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System Failure Causes of Conflict in Africa as a Social Transformation

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Abstract:
Conflicts have many causes in societies among which system failure(s) have affected and continue to affect African societies in different ways. These sources as visibly observed have been part of the social degradation of many states in Africa's early independence history. With 21st Century still experiencing this dilemma, within this high potential continent, a host of fundamental questions come under scrutiny and need to be re-asked. First, is social transformation a goal of every society? Second, does social transformation need to be in the light of systems failure and resultant conflicts? Third, what does the absence of social transformation mean? In arriving at acceptable conclusions, a major aspect to be probed by this paper will also include the genesis of system failures in African politics over the past many years. This paper opts to subject systems in equivalent weighing scale with an understanding that whether micro or macros, systems failure at their various levels have an effect to society's functioning. With this in mind, in its inner core, it is argued that in identification exist solutions which gives a new social focus to the society (African states).
Key Words: System(s), System Failure, Conflict, Social Transformation.

1. Introduction

Organizations and states are systems that work within systems and with systems in ensuring their goals are achieved. System is a group of body organs that together perform one or more vital functions, the body considered as a functional unit (Merriam Webster Dictionary). An analysis of systems by Berk (1987) indicates that "a systems failure occurs when a system does not meet its requirements". State objectives within the system of states may differ from the general business organization aspirations but it stands that all have requirements to the outside environment.With the three objectives of; Identifying types of system failure causes of conflict in Africa, determining how system failure causes have affected African societies, and finding how addressing system failure causes can cause social transformation; this paper sets off to carrying out a system analysis in achieving the objectives. "A systems failure analysis is an investigation to determine the underlying reasons for the nonconformance to system requirements. A systems failure analysis is performed to identify nonconformance root causes and to recommend appropriate corrective actions" (Berk ibid).
David Easton (1968) on systems model implies that all other systems converge in political systems. He thus defines it, "Political system is that part of society engaged in authoritative allocation of values". At the core of this system are institutions/structures and personnel for policy making. Issues arising from political systems include; dimensions of environment (culture/ socio-economic based on conditions and natural resources/ e.t.c.), inputs relating to character and policies, and history (interactions with externalities/ natural sociological tendencies). To improve on Easton's definition, we redefine it as ***political system being that part of society engaged in authoritative allocation of values and resources***. This adds an aspect that is more pronounced to our systems, the latter word resources.
Rotberg in his article "Failed States, Collapsed states, Weak States: Causes and Indicators allude,

> "Nation-states fail because they are convulsed by internal violence and can no longer deliver positive political goods to their inhabitants. Their governments lose legitimacy, and the very nature of the particular nation-state itself becomes illegitimate in the eyes and in the hearts of a growing plurality of itscitizens.The rise and fall of nation-states is not new, but in a modern era when nation-states constitute the building blocks of legitimate world order the violent disintegration and palpable weakness of selected African, Asian, Oceanic, and Latin American states threaten the very foundation of that system."

Nations and states have divine and implied obligations. "States exist to provide opportunities; it implies the methods of governance institutions are imperative for thinking stability and development. This must be backed by stable judicial systems and with proper legal frameworks" (Juma, 2013). Institutions are systems within states for performing state functions. Their failure reflects on the states capacity.

Recognising the role of judicial systems as in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 Article 159, sections 2 and 3 just like with other countries, set their roles as traditional disputes resolutions, according justice to all and expeditiously,

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and protecting and promoting the principles of the constitution. Any arising failure is conflictual to other arms of government. Rotberg (2003) asserts that "nations exist to provide a decentralized method of delivering political (public) goods to persons living within designated parameters (borders). Having replaced the monarchs of old, modern states focus and answer the concerns and demands of citizenries." His mention of decentralized doesn't imply a system of devolution in this case but an insinuation of states prime purpose of equitable sharing of national wealth, a practice found in few ideal situations.

