been ordering them from China's Norinco (defenceweb 2020). The directive came as the global community, led by the United States, refused Nigeria accessibility to such weaponry in the war against Boko Haram. This jeopardizes Nigeria's ability to battle Boko Haram as effectively as the Chadians (Albert 2017). The administration attempted to convey to Nigerians who were skeptical of the Chinese that they should be regarded allies in two areas: fighting Covid-19 and Boko Haram. China is honored in a few additional African countries for a variety of grounds (Albert 2014). One of them is the fact that several countries in Africa, Nigeria inclusive, owe China money. Nigeria wants additional Chinese financing and hence cannot offend them as those opposing Chinese doctors would like.

Personal Liberties and its Effects on Others' Health

Nigeria implemented quarantine and other steps ("flattening the curve") to slow the transmission of coronavirus and ensure the safety of masses, compelling citizens remaining at home, maintaining physical and social distance, and wearing surgical masks. Covid-19 is remembered mostly for the shutdowns than the fatalities, according to Nigerians questioned on TV and radio programs about the epidemic. Instead of seeing the quarantine as a beneficial way to save people, they see them as a breach of their individual rights on a scale they have never seen before in their

lifetimes. This is comprehensible given Nigeria's abject poverty prior to Covid-19. Countless Nigerians rely on their daily wages. It is economic disaster to ask them to stay indoors for months. In showing how their annoyance and dissatisfaction with the stay-at-home commands are implemented, Many of Nigerian citizens wept, screamed, and pleaded to be allowed to return to their enterprises, noting that “starvation murders much more than Covid-19 (Oxfam, 2020). Many of these citizen’s dissatisfaction stems from learning that the administration had planned for and was delivering palliatives to the destitute in community. However, numerous people who would benefit from such assistance are not addressed. In other words, people were not allowed to go out and provide for themselves, and the government provided no assistance. Most of these individuals were soon forced to provide for themselves on the streets, either by performing their trades or by engaging in criminal activity. The preceding applies to regular citizens or the destitute. The wealthy in society also believe that the government's actions have an unwarranted impact on their individual liberty. People were asked to give their travel information, self-isolate as advised by the authorities, or notify the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) if they tested positive for Covid-19, which was not something they are used to. Therefore, most people failed to follow these procedures. This occurred in the cities of Ilorin, Lagos, Kano, and Ibadan. One patient from the city of Ibadan, named Abba Kyari went from Kano to Ibadan, where he consulted at least 3 private healthcare and two labs before dying at UCH. At two out of the three hospitals, he was medicated for typhoid and malaria. In the 3rd hospital medical personnel suggested that he shall be checked for Covid-19 but he died before the screening result was known. For this reason, his infection was transmitted to several individuals during his travels. Sadly, some of the standards that are supposed to be followed were being broken by the same Nigerian state governments. The instance of Abba Kyari, who died of Covid-19, was probably managed in the worst situation. The news that he was at a private hospital and what became the fate of doctors and nurses who cared for him was concealed to form the citizens of Nigeria. Against the customary convention of epidemic victim’s burial, wherever they die, Kyari was flown back to Abuja in a personal jet, and his burial was attended by hundreds of individuals who refused to follow the NCDC's daily preaching of social and physical separation. A number of the morticians that handled the burial flouted the rules and none could call their attention to it. The most outrageous was the scenario of a

mortician that dropped his cloth by the roadside after the burial and drove off. To prevent the President from contracting the disease, the presidential escorts that were at the burial were prohibited from the state house instantly after the funeral. They were supposed to spend two weeks in self-isolation. NCDC officials who attended the event were also expected to segregate themselves. While the presidential assistants could not help but stay away from the White House, personnel of the NCDC went out into the open the following day to give people of Nigeria their daily epidemic update. The committee members just sent apologies to the people of Nigeria for the burial's mismanagement.

Killing for Covid-19

To implement the lockdown orders, Task Forces were dispatched to various areas of the country in Nigeria. They quickly collided with Nigerians who disregarded government orders and those who wander out of their houses in search of sustenance. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) notified BBC News on April 16th, 2020, that the shutdown officers had murdered many Nigerians than the virus itself. The disease's effects caused the death of twelve persons, while security agents were responsible for the deaths of eighteen people. The Commission reported receiving over one hundred reports of officers mistreating lockdown offenders from twenty-four of the thirty-six states in the Nigeria (BBC 2020b). Ever since, security services have continued to assault Nigerians. On the 24th of April, 2020, certain Rivers State Taskforce personnel shot to death a police woman who tried to hinder those officers from damaging the products of some street sellers in Eneka town, Obio-Akpo LGA, Rivers State. It was discovered that the policewoman shot to death had aimed at defending the sellers in that area but now died as a result of extra-judicial killing.

The security forces participating in the Covid-related incidents were just acting out the administration's description of the epidemic's reaction as a "war." Instead of carrying out their tasks properly, they do so in order to please the authorities. Sarah Glassford, an archivist at the University of Windsor's Leddy Library and a historian of medicine, spoke out against the Covid-19's use of war analogies. "All types of behavior, intrusions, and lack of liberty, which we would not typically subject to are justified in the context of war. Before we define this whole epidemic in such terms, we should take a second look. Are there any parallels? Sure. Is it the same thing? No.

The language we use have an impact.” (Gerster, 2020). Another researcher commented: “If you are in a warfare, you're murdering people and you've got an adversary” Dr. Larry Brilliant, an epidemiologist who assisted in eliminating smallpox. I comprehend the desire to turn the infection into a foe... There's a risk to it. When you're in a battle, the only thing you can think about is fighting. We have a lot of other responsibilities”. (Levinson, 2020).

The experiences of Covid-19 in the early days of the outbreak have clearly demonstrated that every country on this planet is responsible from the public health and it needs to be in their control. For instance, when the outbreak was seen in Italy and Spain, the European Union was powerless to help. As nations in Africa buried their deceased, neither the African Union nor the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) could assist because the member nations' authorities were had to deal with the concurrent cases within their jurisdictions in the first phase of the pandemic. The world has witnessed and was stunned to see the earth's major powers burying their deceased in large quantities. Places of worship were closed all across the globe, including in Rome and Mecca. Christians observed Easter 2020 at home, while Muslims began a thirty-day fast in April after not being able to attend congregational services in Mosques. Nigerians were heartbroken at the deaths of their beloved ones as a result of Covid-19. The numerous shutdowns irritated them. They were concerned about job losses and economic downturns that may occur in the aftermath the pandemic. During the outbreak, they witnessed the flaws and the lack of leadership that surrounded Nigeria. They noticed flaws in the medical, academic, and political systems. Even the country's numerous medical schools could not supply the necessary molecular laboratory to test persons suspected of having Covid-19. There were no screening centers in certain areas of the country. Some of the major testing centers were running out of testing kits on a constant basis. Many individuals tried calling the test locations, but no one answered. Some people were put away from the testing locations due to the fact that they had not fully developed Covid-19 symptoms. Most of these individuals were deceased before receiving assistance. Nigeria's government had found it hard to give appropriate statistics on the country's people as the nation fights Covid-19. Nigeria, on the other hand, has some things such as a National Action Plan for Health Security in the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2018-2022), which, if executed, might have enabled the nation perform more in responding to Covid-19 than it is presently. The Federal Ministry of Health's

strategic plan, approved in November 2018 in relation to the 2014 Ebola epidemic, focuses on utilizing health security for a "secure and productive Nigeria." Sadly, Nigeria's reactions to Covid-19 do not demonstrate that the country's government is cognizant of the document or the preventative diplomacy pledged to Nigerians in it. Covid-19 was quickly portrayed as a severe peace and security problem as a result of all of this. In a video conference with the representatives of the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Secretary - General António Guterres said the disease outbreak "creates a serious danger to global security and peace more likely to result in an increase in social unrest and violence which might immensely diminish our capacity to combat the virus" (UN, 2020). He drew consciousness to a number of ways in which the peace and security crisis could worsen. Primarily, he said that the epidemic might weaken people's faith in government organizations in countries where citizens are unable to receive enough protection and assistance from their authorities. The Nigerian example would be a good fit for this type of discussion. People throughout the nation were compelled to remain indoors with hardly any food. A lot of money was reportedly set aside to mitigate the impact of the lockdowns. However, a lot of the program's apparent beneficiaries received nothing. Nigerians would need a long time to recover from the horrible events related with Covid-19. As a result, the nation's government should be anticipating the consequences of some of their decisions. The issue being addressed is that Nigeria is approaching a stage in its development where its leadership must become more philanthropic. The county's structures have to become more egalitarian and transparent. The administration must have purposeful laws and a governance framework in place to respond rapidly to the issue of societal trust deficiencies. If Nigerians have been tricked in the past, it may not work now in the post-virus era. As a result, state authorities must now become more accountable and selfless in meeting the demands of individuals. If not, the amount of annoyance would rise. Fights ensue among individuals along ethnic and religious lines in such settings as they vie for the limited social, economic, environmental, and political available resources in the area. When individuals band together to oppose the administration that makes life tough for them, further difficulties arise. The epidemic, according to Antonio Guterres, might have a compounding influence on the current episodes of radicalization and global terrorism. Terror organizations may see "a window of chance to attack" as political leaders focus on the outbreak, he said. In this regard, claimed that Sahel was

a reference point to this. It is noteworthy to state here that he was absolutely correct in his claims. In March 2020, while Nigerians and Chadians were dealing with Covid-19, Boko Haram pulled out what is being variably characterized as its "deadliest strike on the Boma peninsula in a 7-hour attack that led to the death of 92 Chadians and 55 Nigerian soldiers" (Albert. I.O, 2019). Chad lost twenty-four military trucks, as well as various weapons, which were stolen in speedboats. During the same time frame, Boko Haram ambushed Nigerian troops in Goneri village in northern Yobe state. In the end, Fifty Nigerian soldiers were murdered.

