

## Philosophy and its Application in a Global Turbulent Era



DR. ADELEYE, Joseph Olusola<sup>1</sup>, MR. BAMIKOLE Kehinde Oluwaseun<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere Ekiti, Nigeria

**ABSTRACT:** Philosophical reflection is needed to be focused on in times where there is a sense of instability and change which could also lead to revolution from the ills of society among most nations. For example, African leaders are mostly concerned with filling their pockets despite the fact that they took an oath to office during their invitation into political seats of power by the masses. Coupled with this, is the psychological turbulence that is fundamentally visible among the masses who but cannot be swayed by the wave of change. In spite the fact that most emerging economies can still be located in the African space, the wave of globalization has had its effects on many spheres of life. The importance of philosophy is to promote peace, and harmony in all areas of life, be it socio-political or economic sphere Philosophers like Plato in VII of his republic has started that unless kings become philosopher kings, then there would not be one single iota of wisdom which is going to be applied for more stability in nation states towards development, and nation building that ensure a smooth transition from one government to another irrespective of turbulence. Based on this, the paper being a qualitative research examines philosophy and its application to global turbulence era.

**KEYWORDS:** Globalisation, Philosophy, Turbulence, Reflection, Era, Philosophers

### INTRODUCTION

Global turbulence is an issue which many countries of the world is dealing today, given the interrelatedness and interaction within cultures and sub cultures. Against this background, philosophy as a discipline has a powerful role to play as a mediator to bridge many of the major backdrop of globalism. Philosophy employs critical and logical framework to understand the connection of turbulence with globalization. Many changes which is happening today has a double effect on political, economic, and cultural, social realities.

First. One of the many political turbulence, is the division among persons either by the party they belong to or the organization which wants to rule over another, this can happen in democratic, capitalist, or oligarchy state of governance. Second, the economic side of this issue is the prevalent economic crisis which had occurred as a result of the Covid-19 era(pre and post) which had crippled so many economies; the other, is the invasion of Ukraine by Russia which led so many countries economy in tartars. Third, one of the cultural and social realities is the erosion of moral values in the society as a result of interactions among people of the world which cannot be stopped because of the effects of globalization. For instance, technology has made so many countries of the world to be so close knitted, whereby there is no need for persons to travel frequently over period of time, and not only this, the social media space has contributed its own share to the turbulence which is occurring today in many countries.

Against this background, Philosophy which is described in its etymological keyword “Philo which translates as ‘Love’, and Sophia ‘wisdom through its many branches; Logic, Ethics, Epistemology, and metaphysics is more applicable for recognisance to change the tide of turbulences. Logic which deals with reasoning and argumentation has an enhancing effect since it can break down the sides of this issue to its different part for more clarity; Ethics as a study of moral values is suitable since it uses moral relativism and absolutism as a theory to delve into the reasons why human beings can be described as a social animal that cannot do without change, Epistemology as theory of knowledge tries to ask us important questions about the issue of turbulence: (i) How do we know about global turbulence, (ii)why do we think that there is knowledge of global turbulence in an abstract space. Metaphysics is the study of things which is beyond the physical space which we as human beings solely interact with on a day to day basis, but what is surprising is the ignorance of the spiritual aspect of human beings which can help quell any of the instability that societies are grappling with.

This paper focus will be divided into three sections: the first section will focus on the contextual definitions of key terms which is important for the understanding of the issue at hand: (i) the meaning of philosophy, (ii) the meaning of globalization, (iii) the meaning of turbulence. The second section explores the effects of a globalism during turbulent period in the world as a result of cultural erosion of moral values. The third section will focuses on how different branches of philosophy could be used to quell these turbulent changes: An exploration of how the thematic issues in the branches of philosophy like epistemology, logic, metaphysics, ethics etc. are deemed to be strategic for a more balanced consideration of the effect of globalization which today can be considered

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immovable and unstopable due to a movement from capitalism to socialism and from democracy to a Humanistic centred philosophical ideology that is free from rugged politics.

