



Representations of International Conflicts and Diplomatic Tensions in International Newspapers

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Abstract

This study examines the representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in International Newspapers in 2019. It x-rayed the pattern of representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions if they were more negative and guided by national and economic interests than humanitarian. It investigated the degree of prominence comparatively accorded the reportage of the issues in developed nations and Africa; and further ascertained the direction of reportage of the issues. The study reviewed the Agenda Setting theory which flow from the functional theories as appropriate to explain the work and adopts the Content Analysis method with expected population consisting 120 editions of the two selected newspapers, *The Guardian of UK* and *New York Times of the US* from the deluge of global newspapers. The sample size was drawn from the population using the Taro Yamane formula to arrive at 24 editions. However, 22 editions of the newspaper had stories on international conflicts and diplomatic tensions, with over 31 stories. The contents were quantitatively analyzed with tables. From the findings the study concluded that international newspapers though reported significantly international conflicts and diplomatic tensions, their representations were more guided by aligned interests of some world powers and laced around economy rather than humanitarian or global peace. The study recommended advocacy representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions by being responsible and fair to all people, race and nations in the international newspapers and de-emphasis economic interest.

Keywords: Conflicts; Diplomatic tensions; Political ideology; Economic interests; Diplomatic row.

1. Introduction

Conflict apparently is one of the characterizing accounts of current world. Indeed, one upsetting element is the rising number of contentions which have essentially eroded the capacity of countries to think about their residents, resulting in humanitarian challenges. International conflicts have therefore threatened the foundation of many nations and instigated distrust among nations, thus bringing apprehension in several diplomatic relationships.

Such conflicts, no doubt, have exacerbated poverty, massive human affliction, and annihilated climate, dislodge significant quantities of individuals and make tremendous issues for the global network (Gilboa, 2002). Not many of these contentions have pulled in genuine worry from the global network, in spite of the fact that those that have pulled in worldwide consideration have had a noteworthy effect.

Making predictions for the year 2019, Malley (2018) opines that as the time of uncontested U.S. supremacy blurs, the worldwide request has been tossed into disturbance. A larger number of pioneers are enticed regularly than not as far as possible, jar for force, and try to support their impact – or lessen that of their opponents – by interfering in unfamiliar clashes. As indicated by Malley, multilateralism and its limitations are under attack, tested by more value-based, lose-lose legislative issues; contending that instruments of aggregate activity, for example, the UN Security Council, are deadened; those of aggregate responsibility, including the International Criminal Court (ICC), are disregarded and disparaged.

Scholars have viewed global newspapers play significant roles in determining strategy towards strife, and even international strategy of extraordinary forces. This has been ascribed to the vent given to such conflicts by the international media especially the newspapers for global attention. Kaldor (2014), argues that one clarification for this absence of comprehension is the moderately conflicting way to deal with media inclusion of contentions around the globe. He further contends that the political importance of certain contentions influences the reaction of the most remarkable governments and this thusly influences the media's inclusion of contention. In any case, it is additionally the situation that the degree, to which the media allocates need to covering one clash instead of another, thus shapes the reaction of the worldwide network. One outcome is that while a few clashes have gained worldwide

consideration through introduction in the media, others have neglected to get noteworthy consideration through disregard.

According to Gurevitch *et al.* (1991), “every media has its own specific orientations toward the related topics and notions”, adding that, “media institutions try to construct news in relation to the dominant cultural, ideological characteristics of the society.”

Today, the skirmishes arising from the attack on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia since September 6, 2019 is generating global conflict due to its effect on global oil price. The attention by international newspapers especially *The New York Times* and *The Guardian* of UK far outweighs the attention given to the conflict arising from the xenophobic attack on immigrants in South Africa, which indeed, agrees with the dominant ideological construct of the society where they report from. This tends to explain the fact that the media in the western world sets the agenda on how an issue could be elevated to global discourse based on their perception of the conflict elements. By their reportage they presented the attack on Saudi Arabia oil facilities with some sense of prominence as well as the diplomatic row that emanated from United States position on pointing a directional finger on Iran as the culprit. Perhaps, one is yet to see such equal attention to the xenophobic attack on immigrants in South Africa and the kind of diplomatic friction it has created. According to *The Guardian* (Monday, 16 Sept., 2019), authorities let US media to know the photographs show impacts predictable with the assault originating from the bearing of Iran or Iraq, as opposed to from Yemen toward the south. In any case, it includes that the US president, Donald Trump didn't make reference to Iran, yet composed on Twitter that he had "motivation to accept that we know the guilty party" behind the arrangement of assaults on the Abqaiq office, which is the world's biggest oil preparing plant.