The United Nations Secretary General's most important point is that Covid-19 teaches violent extremists and terrorists a valuable lesson bio-terrorism. As a result, as the globe deals with the epidemic, it is time to start thinking about what rules should be put in order to ensure that terrorists do not have the ability to commit bio-terrorism. In a delicate country like Nigeria, the economic impact of the epidemic, plainly stems from different forms of lockdowns and the administration's incapacity to give the individuals with the appropriate type of palliatives, are likely to become "huge stressors." Youth (Albert, Ike-Muonso, & Ojielo 2018) and women (Albert, Omotoso, & Akeredolu 2017) bear the most affected, as they make up the bulk of the population and are also the more disadvantaged. "In certain crisis situations, the lack of certainty caused by the epidemic may offer incentives for some actors to foment additional separation and turbulence," (UN News, 2020). This could result in an increase in brutality and probably catastrophic mistakes, thereby solidifying ongoing conflicts." Based on the obvious understanding that, in tough moments, metropolitan criminality and political aggression escalates among the youths, the epidemic could escalate the magnitude of rural and urban conflicts in Nigeria (Albert & Lawanson 2019a, Albert & Lawanson, 2019b). Additional current issues that might be worsened by the outbreak include the continuing Boko Haram insurgency in the north-eastern part, the Niger Delta situation, which has not eased after a 2009 amnesty program, and the country's already-existing banditry in the North West. The administration should spend more in non-kinetic strategies to deal with brutality, as the army's use of violence has been unproductive throughout the years. To sum up this study, Nigeria will face some tough times in the following years of Covid-19. Nigeria needs to implement the essential policy frameworks to deal with the problem as soon as possible. This approach should be based on the pillars of good peace outlined in previous sections of this paper along with stronger international

diplomatic ties with the other nations. Pillars of good peace can be outlined as (i) a fully functioning administration, (ii) equal and fair allotment of state resources, (iii) constant flow of relevant news that discourages false information and despicable communications, (iv) the advancement of positive ties among groups in Nigeria, and (v) the growth of high human resources via strong dedication to educational reform, (vi) ensuring the social, economic, and political rights of all groups, (vii) protection of fundamental liberties, (viii) honest and open anti-corruption policies, and (ix) providing a good commercial atmosphere for everybody. Numerous policy papers in Nigeria could function as a springboard for achieving these objectives. The issues may well be managed as part of Nigeria's obligation to the worldwide Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The sustainable development goals include but are not limited to poverty alleviation, zero hunger for the citizens, good health for all and clean water and Sanitation.

The New Face of Trade & Supply Chain

In this section of this Thesis, impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the perceptions of globalization is going to be demonstrated. The Covid-19 pandemic has introduced another phase of vulnerability which culminated the protectionism of the nation-state that was played as part of patriot's policies. Therefore, globalisation is considered to be threatened as legislatures struggle to shrink their weaknesses to the contagion by constraining global exchange and travels of persons. By way of the impede of line limitations and austere quarantine actions, there had been tremendous interruptions in Africa's global stock chains with detrimental consequences at the businesses. The fact that the African economy extremely depend on single commodity orientated enterprises, such as petroleum products, are supposed to be severely affected by the pandemic. This has also affected diplomacy and relations between states. Who would have guessed that a pandemic would endanger our civilization and drastically alter our way of life? No one had predicted the scope of the catastrophe, with the exception of a few Hollywood blockbusters, renowned TED speakers, fictional novelists, and health professionals. As of July 22, the pandemic's death toll had topped 600,000, and the overall number of cases had surpassed 14 million. Covid-19, the most significant shock to world politics and the global economy since WWII, has had extraordinary effects on practically every area, including international relations.

The pandemic had a detrimental impact on trade because of its limits on travel. This was caused less by partial or complete border closures and more by manufacturing problems when facilities were shut down, and also the breakdown of air transport, which made transportation extremely expensive (World Bank, 2020). As a consequence, global commerce in goods shrank significantly to varied degrees: by 26.9 percent in Germany, 33.9 percent in France, and 15.6 percent in the United Kingdom. Services exports also fell, though to a smaller extent: by 15.5 percent, 23.9 percent, and 8.8 percent in Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, accordingly (OECD, 2020). In the United States and Canada, merchandise exports declined 15.1 percent and 29.2 percent, accordingly, while imports dropped 13.6 percent and 25 percent, with automobile and car part imports plummeting 52.2 percent and 80 percent. In terms of services trade, Canada saw a 21.1 percent drop in exports and a 31.2 percent drop in imports, while the US saw a 10.7 percent drop in exports and a 14 percent drop in imports. Services exports and imports in Asia decreased at a reduced pace: exports dropped 7.1 percent in Japan and imports fell 5.6 percent; exports dropped 10.3 percent in Korea and imports dropped 5.4 percent. Exports of services in China climbed by 4.2 percent. Merchandise exports in Japan declined 10.6% and imports in Korea plummeted 21.7 percent in April, while imports dropped 0.1 percent in Japan and 9.5 percent in Korea. Exports of goods increased by 3.7 percent in China, approaching 2019 levels, but importation plummeted by 7.9 percent (OECD, 2020). Because it seemed to be a continuity of declining goods trade the previous year, this event was promptly labeled the "reversal" or "decelerating of globalization." This viewpoint has two flaws: first, it defines globalization solely as a phenomenon of commerce in goods, although it actually encompasses commerce in services, human movement, data flow, and capitals (The Economist, 2019). A more precise study reveals a far more complex picture.

To start with, prior to the epidemic, most other aspects of globalization (or, using a more appropriate term, global connection) started to climb, with exception of goods commerce, which declined by 0.4 percent in 2019. It is worth mentioning that this drop cannot be called a trend because it occurred in a single year, whereas trends last for multiple years. International commerce grew by 4.8 percent and 3.4 percent respectively in 2017 and 2018. A closer examination reveals that the cause of the drop was a mix of falling oil prices, low worldwide efficiency, and reduced demand for Japanese market in the U.S., rather than the Sino-American 'trade war' (Quartz,

2020). As a result, there were great predictions prior to the epidemic that international commerce would return to pre-2019 levels by 2020. (IMF, 2019).

The epidemic did, though, create a new perspective on supply chains and crucial items, which might be a game of different factors such as geography, economics and geography. Despite the fact that the most output was affected in industries such as electronics, computation, and textile industries, the interruption highlighted the reliance on certain healthcare aid, particularly protective equipment and medication manufactured in China and India (World Economic Forum, 2020). This crucial reliance on China, especially in a medical crisis, arose from a tight geopolitical setting, prompting a reconsideration of specific items as "strategic," as well as a reassessment of their supply networks. According to several professional polls, supply chain changes are expected and forecasts vary significantly from the ones made prior to the epidemic. According to a study of economics professionals and technology experts, 45% of participants did not expect any modifications in supply chains prior to the epidemic, but this figure has dropped to 15% as a result of the epidemic. Over fifty percent of participants foresee major or substantial modifications to supply chains in the long run, with its most substantial cuts in supply chain elements projected in China and Russia, and the highest improvements anticipated in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia (Atlantic Council, 2020).

Health Multilateralism

Multilateralism, is defined as “the process of organizing relations between groups of three or more states. Beyond that basic quantitative aspect, multilateralism is generally considered to comprise certain qualitative elements or principles that shape the character of the arrangement or institution” (Britannica, 2022). The twentieth century multilateralism saw transport discretion, culmination strategy and hotline diplomacy that became a standard. The transformation of discretion has been portrayed by three standards, consolidating to alter and reestablish strategic mode, which incorporates mechanical/social change, HR to use it, and monetary guide and recognized need. The pandemic in the period of "Computerized reasoning" and "Advanced Diplomacy" has prepared for new ordinary multilateral strategy in the 21st Century. Nations are presently money management monetary assets to foster foundation to help "video gathering strategy" with task-explicit customizability, state

control and security. Be that as it may, difficulties, for example, shortcoming, lopsidedness and corruption, prompting a reluctance to reserve assets to the multilateral strategy should be tended to. Global medical care was essentially a national affair until Covid-19. The World Health Organization (WHO), which was established to advance people's health globally, was primarily concerned with the extermination of illnesses like polio, with a regional focus on Africa and Western Asia. Notwithstanding the assumption that an epidemic will ultimately emerge, a health concern of epic dominance in the world, such as Covid-19, had never been addressed and managed before by the WHO or national governments. However, unlike swine flu, the WHO took significantly longer to declare Covid-19 an epidemic. The United States said that it would decrease financing to the UN agency in charge of worldwide public health as a result of widespread dissatisfaction. However, the WHO was not the only subject of controversy, and geopolitical pressures rose as governments clashed over the virus's roots and how their countries handled the epidemic. A number of governments have suggested at harmful cyber action aimed at Covid-19 study and health-care legislation, and some authorities have used nationalistic rhetoric in response to potential vaccines (Jenny et al, 2020). However, beneath the surface of the difficulties, it was evident that the lack of strengthened worldwide health collaboration made handling the outbreak much more difficult.

The leading multilateral organizations announced numerous worldwide funding in reaction to the coronavirus epidemic. To assist susceptible nations in their reactions, the UN created a USD 10.31 billion inter-agency Global Humanitarian Response Plan, of which USD 2.35 billion was met by late August (OCHA Services, 2020). Likewise, the World Health Organization (WHO) established a sympathy funding to help organize the international response. World leaders emphasized the importance of international collaboration at the state level as well. In February, G7 health ministers committed to manage traveling rules and measures, as well as viral study and collaboration with the WHO, the EU, and China; and in April, G20 leaders promised to speed up teamwork on a vaccine, as well as studies, therapy, and medicines (Reuters, 2020; Guardian, 2020). The Covid-19 Equipment Accelerator was released in April by the WHO, France, the European Commission, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with the goal of providing a further prompt and functional intervention at the international scale (World Health Organisation, 2020).

