



## RESOURCE CONTROL AND WARS IN AFRICA UP TO 2018

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### Abstract

This is a study of wars in Africa and how the struggle to control resources in the continent has resulted in armed conflict. Resource wars that have been going on in Africa are worthy of research as they have created a unique type of armed conflict that is becoming phenomenal to the African continent. For instance, studies have revealed that resources have played a central role in instigating and sustaining wars from the time immemorial. However, this scenario is not in any way peculiar to Africa, rather it is a common global phenomenon. For the purpose of this study, resources are categorized into two: resource-life and resource-strategic. While resource-life comprises of water, land, air and ecosystem, that of resource-strategic includes crude oil and natural gas, gold, diamond and other solid minerals that have been at the centre of “high-politics” in the continent. This study seeks to unravel the central role resources have played in stirring up and nourishing conflict to the level of wars in Africa. The discourse combines narrative history with some measure of interdisciplinary approach to achieve a qualitative and analytical work. Documentary method is used to generate data from secondary sources such as books, journal articles and newspaper publications. The paper concludes that almost every war in Africa is resource induced, be it resource-life or resource-strategic.

**Keywords:** Resources Wars, African Continent, Armed Conflict, Solid Mineral. Resource-Life, Resource-Strategic.

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### Introduction

In a world seemingly awash with ethnic and sectarian strife, it is necessary to observe that most of such clashes are over natural resources, especially crude oil, water, land, timber, and solid minerals such as diamonds, platinum, gold, iron ore, copper, uranium etc. The conflicts often appear to have ethnic coloration and indeed may have evolved into such but they risk misinterpretation whenever scholars whitewashed their origins in resource disputes. For instance, in this category, crude oil (black gold) dominates available literature, but a study also discusses the river systems (the Nile, Jordan, Tigris-Euphrates, and Indus) where human demands press against limited supplies as well as conflicts over timber rights and minerals in Africa and Southeast Asia. It was postulated that the increasing conflict in resource-rich Africa, where sales of raw materials finance mercenaries and purchases of foreign weapons will continue to be at the centre of conflict in Africa. Most resource-based conflicts occur in very poor countries with weak governments that often align with foreign companies to market their resources globally for the pecuniary gains of the ruling elites. Modern societies are beginning to recognize that a country's most vital resource is its people, not natural resources. However, human capacity development takes time and social order in every society also requires diligent attention for the benefit of the society.

### Concept of Resource War

Resources are the totality of assets such as supply, riches, funds, wealth and reserve, an organization, or country can draw on in order to function effectively. Resource war, as used in this paper, therefore refers to those internal conflicts that attend the allocation, management and use of Africa's continental wealth whether as minerals, land resources, human resources, reserves and monies, plus natural or invented resources. Majority of Africa's resources are either nationally or privately owed.

Resource wars are intense conflicts often arising from the struggle for control over valuable resources such as gold, diamond, platinum, uranium, crude oil, copper, iron ore etc. Conventional geopolitical perspectives define resource wars as armed conflicts revolving around the pursuit or possession of critical materials. For instance, the Prussian war theorist, Clausewitz, defined resource wars as those conflicts motivated or induced by resources. They are armed conflict in which the control of revenue from natural resources is significantly involved in the economy of the conflict or the motivations of the belligerents. These resources include water, land, timber, animal or animal products, crude oil (black gold), gold, silver, diamonds, copper, columbite, and other vital materials. Therefore, the strong desire to control these valuable resources brings about conflict or full

scale war among people in the society. This is not necessarily peculiar to but common in Africa.

According to Le Billion, resource wars are occasioned by several factors such as scarcity of resources, greed and abundance of resources, like it is in the Niger Delta area of the Nigeria State, which increases the possibility of conflicts. Limited resources occasion increased conflict among interest groups who fight for available resources required for their survival. Thus, communities endowed with scarce resources face the threat of their resources being captured by the political elite. Also, protest by the helpless members of the society against resource sharing and the failure of government to resolve such problems can lead to major conflict. In addition; abundance of resources also engenders more wars if the state is unable to distribute equitably its natural endowments or the generated wealth among the contending forces.