States world over are systems and their operations are systemic. The failure of a state thereof implies system failure. "Enduring violence, disharmony between communities, loss of authority, growth of criminal violence, and inability to provide political goods, are indicators that Rotberg provides to examine the nature of failed states (Rotberg 2010, 5)."The Failed States Index defines a failed state as, "a body depleted of state capacity and economic prospects, where potential for violent conflict is high (Haims *et al* 2008, 1)". The very nature of failing state system is a thing to worry of. The example of Somalia reflects exactly what the real threat of such is to the international system; terrorism, piracy, conflict spill-over and refugee flows, all of which thrive insecurity in the neighbourhood and internationally.

The state structure in which roles are shared between the executive, legislature, and judiciary is systemic. They operate through interdependence of roles though independently. From Rotberg and Haims above, loss of authority, inability to provide political goods and depleted state capacity are signs of system failure. Authority of states is embedded in a structure of administration which must show capacity of handling the objectives of any regime to the citizens.

The understanding of international system by David Singer posits inter – relational system, closely linked and bound together for success of all. He implies that International Relations (IR) can best be explained and understood at the "Systemic Level." At this high level of analysis, describing, explaining and predicting events in IR is most effective because of the wide scope that is used to view broad issues as well as the disregard for cultural/individual factors that could contentiously play into the system. Besides, attention is paid to identifying the dominant forces in the field and, consequently, finding patterns in the larger picture. By any means, system failure contributes to collapse in linkages and lack of abilities to predict events which hampers where to best fit national energies where states are on spotlight. And just as he (Singer, 1961) suggests, "The observer may choose to focus upon the parts or upon the whole, upon the components or upon the system". These can mean enhancement or failure.

From the above thought, with the "Three Levels of Analysis" approach to IR conceived by Kenneth Waltz (1979) and further articulated by J. David Singer, we are given an organized structure in our political school of thought to better help us understand and predict events in an international system. Since it is a system, the Third-Image analysis or Systemic Level of analysis serves most effective in best explaining and understanding IR. The big picture can be applied to the 'small state systems'; that is failure of one system does not lead to system absence but rather a popping up of another which in most cases is undesirable. This is because systems are intertwined by virtue of states existence and relation wise.

Whereas David Singer uses the analogy in this wider sense, it is evidenced herein that within larger systems there are smaller systems (subsystems) known and unknown. A situation of failure breeds disorder thus anarchy, akin to what has been witnessed in Somalia where Warlords sprout to fill the gap created.

Systems in their operations are supposed to be coherent. Where goals pursued clash, conflict exist. It can be viewed as that situation existing where constructive forces of change meet conservative forces against change (Juma ,2013), Incoherence means incompatibilities and lead to breakages in fabrics that sustain systems.

In the African perspective, one wonders why there is rampancy in system failures even as we fodge into the century of enlightenment. In "Blaming the Environment" (2002), Kagwanja suggests that, "since African class systems are in their formative stages, kinship and ethnic affinities are extremely significant in determining political dynamics". This means failure and success hinge on this fact as class composition is an issue with many African systems. In many cases, elites serving their patrons relegate national goals using state resources to their own.

Organizations like systems are people dependent. As Machiavelli puts it in his 1531 book 'the Discourse', "one person can begin an organization but it is lasting when it is left in the care of many and when many desire to maintain it." What Machiavelli was highlighting in this principle is an emphasis on success of systems. Whereas individuals are the fabrics of systems at onset and for continuity, erstwhile operations of the systems depend on the unity of individuals and other components of an organization for posterity. People form part of the organization as a system both internally and externally. This makes Machiavelli's insight true as both environments (internal and external) are needed to see the system change positively.

As Barnard Chester (1886-1961) insinuates, people come together in formal organizations to achieve ends they cannot accomplish working alone. While arriving at his central thesis, he recognizes that, "an enterprise can

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operate efficiently and survive only when the organization's goals are kept in balance with the aims of the individuals working for it." In other words, Barnard postulates systemic failure as being pegged on the deliberate detachments from systemic goals especially unity.