### MEANING OF PHILOSOPHY

Russ (2015, 150) argued that Philosophy in its etymological meaning is classified as two Greek word 'philo' (love) and *Sophia* ('wisdom'), the two meeting point of these two terms is then coined as a love of wisdom, but here when one is talking about love, it is considered important to note, what kind of love we are pointing attention to: this is because we have so many forms of love; (i) agape, (ii) erotic, (iii) friendly, (iii) sisterly, and (iv) human love, which you have for your fellow human beings (humanity) itself. The type of wisdom that we have can also be classified into many parts that may be positive or negative in relation to the character of the individual who possess it. For instance, King Solomon as we know from the Bible was considered wise, in that he applied such wisdom for the benefit of his kingdom which flourished during his time; but we also have, King Herod in the bible who used his own wisdom for destructive purposes.

However, In its academic meaning, the meaning of philosophy can be classified as the different branches of philosophy as a discipline: (a) *Ethics*, (b) *Logic*, (c) *epistemology*, (d) *Metaphysics*, (e) *Aesthetics*; these branches do not come in any order but what is important is that we understand the role which each branches plays in philosophy, because all other disciplines that we know is built upon them.

First, Alasdair (2007, 200) notes that *Ethics* as a branch of philosophy can be defined as the branch of philosophy which focuses on morality, and its application to understanding moral concepts such as: good, bad, right or wrong, the universal or the absolute. Copi and Cohen (1998, 121) observed that *Logic* as a branch of philosophy can be examined as an area that deals with reasoning and arguments; reasoning is the chain of thought which is organisable in a logical manner, and an argument can be defined as a sets of proposition that can be true or false based on what it expresses.

Bewaji (2007) has stated that *Epistemology* can be defined as the theory of knowledge- it deals with what is knowing, How we can know, what we can know, why do we know, and the types, nature and fundamentally, the limits of knowledge. More so, he argues that *Metaphysics* as a branch of philosophy is coined from two Greek words 'meta', and 'physika' - which is then defined as the theory of existence that studies the ultimate nature of things in the world, which is both the seen, and the unseen realm of the world. Whereas he also states, that *Aesthetics* as a branch of philosophy is solely focused on beauty and value, and how these two terminologies is applicable to many issues in our society that enhancing the understanding of human beings, and the issues that they adhere to in connection to cultural dispositions, and appreciation of the arts, value.

### MEANING OF GLOBALIZATION

Huntington (1996, 240) has found that the keyword 'Globalization' is one of the most complex terminology to examine mainly because of its disciplinary meanings in the natural sciences, and social sciences. The word here, that is mostly important is global, which is coined from the word 'globe' which denotes as the world, humanity, universe, which deems that we are generalizing everybody irrespective of the cultural differences that is said to exist among them; this is referred to as unification among differences and variety that cuts across borders, continents, technology.

In contrast, Tandon (1988) retorts that the different contextual meaning directs his attentions to its different dimension in Politics, economics, education, religion etc. In these dimensions, this can be described as the formation of a cabinet member which forms different nations, but which is joint together to discuss issues which fundamentally affects them: e.g. the United Nations, African Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, World Bank, United Nation Children Emergency Fund etc., which is quite helpful during times of crisis and turmoil in the world.

One can say, in Politics there is still disagreement among the nations who joins with Bi-Lateral agreements, and this shows how human beings are too complex to form harmonious relationships, although such interactions can be quelled by understanding. Secondly, in economics, it is discovered that there have been recent events in the past that have showed that as human beings we either come together or perish as human beings if we cannot pull enough resources together to meet up with economic recession, and recently the impact of Covid-19 which devastated the world, which effects is evident in all nations of the world, because we all now live in a global space that is interconnected no matter how strong each economy is.