The report by *The New York Times* seems to be a little departure from *The Guardian*. According to NYT (Tuesday, 17 Sept., 2019) American authorities have reprimanded Iran for an assault on Saudi oil offices on Saturday. Examiners state the strike seems, by all accounts, to be important for Tehran's endeavors to drive others to share its financial agony. These contentions will in general concur with Wu (2002) whose investigation of the worldwide part of papers from 38 distinct nations, seen that there is a solid inclination in news predominance towards nations with more grounded financial forces. He contends that the force structures of the world which characterizes both the political and monetary undertakings likewise direct progressions in global newspapers angle of reportage and coverage.

Gilboa (2002), points out that a transformation in correspondence and data advancements has changed media inclusion and mediation in global clash. Looking into the idea of upset that has affected enormously on media, Gilboa (2002) further notes that the unrest made a worldwide ability to communicate - frequently live-pretty much every noteworthy improvement in world occasions, and it made and extended the Internet. This suggests that any investigation of the media's parts in global clash must address both the conventional media (papers, TV, and radio) and the new media.

Media covers emergencies, clashes, war take part in advancing or expanding viciousness. Asemah (2011), notes that the media ... set plan for public examine... and, they can misuse vision and get individuals dependent on their substance offering importance to media plan... focusing on, "the issues they give conspicuousness, are the issues individuals center around." According to Sambe (2008) the press is a result of mass supposition. In the assessment of Ofem (2018) worldwide, paper reportage is relied upon to be inside the constraints of media morals while advising and instructing the general population on differing cultural issues like clashes. It is thusly expected that International papers presents better point of view reportage of worldwide clashes absent a lot of inclinations and biasness.

Owens-Ibie (2002), contends that "the media has contributed a lot to the improvement of contention since strife stays alluring to the media. He takes note of that the function of the media in struggle has been to impart the occasions of contention to intrigued perusers and strife parties who in some cases discover the media a significant wellspring of the contention mindfulness to a larger audience and interaction with the media itself and other parties to the conflict.

Akin (2005), avers that the press as a medium of communication between disputants and considering its interest in the reportage of conflict acts like a mediator, intervener, and a facilitator and conflict analyst. Therefore, the international newspapers play critical role in determining the focus and shape of international conflicts in terms of either escalation or mediation and resolution approaches. This, Akin (2005) argues that, for viable progression of media function in correspondence of contention, it requires objectivity and truth, being essential for the characteristics of good news coverage. Along these lines, the dependence on the media particularly the papers as a suitable device and instrument of worry for all layers of the general public has been laid with arrangement of consistent from the two casualties of media misuse and those that appear to hail the presence of the media.

Of course, that justifies the position of Schneider (2009) who posits that the media is the essential technique through which general society and political initiative see and comprehend clashes at home and abroad. He noticed that the media are taking a shot at how to deal with the contentions better; how the contentions are clarified and perceived is a vital aspect of that cycle.

It is therefore apparent in the views of Baum and Zhukov (2015) that representation of international conflicts in international newspapers depends squarely on the biases of the global political and economic impact especially when it exposes more of disasters. According to them it's generally fundamental and stereotypical is found in the old news thought regarding the central standard for building up a story: On the off chance that it drains, it drives. This position is additionally asserted by Otufodunrin (2013) that awful news sells which clarifies why media will now and again favor that an emergency last longer than it ought to.

The above reaffirms the observation of Stromberg (2004), Gentzkow and Shapiro (2004), Gentzkow (2006), DellaVigna and Kaplan (2007) and Gerber *et al.* (2006) that since columnists can accumulate and report just a little

subset of conceivably multitudinous information focuses at some random time, the subsequent trade of data turns out to be inalienably specific and one-sided. They further affirm that the extension and substance of media inclusion may reflect corporate inclinations, market motivations, and the limitations of the political and financial climate, just as the step by step unfurling of occasions. Thusly, the subsequent variety in news inclusion intervenes the validity, straightforwardness and accessibility of data in the public space.