The concept of resource war is not new; rather it has a long root in human history. When not curtailed, it usually has horrific effects on people's lives and their environment. From time immemorial, countless of wars have been fought over resource control. A critical analysis of the various wars, revolutions and civil uprisings that have happened across the world in modern times, shows that resource control have been an underlying cause. Examples include the Napoleonic Wars, 1799-1815; the American Civil War, 1861-1865; the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905; the First World War, 1914-1918; the Chinese Civil War, 1927-1850; the Second World War, 1939-1945 and the Nigeria-Biafra War, 1967-1970.

### **Category of Resource Wars**

When considering resources as a cause of conflicts and wars, several important debates can be identified. Firstly, Paul Collier opined that “greed or grievance” is one form of motivation for fighters who pursued economic gain, while working on the assumption that the rewards of joining a fight were much greater if they did not join in the armed conflict. However, Collier argued that people were much more motivated to fight over issues of identity, like ethnicity or religion than being driven solely by greed. Besides, others view the “resource curse” concept totally differently and reckon greater resource wealth as lowering the probability of conflict, rather than leading to civil war.

The alternative debate centres on the theory that poor environmental conditions force people to fight to satisfy their basic survival needs, such as cutting down timber, poaching or plundering as an economic resource. This link between “environmental scarcity” theory and conflict is most heavily associated with Thomas Homer-Dixon and the Toronto School. This is sometimes referred to as “environmental conflicts”, where these conflicts typologies originate from human-made disturbances so great that the environment is unable to regenerate naturally. Examples include fighting over water source that is diminishing due to the construction of a dam upstream such as the recent uproar between Ethiopia and Egypt over the construction of a dam at the part of Nile River in Ethiopia, or having land so overgrazed that competition over its use leads to fighting.

Conflicts that involve natural resources caused by physical, geopolitical or socio-economic problems are not environmental conflicts. They are actually traditional conflicts over resource distribution. In the same way, conflicts over agricultural land can only be called an “environmental conflict” if the land is contested because of soil erosion, climate-change, or other environmental degradation. Otherwise they are simply “contests over territory” like any war or conflict that people commonly think of. Actually, the phrase “resource war” is restricted to only inter-state conflicts; while distinguishing between the types of resources. A “resource” is defined as being those elements that are essential to human survival. For example, water, soil, air and eco-systems are viewed as Resources-Life, while oil and gas, gold and diamond are Resources-Strategic; the latter being the realm of traditional geo-strategic “high politics”. Here the price is controlled not only by supply and demand, but also by the additional costs relating to the environmental and securitization impact of changes in the supply, such as the costs tied to the distribution of water in the Jordan Valley.

By contrast, conflicts linked to resources that are not considered as part of “high politics” can be given another description such as “commodity conflicts”. Here the identity of a “commodity” lies in that it is controlled by market-forces that are accompanied by a sliding-scale of “conflict-risk” that ranges from high (cocaine, diamonds) to mid-low (copper, gold, and Rhino horn) to very low (coffee, tea). Additionally, it is important to make a distinction between the illegal and legal forms of “commodity conflicts”. In the former category they would be defined as “lootable” and the latter as “extractible”. The basic profile of “commodity conflicts” is that they are localized, based on extractive or “lootable” commodities, violent in short bursts, sometimes over long periods, difficult for outside forces to quell and often linked to power struggles within the ruling elite.

To provide even greater clarity, another category in the resource-conflict spectrum could be referred to as “environmental confrontations”. This gathers in the wider spectrum of conflict that has some element of the environment at its core, which ranges from over-fishing, riparian access, to animal rights, wildlife poaching, illegal timber-felling and environmental campaigns of all types. Another category that is the most problematic

because it contains elements of both resources and commodities covers the following five broad issues: a. Food security: food is both a commodity and a resource. For example, the cocoa commodity market was targeted in 2010 by the British financier, Anthony Ward who developed a hoarding strategy; meanwhile the British investment fund, African Century, are looking to develop fish and chicken farms to provide a major source of food in southern Africa.

- a. New sources of energy, Land sales/rights: land is a resource that is both publicly and privately owned and is often sold as a commodity.
- b. Drug trade: drugs are a commodity controlled by market forces for which the suppliers use drug-users as a resource to be exploited, with ramifications of national and global importance
- c. Flora and fauna: both are a commodity and a resource (for firewood and eating).