In June, the International Vaccine Conference received USD 8.8 billion from 31 contributor governments, eight foundations, and eight companies to give vaccinations and supporting medical services in low-income nations. Some small alliances formed were joined by countries to share data on epidemic reactions, including the 'First Mover' group, which included Austria, Australia, Greece, Denmark, Czech Republic, Singapore, Israel, Norway, and New Zealand (The Sydney Morning Herald, 2020). The African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have all considered regional health collaboration projects (Tom Evans & Alex Scott, 2020). However, the European Commission planned a 9.4 billion EU4Health project for the years 2021-2027 for increasing collaboration of states and better planning for medical emergencies in Brussels in years to come. The initiative aims to combat cross-border health hazards, increase the availability and affordability of medications, and build healthcare facilities, as well as aid with international health collaboration. In a summit in June 2020, EU health ministers overwhelmingly endorsed the plan. However, rather more crucially, the international health emergency sparked unparalleled levels of international scientific collaboration. The first coronavirus genomes were released in January by Chinese researchers, and the genetic map was made freely available globally. Technologists, doctors, and software engineers from MIT released a concept for a low-cost ventilator openly accessible – that was used by a bunch of Indian technologists rushing to alleviate the nation's ventilator crisis. The Institute Pasteur in Dakar and Mologic, a British bio-technology company, teamed up to create fast screening tools that will be manufactured and disseminated throughout Africa (World Economic Forum, 2020). The University of Pittsburgh also collaborates with the Pasteur Institute in Paris and the Austrian pharmaceutical business Themis Bioscience in a project financed by the Alliance for Pandemic Preparation Innovations in Norway, which is sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and a collection of nations. The group is in discussions with India's Serium Institute, another of the top vaccine producers in the world. Similarly, in collaboration with Xijin Hospital in China and different facilities in northern Italy, a team of Harvard clinicians examined the efficacy of breathing in nitric oxide on Covid-19 patients at Massachusetts General Hospital. The enormity

of the present epidemic, combined with modern innovation, has opened the path for a really unparalleled and remarkable worldwide research effort, particularly when taking into consideration that academic health study and survey is typically veiled in secret order to win fund, promotion and tenure (New York Times, 2020). The continuing wave caused by the pandemic will occur in great chunk from the influential developments within the field of digital and health information. The probe and management of those 2 building blocks- one amongst calculation, the opposite of nature are possibly to unlock enormous treasures for the mitigation of the pandemic and its negative effect on diplomacy.

Digital Diplomacy

Digital diplomacy at the start of the twenty-first century was already very dissimilar from what it had been in previous decades. A modern communication tone, combined with the increased use of the internet and increase with disinformation, had managed to create a diplomatic surrounding that made an appearance of conflictual, oppositional, and less concentrated on the purposes of diplomacy: information exchange, sharing of ideas, and the advancement of effective solutions between many states. Covid-19 appeared to restrict diplomacy as we knew it: significant limits on movement, and also human interaction, intended that talks, which happens to be the foundation of diplomatic practices, was no more feasible, or merely permitted at a minimal level. In the early stages of the situation, the United Nations General Assembly, the ASEAN summit, the UN's global climate change Conference, the European Union-China forum, the European Union-India forum, the Council' of Europe Congress, and an array of European Board conferences were all rescheduled or scrapped. Sessions of the Security Council, as well as the summit of the Human Rights Council and a number of working gatherings, were cancelled at the United Nations (United Nations, 2020). The European Council sessions, however, had already started by video-conference by the second week of March. The technology, which had not yet been updated to meet the new standards, initially had room for one video call each day, with a significant pause in between due to software issues (Der, 2020). Diplomacy, which had not caught up with digital affairs for grounds of data security, secrecy and custom, adapted immediately to problem, as did other industries that had moved in cyberspace. During the period of intense pandemic, individual moved dramatically towards online channel. Organisations as

well as industries also responded likewise. The priorities for cyber securities within the organisations also shifted; they have transitioned from providing as well as maintaining inner networks to strengthen the remote workforce. The purpose of this section is to give light on the strategies employed by the government during the period of the Covid-19 to ensure a stable international diplomacy.

Conferences with non-EU countries such as India and China were also postponed to be held through video-conference. August, is a month when no conferences are held under normal circumstances, but in 2020 the European Council President Charles Michel convened an urgent meeting after unrest occurred in Belarus, a move made feasible only by the emerging practice of online diplomacy. Conferences between European and American foreign ministers were also held (Politico, 2020). In reality, the EU was not the only one to employ digital technology to function during the epidemic; the G20 met through video-conference in late March, and the UN Security Council began sessions by videoconference, but with some essential weeks' wait (Politico, 2020). The United Nations General Assembly will be convened in cyberspace for the first time in September 2020 (UN News, 2020). By the beginning of April, all NATO conferences, from work teams to the North Atlantic Council, were transferred to visual format (NATO, 2020). The AU began holding video conferences in April, and the League of Arab States followed suit in June. To be sure, video-conferencing for diplomacy has significant drawbacks: Problems like secrecy, online-hacking, connectivity problems, social interactions through the screen, and attentiveness are some problems that can apply to diplomacy through video-conferencing just as much as they do to any other industry that relies on electronic technology. The lack of translation, background knowledge, face-to-face communication and the casualness of the coffee break are all important issues that should not be overlooked. Some countries, such as Russia and China, have undermined the format by saying that online debates are just unofficial and that no official conclusions are made as a result. The Security Council's penalties panel, for example, was paralyzed and unable to act on reported penalty breaches. The United Nations General Assembly does not have a digital system of conducting elections because not all governments are in favor of digitalization, hence the normal methods could not be employed. As a consequence, only decisions reached by agreements were approved.

Uniformity in global diplomacy is uncommon, and especially when personal meetings were impossible to address the problems. Additionally, international conferences gave a venue for states that are not on favorable terms to have a contact something that is rare to happen digitally (World Politics Review, 2020). In a period of crisis, however, the technology has proven to be essential in simplifying perspectives, advancing consensus decisions, and preserving interaction across long distances. It also helped to reduce travel costs while also lowering discharge of carbon dioxide. Government policies throughout the Covid-19 pandemic have considerably distorted patterns of energy demand round the world. Several international borders were shut down and populaces were restricted to their various houses, that reduced transport and altered the patterns of consumption. Here, we compile policies of the government and activity information to appraise the reduction in CO₂ discharges throughout the compulsory confinements (Le Quere, C, 2020).

The public part of diplomatic relations has also been transformed by digitalization. Because of the issues rapid speed, interaction shifted to channels that could handle it: social media, particularly Twitter but also Instagram (EURactiv, 2020). The European Union, for example, has stepped up its efforts to combat misrepresentation of information, rapidly increasing an already extensive list of resources aimed at improving media literacy. In addition, the WHO is hosting an 'infodemiology' summit to research and discuss the Coronavirus infodemic implies a false or misleading information in the physical environment during a disease outbreak. During the period ranging from January to March, English-language fact-checks heightened by over 900% (Reuters Institute, 2020).

Impact of Covid-19 on the Nigerian Population

According to accounts within the regional and also the world media, yet as in the international organizations comparable to the United Nations, the socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 epidemic seems to be more than the health consequences. It's been revealed that, adding to the health threats posed by the Covid-19 epidemic, the financial anxiety and social disorders it caused the international economy substantial amount of money. For this reason, the UN's Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) valued the cost implication of the outbreak in 2020 to the estimate of above two trillion US dollars (Akanni & Gabriel, 2020). The worldwide effect of the Covid-19 epidemic remains to be catastrophic, inflicting worry among some sectors

of the general public and real disillusionments, notably amongst the juvenile, signifying societies' susceptibleness within the face of risks (Sadati, Lankarani & Lankarani, 2020). Nigerian citizens, predominantly those on rock bottom echelons of the socio-economic ladder, were said to be negatively wedged by the wide lock-down, going by several media agencies. This is often to be anticipated, this is because Africans in general, as well as Nigerians primarily, are acquainted with community living founded on mutual ideals. Deprived families that required food palliatives were reported in a human rights TV and radio facility within the country, chiefly as a result of tons of them are petty or small-scale people who are unable to travel to their place of labor wherever they create cash as a result of social disassociating laws. (Human Rights Radio and Television, 2020). A commerce radio in Africa, Nigeria to be specific, suggested a great solution for suppressing Covid-19 via social distancing, which is a helpful circumstance that a lot of Africans fights to agree to. The World Health Organization and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention are recommending social separation as a key response to the pandemic, although this approach is customarily beside the point or not be feasible in many areas of the world. Whatsoever notion that impends the shared well-being is strange and intolerable to most Nigerians. within the face of poverty, unpredictability, lack of employment, and a slew of additional obstacles, the idea of "oneness," instead of self-isolation, has continually been the prop of Nigeria' survival. Nigerians' attitudes regarding Covid-19' presence has been influenced by this. Despite the actual fact that oil contributes fifteen percent of Nigeria' gross domestic product and eighty percent of government's income, the foremost of the country' population are perpetually living in poverty. The current worldwide new Covid-19 epidemic exacerbates the matter by putting various homes from various social classes in danger.