Otufodunrin (2013), believes that the inclusion of contention may at times rely upon the job the media decides to play. Contingent upon various variables, including proprietorship, interests of writers, comprehension of the issue in question and others, the media can choose to favor one side in a contention and make it unimaginable for it to be effortlessly settled. The media can decide to kindle enthusiasm through electrifying reports educated by business interests, be utilized as promulgation instrument through distribution or broadcast of misrepresentation and sabotage endeavors to determine clashes (Otufodunrin, 2013).

Nwabueze and Ebeze (2013), also highlight normal practices by the media which contributes adversely to emergencies circumstances. They incorporate, inclusion of generalization among classification of individuals, wistful inclusion of stories dependent on writer's way of life, shallow and uneven inclusion of occasions, regular utilization of nostalgic features to help deals and fiery explanations against individual's powerlessness to help realities, etc.

It is obvious that international conflict and diplomatic tension representation by international newspapers especially the recent attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities and the xenophobic attack on immigrants in South Africa, portends some of the nuances that faces media in performing her role based on ethical foundations. Already there is diplomatic frictions between US President and the Iranian President over the attacks, while several diplomatic backlash have been meted to South Africa from other African leaders that their nationals have been victims of the conflict in that country.

The pattern of reportage or presentation of international newspapers therefore has left much to be desired as they more often than not focus on certain factors such as economic, political ideology and diplomatic interests of nations or worldview where they are either domiciled or represent in capturing what is viewed as conflict or not before the world. It further justifies what vent is given to such issues.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

The skewed pattern of representation of conflicts by international newspapers is based more on the political ideology, foreign policy and economic interests of nations they report from. They tend to present reports on conflicts that have direct bearing on countries where they represent or do have a vested interest in (especially the West) more than the developing continents like Africa. As a result, they treat conflicts more based on the journalistic cliché of the more it bleeds the better recipe for presentation. Conflicts in developing/developed countries such as Saudi Arabia oil facilities tension, South African Xenophobic attacks, Farmers/herdsmen conflict in Nigeria and in some West African countries and the Al'shabab militia group in Somalia and some other East African countries just to mention a few may have received such treatment from international media. Therefore, the need to investigate how the aforementioned conflicts/tensions and others are represented in international newspapers (*New York Times* and *The Guardian* of UK) which to a large extent seem to have remained uncertain.

1.2. Research Questions

The paper sets out to explore and answer variety of questions. These are:

- i. What is the frequency of occurrence of the various contents published on representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers?
- ii. What is the direction of contents on news representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers?
- iii. What is the slant of news representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers?
- iv. What is the degree of prominence or relevance given to representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers?
- v. What is the motivating interest/vent in news representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers?

2. Literature Review

Conflict and diplomatic tensions have become part of global politics and international relations. The media have become a determining factor in their early or delayed resolutions depending on the part they play or assume to play. In the views of Malley (2018) the breeze is in the sails of strongmen around the world. He extends that past their fringes, these pioneers test standards, as well; having added portions of Georgia and Crimea and fed nonconformist viciousness in Ukraine's Donbas area, Russia is currently applying pressure where needed in the Sea of Azov, harming protesters in the United Kingdom, and undercutting Western majority rule governments with digital fighting.

He further recorded different cases, for example, China's hindrance of opportunity of route in the South China Sea and discretionarily keeping Canadian residents. Saudi Arabia likewise pushed the envelope with the battle in Yemen, the capturing of a Lebanese PM, and the abhorrent homicide of protester columnist Jamal Khashoggi in its department in Istanbul. Iran plots assaults against dissenters on European soil. Israel feels encouraged to sabotage

perpetually efficiently the establishments of a potential two-state arrangement." These are the direction of global conflicts that occupies the attention of global media, including the recent heat created by the attack on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities and the xenophobic brouhaha in South-Africa.