2. Problem Statement

Social degradation seems to have affected many states in Africa since their early independence history and the trends continue to link this to system failure which in the end becomes part of causes of conflict. Attempts are ever being made by states to solving numerous conflict causes including system failure causes yet existing systems due to fluidity still show signs of recurrent failures even when they seem stable today.

3. Papers objectives:

The objectives that guided this paper included;

i. Identifying types of system failures causes of conflict in Africa
ii. Determining how system failure causes have affected African societies.
iii. Finding how addressing system failure causes can cause social transformation.

4. Significance of this Paper

This paper will be of great significance for academia and those interested in addressing system failure causes towards social transformation as it carries insights into causes and attempts aimed at offering solutions.

5. Typologies of System Failure Causes of Conflict

Failed systems are conditions not only for internal conflict but a broad spectrum of effects to the international community. Stewart (2007) observes this in his discussions in the book 'Failed' states and Global security, "piracy is an additional transnational crime that flourishes in failed states due to the fact that criminal networks exploit environments where the rule of law is absent, such as in conflict zones". When systems fail, control is often lost hence lawlessness a condition synonymous with high handed operation of civilian reign of crime before enhancement to pseudo-governments.

A series of enhancement changes the face of system failure from local domain. Varsavel (2012), confirms this position and points out that, though internally, the then Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in Somalia struggles were against the Islamic Courts Union (TFG) with the aim to seize power, the direction of the internal dynamics forces Ethiopia and Kenya to subsequently become involved in the conflict, translating ICU's struggle for power from a local to a regional conflict.

It is observed by www.creativeassociatesinternational.com that Systemic sources of conflict are pervasive and affect large numbers of people. Their influence on the probability of conflict operates slowly. Measures like international programs or government policies that seek to prevent or reduce conflicts by treating their systemic sources often show results over the long term.

Systemic determinants cause objective changes in parties' material circumstances; environmental deterioration, population growth, resource scarcity and competition, the colonial or Cold War legacy, breakdowns of values and traditions, poverty, the marginalization of pastoralists, and ethnicity are all examples of systemic causes of conflict. A study of 113 instances of failed states, civil wars, and related national crises from 1955 to 1994 tested 75 political, leadership, demographic, social, economic and environmental factors and found that three factors—a nation's infant mortality rate, the extent of a nation's trade, and the extent of democracy—were the most strongly associated with the crises and were linked with other factors that affect the risks of crisis, even though they did not directly cause the crises themselves. The first two variables are systemic.

One rampant system failure cause of conflict in developing countries of Africa is disrespect to constitutional roles and flouting of laws that govern institutions and countries. To what extent are constitutions supreme? Is their supremacy overshadowed by the executives' roles, duties, and manifestos? In the recent Kenyan Land problem, Ombati and Mosoku reportedly noted on the Standard on Saturday of 7th 2013 that, "another row is simmering between Cabinet Secretary for Lands Charity Ngilu and the National Lands Commission over a controversial decision to allocate close to 300 acres of public land to a private organization in Kibera slums, Nairobi." If in any case the said Secretary has no constitutional mandate then a symptom of a nature likely to distabilise Lands Commission of Kenya which is an institutional system set for a purpose is eminent.

The Commission believes as the chairman observes that, "it is my commission that is mandated by the law to allocate public land for both county and national government, we have not done so in the case of Kibera. The same commission is also supposed to issue allotment letters to individuals by working in consultation with respective governments." However, Lands Secretary has a different interpretation as she says, "The National Lands Commission must accept that they are not the ones to make all decisions. I have a manifesto to implement

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and I can't have diversions when handling issues of land." Whereas the first part of Ngilu's statement looks very realistic, the latter part reveals an executive resolve to act without any institutional hurdle, an executive veto.
The likely effects can be threefold. First, it can ignite violence among the residents if those allocated start exercising ownership rights and evict earlier tenants. Secondly, at the level of government and institutions, constitutional roles catalyses harmony in their working and with a show of executive veto, it leaves institutions powerless and programmeless and constant showdowns likely to lead to a crash of such bodies by the executives. Thirdly, if the exercise of by the executive continues, then the larger state system may find it as a way of breaking the country. Kenya is filled with much tension and differences of ethnic affiliation levels of interests, and party/coalitions interests. This can be used by the coalitions and parties to disregard other systems (national systems) in their backyards where they command control to suppress executive powers and impositions by their political competitors.
The constitution of Kenya 2010, Article 249, under objects, authority and funding of commissions and independent offices direct that these commissions shall exist to;

Article 1 (a) Protect the sovereignty of the people
(c) Promote constitutionalism
2 The commissions and the holders of such offices are;
(a) Subject only to this constitution and the law.