Third, Education is where most individuals are believed to be able to gain practical skills that can be applied to solve many problems which occurs the world. Fourthly, the most important dimension is religion whose there is more evidence of Globalization than other areas. In this context, we are not talking about world religion, but as a fundamental way of life in which different persons from their cultural background commune together with the divine in most cases; the paradox here is that the same said religion is evidently responsible for so many turbulence that affect both animate and inanimate life: this is seen in terms of terrorism, ethnic clashes, protests, war etc.

In sum, the impact which it presents however is both positive and negative. The positive side is that globalization enables the academician to be an international recognisable and well-rounded individual who not only contribute to the financial capital of the world, instead he or she plays a building role for society. The negative side is the recurrent issue of dependency between countries.

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### MEANING OF TURBULENCE

Ansell, (2017, 200) observed that turbulence in itself denotes a form of chaos and instability in a series of events which cannot be controlled or coveted by any external factors outside the realm of existence. Scientifically, turbulence can be used to trace the power and velocity measured in either mass or weight when released by an apparatus. Rosenau (1990) similarly argued that a social scientist viewed this equally in that there is instability, one which can only be linked to external events that is human related. In their own view, the human aspect of this issue, should be mediated upon since that can be the only observed variable that can be said to contribute to a turbulent era in a turbulent period in the world. The impact of Covid-19 which remains the most devastating virus that leads to some many instabilities, and devastation for so many nations of the world has shown that we human beings should not be blamed for many of the economic, social, political and educational instability that deals with the human experience about the nature of things that exist out there in the world regardless of law or the existing paradigms which holds the world together. From this analysis, the meaning of turbulent suggests the opposite of flux towards chaos where it cannot be controlled like a ship which is being swayed by a wave or rogue. For something to be turbulent suggests different things in different contexts. In sum, philosophically, one can say that turbulence suggests that the external world out there is not as stable as we know it off, and one must be able to use his or her inner wisdom and mind in adapting to change as much as possible.

Despite this, philosophy has a hermeneutic role that will promote peace, harmony and progress that is multifaceted. For instance, such roles is one of the basic principles of Philosophy that is often a critical appraisal of issues in society that needs to be look at from a phenomenological perspective in as much it examines the lived in experiences of human beings. The rationality behind this discipline is not only for monetary value, in the sense that without it, one cannot be a well-rounded individual in the society. Many of politicians in the world do embark on political philosophy as an area of specialisation since they know that the philosophies like that of Niccolo Machiavelli and others after him, can be applicable to social change, and one which can be used to trace the past, and navigate the future without so much difficulty than other politicians.

Philosophy is needed in a world that is becoming more globalized as there is a universalization of cultural values which tends to have a double effect on all aspects of life; economic, social, political, spiritual. It can then be said that as human beings we live in a turbulent period where there is no stability. The philosophical tools which are available are many here: wisdom, critical thinking, knowledge, and tolerance are the sharpening tools that can help human beings to come together irrespective of the changes that is encountered in the world; these changes does not in fact connote a pessimistic global view of the world, but one which can lead to adaption of human beings to social turbulence, and their awareness that globalism is inevitable as well.

### The Effects of Globalism in a Turbulent Era

The issue which this section address is the possibility of using philosophy as a bridge to not only cast reflection on turbulence but as one of the paradigm to globalization in various context that it envisages. It tries to bring into focus the importance of philosophy as a discipline in the Humanities as one of the tools that can render assistance to upstream political theories which have not be deconstructed from bourgeoisie and capitalist ideologies whose own focus is maximisation of profits, and the uses of human beings as commodities rather than building a society that will promote builders of society which Plato in his *Republic* referred to as “Philosophers Kings”.

Turbulence viewed from different dimension often suggests that all the effects which Globalization has on different nation's state are many. The view suggested here is that philosophy plays a suitable role in showing the positive impact on nation building, and that there is interdependence among individuals from different places in the world its negative often exposes one to cultural erosion of moral values and for instance, westernization of African culture where most citizens that travel out of their continent are not able to maintain their personal identity.