From the time immemorial, wars within the category of Resources-Life have usually followed the logic that these resources are so crucial that even though war theoretically could rapidly escalate, in practice it is in the interest of all parties to negotiate rather than to fight. This is borne out in the story of the so-called “land and water wars”, both past and present, where disagreements and confrontations have not erupted into fighting. From here a school of thought emerges that sees negotiations over water access creating a “neutral” zone from which wider antagonisms can be discussed, such as in the Middle East.

Regarding conflicts within the category of resources-strategic, the two Gulf Wars illustrated the sharp limits to American geo-strategic endurance when its oil supplies in the Middle East were threatened; it was a similar perception from the earlier Soviet invasion of Afghanistan that gave rise to the 1980 Carter Doctrine of “red-lines” in the sands of the Middle East. Furthermore, there was a surge in “commodity conflicts” after the post- Cold War euphoria had ebbed and ushered in a new wave of ethnic conflicts with unprecedented dimension and geographical spread. These conflicts, predominately in the global South, often witnessed an overlap between criminal “lootability” and long-standing ethnic or religious grievances hung on “blood diamonds”, “conflict minerals”, gold and illegal timber extraction, all helped to fuel conflict. In the post-colonial dawn, groups have battled each other for power within the realm of modern globalization; combining new technological developments in communications and transportation, with market forces and the shadow economy of undeclared and illegal trading. The iron rule of the commercial market-place means that some resources and commodities fade due to lack of demand and the rise of others. For instance, who today would think of fighting to control the spice and fur trades as in the past? Instead, today's insatiable need for tantalum capacitors inside mobile-phones and other electronic devices has put a premium on coltan (a dull black ore that consist of a mixture of columbite and tantalite). The fact that coltan is found in both developed countries such as Canada, and underdeveloped countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has led to the emergence of parallel extractible/regulated and lootable/unregulated markets where buyers make their choice, it's a free market.

The wide range of lootable resources has an entwined with the ever-growing shadow economy of transnational criminal networks, especially in countries and areas that have been wasted. These wastelands can either occur through conflict, such as in the Congo DR, or severe deprivation, as in parts of Mexico and much of Central America. The absence of an effective and centralized authority in these wastelands makes them, in the view of political geographer, Derek Gregory, “pre-constituted as fallen, violated and damaged, always and everywhere potential targets for a colonizing capitalist modernity”. Furthermore, the state's monopoly of violence may have collapsed, meaning for Gregory, that 'non state actors (warlords, local and ethnic militia) are able to establish alternative, territorially restricted forms of centralized violence'.

## **Resources and Wars**

Resource wars or resource conflicts are neither new phenomenon nor peculiar to Africa. Several countries across the globe have fought resource wars, some cases dating several centuries back. Among these was the American Revolution (American War of Independence) in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century in which the French took part on the side of America as an extension of her war with Britain over commodities and trade routes. The Battle of Plassey (1757) by which Britain established control over India commodities and trading routes. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Civil War over slavery where the institution of slavery, which is sought to abolish, was driven by demand for cotton and other agricultural commodities. The wars of conquest in Africa by which European nations enforced economic exploitation on African states and kingdoms for purposes of evacuation of raw materials and for the benefit of the metropolis.

Other examples are the Finnish-Soviet War of 1939-1940 called the Winter War was prompted by Joseph Stalin's quest for Nickel (solid mineral) during World War II. Japanese strike on Pearl Harbour in 1941 was an attempt by Japan to scare United States (US) out of the World War so that it could get access to commodities in South Asia. Also, the German invasion of Russia in 1941, code named “Operation Barbarossa” was a battle for

commodities, particularly crude oil, which had become scarce in Germany during the Second World War. It was also crude oil that caused the tensions in the Falkland Islands in 1982 leading the British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher to declare war against Argentina for making an amphibious assault on the disputed Islands. In 2010 tensions resurfaced when Britain began drilling oil off the coast of the island. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 was an attempt to gain control of the large oil reserves. This was described as the 21<sup>st</sup> century's first resource war, in which powerful countries use force to secure valuable commodities. Elsewhere in Asia, the territorial disputes in the South China Sea between China on one hand and Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam on the other which have raged since the 20<sup>th</sup> century, have largely been about the crude oil wealth in the antagonized territories.