2.1. Categories of International Conflicts and Diplomatic Tensions

The nature and pattern of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions have considerably changed since the finish of the Cold War. Crocker *et al.* (2001), state "until the finish of the Cold War, most worldwide clashes happened between and among states, however a while later they generally happened at the intrastate or worldwide levels.

Malley (2018), places an understanding by saying that much like 2018, 2019 presents dangers of encounter – purposeful or accidental – including the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Iran. The initial three offer a typical perspective on the administration in Tehran as a danger that has been encouraged for a really long time and whose territorial yearnings need controlling. He contends further that for the US, this has converted into withdrawal from the 2015 atomic arrangement, the reclamation of approvals, more forceful way of talking, and dangers of incredible reprisal in case of Iranian incitement. Riyadh has grasped this new tone, and – for the most part in the voice of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman – proposed it will retaliate and try to counter Iran in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen, and even on Iranian soil. This prediction seems to have played out recently with the conflict and diplomatic row caused by the attack on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities.

However, it is noteworthy to state that contemporary worldwide clashes evoked diagnostic differentiations among various classifications and levels of savagery or clashes. Beaumont (1995), sets that in any event, during the Cold war, extended, restricted savagery, exemplified fundamentally in illegal intimidation and guerilla fighting, and not huge scope, traditional wars, has ruled worldwide relations.

Thus, researchers will in general isolate between High Intensity Conflict (HIC), where savagery is described by significant wars, and Low Intensity Conflict (LIC), where viciousness is portrayed by substantially more restricted and sporadic employments of power. As per Beaumont (1995) before, researchers called the last "little wars," or "restricted wars." However, Luttwak (2002), all the more as of late, instituted a post-current term, "post-gallant war," portraying the pith of low force of contentions. Clear, Blank *et al.* (2002) think that media inclusion of LIC is incredibly essential in light of the fact that the primary objective of the sides occupied with this kind of contention is to change the foe's recognition, focusing on that, a contention in a specific locale might be moving across time starting with one sort of contention then onto the next. They note that in 2003, the U.S. battled a full-scale battle in Iraq, however from that point forward has been occupied with LIC.

2.2. Stages of Conflict

In the views of Galtung (2006) worldwide clash is a powerful cycle which starts and finishes at a specific timeframe. It isn't in every case simple to pinpoint the specific start and finishing of contention, yet researchers and experts have recognized life patterns of contentions and have examined them in sequential terms. Howard (2002) states the stages as: pre-struggle, strife, and post-strife or in the perspectives on Jakobsen (1996) it is named pre-savagery, brutality and post-viciousness. In any case, Gilboa (2007) sets considerably more important ideas are required and not simply time periods to portray the pre-and post-strife stages as he recorded four phases of global clash dependent on a basic condition and a main intercession objective: on-set-avoidance, acceleration the executives, de-heightening goal, and end compromise. Each stage has unmistakable qualities and closures in explicit results.

Gilboa (2007) further notes that avoidance is portrayed by the surfacing of contention, the start of contradictions, and development in verbal and conduct antagonistic trades, focusing on that at this stage, "just successful counteraction measures can prevent the contention from falling apart into brutality." It is the view that the second anticipation fizzles, gatherings may heighten the contention accepting they can force an answer through savagery. Thus, employments of power incorporate full-scale wars, military mediations, psychological oppression and hit and run combat, terminating across fringes, and organization of powers (Gilboa, 2007). He likewise contends that peace making restricting and ending brutality to generally decent levels-applies to the heightening savagery stage, which ordinarily finishes in a formal or casual truce or a cease-fire.

2.3. Conflict News Value

Conflict exists everywhere in the world depending on where there is fresh outbreak of key issue that attracts global attention. Attack on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities and xenophobic attack on migrants in South Africa are clear examples of conflict areas. Gunay (2013) points out that media purview is significant in the reportage of conflicts and war situations. He adds that most crises are newsworthy somewhat or to a certain level, positing that a nation should arrange for how to deal with the media technique, as each progression of news stream during the contention is fundamental. The outcome and continuous cycle of the contention may depend on media mission and news stream.

