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Unknown Gun Men and Known Gun Men: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Fighting Insecurity in Nigeria

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A B S T R A C T

Nigeria is one of the few countries in the world that is rooted in terrorism. In the last two decades, Nigeria has ranked among the League of Nations that are most impacted by terrorism. In the previous five years, Nigeria has ranked among such terrorism-prone nations as Burkina Faso, Israel, Pakistan, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, and Iraq, among others. To further strengthen the security architecture around the world, AI, drones and robots are employed for more intelligent control to wage war against insecurity and terrorism in world nations. Nigeria is expected to leverage technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and robotics to combat terrorism, from very severe ones as Boko Haram in the North, Militancy in Southern Nigeria, Fulani herders' attacks on local farmers in Eastern Nigeria, and the horrific kidnapping across Nigerian states to civil unrests such as the activities of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). Several government efforts at challenging the status quo have failed, due to an alliance of security operatives with terrorists. This has resulted in leaked strategies to combat terrorist attacks, poor intervention strategies, and a lackadaisical attitude to fight back. AI can optimise time and source leakage of laid-down strategies, while robots can be deployed to launch an attack in open combat. This study employs a Critical Analytical Literature review approach to discuss the consequences of terrorism, as outlined in the extant literature, and how technologies are helping security intelligence restore sanity in the state, while highlighting the obvious challenges that arise

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INTRODUCTION

The security architecture of Nigeria has been jeopardized in the last twenty years by the activities of terrorists, bandits, serial killers and the enemies of the state. These criminal aspects are referred to as unknown gunmen since they are not identified (Akinyetun, Ebonime and Ambrose, 2023). The hypocrisy of ordinary life in Nigeria that causes terrorists to remain unknown gunmen is ironic because they are known. The extent to which insecurity has been mitigated within a state depends on the Government's willingness to utilize its security apparatus in declaring a full-scale war against terrorists and state enemies. Although terrorists have been proclaimed as unknown gunmen, it is clear that they are familiar to government and state actors. To substantiate this assumption, the Governor of Ebonyi State, David Umahi, said:

Get our people out there and speak out that they are not themselves unknown gunmen, but our young men and women who will protect our land tomorrow. They must cease to be slain; they must cease to submit to be slain voluntarily. He also argues that three things have contributed to the menace: individuals who are brainwashed and do not know what they are agitating about; the individuals who visit a talisman to be fortified against bullets but are instead killed; and the use of hard drugs (Channels TV, 2021).

Loosely adopting an alternate position, Security Peace and Development (SPD) (2021, p.). 1) avers that the unknown gunmen scourge seems to be linked with the malady of banditry that faces the north-west. Since the Government banned open grazing, the attacks by unidentified gunmen have been on the rise. In the meantime, there is a lack of clarity as to whether the unidentified gunmen are people disguised as bandits, a recurring farmer-herder clash or retribution. It is, however, apparent that the incidence needs immediate concern because the number of killings in the country indicates that violent death is already becoming a culture.

The efforts of the unknown gunmen are just piling up to the many terrorist attacks in Nigeria, the worst being the Boko Haram, who are waging what can only be described as a full-scale war on the civil society, killing thousands of Nigerians in one attack. It also has a multifaceted crime that is propagated by Militants and the Niger Delta Avengers, which have contributed to several kidnappings and killings in the south. Eastern Nigeria is not an exception since ethnic unrest, where people kill one another in the name of self-identity and the realization of a new nation, is experienced. All these have culminated in Nigeria becoming an ungovernable political unit.

According to Jimoh, Okwe, Abuh, Daka, and Afolabi (20211), the senate decided to respond to these security issues in the country by allocating more budget to the security and defence sectors to combat the war on insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, and other crimes. In 2011, as part of trying to further fight terrorism in Nigeria, the Federal Government passed the Anti-Criminal Act, which criminalized terrorism in Nigeria (Nsude, 2023). Likewise, installations of Computer-based closed-circuit television (CCTV) Cameras were also ordered by the Government in some regions of the country. This was carried out as an attempt to increase surveillance and also to check the crime in big cities.