These wars share common denominators of being external conflicts to the countries involved. They therefore constitute one example of resource conflicts showing that countries can be at loggerheads over each other's resources. Another instance is epitomized by the Nigerian experience that resonates with many African, Asian and Latin America countries where resources have created tension and promoted conflicts within the polity, thereby constituting an internal threat to peaceful co-existence. Amongst the 24 African countries troubled by resource conflicts between 2010 and 2014, Nigeria and Libya faced the worst case scenario. Nigeria is singled out as consistently (exhibiting) because of high levels of directly resource-related conflicts and has experienced higher number of these events relative to other African countries since 1997.

### **Examples of Resource Wars in Africa**

Resource conflicts in Nigeria revolve mostly around crude oil, grazing land, water and the allocation of proceeds from national earnings (revenue allocation). Recently, gold was added to the list of resources fuelling crisis in the country and responsible for insecurity and banditry especially in Zamfara State since 2016. Ironically, Nigeria and several African countries bedeviled by resource conflicts are yet to seriously tackle and find lasting solutions to their internal disagreements over the management of their resources. This is largely because Nigeria is a plural society where interest and allegiance are first given to one's ethnic group before the central government.

For example, conflicts over resources have long been part of the history of the area known today as the Federal Republic of Nigeria. People, land, water, fish and other resources have long been fought over, and the increasing pressure of the growing population has added to the tensions during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. In fact, in recent decades, the term resource war has started to be used to refer to conflicts over resources within Nigeria. It also described the nature of conflicts in the area that includes the clashes between herdsmen (pastoralists) and farmers in many parts of the country over grazing land and water as well as struggles over resource control (crude oil and natural gas) in the Niger Delta area.

Natural resource endowments can be a blessing or a curse, depending on how they are managed and controlled by the state. In the industrialized world where value has been added to natural resources, they are blessing but in Africa and other developing countries, they remain a source of protracted conflicts; thus more of a "curse" than a blessing. Nigeria is significantly endowed with human and natural resources but has experienced lots of civil unrest before and after her political independence and this has retarded her national development. Instances of such resource-based conflicts are the Nigerian Civil War, ethnic and communal clashes, religious crises, Niger Delta conflicts, insurgency and the ongoing onslaught of herdsmen against rural farmers. Verifiable evidence reveals that these crises are motivated by economic interest which the interest seekers tend to achieve through political means. Likewise, ethnic dominations among the diverse groups in Nigeria are basically due to the unsettled issues of resources and power sharing. The communal crises that are associated with most parts of Nigeria are not only caused by the strong quest for self-government by a particular ethnic group, but also multifarious problems of economic and political inequalities.

Demonstrable evidence has shown that resource wars have centered mainly on communal clashes, herdsmen-farmers' fights resulting from grazing land conflicts, as well as conflicts in the Niger Delta region due to oil exploration and exploitation. It has also been observed that struggles over land and the indigene-settler dichotomy as a result of struggle for available resource also have been underlying causes of most of the communal crises in Nigeria and the continent at large. Natural resources have played more of negative role in many of Africa's bloodiest wars, from Nigeria to Sierra Leone and Liberia to Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Control over natural resources has been one of the key triggers of wars. An early study of causes of modern wars during the period of 1918 and 1921 shows that 14 of the 20 major wars in Africa had significant economic causes, often related to conflict over resources. The study emphasizes that "the rise of industrialism has led to the struggle for raw materials".

In the Niger Delta Region of South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria, long before Royal Dutch Shell discovered oil in commercial quantities at Oloibiri, Bayelsa State, in 1956, the region was already an arena of

conflict owing to its enormous natural resource endowments such as forest reserves, fish, and palm oil. The Niger Delta is the heartland of oil and gas production in Nigeria, and provides about 80% of total government revenue, 95% of foreign exchange and over 80% of national wealth. The region contains a huge deposit of crude oil which is referred to as “sweet crude” (Brent) as a result of its high quality with low sulphur content. Despite the great wealth generated from the Niger Delta, it remains one of Nigeria's most underdeveloped areas. Today, it is now an established fact that the 1967 to 1970 fratricidal war in Nigeria was centered on the struggle to control the crude oil in the Niger Delta region of the Eastern Nigeria that was declared a Sovereign State of Biafra in May 1967. As Timothy J. Stapleton puts it,

The federal government received military assistance from Britain, which was committed to maintaining its former colony as a single country and was heavily invested in the Nigerian oil industry. The Soviet Union also supported Gowon's regime (1967-1970), given that the need for oil overshadowed Cold War rivalries.