Basically, crises news may be political, strict, ethnic or individual. As per Shinar (2003), crisis news may be classified in an unexpected way. Social crisis news is one of the guides to struggle news. As uncovered by Shinar (2003) Palestinian-Israeli clash discovers its inclusion in plethora of media. The two Palestinians and Israelis portray the contention from various points and because of their own advantages. On the inclusion of this contention, there is an inconsistency in clarifying the circumstance and even arrangements. Obviously, there were diverse worth suggested the portrayal of the contention in the media, which featured that there are two viewpoints, for example, Arab/Islamic and Israeli/Jewish. However, one clear introduction by Shinar (2003) is that portrayal of the contention

on media is basic for the crowd, where generally, common individuals get data about the contentions through the media.

As further indicated by [Gunay \(2013\)](#), clash or crisis news may reflect strategy tensions, with media experts utilizing specific language so as to portray explicit and different contentions. Thus, by such attestation, strife news and its inclusion have plausibility to shape conclusions and characters. Accordingly, the portrayal of the contention is basic for specific nation.

According to [Robison \(2004\)](#), “the representation of any event by the media organizations may function as death or life. An example for this situation is a demonstration of Bosnian crisis. Whereas the international community considered Bosnia as a problem which required solution; Britain media represented Bosnia as the ethnic conflict after the fall of communism.” Along these lines, the inclusion of the contention was molded diversely choosing what direction and angles to shape and decipher the news.

2.4. International News Flow and Influencing Factors

According to [Himelboim \(2010\)](#) a trade normally requires at least two gatherings included; in any case, a significant evaluate of worldwide news stream is that it is a one - way hilter kilter stream of data. As indicated by him a scope of worldwide news stream is terribly inconsistent, since individuals in various pieces of the globe are not similarly educated around each other, which is because of the different level of innovation accessible to them. It is accentuated that not all nations have admittance to the data and innovation at a similar level. Researchers have contended that global news stream isn't just about news stream, yet additionally incorporates data about various societies, way of life, overseeing strategy, and so on in the diverse districts.

In an investigation [Onwutalobi \(2010\)](#), contends that non-industrial nations are not keen on having power, however looking for a parity and free progression of data where both great and awful sides of their accounts are reflected in the data pathway. Sadly, in the International issues, there are nations that produce news, and there are nations that assume a function of beneficiaries. Industrialised nations including EU and US are the nations which produce the global news. Nations in Africa, Asia and other immature and non-industrial nations get the progression of news that was created by others. [Segev \(2010\)](#), reinforced above position by saying that the USA and United Kingdom have strong economic and political power on the world society, arguing that the US media institutions give coverage to the news from different parts of the world.

So, there is an imbalance in global news stream, with the western developed nations at the middle, overwhelming global news circle. Thus, besides nations' geography and position framework in global news stream, their financial capacity are fundamental in worldwide news progression or outlay.

[Chang \(1998\)](#), tried to justify this by saying that if any news or stories originates from a developed country; it will flow to other countries very easily, while underdeveloped and developing countries get news from core countries very quickly.

According to [Galtung \(2006\)](#), international system consists of two categories such as central and peripheral countries. The core countries are mainly western countries and under developed countries are defined such as peripheral countries. News in center nations can without much of a stress stream and occupy prominent mention in the worldwide media. It is entirely a different perspective in matters that relate to giving the narratives of the third world nations. In such places news got heavily censored, summarised and at best made a passing mention in the media. All things being equal, not all news and occasions is effective in getting inclusion in the media. Consequently, [Chang \(1998\)](#) demonstrates that, not all nations find their coverage in international media at the same level. He argues that a chance to be represented in international media depends on the countries location and economic power in the world.

[Chang \(1998\)](#), states that the flow of international news does not recognize any boundaries because of the age of technology and information. He notes that the opportunity to be in news for industrialised nations are a lot higher than those of the third world nations, which made the non-industrial nations more defenseless against data age. These disparities in the final analysis makes developed countries such as USA and EU more powerful on the representation of international news and have more control on the flow of news.

The economic system of the country has become an essential factor in international news flow. The cost of transmitting news is not a cheap. According to [Pietilainen \(2006\)](#), international news and international trade are connected to each other as the circulation and connection between the two attributes are very strong. Several researches have demonstrated that the nations critically involved in international trade and exchange are more likely to be connected with unfamiliar news. The financial arrangement of the nation quickens the odds to sell the items in global level. Such economic outlay is leveraged on to open a window to the global commercial center where it is more advantageous to counsel an exchange framework with the goal of assisting, which characterises the picture and international strategy of such nations.