Security agencies in most societies today utilize advanced technology to combat terrorism. Drones, robots, and Artificial intelligence (AI) are such technologies. According to Nsude (2023), artificial intelligence (AI) is a rapidly growing technology that is gaining traction among commercial investors, defence intellectuals, policymakers, and even competitors worldwide, as reflected in several recent projects. (Congressional Research Service Report, 2020).

Regarding the impact of artificial intelligence on the world, West and Allen (2018) assert that artificial intelligence is not a vision of the future, but rather a reality. It is rolled into numerous sectors, including finance, healthcare, criminal justice, transportation, and national security, which is the focus of this work. According to Radulov (2019), basic police functions could be performed by robots. Therefore, with the use of intelligence-enhanced security devices, provided the police possess computerized, high-quality systems and the capabilities of an AI, much of their routine office work can be accomplished by the intelligent security devices, leading to new reservations being made for a greater police presence in urban areas. The AI can also be configured to monitor the video data and information gathered by numerous sensors, and to signal suspicious activity to the security services (Radulov, 2019). Once again, one of the most popular tools for fighting crime with the aid of AI is face detection technology. It is frequently used in airports to map human faces into law enforcement databases, enabling the identification of the culprit.

Another way AI can be successfully used, with proper training, is through the prevention of terrorist crimes by scanning social networks to identify individuals at risk of radicalization. At present, even certain law enforcement agencies have already begun to monitor and analyze social networks to thwart the efforts to enlist new members of terrorist groups like the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and other groups of the kind (Radulov, 2019). The future of artificial intelligence (AI) holds promise for many countries, but the reality of AI arriving in Africa evokes images of innovations often associated with science fiction (Novitske, 2018). The introduction of AI in Africa is accompanied by a fear that it will leave them even further behind other, more developed economies than initially expected, due to concerns that many people will lose their jobs.

Robots are equipped with artificial intelligence to perform tasks that were previously considered the exclusive domain of humans. They can perform challenging tasks, work in factories, do clever things, and even fight in war. The use of AI, drones, and robots is prevalent in security in advanced societies. Moreover, with the insurgency nature in Nigeria, the killing, the loss of lives and property, the necessity to embrace artificial intelligence, the utilization of robots to fight against insurgents is even more necessitated, as human fighters in military uniforms lose their lives on the battlefield with little or no concern for the Government to defend them. The paper explores the potential outcomes of implementing AI and robotics to combat terrorism in Nigeria and promote peace within the country. It is within this context that the media should create awareness of what AI has achieved in developed countries and how it can be

harnessed to curb the Farmers/Herders conflicts, Boko Haram insurgency, Militant attacks, kidnapping, and civil unrest in Nigeria, the subject of this paper.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Statement of the Problem

AI, robots, and drones have helped combat terrorism in developed countries. Terrorists and their gangs were the most common attackers of the United States in the early 2000s. Osama bin Laden turned into a thorn in the flesh of the American Government and the leadership of the world. The Government led by Barack Obama, on May 2, 2011, provided operation Neptune Spear, which involved the use of drones, robotics and artificial intelligence to apprehend the Islamist dissident. Nigeria is experiencing the same scale of terror as the security malady in Nigeria turns to be multidimensional; Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen, Niger Delta avengers, militants, kidnappers, unknown gunmen, bandits and separatist groups, among others. The Government of Nigeria must urgently invest in AI and robotics to hunt terrorists and deal with them a pound of their own flesh. Alas! Such deadly groups are increasing in power, refinement and ability.

The operations of these groups have caused pain and suffering to ordinary Nigerians, bringing untold death and property destruction daily. It is apparent that in most developed countries, technology is winning the battle against terrorists, and terrorism prone countries like Nigeria are likely to use and embrace these technologies. This is necessary when human intelligence and tactics are ineffective. However, it seems that the Nigerian Government are already in love with terrorists. This factor makes the campaign in the field of procuring AI tools and robots to enhance the military strength not that serious. This paper then aims to investigate the potential of AI and robots to militarise and monitor the increasing scourge of the operations of terrorist organizations in Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