In Nigeria, the condition is considered to be worse than envisaged, principally for SME's (Small and Medium Enterprise's) firms that bank on the income they realize on daily basis for their survival. For instance, a study carried out by the Independent Television (ITV) above the Mpape Hills in the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja amongst certain purveyors revealed that the lock-down imposed by the Government in the Area from March 2020, made it difficult for them to make transactions. The traders reported that they and their restlessness and boredom. As a result, in the context of contemporary worldwide events generated by Coronavirus sickness, school, one of society's primary institutions created to resolve issues of

tension control, loses its usefulness. Furthermore, the threat Covid-19 poses can be recognized in the socio-psychological implications of sit at home, which should be considered by everyone affected. Research examining the effect of the Covid-19, for instance, have indicated that women are now taking the burden of the stay-at-home order. Domestic abuse is on the rise, and females are becoming victims of the state's lockdown or stay-at-home orders (Kasapoglu and Akbal, 2020). Furthermore, the World Health Organization predicted an increase in isolation, tension, worry, dangerous drug and alcohol addiction, despair, and also suicidal inclinations (as cited in Muanya, The Guardian, April 5, 2020). With the Covid-19 labeled an epidemic on March 11, 2020, Nigeria has imposed social distancing and lockdowns, occasioning in a variation of emotional reactions. Individuals are grief-stricken as a result of the loss of their livelihoods, social relationships, family members, as well as their envisioned future. Traumatic anxiety cannot be avoided after the outbreak due the current effort to live with such uncertainty. “As the Covid-19 epidemic creeps throughout the globe, it is creating general anxiety, worry, and panic, all of which are normal and appropriate responses to the shifting and unpredictable circumstances that everybody sees themselves,” stated by WHO Regional Director for Europe, Dr. Hans Henri P. Kluge (Muanya, April 5, 2020). Likewise, the remain-at-home order, which resulted in the closures of school, have had an impact on parent-child relationships. Controlling and supervising the activities of kids has left families perplexed on how to manage their child's hours used on fruitful and non-fruitful tasks. It would be common to see the youngsters practicing harmful online behaviors and other behaviors at this time, which could have unexpected penalties for both the parents and kids alike. Conclusively, Covid-19 affected the interpersonal relations of the citizen and will probably affect the international relations of Nigeria with other countries.

Measures Adopted to Mitigate the Impact of Covid-19 in Nigeria

Globally, several measures such as social or physical distancing, mobility restrictions, hygiene measures, communication and international support mechanisms were set in place; amongst these measures, mobility restrictions, social/physical distancing and socio-economic appears to be more adopted globally. Furthermore, since the rules and policies adopted by various countries of the world differs in their

peculiarity as well as the societal and population structure, healthcare systems, the mitigation measures led to different desired results.

The Nigerian government has in use a number of extremely significant treads by shutting the worldwide borders, inter-state boundaries, controlling open movement of people in as well as across state borders, supporting societal/corporal separation, cleansing of hands, running of test for as many people as achievable, sustaining families by means of rations palliatives, with others. Among the many dealings espoused by nations intended at dealing with the Coronavirus plague is community fitness approach. This sums up to constructing the ability of health centers and sanatoriums and severe quarantine of contaminated patients, crusades for hand-washing and cough customs, wearing of face masks, and boundary and frontier closings and entire lockdown and bodily separation. Although through these actions principally, the wearing of face mask was seen as an augment in the creating and the usage of these masks by the common people, it has not blocked additional occurrences, as results exposed that the quantity of definite cases continually spiked day in day out; therefore, resulting in austere concern for the Presidential Task Force (PTF) and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and various well-meaning Nigerians (Sadati, et al., 2020). The universal lockdown forced on the nation was intended to control extensive blow of the Covid-19 plague. Nevertheless, human beings as projected would for all time want to violate stipulated policy and rules when in the real sense were supposed to be safeguard their being and joint interests.

This situation had made the Director of the PTF on Covid-19, Dr. Sani Aliyu, to affirm that “it’s on behavioral alteration, it's not effortless to restrain people’s autonomy and to get them to do what they are not familiar with” (Aliyu, 2020). Therefore, a joint safety task force (JSTF) was formed by various states of the confederation to guarantee that the people meet the terms of the lock-down orders of both the Federal as well as States administrations and the defaulters to be reprimanded accordingly after facing trials in chosen transportable law court. The JSTF has detailed that the citizens continually ignore the lock-down orders as several goes about their daily businesses, as well as those individuals who are not frontline officials (circumstance for free movement); and most of them not wearing masks. Also, interstate movements continue unrelenting causing a greater spread of the virus. The institution of the courts supposed to try and reprimand violators of the imprisonment commands additionally persisted to witness additional cases of

wrongdoer; even though, consistent with the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Public Affairs, Ajuri Ngelale, in equality to the city inhabitants, there was several stages of fulfillment between them regardless of the elevated pace of diseases (Ngelale, 2020). Safety managers, too, have been mixed up in the eccentricity of some Nigerians to the travel restrictions and inter-state boundary closure. The Radio Nigeria reported information on civic movers and personal persons that had broken interstate travel restrictions as they continued to take travelers across state borders; a situation familiar with all the states. Some travelers, who were interrogated revealed that a number of the security managers at the frontier place collected cash from them and permitted them to carry on with their expedition (Radio Nigeria, 4 o, clock News, May 11, 2020). Also, the sharing of palliatives amongst the citizens mainly the defenseless of better still the economically disadvantaged within the country which was done with the sole aim of easing the burden of the impact of the pandemic during the period of the lock down throughout the country was considered by most elite as nothing but eye service as most palliatives were not evenly distributed and on time too. The reason for this criticism was basically because these palliatives barely got to the recipient who were in dare need of them; also, many of these palliatives were stored away in warehouses by those government officials responsible for the distribution of these palliatives.

News and tape clips on a variety of TV locations illustrated that most individuals obtained a packet of salt, a tuber of yam, and alike such substance in irrelevant traits. Furthermore, some dishonest individuals had sidetracked provisions and additional substance that was supposed to be for the citizens, to a separate location, seemingly for a time being and thereafter, shared among the few of them. The insinuation of those unpleasant acts by a self-centered folks and government executives would be increase pessimism and skepticism about the whole palliative exercise and sincerity of government in artefact the impact of the lock-down by Covid-19 epidemic. Intrinsic in all of these “disappearing acts” is a call to the coronavirus to prolong its needless demolition of lives and reduction of source of revenues of Nigerians of all socio-economic divisions. When people lose their incomes, scarcity results, and in a chainlike method, offense follows. This, according to the Structural Functionalists is referred to as defect in one feature of the public bang on the whole communal scheme or organization. For example, starvation and common need, leads citizens to involve in pointed practices together with illegal acts

that are harmful to the performance of the society these days and in the years to come. On the financial front, a variety of fiscal establishments in the nation had intensified to the challenge of the manufacturing contributions (in cash or equipment operation). Government also had supplied waivers for dealing. For example, it inquired that there be no demurrages on supplies brought in through the ocean ports. However, execution of this actions emerged to have been wedged by technical techniques as people who were theoretic to make the most of the profits had nevertheless yet to see its discharge. Likewise, in keeping with Lai Mohammed, Minister of information and Culture, the artistic firm, as well as artistes, writers, originators, and numerous persons or sets, would incline some form of financial backing as government pledge for their troubles (Mohammed, 2020). This is a praiseworthy step, on the other hand, actualizing it might be challenging. Financial backing by the government to some sectors like education and trade will foster more unity and relationship in the international diplomacy of the nation

Social Effects of Covid-19 on Nigeria Economy

The onset of the coronavirus epidemic in Nigeria has gradually affected the way people live. The concept of following social separation has taken center stage in social life all across the world, and Nigeria is no exception, with a diplomatic dimension in the form of national distancing. This is a circumstance in which Nigeria separates itself from severely infected countries by closing its borders and quarantining anyone who enter the country through them. This is a precautionary strategy performed to protect and reduce the danger of medical complications. Nigeria's social activities have been impacted by the pandemic. Following the Nigerian government's lockdown of key cities such as Lagos, Abuja, and Ogun, many other states, including Rivers, Delta, Edo, and Anambra, have already implemented a stay-at-home rule. As a result, social gatherings, night partying, funerals, weddings, marketplaces, and other religious activities have been restricted by the government. The social consequences of the lockdown and limitations on people's movement are akin to forcing individuals to go hungry and unemployed throughout the lockdown and restrictions. During this time, the land has been suffering from rampant hunger. The lockdown in Nigeria demonstrates that human needs are increasingly being reduced to only food, clothing, and shelter, as they were in the past. Months of being subjected to lockdown policies have left the vast

majority of individuals impoverished. The shortage of basic needs due to the lockdown which is a function of the epidemic has disallowed the poor individuals living their regular patterned lives. The reason for this is that countless Nigerians rely on menial occupations as well as small commerce to make ends meet. A lockdown means that their source of subsistence has been taken away (Oke, 2020 for six months that is from February to mid-July, 2020. The lock down in Nigeria lasted for approximately “In as much as this scenario remains, we will never be free to pronounce that there is restoration of the integrity of every individual” (Mbeki, 2006).

Economic Impact of Covid-19 in Nigeria

Given a sober grasp of the report's fundamental variables, it is evident that Nigeria, as an important player in the global economy, is susceptible, even to mammoth proportions, as a nation with a mono-product economy based on oil and gas. Unfortunately, the economy of Nigeria is also import-reliant for consumables and most daily requirements, from Health and Nutrition down to Agricultural and Industrial tools and apparatus, sports goods, surveillance and technological devices, automobile as well as airplanes and so on. The world-systems theory is associate approach to the world history and social modification that implies there's a world national economy within which some countries edges whereas others are exploited. As a developing country, Nigeria happens to be an example of the centre-periphery relations in the world. All of these requirements are met only through the country's meager export earnings, which account for 80% of overall budgetary revenue and 40% of crude oil and gas exports. To compile and examine the impact of the covid-19 epidemic on Nigeria, one must diligently widen the horizon to grasp every conceivable detail. The Nigerian economy, with an assessed populace in far more than two hundred million currently middle-income, mixed and rising market ranked twenty seventh largest economy within the world and twenty second largest in terms of procurement power parity. Having a nominal gross domestic product of US\$446.54 billion as of 2019, Gross Domestic Product growth of 2.2% in 2019, and a populace of forty-six percent beneath the paucity threshold index, it's easy to see how a virus caused by the Covid-19 would wreak havoc on the entire populace. Though the first International Monetary Fund estimate had projected a worldwide retrieval of 3.5 percent year 2020, 3.6 percent for sub-Saharan Africa and 2.93