Due to long neglect by the appropriate authorities, the struggles in the Niger Delta have become multidimensional, hence, could be classified into three major facets. The first dimension is the conflict between the Niger Delta and its resident multinational oil corporations. This involves environmental pollution, reparation issues and demand for improved corporate social responsibility of oil enterprises to their host communities. The second is the intra-communal clashes, which is nothing new to the region. The third dimension is fights between the Niger Delta inhabitants and the Federal Government of Nigeria. The crux of the issue is fundamentally stems from the region's demands the federal government for taking control of their oil and gas, which happen to be Nigeria's main sources of foreign exchange earnings. Also, the Niger Delta has continuously protested the mistreatment meted to them by the multinational oil firms operating in the area. This is because the companies have not appropriately responded to the demands of the region's oil-producing communities. These issues have led to the formation of local militias who themselves cause damage and disturbances to their region through pipeline vandalism, oil bunkering, abduction of indigenous and foreign company workers and the interruption of oil extraction and production, all of which make the Niger Delta hostile for its inhabitants and prospective ones.

Consequent upon all this, for years, Nigeria's oil-rich southern Niger Delta region has been the scene of repeated armed clashes among local residents, dissident groups, and with the military and police. The fighting has claimed many lives and sporadically disrupted the country's main export sector. Ironically, as noted by the UN Development Programme (UNDP, in its July 2006) report on human development in the Niger Delta area's “vast oil wealth has barely touched people's lives”.

Elsewhere in South-western Nigeria, the Ife and Modakeke communities in Osun State have engaged each other in protracted conflicts for more than a century. The conflict have emanated occasionally from land disputes. Babajimi points out that a good number of Ife-Modakeke wars have been fought between 1835 and 1849, 1882 and 1909, 1946 and 1949, 1981, 1983, 1997 and 1998 and 2000. The Ife-Modakeke conflicts have claimed thousands of lives and huge amount of properties.

In South-eastern Nigeria, Aguleri and Umuleri in Anambra State have engaged in intractable conflicts over the ownership of Otuocha land. Apart from the struggle for land, the two communities have fought over claims to direct descent from Eri who they both claim as their ancestor. Away from Anambra State, Ezillo and Ezza are neighbouring agrarian communities in Ebonyi State, Nigeria. Both belong to Ezillo community in Ishielu LGA of Ebonyi State. The conflict between these two communities has lasted several decades and in 2008, attracted such national attention that the Federal Government of Nigeria established an artillery brigade in Ezillo as in a bid to stem the tide of the conflict. Land dispute has been the main cause of the Ezillo-Ezza conflict. Other factors, namely indigene-settler rights, market space and autonomous communities have added fuel to the impasse.

According to Ugbo et al, in the early 1930s, the Ezillo invited the Ezza group, whose original home is located in the present Ezza South and Ezza North LGAs of Ebonyi State to help them resolved a land dispute with Ngbo and Okpoto their neighbours at Egu Echara. Thereafter the Ezza settled with the Ezillo as part of the former compensation from the war booty (land). Over time, interactions between the two communities lost its cordiality and assumed an indigene-settler problem due to the demographic change of Ezillo initial settlement by way of expansion.

In the North-central Nigeria, land dispute has been the major cause of crisis between the Tiv and the Jukun clashes. The duo have clashed over land since 1959 with recurring disputes happening in 1980, 1990, 1991, 1994, and 2001. Other motivating causes of conflict between them are the fear of dominance and indigene-settler disagreements.

Territorial expansion of herdsmen of Fulani origin in Plateau, Taraba, Ekiti, Ebonyi, Benue, Enugu and other States resulted in herders-farmers crises in Nigeria was due to perceived land shortage. As a result of desertification in the Sahel region of Northern Nigeria, there is an increasing shortage of arable land and water

sources that could sustain crop farming and open grazing (cattle herders). Amnesty International reported that the major trigger of conflict between herdsmen and farmers is shortage of land and struggle over resources such as land, water and pasture. The human rights organization found this to be a fact across several states in Nigeria, including Adamawa, Benue, Enugu, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba and Zamfara State. Other domains of communal clashes as a result of land disputes abound in Nigeria. These include the Zango-Kataf conflict in Kaduna State, Itsekiri-Urhobo crisis; Itsekiri-Ijo (Ijaw) conflict, Yelwa-Shendam conflict; and Mangu-Bokkos, among others.