(b) Independent and not subject to direction or control by any person or authority.

Land Act ostensibly gives powers to the Land Commission to allocate public land. From the past abuses of the executive and visibly seen legislative excesses against citizens, this constitution realized that sovereignty of the people needed to be protected also by institutions apart from the executive and the legislature as checks and balancing designs. Article 249, 2(a) and (b) provide a conflict resolution for Lands Commission and the Lands Cabinet Secretary. There is neither any subjection of Lands Commission to any organ. Article 254 requires them to only report to head of state and parliament (a procedural act). It is also notable that where those in veto positions resolve to destroy constitutional, economic, socio-political patterns and order synonymous with a people as the institution of slavery network did deliberately, then you find systems failures creeping in precipitated by people evolving with new attitudes of a defeated self-push. But because the social human beings ego can never be permanently and continuously suppressed, opposition thereof results into conflicts of systemic failure. Manley (1990), "The Pharaohs held the Jews in bondage and so there arose, with historical inevitability, a Moses as man's first recorded symbol of the spirit of self-reliance". In our context you can call it the spirit of rebellion to systemic suppression.
Other causes of system failure causes which have greater effects include; ineptitude in the management of diversity (avoiding to accept and live with one another), institutional pathology (upholding exaggerated egoism and sheer arrogance), and structural variables which concentrate power centrally through degenerations of checks on the executive.

5.1 In Summary;
System failure manifests itself when;

- There exists non-recognition of set systems in form of institutions
- Clash in goals pursued within the system
- Constructive forces of change meet conservative forces against change
- If systems continue to be in their feudal stages with strong kinship and ethnic affinities to disregard the sense of their larger umbrella system

Types of system failures may include;

- Institutional malfunctions
- Socio-economic degradations
- Strongmen Tendencies
- Ineptitude in the management of diversity
- Institutional pathology
- Structural variables which concentrate power centrally through degenerations of checks on the executive.

6. How System Failure Causes Have Affected African States

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Not only is Africa affected by system failure causes because of their origin from within the continent. The globe at large is affected. As Varsavel (2012) notes, "the essay thus far has examined and supported the causative link between state failure and global insecurity". The origin of system failure vis-a-viz state failure might be remote but the effects have wider implications extending to more than one state. A concentration of effects is eminent in the immediate geographical environs. It is true somehow the line of thinking projected by some Western powers. Varsavel states, "western world sees state failure only as a problem when it is a threat to them makes us question whether state failure really is a threat to global insecurity." The agreement here is that state system failure is a cause of insecurity in a wider magnitude.

System failure causes have led to pariah states in Africa with many conflicts from the nature of political systems. Roker (1962) calls them amoeba type political systems which change anyhow, fluid and brittle hence incase of breaking, having a new balance becomes extremely hard. Finding a centre of balance often is a ground for disagreements and a possible source of conflicts. Economic factors act without regard for the social good; professionals forget their oaths as soon as they have uttered the final words of the same; armies define those who finance their barracks and pay for their uniforms and their weapons as objects for manipulation, even slaughter. Governments are not governments of countries or nations, but of partialities serving particular interests." (Juma, 2012)

Each cause of system failure has its unique effects. Lack of predictability in the political systems renders them institutions of the few to the exclusion of the majority against the spirit of democracy seemingly adopted by many states to date. The effects of this may range from dictatorships and patronage. New patron- client relationships crop up affecting ongoing developments hitherto handled by old power associations.