percent for Nigeria, the authenticity of the Covid-19 epidemic has crushed all these estimates in the early days of 2020. To be sure, Nigeria's 2020 budget is predicated on a set of criteria, including a crude oil sales benchmark of US\$57/barrel; day-to-day crude oil output of 218 million barrels per day; an exchange rate regime of N305/US\$1; and a projected GDP growth rate of 2.93 percent. The report also forecasts entire income of N8.155 trillion, with Oil and gas revenue of N2.64 trillion, non-oil revenue of N1.81 trillion, and other revenue of N3.7 trillion. On the other hand, projected spending is placed at N10.33 trillion, capital expenditure that includes serious infrastructure and human capital N2.14 trillion, debt service N2.45 trillion and budget deficit put at N2.17 trillion. If one takes into consideration the country's economy, the Nigerian economy has during this period suffered a setback because it has considerably been short down, due to the worldwide low demand of crude products (Marshal, 2020). In the middle of 2020, the price of oil fell below US\$0, which is less than the manufacturing cost. Overall, the fiscal consolidation, crucial human resources and infrastructure projects, incentivizing private sector investments to support government development projects, and boosting government social capital projects and the conditional cash transfer framework objectives for 2020 are all jeopardized. Also, migrant remittances by the World Bank estimations is estimated to fall by 20% globally and exactly by 23.1% in sub-Saharan Africa, the larger portion of which comes to Nigeria owing to its very strong Diaspora presence throughout the globe. In 2019, Nigeria got US\$17.5 diaspora remittance of the Sub-Saharan Africa figures. Marshal (2020) remarked that Price Water House had estimated the Nigeria remittance growth rate to hit around US\$29.8 and US\$34.8 in 2021 and 2023 respectively within the period of years. Currently, economics experts and policy advocates have remarked on the necessity for the Nigerian administration to speedily revert her budgetary appraisals and give a reversed structure for its fiscal plans in year 2020 as well as the medium-term structure (Marshal, 2020).

The Implication of Covid-19 on Industries Dependent on Chinese Imports in Nigeria

The Covid-19 pandemic and consequent shutdown demonstrate how such risks might have uncontrollable repercussions. The effect of the Covid-19 epidemic has had an impact on the world supply chain, and China, as a major supplier of raw materials to Nigerian industrial enterprises, has restricted its production capability. A

lot of Nigerian network operators and businesses are already suffering from a severe lack of intermediate inputs and raw resources (Tadesse, 2020). This has implications for creating jobs and recruitment, as well as the adequacy of product supply for the Nigerian economy and capacity utilization. Over \$100 million in items belonging to Nigerian computer and phone sellers are in China (Adekoya et al., 2020). Since China's important original equipment manufacturers (OEM) had halted manufacturing in 2020, the only thing Nigerian dealers could do was to be cautious with their rapidly diminishing stockpiles (Sun, 2020). Nigeria's supply relationship with China has been severely harmed by the outbreak. It is considered as a barrier to the supply of produced products from China by Nigerians and other African countries, as China is the principal supplier of goods for majority of countries in Africa (Isaac et al., 2020). Suppliers in the Nigerian market are at a significant danger of being affected by the epidemic, which could compel trades all over the world to come to a halt while they search for new suppliers. Inconsistency in trade concerns may be exacerbated by fewer vendors on the market. Goods may be delayed, affecting cross-national ties. For instance, in pre-Covid-19, Apple (Helft, 2011) witnessed enormous demand spikes and pressure on its supply lines, causing several week delays in meeting orders. Businesses that are waiting for products or services are affected by the stoppage, and they lose contact with their clients as a result. The Covid-19 epidemic may put fewer Nigerian suppliers at danger of monetary failure. Suppliers may be compelled to shut down or fail to perform as planned, causing a major setback for their customers. Companies that have fewer suppliers face significant risks, such as a lack of production plant and reserve inventory, because they usually concentrate on operating with less redundancy (Baker et al., 2020). Businesses may be harmed by fewer suppliers if they are challenged with potentially inflated logistic lead times for emergency supplies. Most crucially, they shall result in a negative trade balance.

The Trade Balance between China-Nigeria before and during the Covid-19 and the Implication on the Nigerian Economy

One of the purposes of this research was to look into the significance between the balanced relationship between China and Nigeria. During the past years, there has been a clear reliance on Chinese imports in Nigeria. Nigeria has neglected to diversify its economy in the past, and the consequences are evident during the Covid-

19 epidemic. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Nigeria's economy is vulnerable to the epidemic's monetary and fiscal crises due to its absence of flexibility (Adekoya et al., 2020). The economy of Nigeria is threatened by the absence of diversification and the potential of economic downturn, which is exacerbated by the epidemic. As a result, the examination of the trade connection involving China and Nigeria could have the preceding influence on the Nigerian economy.

Before the period of the Covid-19 pandemic, the economic relationship emphasizes the disparities in cross-benefits between the two nations. Despite the fact that Nigeria imports more from China, it exports less. There are some metrics that are debatable as to why this mismatch exists. Nigeria has evolved into a country that imports more than it exports over time. Even though the administration has established import regulations in the previous years in an effort to prevent over-reliance on imports, others have claimed that this has the potential to exacerbate poverty in Nigeria (Treichel et al., 2012). Nigeria's industrial sector has been damaged for the past twenty years, which justifies the country's dependence on imports from other countries. Furthermore, the international trade trends involving China and Nigeria demonstrate that the latter's economy is flourishing, with an equal growth in exporting to China from 2011 to 2013. This rise was mostly because of an increase in the production of high-demand Chinese items. The subsequent drop necessitates further investigation to determine whether or not there was a significant drop in shipment in 2013. Nigeria, on the other hand, has regularly imported from China during the last decade, and if no urgent modification is made, the dependency on importation will continue. Finally, China's financial return is not compared to what Nigeria sends to China during the period of the pandemic. This imbalance indicates that, instead of increasing GDP, Nigeria has become a spending nation during the Covid-19 pandemic, failing to support key economic sectors. Nevertheless, because the two nations have a trading relationship, Nigeria should take use of the opportunity offered by the trading relationship to begin encouraging the manufacture of goods in high demand in China.

CHAPTER III

Methodology

This section of the research introduces the data collection process as well as the research method that is used throughout the research. It discusses the research design, the study populations, sampling design; it also shows the criteria used in the selection process of the population to be used and the data analysis of the research.

Research Design

The research design is meant to give an acceptable framework for a study. A notable decision in research design techniques is the preference of research approach since it ascertain how important information for a study will be acquired however, the research design process entails many similar decisions (Ruano et al 2016). The aim of a sound research design is to supply outcomes that are well-trying to be cogent. It's also referred to as crucial/pivotal framework for action that acts as a link between research questions and therefore the actualization of the research procedure (Oshagbemi 2017). This research will utilize a qualitative analysis, data collection from the secondary sources as well as applying a cross-sectional study to assess the association between Covid-19 pandemic and international diplomacy in Nigeria. For this purpose, interviews will be used for medium of research in this Thesis. The results obtained from the representative sample will be used to generalize for the entire population.

Study Population

The study population for this research will be students and graduates of Political science or International Relations in Nigeria as it is believed that they should be able to relate with the political system of their jurisdiction (i.e. Key Informant Interview). The study population was selected as a result of their understanding and verbal perception of the study of discourse as they will be able to relate and interact well enough more than those who might not have proper grasp of the topic.

Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria in this research spells out the participants that will be included in the research.

Inclusion Criteria

In order to be qualified to take part in this research, the participants will initially agree to take an interest in the exploration, participants must be graduates or students (in the penultimate or final year) of either Political Sciences or International Relations. For the students that were interviewed.

Exclusion Criteria

Also, people will not be included in the event that they refused to agree to participate in research. Also, the individuals who do not belong to the field of study will be excluded too.

Research Methods

Research method gives records at the cause for undertaking a studies study, how the studies trouble has been modified, in what manner and why the speculation has been articulated, the available data/statistics and what unique approach has been utilized, why a selected technique of statistics evaluation has been used and some of different associated questions are generally mentioned when we talk of studies method regards a research study (Gounder 2012).The research will apply qualitative analysis to evaluate how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected Nigeria's international relations through survey method, where sets of questionnaires are used to collect data. The data will be collected using Key Informant Interview (KII), individuals with unique knowledge of the topic will be recognized. Furthermore, thematic analysis is adopted in this research.

Sampling Design

The research design aims to lay a strong framework for future research. The choice of the research strategy is a significant option in research design approaches since it determines how vital information for a study will be obtained; nonetheless, the research design process contains numerous comparable selections. This study will use a qualitative approach. Simple Random sampling was adopted for this study. Five students and five graduates of either Political Science or International Relations were randomly selected in different geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The sample size was chosen as a result of statistics/data capacity being gotten i.e. no additional information were revealed in the process of the interview.

Data Collection Process

Data will be collected from primary sources. Primary sources will be used. A Key Informant Interview (KII) is a form of In-depth interview (IDI) in which the

individuals to be interviewed are carefully chosen for their direct understanding of the subject of interest.

Data Analysis

The qualitative interview will be transformed into the interview script after the KIIs. After careful reading, the main factors from the interview will be coded. Open coding, axial coding and selective coding will be used, which are all stages in the grounded theory way of analyzing qualitative data. Grounded theory would be used to generate the logical flows of the data and to generate a systemic analysis of codes, concepts, categories and then the theory. Grounded theory (GT) is referred to the research methodology that emphasizes on the event of theory that's 'grounded' in proof that has been gathered and analyzed in a systematized manner. It is utilised to decipher things such as social connections and shared behaviors, that are alluded to as social processes.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework will service as a structure that will support the theory of this work. Multilateral diplomacy theory will be considered in this research. Multilateral diplomacy is characterized by its parliamentary and transparent nature. The parliamentary nature of the process affects how decisions/agreements are obtained, namely through "informal discussions" held outside of official sessions, during lunches, and so on. Another underlying aspect is the voting procedure used by member states. Multilateral diplomacy in international organizations therefore becomes a democratic method of diplomacy.