From the viewpoint of human science of information, global news presentations in the United States isn't just an issue of introduction of occasions as they seem to be, it speaks to an editorial purpose of perspectives, the American viewpoint on how unfamiliar news ought to be secured ([Tsan-Kuo Chang, Brian Southwell, Hyung-Min Lee and Yejin-Hong](#)) as referred to in [Gunay \(2013\)](#). So, it turns out to be evident that, unfamiliar news is identified with the editorial purpose of perspectives, their contemplations and results. [Ostgaard \(1965\)](#) states, the main aspect of the representation of international news are that it should be comprehensive and acceptable to the readers and audience (p. 45) which ought to be basic and justifiable to the readers. News progression is based on readers' interest.

[Gunay \(2013\)](#), while referring to [Tsan-Kuo Chang, Brian Southwell, Hyung-Min Lee and Yejin-Hong](#) note that the political reasons for the nation are additionally associated with the global news stream. This is to make a positive

picture of the nation legislators contort worldwide news comparable to their inclinations. Some of the time, they decide to distort or suppress or confine some clear news. Legislators and authorities impact the news media for their own motivations and self-serving purposes. Global news progression is likewise associated with the discretion of the nation. Discretionary waves have changed through the set of experiences.

3. Theoretical Framework

Flowing from the above theoretical review it is apparent that the Agenda Setting theory from the variety of functional theories will be more appropriate to analyze the issues of international conflict representation in international newspapers. According to Wimmer and Dominic (2000) see that the hypothesis on plan setting by the media suggests that the public plan or what sorts of things individuals examine, ponder is effectively molded and coordinated by what the media decide to pitch. This obviously implies that if the worldwide papers decided to give the most reality to the assault on Saudi Arabia oil offices, this issue will turn into the most significant on the public talk and crowds' psyches. In the perspectives on (Asemah *et al.*, 2017) the swearing off suggests that the media determines the drum beat that we dance to. Folarin (1998), states that the plan setting hypothesis suggests that the broad communications pre-figure out what issues are viewed as significant at some random time in a given society. In other words, agenda setting gives the public what to think about per time.

Ikpe (2012) says it reaffirms the intensity of the press, while keeping up that people have opportunity to pick what to focus on; mass media agenda and public agenda are a close match; the media present the issues that are controversial in our society, that is, issues that are burning. This therefore, implies that newspapers coverage and presentation of conflicts falls within the precinct of setting agenda on burning issues on the international arena. This is because it is a limited effect theory dealing with media messages and their influence on the audience. Asemah *et al.* (2017), note that agenda setting theory has prescient force because of the way that it envisions if the majority are oftentimes presented to the equivalent media, the likelihood of them considering the same issues or having similar conclusion about issues is high.

4. Methodology

The study adopted content analysis (quantitative) as the research method. This helps to further examine the unit of analysis in determining representations of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers between August and September 2019. Two newspapers, *The Guardian* of UK and *New York Times*, were selected out of several global newspapers. A total of 60 editions of *The Guardian of UK* and *New York Times* of the month of September 2019 (that is, 30 editions for each of the newspapers obtained online) were examined to evaluate the trend in the reportage of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions. The choice of these two newspapers was mainly informed by their global acclaim and readership. To further determine the sample size, the researcher adopted Yamane sample size proportion formula to arrive at workable size. Yamane (1967) as cited in Obayi *et al.* (2016) provides a simplified formula to calculate a sample size for content analysis. A 98% confidence level and .2% precision presented thus:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} = \frac{120}{1 + 120(0.02)^2} = 24 \text{ Editions}$$

4.1. Description of the Sample

Out of the 120 sample editions of the newspapers selected for the study within the months of August and September, 2019, 7 editions for *The Guardian* and 11 editions for *New York Times* had stories on international conflicts and diplomatic tensions relating to Europe and Middle East whereas only 3 editions for *The Guardian* and 3 editions for the *New York Times* had stories on conflicts and diplomatic tensions relating to Africa. In all 24 editions covered the subject matter. There were 31 stories on international conflicts and diplomatic tensions represented in the 24 editions out of the 120 editions sampled. There were multiple stories on international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in same editions for both newspapers.