In the 2006, UNDP reported that more than 1,000 kilometers away in the town of Gaoua in Burkina Faso, about 150 demonstrators armed with cutlasses, clubs and bows and arrows tried to march to a meeting of the newly elected municipal council. The police managed to halt the march, but a dozen protesters were able to present their grievances to the provincial high commissioner. They demanded that the authorities send police to stop illegal gold mining on a hill considered sacred by the local Lobi community. Meanwhile, in the northern part of neighboring Côte d'Ivoire, a rebel faction controls a large open-pit diamond mine in the town of Seguela. That is one of several diamond producing sites, estimated to be worth more than \$20 million (US Dollars). The extracted solid mineral has often been occasionally smuggled into Mali and Ghana to help fund arms purchases, in violation of UN sanctions.

At the Horn of Africa, the two-year war (1998-2000) between the neighboring countries of Eritrea and Ethiopia was triggered by a border dispute that claimed between 70,000 and 100,000 lives. The war began on May 6, when military and police forces from both countries exchanged fire in a rural area near the disputed border, and ended after the two countries negotiated a cease-fire agreement referred to as the Algiers Peace Treaty. The Eritrean-Ethiopian War was classified as a "border war," and the parties who negotiated the treaty took a purely legal stance at resolving the conflict, which left both sides unsatisfied. The treaty failed to ease tension between the countries. Neither side wanted a full-fledged war, because for Ethiopia, a war could reverse the country's economic gains, and the Eritrean government knew that she was in a weaker political and diplomatic position than Ethiopia to sustain the conflict. The result is a lingering climate of fear between the two neighbors. The impasse has produced economic tension, political unrest and retarded growth within the area. Interestingly, after more than two decades of border dispute, in 2018, Ethiopia and Eritrea agreed to end the conflict and sue for peace. This was followed by a signed agreement between the two countries at a summit in Saudi Arabia, which bolstered the peace accord.

## **Conclusion**

The paper has analyzed a dynamic environment in which a resource-rich country trades an exhaustible resource with a resource-poor country. In every period, the resource-poor country can arm and attack the resource-rich country. When the resource is extracted by price-taking firms, there is a novel externality as each firm fails to internalize the impact of its extraction on military action by the resource-poor country. In the empirically relevant case where the demand for the resource is inelastic and the resource-poor country can capture most of the remaining endowment in a war, war becomes inevitable.

The paper argues that majority of wars going on in Africa or fought in Africa were mainly resource wars. For instance, the Liberia and Sierra Leone civil wars fought over Diamond and the Nigeria-Biafra war of 1967 to 1970 majorly revolved around the control of crude oil. However, not all of the wars were resources-strategic wars. Some arose from boundary conflict, land and eco-system. Even when wars in Africa arose as a result of ethnicity or ethno-religious squabbles, the main bone of contention was usually on the issue of which ethnic or religious group controls the state resources through power struggle, be it minimal or large resources.

Fighting over resources has been going on since mankind started trading with one another that created room for acquisition of wealth and territorial expansion. Due to the glaring fact that not every country is blessed with natural resources, most often, one of the crooked options available is to rob these resources by force from other political and potentially unfriendly powers. This additional layer of complexity is added to the logistics and strategy of the plundering army, either invading directly or through surrogate means by using internal forces (by proxy) to achieve their inordinate ambition of resource acquisition.

Finally, recent studies such as the ones carried out by Jeffrey Sachs and Andrew Warner focused on the "natural resource curse" where it is suggested that having an abundance of natural resources, in Africa for example, has created more negative impact than positive output. Also, it has led to slower growth, undemocratic regimes and violent civil conflict as evident in Africa, leading to "resource wars". Another problem emanating from resource deposit is the concept of "resource dependency" where when a country relies on one or two resources for its survival and foreign exchange earnings, for examples Nigeria and its oil and Botswana and its diamonds, resource wars tend to take the center stage.

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