This research employed a qualitative approach, utilizing a phenomenological methodology. In this research, Nsude (2023) affirms that the researcher cannot be objective about their presuppositions or pretend to be objective about their own experiences, as the researcher's experiences are critical in discussing real-time events and circumstances in a phenomenological study like this. The reason being that the threats of Boko Haram, herders, bandits, unknown gunmen, kidnappers, militants and separatist agitators in Nigeria are a daily experience to the researcher hence it was evident that the opinion of the researcher coupled with the opinions of other scholars was deemed adequate to investigate the phenomenon in question as well as offer evidence-based arguments to why AI and robots should be used to curb the menace of the terrorists in Nigeria.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Terrorism in Nigeria

Nigeria has a multi layered terror attacks, in the hands of militants and Kidnappers in the southern part of the country, Boko-Haram terrorism in the north and armed herdsmen violence in the North-Eastern part and throughout Nigeria since the beginning of the 1990s (Agbu, Musa, and Zhema, 2020). The authors insist that throughout the years, the activities/operations of these groups have been characterized by impunity, and they leave behind them blood, death, wailing and destruction. It has tragic social, political, and economic impacts on the development and stability of not just its immediate victims, but also of the entire nation of Nigeria. Although the violent acts of Militants, kidnappers and Boko-Haram with disturbing implications on peace and national security came into the limelight in 2002 and 2003, the turn of the first decade of the 21st century was the violent attacks of armed herdsmen, and other terrorist groups sprouting in their wake. This occurred at the time when Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and the Goodluck Jonathan-led administration released amnesty to the southern Militants. This resulted in the insurgency of Boko Haram in the North, which entered with ulterior agendas. Boko Haram activities began when a faction of Islamic extremists, known as the Nigerian Taliban, settled in a location called Kanama, on the banks of the River Yobe and a forest near Gaidam (Enor, Magor & Ekpo, 2019).

Their activities within the immediate environment led the Boko Haram members to open conflict with not only the community members, but also security agents in areas such as Kanama, Geidam, Babangida, Dapchi and Damaturu, among others. Their violent response to the arrest of two of their members by the police led to them torching Yunusari, Tarmowa, Borsari, Geidam, Kanama, Dapchi and Damaturu Local Government Areas of Yobe State between December 21 2003 and January 1, 2004 (Nsude, 2023). Boko-Haram has killed thousands of Nigerians and rendered millions of people homeless, particularly in North-East Nigeria. Regrettably, the Government has been unable to curb the actions of the gang that currently occupies some portions of some northern states and raises its flag to demonstrate independence (Ayitogo, 2021). This is a weakness of the Government, and it provides a boost to other groups; they continue to make attacks on the weak and vulnerable state. The actions of armed herdsmen that have been terrorizing, especially farming communities in the Middle-Belt region of Nigeria (Plateau, Benue, Taraba, Adamawa, Nasarawa and Southern Kaduna States) have also been a serious concern (Agbu, Musa, & Zhema, 2020). The technique employed by this group is open grazing, which has led to the destruction of farms. Farmers have called upon herdsman to keep their cattle under control as the farms are their only means of earning money, yet they ignored them; instead, they took to bear arms, sexually assaulted and committed unjustified killings. They have since 2013 moved out of the Middle Belt region to the Eastern and Southern regions of Nigeria. According to some scholars, the threat is known as Farmers/Herders conflicts (Gani, 2018). The armed herders terrorized, kidnapped, killed, raped, burned farming communities, property, and took over the lands of the farming communities to graze animals since their

emergence (Agbu, Musa, &Zhema, 2020). Their operation has also led to the state losing revenue, the country losing national cohesion, and budgetary allocations devoted to the upkeep of internally displaced people (IDP) camps being diverted, resulting in the loss of human capital and a deterioration of the country's international reputation (Enor, Magor, & Expo 2019). 10 Their attacks have also caused the displacement of thousands of people in the North East of Nigeria off their land, farming activities paralyzed, food production and transportation hampered, and the international image of the country ruined (Duerksen, 2021).