4.2. Data Analysis

This section presents the data in table and analyses the outcome from the content. Like elaborated earlier, the study analyzed 31 stories on international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in the 24 editions of *The Guardian* and *New York Times* newspapers.

Table-1. Description on the frequency of occurrence of the various contents published on representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers

Unit of Analysis	Frequency		Total	%
	<i>The Guardian UK</i>	<i>New York Times</i>		
1 News	8	15	23	74%
2 Feature	2	2	4	13%
3 Opinion Article	2	2	4	13%
4 Editorial	0	0		0%
Total	12	19	31	100%

Source: Field work 2020

The table above indicates that there were 74% straight news representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers within the period under review amongst other genres that have less attention.

Table-2. Determining the direction of contents on news representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers (Positive 1, Negative 2, Neutral 3)

Unit of Analysis	<i>The Guardian</i>	<i>New York Times</i>	Total	Percentage
1 Positive	1	4	5	16%
2 Negative	11	15	26	84%
3 Neutral	0	0	0	0%
Total	12	19	31	100%

Source: Field work 2020

Table 2 showed the direction of reportage, with 84% negative presentation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers. This is against 16% positive reports and 0% indifference. This shows that the media especially international newspapers tilt their reports to the journalistic principle of the more it bleeds the better for reportage.

Table-3. Determining the slant of news representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers (Europe/Middle East focused 1, Africa focused 2, Neutral 3)

Unit of Analysis	<i>The Guardian, UK</i>	<i>New York Times</i>	Total	Percentage
1 Europe/Middle East focused	9	14	23	74%
2 Africa focused	3	5	8	26%
3 Neutral	0	0	0	0%
Total	12	19	31	100%

Source: Field work 2020

The above table 3 explains framing pattern which shows the deliberate focus of news representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers with over 74% focused on Europe and Middle East while a paltry of 26% were allotted to conflicts and diplomatic strife in Africa. This indicates that conflicts and diplomatic row in Africa are not fundamental to news representation in international newspapers as *The Guardian* of UK and *New York Times*.

Table-4. Determining the degree of prominence or relevance given to representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers in 2019

Unit of Analysis	<i>The Guardian UK</i>	<i>New York Times</i>	Total	%
Front page	5	15	20	64%
Back page	-	-	-	0%
Centre spread	-	-	-	0%
Inside page	3	8	11	36%
Total	8	23	31	100%

Source: Field work 2020

In determining the degree of prominence given to news representation on international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers table 4 indicates that the subject matter is given significant attention thus materials on it are prominently on front and subsequent described as A-pages of the newspapers with 64% of the analyzed stories. This perhaps is to align with the journalistic principle of the more it bleeds, the better for presentation.

Table-5. Determining the motivating interest/vent in news representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers in 2019

Unit of Analysis	<i>The Guardian UK</i>	<i>New York Times</i>	Total	%
Humanitarian interest	3	5	8	26%
Economic interest	9	14	23	74%
General interest	-	-	-	0%
Total	12	29	31	100%

Source: Field work 2020

From the analysis, the motivating factor for news presentation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers tilts towards economic interests rather than humanitarian. The data in table 5 elaborates that 74% of the analyzed stories show more of economic interests of the various stories in the two newspapers under-studied.

5. Discussion of Findings

The findings from data presented provides revealing explanations on the deliberate focus of news framing of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in international newspapers with over 74% focusing on Europe and Middle East while a very paltry portion of 26% were allocated to conflicts and diplomatic tensions in Africa. This indicates that conflicts and diplomatic row in Africa are not fundamental to news representation in international newspapers as *The Guardian* of UK and *New York Times*. So, the interest of Europe and its allies forms the nucleus of representation of the international newspapers. Rightly, the framing pattern showed the deliberate focus of news representation in the international newspapers with over 74% focused on Europe and Middle East while a paltry of 26% focused on strife in Africa. This indicates that conflicts and diplomatic row in Africa are not fundamental to news representation in international newspapers as *The Guardian* of UK and *New York Times* content analyzed. This, perhaps, reflects the world communication order, where there is deliberate alignment to protect the interest of those categorized as developed nations with powers to override the less developed and developing ones.