Multilateral Diplomacy

According to Mahbubani, multilateral diplomacy is described as “the act of enlisting over two countries or entities in the pursuit of diplomatic solutions to transnational problems” (Mahbubani, 2013). This research will use multilateral diplomacy as part of its explanation of how Covid-19 Parties participated in multilateral diplomacy to proffer solutions to a specific issue, promote the interests of those concerned in a particular subject, or accomplish tasks. Note that the problem or problems to be tackled are frequently transnational in nature, emphasizing the significance of a multinational strategy. As a form of diplomacy, multilateral

diplomacy is a fairly new phenomenon. According to Berridge (2005), this type of diplomacy is a 20th century phenomena, but its roots are far older. Consequently, several argue that multilateral diplomacy, as a comparatively recent discipline, has not been thoroughly investigated or conceptualized (Ruggie, 1992). Ruggie (1993) claims, for instance, that multilateralism has been overlooked in international relations concept, not because its operation is little or unimportant, but because “multilateralism is not widely seen as a conceptual classification and is seldom seen as an explanatory concept” (Mahbubani, 2013).

The contemporary foreign affairs system is primarily characterized by a multilateral system, which is made up of diverse groups of distinct parts (Mahbubani, 2013). The legislative character of the process affects how decision making are obtained, namely through "informal discussions" held beyond the official sessions, during picnics, and so on. Another fundamental aspect is the voting procedure used by member states. Multilateral diplomacy in international organizations is also a democratic process of diplomacy as a result of this.

It was furthermore noted that, additionally to the dearth of a transparent agreement on an in depth understanding for Multilateral diplomacy, alternative nomenclature reminiscent of Conference diplomacy, Parliamentary diplomacy and Plurilateral diplomacy are accustomed characterize multilateral diplomacy. Plurilateral diplomacy, multilateral diplomacy, parliamentary diplomacy, and conference diplomacy, according to Kaufmann (1988), are recent terms for multilateral diplomacy. According to Kaufman (1988), the rise of multilateralism has resulted in the formation of new diplomatic perspectives and approaches in the pursuit of shared goals. These can be seen at both non-institutionalized international conferences and established multilateral agencies with more defined structures. Experts would usually employ phrases at their choice because of immaturity of this method of negotiation and the resulting lack of studies on the matter. Even though phrases conference diplomacy and multilateral diplomacy are equivalent, there are slight variations between them. According to Kaufmann (1988), "multilateral diplomacy entails interactions between three or more governments, but it is not always undertaken in the context of a world meeting," as defined by Keohane (1990). Nonetheless, not all conference diplomacy is multilateral diplomacy, and not all multilateral diplomacy is conference diplomacy. There appears to be lack of agreement on a precise meaning of multilateral diplomacy as different scholars gave

different meaning and perspectives on the meaning of multilateral diplomacy. To present their individual version of the subject, most authors focus on one facet of multilateral diplomacy.

According to Keohane (1990), Ruggie (1992) and Van Oudenaren (2003) the perfect meaning on multilateral diplomacy should be a mixture of meanings to show that it is the act of organizing and managing associations and general rules in collections multiple states, through emergency or impromptu preparations or by the process of associations, on the ground of widespread values of conducts, that is, fundamentals that define proper behavior for a class of activity regardless of the affiliations' particularistic interests or the strategic imperatives of the economic sphere, and are encapsulated in the widely recognized duties found in the UN Charter, international treaty provisions, and customary international law. As previously said, multilateral diplomacy is defined as the activity of managing ties and governmental systems in groupings of three or more governments, either through impromptu procedures or through organizations. As a present global phenomenon, multinational organizations inspired the formation of a known worldwide governance structure. Global administration has emerged as a non-hierarchical system of interconnecting global (primarily, but not entirely, governmental) organizations that manage the behavior of states and other international actors in various sectors of global affairs (Rittberger, 2001). These groups were formed in reaction to emerging worldwide demands, utilizing international collaboration to advance international issues such as safety, the environment, the worldwide trade, peacekeeping, progress, and civil rights (Downs, Rocke & Barsoom, 1998). Global bodies aided a trend towards global bodies, rather than only bilateral diplomacy that began in the 19th century. In the practice of conference diplomacy and the formation of international organizations, this technique was solidified (Muldoon et al, 2005). A few essential operations of international bodies are described by Archer (2001). These bodies, he believes, have the ability to serve as a tool of communication and accumulation by acting as venues for meetings and discussions on topics that are essential to the group. Furthermore, through acting as regulatory institutions, international bodies contribute to the formalization of laws and regulations that nations acknowledge and adhere to. International bodies promote socialization and recruiting because membership motivates states to participate in the international system of government, and participation raises an institution's prestige and the proportion of governments

that join to it. Independently loyal states operate within the global community, respecting its ideals. International bodies, especially those with worldwide membership, are good at developing rules. Despite the absence of a central formal regulation organization such as an administration or a legislature in the international order, agreement choices or norms consented upon in treaties or declarations have the capacity to become foreign policy, legislation, or norms. In this way, international bodies also serve as rule enforcers by enforcing and overseeing the observance of specific agreed-upon regulations. Lastly, global bodies are efficient at spreading "information" and carrying out "operational activities" on particular concerns.

Multilateral diplomacy's strengths are functioning as a tool for unity, agreement, trust, and accountability, action in a globally connected world, and, finally, new standard via multilateral discussions. Multilateral diplomacy's flaws include its ability to be used as a tool for multilateral domination by powerful governments and its vulnerability to crises and the political climate (Kingsley, 2009). Covid-19 emphasizes the critical need of addressing the medical, financial, safety, and political components of increasing the endurance of vulnerable and conflict-ridden areas to the Union's east and south in a holistic way. This epidemic with no boundaries is highlighting the fact that involving our neighboring countries is something we should do not just out of kindness, but also out of progressive self-interest. We have the awareness that no area stays in isolation, and only if we help vulnerable countries develop their resiliency, the repercussions of our negligence will resurface in our own borders. Covid-19 is a risk multiplier throughout North Africa, the Middle East, and Sub-Saharan Africa, exacerbating potential threats and crises. This is especially true if and when the epidemic extends to these areas, where healthcare services are severely weakened or have completely crumbled. Covid-19 is a recipe for disaster in Africa's highly crowded cities, which are exacerbated by high levels of poverty. Covid-19 emphasizes the necessity of some other foundation of European foreign policy: multilateralism and a rules-based global order, in addition to the resiliency of our neighboring regions. This epidemic could mark a turning point in a world system that is rapidly departing from its democratic phase and shifting into a future characterized by major power struggle and intellectual rivalry. As the global order's power structure shifts, the concepts, rules, and organizations that underpin it are at danger of collapsing as well. Tackling worldwide epidemics,

like most major defining global concerns of our time, from climate to digital and demographics, necessitates more, not less, multilateralism (FEPS, 2020).

CHAPTER IV

This chapter focuses on the findings in relations to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the international diplomacy of Nigeria. This chapter further provides answers to the research questions stated above.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Introduction

The results reported here are drawn from the study to explore how Covid-19 has affected the international diplomacy in Nigeria and the wider implications for the government. Semi-structured interviews were used to gather data. The concern was to investigate the effect of Covid-19 on the international relationships of Nigeria with other countries. The objectives of this research are used to guide the discussion in this chapter. This is done by presenting systematically, the data and findings on each objective of the research using a thematic approach. Quotes from the participants on each objective is presented, and analyzed with discussions based on the findings. The findings are also discussed in relation to existing literature on the research topic especially those explored in chapter two of this work.

Table 1 contains details about the interviews. In total 10 interviews were conducted. Details of the interviewees are included in Table 1.

Table 1: Socio-demographic information

Participants	Initials	Age	Status	Gender
Interviewee 01	T.O.	23	Student	Male
Interviewee 02	A.B.	25	Graduate	Female
Interviewee 03	M.P.	28	Graduate	Male
Interviewee 04	B.	24	Student	Male
Interviewee 05	A.T	27	Graduate	Male
Interviewee 06	E.O	27	Graduate	Male
Interviewee 07	A.	25	Student	Female
Interviewee 08	E	26	Student	Male
Interviewee 09	O	26	Student	Female
Interviewee 10	O.O.	29	Graduate	Male

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Discussion of findings

Problems that arose during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Nigeria.

The epidemic had a detrimental impact on trade because of its limits on travel. This was caused less by partial or complete border closures and more by manufacturing problems when facilities were shut down, and also the breakdown of air transport, which made transportation extremely expensive (World Bank, 2020). According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global economy will experience its worst financial meltdown significantly worse than the international economic meltdown of 2008-2009. As a consequence, global commerce in goods shrank significantly to varied degrees (OECD, 2020). Interviewees were asked about problems that ensued during Covid-19. Most of the interviewees stated on the huge challenges faced during the pandemic. T.O (Interviewee 01) pointed out the anomalies faced by trade and economy in Nigeria due to Covid-19 and its effect on international relations of countries:

Due to Covid-19 and also unfavorable policies from the hand of government/central bank the value of the dollar to naira has skyrocketed and we can see the huge difference and countries that import into the country are being skeptical. No one wants to take that risk at the same those doing that risk are doing it with so much pain and this has brought about a drop in the value or quantity of their import per annum. Another situation is that this Covid-19 has affected businesses that also export. In the sense that Nigerian companies that export things like cocoa, coal, rubber to foreign countries due to the restrictions in other countries have made their quantity and value of export drop. At the same time, it is as a result of the fact that those countries have placed restrictions on raw materials or their working hours and companies in those countries that request for goods in Nigeria are either on break or they work on shifts or some are even yet to open and some have even gone bankrupt.