This group employed the open grazing technique, which has led to the destruction of farms and land. Farmer and Farmer have long begged Herdsmen to restrain their cattle as the farms are their only source of livelihood, but they have remained unresponsive; instead, they have resorted to bearing arms, raping and unprovoked killings. They have been moving across the Middle Belt region and into the Eastern and Southern regions of Nigeria ever since 2013. Other researchers describe the threat as Farmers/Herders conflicts (Gani, 2018). The armed herders have terrorized, kidnapped, murdered, raped, burned agricultural villages, properties, and seized-over lands owned by the farming communities to graze their cattle since their emergence (Agbu, Musa, &Zhema, 2020). Their operations have also cost the States their revenues, jeopardized the country's unity, diverted budgetary allocations towards the maintenance of internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps, and resulted in the loss of human capital and a decline in the national image (Enor, Magor, & Expo, 2019). Moreover, their attacks have caused thousands of residents of North East Nigeria to be displaced, stalled the farming activities and impeded the food production and transportation, in addition to causing food crises in the state of Borno that have never been witnessed before. (Duerksen, 2021)

Finally, terrorists are the adversaries of the state, and no rational government would deal with terrorism on political grounds. In Nigeria, terrorists conceal themselves beneath the mantle of religion and ethnicity to kill and maim innocent citizens. Moreover, in times of hiding their faces with the disguise of religion and ethnicity, when the Government wants to label them as unknown gunmen. The reality is that no terror attack in a state does not involve the relationship between state actors and security operatives. Sponsors endorse terrorists to fight a cause using the legitimately acquired weapons. In Nigeria, especially, it is evident that influential individuals are the wheels that turn Boko Haram based on nepotism and religiosity. It is reported that Boko Haram, similar to ISIS, is a religious movement to Islamize Nigeria. The Government must put more effort into its counter-terrorism tactics by augmenting its defence budget to procure pertinent technologies, such as AI and drones, in the war against terrorism.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robots: Conceptual Introduction

According to the Congressional Research Service (CRS) Report (2020), explaining the links between AI and robots can prove to be difficult, as they are often used interchangeably in the literature and have contradictory definitions. AI is an artificial intelligence system that acts or thinks like a human, comprising cognitive architectures and neural networks, as well as methodologies such as

machine learning, which aim to solve cognitive tasks (CRS Report, 2020). The US Government, in the 115th Congress, Public Law 232 (2019), also defines AI as an artificial system designed to behave rationally, including a software agent or an embodied robot that perceives, plans, reasons, learns, communicates, decides, and acts. Artificial intelligence is a field of science that focuses on the construction of computers and other machines capable of reasoning, learning, and performing tasks in a manner that would otherwise require human intelligence or working with data that is too large to be analyzed by a human being (https://cloud.google.com).

<|human|>Artificial intelligence is a science that deals with the development of machines and computers capable of reasoning, learning, and acting as though that would have otherwise involved human intelligence or working with data whose volume is too large to be responded to by a human being (https://cloud.google.com.

A robot, on the other hand, is described as a powered device that can perform a series of operations under direct human control, computer control, or a mixture of the two. These definitions mean that AI is a machine learning system and robots with inbuilt intelligence which resemble human beings. It is machines with human attributes and robots. The distinction between AI, machine learning, and robots lies in the fact that the senses in machine learning and robots are incapable of guiding activities without direct human intervention—a feature distinctive to AI. As mentioned above, machine learning employs statistical algorithms that imitate human mental processes by creating their own processes through the analysis of massive training datasets. (Allen, 2020). The computer system will develop its statistical model during the training process to complete the defined task in cases that it has not encountered before (CRS Report). Researchers are largely in agreement that it will take decades for the discipline to evolve to the point of developing General AI, which refers to devices that possess the ability to think like human beings and can perform a wide variety of tasks. (Allen, 2020)'

Are Gunmen really Unknown? The necessity to Utilise AI and robots in the Fight against Terrorism in Nigeria.