Against this background, for something to be turbulent often denotes instability, a halt in progressive development that is related to human and non human entities. Most political philosophers like Thomas Hobbes, Leo Stratus and others explained that comes a time when there is a underdevelopment not because of poor leadership from each nation states, but that there needs to be a revolution for things to change. Not only this, Philosophy and culture are often related to the social issues of turbulence. Philosophy is often not valued enough by most other disciplines, due to the fact that their subject matter are different. What is surprising, is that without cultural development would not be level headed turbulent change, since it is through moral development of each individual that the state itself is strong. This is why philosophers like Aristotle and Plato often do not want young children to be exposed to the ills of a modern society. For example, Society which has become Technology- ICT obsession and ignorance of moral development that will ensure that there is a stronger nation building. Culture as defined by is a way of life and doing things, like a skill that has been practiced over time and has become part of man's natural activity. The question that is needed to be asked is what role does philosophy play in quelling the dichotomous effect of globalism and it's after effects of turbulence and change of the tide today?

An answer to this question is that philosophy is like a building block of wisdom and knowledge for all persons from different walks of life. For somebody to claim to have wisdom and knowledge, he or she must have been able to develop each character in line with constructive feedback that will aid human development. Philosophy as a field of study is both an abstractions of ideology that most

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political leaders have used in their administrative duties. Globalization has shown that we as human beings can walk together despite the moral divergences for each individual wanton desires or how elusive we are into reaching a state of utopian bliss can happen. In summary, the recommendation is that a philosophy of education that can help change the mind of the mass so that they could be psychological stronger against the manipulation of politicians who want to only to enrich their pockets in office without much impact on nation building and builders is needed. The strategy is to make sure that philosophy is introduced to the young at an early stage, so that they could be influencers of change in their different nations, and this is what philosophers like Plato tried to do, and Aristotle in his school of Lyceum during his era. Each individual has his or her philosophy, and it is how one uses such wisdom for change that can envisage that through the states of turbulence, we can change things from a personal view.

### The Branches of Philosophy Application to Global Turbulence

The branches of philosophy like ethics, logic, epistemology, aesthetics and metaphysics subject matter is in connection to the several issues, and each plays its different role in philosophical methodologies. Hospers (1997, 290) states that these methodologies are many: (i) Philosophical Analysis, (ii) Oral Methodology, (iii) Philosophical comparison. In his view, philosophical analysis involves the breakdown of complex terms into simpler terms, for a more direct understanding; a case in example, is Democracy (its meaning, types, and nature); Oral methodology is the use of utterance without much writing in philosophical discussions about problems that are paradoxical in nature (like the belief in God's existence, and freedom); Philosophical comparison, is a comparison of the different traditions in philosophy (Western versus African, Indian versus Caribbean) etc.

Against this background, from a starting point of ethics, its subject matter of focus is in connection with moral values and the etiquette of all human beings, shows the disparity of philosophical rights of each individual despite the instinctive appeal of each countries constitutional rights. Logic is mostly concerned with organisation and logical thinking that is constructive and progressive arrangement of thoughts that are disorganized into a more précised content that can help in original thought that can help revolutionised ideologies.

Epistemology as a theory of knowledge focus on the knowing individual who is able to transverse political, social and economic space with his or her historical sociology of knowledge that is more connected with local knowledge, especially ecological thought. Metaphysics is more concerned with the theory of being qua being (that is theory of existence), and issues like Freedom, determinism and issues which deals with the enquiry of the metaphysical status of our individual belief systems as humans. Aesthetics concern with beauty, also help in appreciation of universal concepts of beauty and things concerned with valuables that cannot be replaced easily by materialism.