Supporting these views, a female Graduate (A.B) stated that Covid-19 has tampered with the Nigeria trade leading to inflation. This refers to the increase in costs occurring in numerous industrial sectors of Nigeria, it created a consciousness among financial media, academics, and bankers relating to the challenges of assessing inflation throughout the pandemic

“Inflations of price was among the major problem that arose because the production was extremely low in the world and the cash flow, importations and exportations were affected.”

Insights from literature stated that the worldwide impact of the Covid-19 pandemic remains to be catastrophic, creating panic amongst various sectors of the general populace and real disenchantments, amongst the youths, signifying societies' vulnerability during trying times (Sadati, Lankarani & Lankarani, 2020). A lot of commodities could not be afforded by a lot of citizens, and Nigerian political system is not that good and compare to other countries could not withstand some blow from the pandemic which made some people suffer severely and commits crime which allows other countries refrain from them. In support of this, Interviewee 05 with the initials A.T. said that:

“Covid-19 really affected those in the travel sector in Nigeria that is those that their business is based on travels. For example, I have an elder brother that is into Hajj and Umurah services. He had to close down during the Covid-19 and he just reopened not quite long. That aside, naira started losing its value during the Covid-19 and that devaluation has gone off the roof”

Literature revealed that countless Nigerians rely on their daily wages. It is dangerous to ask them to stay indoors for months. In showing how their annoyance and dissatisfaction with the stay-at-home commands are implemented, many of Nigerian citizens wept, screamed, and pleaded to be allowed to return to their enterprises, noting that “starvation murders much more than corona virus”. In other words, people were not allowed to go out and provide for themselves, and the government provided no assistance (NCDC, 2020). Most of these individuals were soon forced to provide for themselves on the streets, either by performing their trades or by engaging in criminal activity. This applies to regular citizens or the destitute. In line with this, a male interviewee with the initial B. stated how the pandemic has had colossal effect on the masses and increased crime. A weaken political system will automatically produce a weakened international relation between the affect country and other countries

“It affected the system in many ways, it came to us so suddenly. Who are the people who survived? Those who have money, those who have provisions, foodstuffs in their houses. We should remember that some people depend solely on their daily income before getting something on the table. These people can continue starving,

some started breaking houses, steal at will and they will justify it on the restrictions of activities. We all know this peace and security are the major things in the political system. Nigeria's political system isn't that good to be able to withstand the sudden pandemic and this weakens the system badly".

In addition to this, to implement the lockdown orders, armed forces were dispatched to various areas of the country. They quickly collide with Nigerians who disregarded government orders and those who wander out of their houses in search of sustenance. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) notified BBC News on April 16th, 2020, that the shutdown officers had murdered many Nigerians than the virus itself. This coincides with the views of a male interviewee with the initials E:

"People were breaking stores and supermarkets in the name of Covid-19 relief materials that government hides instead of distributing it to people like my state Plateau state, they were truly inware houses people packed out things and people broke it down in the name of Covid-19 relief materials that Government hide in the people perception, the pandemic has made the properties of people not to be secured and as a result of that lives were lost due to military preventing that so it has affected the security of the country and it even brings distrust between citizens and the government and lack of peace would come into place".

Covid-19 pandemic posed a lot of challenges and backdrops in Nigeria. The epidemic had a detrimental impact on trade and in many other key sectors in the country causing inflation and financial meltdown in agreement with World Bank (2020); OECD (2020). The pandemic has unbearable effect on the masses and increased crime especially those who survive on daily wages as opined by NCDC (2020). However, the armed forces, in the bid of implementing lockdown orders end up killing innocent citizens which affected the security of the country.

Tools of international diplomacy.

The tools of international diplomacy are the different measures of international relations. This Pandemic emphasizes the necessity for the United Nations to have an integrated and international approach. The International Crisis Group (ICG) notes in one of their latest report on the effects of the crisis on conflict zones that "the epidemic aggravates the shortcomings of failed or unstable nations." Peacekeeping, benevolence, and peace-enforcing activities, as well as diplomacy, have already been

hampered, with disastrous consequences for innocent individuals (International Crisis Group, 2020). Covid-19 has demonstrated to the world that, while international collaboration on global health, particularly in the case of epidemics, is critical for apparent operational reasons. The global system is insufficient not because there are too many standards, regulations, orders, and organizations; rather, there are too limited and inadequate ones. The burden is now on international forums and organizations to demonstrate their worth, not just in limiting and eventually eradicating the virus and maintaining the world economy, but also in gaining good long-term experiences from this pandemic, starting with the pursuit of long-lasting advancement (FEPS, 2020). This affirms the claims from a male interviewee with the initials B. that political, military, and economic tools as ways to interact with other countries to solve issues related to trade, healthcare, foreign policies, etc.

“The tools of international relations are political, military, and economic tools. I think the political tool is diplomacy which is the way a country interacts with other countries. For instance, Nigeria needs to interact with other countries to solve issues related to trade, healthcare, foreign policies, etc.”

Echoing these views, T.O. noted this: *Culture, propaganda, military, business, and trade policy.*

Based on research findings, global medical care was essentially a national affair until Covid-19. The leading multilateral organizations announced numerous worldwide funding in reaction to the coronavirus Pandemic. To assist susceptible nations in their reactions, the UN created a USD 10.31 billion inter-agency Global Humanitarian Response Plan, of which USD 2.35 billion was met by late August (OCHA Services, 2020). Likewise, the World Health Organization (WHO) established a sympathy funding to help organize the international response. World leaders emphasized the importance of international collaboration at the state level as well. In February, G7 health ministers committed to manage traveling rules and measures, as well as viral study and collaboration with the WHO, the EU, and China; and in April, G20 leaders promised to speed up teamwork on a vaccine, as well as studies, therapy, and medicines (Reuters, 2020; Guardian, 2020). In line with these findings, a male interviewee with initials B. stated further affirm that the Covid-19 Equipment Accelerator was released in April by the WHO, France, the European Commission, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with the goal of providing a

further prompt and functional intervention at the international scale (World Health Organisation, 2020).

“We had issue of diplomacy, treaty that are been signed, conferences and other things that are been use as a platform to interacts then. During the pandemic, this platform was used for economic aids, foreign medical aids, Covid-19 funds, building ICU, vaccines which the WHO, UN, ECOWAS, Africa Union contributed into. The share of information was another tools been used among all countries which helps to reduce the pandemic effects.” (Interviewee 08, Personal Communication, Sept, 2021)

Digital diplomacy has also been viewed as a tool of international diplomacy. A modern communication tone, combined with the increased use of the internet had managed to create a diplomatic surrounding that made an appearance of information exchange, sharing of ideas, and the advancement of effective solutions between many states. It was revealed that conferences with non-EU countries such as India and China were also postponed to be held through videoconference. In August, a month when no conferences are normally held, Council President Michel convened an urgent meeting after unrest occurred in Belarus, a move made feasible only by the emerging practice of online diplomacy. Conferences between European and American foreign ministers were also held (Politico, 2020). In reality, the EU was not the only one to employ digital technology to function during the Pandemic: The G20 met through videoconference in late March, and the UN Security Council began sessions by videoconference, but with some essential weeks' wait (Politico, 2020). Starting in beginning of April, all NATO conferences, from work teams to the North Atlantic Council, were transferred to visual format (NATO, 2020). Another interviewee pointed out the use of virtual platform as a tool for international relations.

“Some tools were transformed, conferences which were put on hold were held on zoom, global summits when the online platform came into pictures. Virtual platforms were largely embraced.” (Interviewee 10, Personal Communication, Sept, 2021)

All of the interviewees stated the different tools and measures of international diplomacy. This includes political, military, economic tools and, digital diplomacy to solve issues related to trade, healthcare, foreign policies in agreement with Politico (2020); (2019); FEPS (2020) and WHO (2020).

Impact of Covid-19 on International diplomacy in Nigeria

Interviewees were asked the impact of the pandemic on international diplomacy in Nigeria. Most of the interviewees affirmed that Covid-19 has collapsed the economy in line with the fact that Nigeria being an important player in the global economy, is susceptible to mammoth proportions, as a nation with a mono-product economy based on oil and gas. Though the first IMF estimate had projected a worldwide retrieval of 3.5% in year 2020, 3.6% for sub-Saharan Africa and 2.93% for Nigeria, the authenticity of the Covid-19 Pandemic has within early 2020, crushed all these estimates. If one takes into consideration the country's economy, notably in the deltaic region of Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta, Edo, Akwa Ibom, and Cross River States, which was shut down, after which the surplus in the international oil market, which has left numerous shipment boats stuck on rising waters caused by a lack of energy needs due to the worldwide shutdown, it becomes easy to envisage our journey's end (Marshal, 2020). An interviewee with the initials B. clearly explained the pre and post Covid era and its impact on the economy of Nigeria:

“Before Covid-19, the Nigeria economy was expected to grow by 2.1% in 2020. The collapse in oil prices coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic is expected to lead to severe economic recession, the worst since the 1980s, according to the World Bank. Nigeria’s economy could contract as much percent in 2020. With more than 60% of the population living in poverty, the recession affected large number of households vulnerable to unemployment and food insecurity.” (Interviewee 04, Personal Communication, Sept, 2021)

The price of oil has fallen below US\$0, which is less than the manufacturing cost (Marshal, 2020). Overall, the fiscal consolidation, crucial human resources and infrastructure projects, giving incentives to the private sector investments to assist in governmental developmental schemes, and boosting government’s social capital projects and the provisional cash transfers framework objectives for 2020 are all jeopardized. Also, O.O.F. revealed the drop in oil exportation causing a fall:

“The bad side is basically the economic contraction. There was drop in the exportation of oil which is a major source of revenue for Nigeria. Since most countries abided with the stay at home order, there was decrease in the consumption of petrol thereby causing Nigeria to have some fall financially.” (Interviewee 10, Personal Communication, Sept, 2021)

In concordance with these views, the interviewee noted that:

“It was a heavy blow for Nigeria economy, also in the wake of the pandemic; the World Bank forecast a decline of -3.2% for 2020 from Nigerian GDP growth” (Interviewee 10, Personal Communication, Sept, 2021)

The concept of following social separation has taken center stage in social life all across the world, and Nigeria is no exception, with a diplomatic dimension in the form of national distancing. This is a circumstance in which Nigeria separates itself from severely infected countries by closing its borders and quarantining anyone who enter the country through them. Suppliers in the Nigerian market are at a significant danger of being affected by the Pandemic, which could compel trades all over the world to come to a halt while they search for new suppliers. Inconsistency in trade concerns may be exacerbated by fewer vendors on the market. Goods may be delayed, affecting cross-national ties. For instance, in normal times, Apple (Helft, 2011) witnessed enormous demand spikes and pressure on its supply lines, causing several week delays in meeting orders. Businesses that are waiting for products or services are affected by the stoppage, and they lose contact with their clients as a result. In agreement with these findings, M.P. noted that:

“Globalization was at peak as at 2019, the world was internationally connected and to a large extent the relationship between Nigeria and the rest of the world was so strong so when Covid-19 came in, so when it came Government embarked on some restrictions on imported goods like rice and everyone resulted into other means like planting so one of those ways is that Government policy on some of those goods changed, so it more or less like laying an embargo on some goods. The second effects were the lock down of businesses, industries, restrictions of movement affected the major sect which was the agricultural sector and agricultural input was not available due to the restrictions so it affected the export of agricultural produce and it reduced drastically during Covid-19. Another aspect is shipment of goods and services, many goods got stocked and couldn't get into the country.” ((Interviewee 03, Personal Communication, Sept, 2021)

Also, the interviewee with the initials A. noted that:

“The negative impact was very much especially on economy. There was economy melt down, even till now the country hasn't get back on track. The effects as spread like a burning grass whereby the poor, middle, and the rich are all affected.” (Interviewee 07, Personal Communication, Sept, 2021)

Covid-19 has brought bad consequence on international diplomacy in Nigeria basically the economic contraction. There was drop in the exportation of oil which is a major source of revenue for Nigeria leading to a fall in the GDP in line with the findings of Marshal (2020). Borders closure, movement restrictions and quarantine has caused great loss to businesses which could compel trades all over the world to come to a halt while they search for new suppliers as affirmed by Helft (2011).

CHAPTER V

Conclusion and Recommendations

It is germane to opine here that Nigeria's prevailing state of affairs may be a case of associate degree infectious pandemic preponderant existing revenant and

current epidemics, particularly of cholera, haemorrhagic fever and yellow fever; these put together kill thousands of individuals yearly. This is often after all outside malaria-related deaths. Protozoal fever is a scourge disease that kills tens of thousands of Nigerians (especially youngsters) yearly. Nigeria accounts for up to 5% of the world cases of malaria and up to 110,000 deaths yearly especially among children beneath five (WHO, 2015). Though malaria is a preventable and doubtless deleterious disease, the self-satisfaction of the capitalist order in protective the interest of international drug companies, over and higher than that of the populace, has seen the persistence of the unwellness in Nigeria and a few alternative components of the world.

Thus, this research aimed at investigating the negative impacts of Covid-19 in the international diplomacy in Nigeria by observing the variations in Nigeria government's relationship with other nations before and now that nations are now learning to cope and live with the Covid-19 pandemic. The research also aims at examining the tools of international diplomacy, issues arising due to Covid-19 pandemic and finally, the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the international diplomacy in Nigeria. Cogitating upon the objectives of this research, the research has been able to meet its stated objectives by generating primary data and furnishing the readers with significant understandings on the issues that emerged through Covid-19, tools of international diplomacy, and the impacts of Covid-19 on international diplomacy in Nigeria. This study has shown that Covid-19 has a great consequence on diplomacy. The machinery of international diplomacy came to a standstill. Covid-19 has demonstrated to the world that, while international collaboration on global health, particularly in the case of epidemics, is critical for apparent operational reasons.

Drawing from the study on problems that arose during Covid-19, it has been observed that the pandemic had a detrimental impact on trade and in many other key sectors in the country causing inflation and recession; prior to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic that took the world by surprise and brought the economy of many countries particularly the developing countries to their knees, the government of Nigeria was known to have already been struggling with a weak recovery from the 2014 oil price shock, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth slowing to around 2.3% in 2019. Hence, the outbreak of Covid-19 in the early part of 2020, brought about a further damage to the already crippling Nigerian economy.

Furthermore, the Pandemic had a detrimental impact on trade and in many other key sectors in the country causing inflation and financial meltdown in agreement. The restrictions have unbearable effect on the masses and increased crime increasing abject poverty. The armed forces in the bid of implementing lockdown orders end up assaulting Nigerians.

From the findings, it can be concluded that political, military, economic tools and, digital diplomacy are measures of international diplomacy. This pandemic emphasized the necessity for the nations of the world to have an integrated and international approach. Also, leading multilateral organizations announced numerous worldwide funding in reaction to the coronavirus Pandemic. Nonetheless, prior to the Pandemic, ICTs were one of the primary tools for doing diplomatic work though underutilized, and at the time of the Pandemic, they have nearly been the main mode of communicating. The use of video conferencing to conduct diplomatic activities at different levels has become widespread.

Furthermore, examining the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic on the international diplomacy in Nigeria, issues that emerge due to the Covid-19 pandemic and tools of international diplomacy revealed that Covid-19 has brought bad consequence on international diplomacy in Nigeria basically the economic contraction. The collapse in oil prices coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic has led to severe economic recession. Borders closure, movement restrictions and quarantine has caused significant danger to businesses which compelled trades all over the world to come to a halt.

Also, it was observed from this research that, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the lives and mental health of the Nigerian citizens, exposed the weaknesses and the deplorable state of the Nigerian health sector; this was particular so because of the inabilities of the various medical facilities to accommodate and cater for effected perons due to the lack of adequate clinical equipment. In addition to this, dit is also noteworthy to state here that, the outbreak of the pandemic also revealed the inadequacies and callousness of the Nigerian leaders in the area of equipping its government hospitals as most government officials diverted funds meant for equipping its hospitals and also diverted the palliatives that was meant to ease the burden of the lock down on its citizens.

It's not helpful to conceive about Covid-19 as an unusual occurrence that was neither expected nor likely and occurred seemingly out of nowhere (Heskett, 20s20). This fact alone poses a major obstacle to attempts to contain the pandemic. Regular hand washing under running water requires that people have access to clean, running water from pipes. Around 69 million Nigerians do not have access to clean water (UNICEF). This lack of access to water inevitably leads to waterborne diseases such as cholera, which continue to break out as regular epidemics in Nigeria. Social distancing and self-isolation require people to have enough space to practice this. In a city like Lagos, where we have more than 100 slums, you can find about 80 people sharing a 10-room building with only two toilets and a shared bathroom with no purified or tap water. readily available.

Returning to the notion that the capacity to communicate across long distances through technology will spell the end of diplomacy. Video conferencing may be a beneficial tool when the discussion builds on already established connections. However, face-to-face meetings are still necessary for establishing relationships internationally (Katharina, 2020). International forums and organizations must demonstrate their importance not only in restricting and finally eliminating the virus and preserving the global economy, but also in deriving excellent long-term lessons from this epidemic, beginning with the pursuit of long-term progress. The expansion of bilateral and multilateral medical collaboration across nations is critical. Multilateral diplomacy promotes unity, agreement, trust, and accountability, as well as action in a globally linked society and, lastly, the establishment of new standards through multilateral debates.

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Appendices

Appendix A **Turnitin Similarity Report**

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY IN NIGERIA (31.08.2022)

ORIGINALITY REPORT

14%	12%	4%	4%
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Appendix B
Ethics Committee Approval



BİLİMSEL ARAŞTIRMALAR ETİK KURULU

28.01.2022

Dear Oluwatobiloba Oluwadamilola Babatunde

Your application titled “**Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on International Diplomacy in Nigeria**” with the application number NEU/SS/2022/1201 has been evaluated by the Scientific Research Ethics Committee and granted approval. You can start your research on the condition that you will abide by the information provided in your application form.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Direnç Kanol

Rapporteur of the Scientific Research Ethics Committee

Note: If you need to provide an official letter to an institution with the signature of the Head of NEU Scientific Research Ethics Committee, please apply to the secretariat of the ethics committee by showing this document.

Appendix C

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY IN NIGERIA

Participant Information Sheet and Informed Consent Form

Dear Participant,

This scale is part of a research study that we are carrying out in order to understand if Covid-19 has any effect on the International diplomacy in Nigeria. The data collected through this scale will be used to examine the problems that arose during the Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria, discover the different tools of international diplomacy and determine the impact of Covid-19 on International diplomacy in Nigeria. By filling in the following scale, you agree to participate in this study.

Please note that your participation in the study is voluntary and your identity will not be revealed in any case of third parties. The data collected during the course of this study will be used for academic research purposes only and may quit participating in this study at any time

Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary with no monetary rewards. If you choose not to participate, your data will be deleted from our database and will not be included in any further steps in the study. In case you have any questions or concerns, please contact us using the information below.

Name

Phone Number

Email address

Appendix D

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Effect of Covid-19 on the International Diplomacy in Nigeria

Socio-Demographic Information

- Age
- Gender
- Religion
- Occupation

1. Explain briefly international relations before and during the Covid-19
2. How did Covid-19 pandemic affect the peace and security in Nigeria's political system?
3. What are the other problems faced by international relations in Nigeria that arose as a result of Covid-19?
4. Tools of international relationships are the various measure of international relations. In your own opinion, what are the tools of international diplomacy?
5. What are the effects of Covid-19 on the aforementioned tools?
6. What are the different ways Covid-19 affects international business/trade in Nigeria?
7. How can international relations in Nigeria be improved?