Terrorism is not a one-dimensional phenomenon, and terrorists act in various dimensions. In Nigeria, the aspect of terrorism is regional and religious. Due to their vested interest in regional politics and the perceived evils of amalgamation, some marginalized regions, as considered by the Government, may resort to violence as a means of protesting against being excluded from the national scheme of things. The south erupted into Militancy in the 1990s, which was characterized by kidnappings and inhumane killings. Nigeria witnessed the emergence of groups such as the Niger Delta Avengers and the Niger Delta Liberation Front. The militants made an incursion on the security structure of the country and posed a threat to the state security. Until the presidential signature on June 25, 2009, of an unconditional amnesty to militants in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. Following this action, Boko Haram began its activities in the North.

Although the violent acts of Boko-Haram, which endanger the peace and national security, came to light in Yobe state in December 2003, in Nigeria, violent attacks occurred by armed herders, which are the focus of the first decade of the 21st century (Enor, Magor, & Ekpo, 2019). The operations of what became known as Boko-Haram began when a faction of Islamic fanatics named the Nigerian Taliban settled at Kanama, along the river Kumadugu-Yobe and in a forest near Gaidam (Enor, Magor, & Ekpo 2019). The operations of the members of the Boko Haram group in their immediate surroundings drew them into direct conflicts not only with the members of the locality, but also with security agents in locations such as Kanama, Geidam, Babangida, Dapchi and Damaturu, among others. When the police arrested two of their members, they reacted violently against the police. They unleashed havoc on Yunusari, Tarmowa, Borsari, Geidam, Kanama, Dapchi, and Damaturu Local Government Areas of Yobe State between December 21, 2003, and January 1, 2004. Boko-Haram has killed thousands of Nigerians and rendered millions of people homeless, particularly in North-East Nigeria. Regrettably, the Government has not succeeded in its effort to stop the operations of the group that now occupies certain regions in the North and raises its flag as an indication of autonomy (Ayitogo, 2021).

Theoretical Framework

The propositions of the Value Change Theory and the Agenda Setting Theory form the basis of this paper.

Agenda Setting Theory

Maxwell McCombs and Donald L. Shaw published the Agenda Setting Theory in 1972, initially printed in Public Opinion Quarterly (McQuail & Deuze, 2020). The theory is used to explain that the media are defined as tools that are utilized to shape popular opinion by highlighting issues. In the process, these issues make the masses believe that they are relevant. This is achieved by the media through repetitive reporting of specific issues or giving them prominence. This means that the more a news item is popularised in the media in terms of frequency and prominence, the greater its importance becomes among the audience. The use and adoption of AI and robots in the war against insurgency is supported by the war government and society, depending on the level of attention provided by the media on the issue. Therefore, when the media stresses the necessity to implement AI and robots in the struggle against insurgency and reveals the atrocious atrocities perpetrated by insurgents, the people believe them to be serious matters. The media also seize the strength of AI and the use of robots in the terrorism struggle in Western societies. When a problem is continually reported in the discourse, people become concerned about it. These are the key postulations of the Agenda Setting Theory, which justifies the present research.

Value Change Theory

The value change theory posits that individuals must alter their value system before they can fully embrace an innovation. One of the techniques used in the theory is comparative feedback to promote attitudinal and behavioural change (Nsude, 2023). The value change theory not only educates people on the advantages and disadvantages of certain behaviours, but it also habitually challenges them to oppose their own values with those of others, which are

supposed to be acceptable in society. This theory is justified by the fact that Nigerians require a shift in values so that they can embrace AI robot solutions to address security issues in the country.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The use and implementation of AI technologies and robotics in the war on terrorism in Nigeria will be effective, provided that they are used in the right way. This will lead to significant transformations in Nigeria's national security strategy, structure, priorities, and resource allocation. The introduction of AI and robots will influence national security because it will lead to modifications in the spheres of military, information, and economic supremacy. Advancements in AI, drones, and robotics will enable the Nigerian army's military equipment to meet the highest global standards, equipping it to confront forces that pose a threat to national peace. These technologies will ensure that the military departments are ahead of their foes, as they understand their strategies aimed at national pride. These are the conventions within the societies which are winning the war against terrorists.

FURTHER STUDY

This research still has limitations, so it is necessary to conduct further research related to the topic of Unknown Gun Men and Known Gun Men: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Fighting Insecurity in Nigeria in order to perfect this research and increase insight for readers.

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