The point being made here is that each branch of philosophy attempts to recognize our different societies in relation to other mode of beings (human beings, and plants, spirits, ancestors) in their order of existence: this is more visible in African Philosophy, which for instance, African existentialist like Kwasi Wiredu, Odera Oruka and others often argue that the reason why there is turbulence in globalism is because of the ignorance of local knowledge that is not connected with western thoughts that are Eurocentric, and racist, and self-centred to a philosophy of 'WE' (Communal knowledge). Aesthetics concern with beauty shows that in every situation that man's find himself he or she is able to adapt to change regardless of the consequences that globalism places on our social space. For example, Hobbes statement that human nature is "nasty, brutish and short" does not connote that for the human race things are bleak and sterile in reference to human and moral happiness, and development.

Globalism itself has passed through many stages, that academicians from their respective disciplines have written different articles, journals and books in understanding its nature and those who coined it. In spite of these difficulties, global turbulence from a philosophical point of view shows that human beings are in progressive state which is in need of more patience as time moves on. The recent covid-19 outbreak has shown that we cannot remain divisive in politics, economy and human interpersonal relations; most emerging and developing countries of the world has shown more promise to rebuild their society from the caucus of the outbreak which almost took two years for building, since the world that exists today has become more shrieked as result of globalization, and westernization of cultures that were considered to be alien to European values.

The application of each branch of philosophy is to be considered more relevant because of its connexion with the natural and social sciences. The natural sciences whose focus is on the hard sciences like mathematics, physics, chemistry, Biology, Electrical engineering and the social sciences in connection with Law, Political philosophy, Education and so on, shows that turbulence is indeed a phenomenon that the philosopher is wrapped around in his study, as he or she is a lover of wisdom who wants to shake the status quo. For example, the branch of ethics, logic, epistemology, and others is an opening avenue of the unenlightened to the moral sentiments, and rationalism that is involved in political governance, and this is why sometimes it is said a political philosopher who is a politician is a moving force for political change that is revolutionary in form.

John Rawls (1971) in his book "*A Theory of Justice*" emphasises on the contract theory, and the constitutional social contract that humans has towards society. His contract theory here, moves us to a metaphysical concern in connection to global turbulence shows the forgetfulness of human beings who have abandoned their spiritual aspects due to the entrapment in the material world.

In sum, Spirituality and religion are the two variables which is in connection here; we tend to leave in a materialistic societies that only value things like Wealth, Status which are welcomed than things like wisdom, virtue, knowledge, and the relationship with our

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own divine nature as 'beings', and Philosophers of religion like Alvin Platinga, Thomas Aquinas, David Hume etc., all lived in their own turbulent era, but what they were successful in doing is relating their metaphysical existences to their self-individuation, which then we translate to their moral development, hereby developing the society, and hence we must be able to change ourselves first.

### CONCLUSION

This paper has shown, globalism and turbulence are not to be viewed from a pessimistic point of view, in as much as, our society of today is in a changing time; what remains is for us to adapt to the surprisingly changes that we cannot both do away with. Globalization is positive and forward looking because it encourages the interaction of many persons from different parts of the world, and without it, one cannot but imagine the isolation and disconnections from human development. One cannot but try to deny the importance of philosophy for each nation. Although we can argue that we leave in challenging times whereby it has been difficult to meet one's daily expectation either due to one reason or other, there is still a ray of hope that many turbulence that occur today may not even being linked to westernization or globalization in any form that it comes. The impact that philosophy leaves is to counteract those changes, in a sense that we are able to apply more wisdom in navigating those difficulties that is encountered through critical thought.

Many a person today have been less hopeful that humanity is the last anecdote remaining that can help in unifying society; this means that irrespective of our the social status, whether rich or poor, unemployed, or employed, educated or uneducated; we can come together in making our position in the universe to be much more stronger than before. Turbulence does not imply negativity, but more of positivity that can serve as check and balances that can help a forward looking philosophy of retrospection of the inner mind. The mind is where our turbulence occurs, and not that of the physical; this is a mentalist approach in trying to understand what is happening in a global era as occurred in recent memory. Each individual is responsible for globalization, since they cannot leave in a social space that is isolated; it is then important to ask if globalism is necessary but not sufficient for turbulence in our era; a rhetorical answer that only needs no notice.

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