The study of the two major international newspapers, *The Guardian of UK* and *New York Times* further examined "the frames through which newspapers represent international conflicts and diplomatic tensions", and found that they framed international conflicts and diplomatic tensions along foreign policy and economic interests rather than humanity interest.

Apparently, the two month study in 2019 (August and September) on representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions in *The Guardian of UK* and *New York Times* reveal that a higher percentage (74%) of stories were more of pursuing ideological and foreign policy interests of the super nations like US and Britain and their allies, ignoring much of trending conflicts and diplomatic rows in developing nations like in the African continent. Majority of the stories anchored more on the economic angle and the implications to their common patrimony and forsaking the global human carnage implication as well as effects to the developing nations.

Besides, editorial standards themselves influenced the substance of reports on representation of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions, now and again to the hindrance of improved development concept of communication. The norm of the more it bleeds, the better for presentation characterized the narratives of majority of the stories. This approach to news presentation from the stories seems to have further escalated the situation by instigating global conflicts and diplomatic tensions rather than promote global peace.

Again, the developing nations remain at the receiving end of imperialistic media representation as majority of events that affects them are somehow ignored in international newspapers like *The Guardian of UK* and *New York Times*. Issues in Africa are given a passing comment and insignificant positions in international newspapers, however, once it relates to conflicts resulting from economic sources that Europe and its ally are beneficiaries, the reports takes a different dimension. This was confirmed by the two papers focusing more on news items emanating from attacks on oil facilities and diplomatic row arising there from, than the carnage committed in South Africa as a result of xenophobic attack.

No wonder issues of hunger and disease in Africa which take central stage from crisis and conflicts in Africa have less mention in those global newspapers. This is where balance and fairness have become very tainted due to perceived national interests. Mooney (2004), para12) noticed that —this can in certainty lead to unbalanced announcing if the story gives a lot of room and thoughtfulness regarding sees held by just a unimportant minority of "the world powers" who now command the control of the entire globe and dictates the pace of international affairs.

6. Conclusion

Several media from the international arena have adopted definite patterns of reporting international conflicts and diplomatic tensions particularly in a manner to protect the interests of their administrations, nations and their partners in the control of worldwide occasions. The significant objectives of different broad communications particularly the papers have been:

1. To subjectively determine images of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions to depict in the media to impact public comprehension/information just as government approaches and actions.
2. To guarantee that they ensure their nation's political ideologies, foreign policy interests in the global discourses on international conflicts and diplomatic tensions as they relate to economic considerations and political dominance on the global arena.
3. To continue media imperialism in such manner that the worldview must be seen from the prism of the international media emanating from Europe and her allies, and therefore, set agenda for the rest of the globe and continue to suppress issues emanating from the less developed continents and countries.

Recommendations

- i. The media should endeavor to speak to an example as far as edges, development and pictures to extend global conflicts and diplomatic tensions with absolute sense of responsibility towards world peace and security. The aim should be to propagate and broaden global views that would be beneficial to the global community and advance world peace instead of heightening the already fragile global arena infested by terrorism and insurgency through unwholesome hyping of international conflicts and diplomatic tensions under the guise of journalistic cliché of "the more it bleeds the better for presentation."
- ii. The international newspapers should also consider taking responsibility in elevating service to humanity by promoting world peace and security rather than promoting, political ideologies, foreign policies and

economic interests of nations where they ply their trade from or protecting the economic interests of Europe and its allied nations to the detriment of other nations.

- iii. They also owe humanity the responsibility of balance and fairness especially in changing the pattern of media imperialism where global issues are only viewed from the prism of Europe and its allies and ignoring most critical conflicts and diplomatic tensions in developing nations. What is good for the goose is also good for the gander. Until the western press considers the African continent as equal partners in the global project, the war of inequality and the iniquities of imperialism and neocolonialism would continue to rage. Therefore, the western press must as a matter of urgency pay equal attention in representing conflicts and tensions in Africa as capable of causing global unrest.

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