In the economic field, such failures provide opportunity for exploitative environment from the business class who easily loss sense of ethics to profit maximization. And as such sociological tendencies become natural, professionals adapt to survival techniques against their office oaths. When not addressed earlier, what exists as a state then finds itself to the natural state of African countries 'identification by tribe'.

In Summary;

System failure causes have affected Africa in a number of ways;

- Leading to pariah states
- Increased dependencies
- Loss of lives
- Increased refugee problems
- Insecurity
- Human rights violations
- Exploitations through economic cartels
- Disrespect to constitutional roles and flouting of laws by ruling elite
- Creation of un-probabilistic atmosphere for socio-economic activities

7. Handling System Causes Failure: A Remedy Towards Social Transformation

System is widely accepted means of analysis in political science and international relations. System theory had its origin in natural sciences. The proponents of the theory sought to find a unifying element that would offer a broader perspective for creative analysis. In studies in international relations and political science, systems theory is often used interchangeably with systems analysis.

The concept system can be defined as a set of elements standing in interaction (Von Bentalanffy, 1969). Understanding systems approach in politics is important in that each part of political canvas does not stand alone. At national political level its important to understand that a system is an encompassing term that include political structures, the system of government, the political leadership, as well as the constitution of that country.

Proponents of system theory identify three components of every political system (Ray, 2008). First is the political community. This comprises all those persons bound together by a political division of labor. Second is the regime, which makes up the constitutional structures, political processes, institutional norms, as well as basic values. And third is a political authority, that is, those individuals exercising power as agents of the state. In Kenyan context for example, political community refers to Kenyan people. The regime consists of constitutional foundations, basic values of politico-economic system, political parties, the periodic elections, and other institutions associated with the Kenya government. The ruling elite in Nairobi are the political authorities.

Studies of comparative politics reveal that the chief function of a political system is making authoritative decisions that allocate advantages and disadvantages for an entire society. Decision making is thus the essence of a political system. David Easton, one of the first political scientists to suggest utitlity of systems analysis for the

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study of politics defines a political system as that behavior or set of interactions through which authoritative allocations are made and implemented for society (Easton, 1968)

As discussed to depth in the above sections, many violent conflicts in contemporary Africa are cause by what we have referred to here as systems failure. This involves problems of bad governance, lack of proper institutions to come up with sound policies. A number of countries that have experience some of the worst conflicts in the continent have also experience undemocratic practices that deprive people not only of the right to participate in public affairs, but also some of their fundamental human rights.

Besides, they have also been characterized by serious policy errors. Both Sudan and Somalia serve as examples of bad governance and policy errors. The Sudanese government introduced and implemented discriminatory policies against the southerners, marginalizing them as a region mainly on racial and religious grounds. It is important to note that the reemergence of confrontation between the Khartoum forces and the Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) in 1983 was when the government of President Omar Al-Bashir reneged on some of the measures that had been initiated by the government of (former) Sudanese president Numeiry to end the north-south conflicts. Such included granting and observing semi-autonomous status of southern Sudan.

The Khartoum government introduced sharia (Islamic law) in the South, a region that is predominantly non-Islamic in population. Besides, the changes of provincial boundaries with a view to deprive the southerners of major oil producing areas were a source of renewed violence between the government and SPLA. Such were policy errors, a characteristic of system failure.

In the case of Somalia, the government of Siad Barre failed to distribute national resources equitably among Somalis, preferring to nominate ministers and other key government officials mainly from his clan and the clans where he married from, thus marginalizing members of other clans. Such practices made conflicts inevitable, a factor exacerbated by the proliferation of illegal arms particularly following the Ogaden War between Somalia and Ethiopia (1977-1987). These are indeed systems failure, suggesting lack of properly functioning institutions, poor leadership that are characteristics of undemocratic governments.

General systems theory provides a broad framework for the examination of politics. In this paper, we focus on the conflictual aspects of conflicts, and particularly those which are violent in nature. And in accordance to the theme of the conference, the analysis is done in the context of social transformation. The analysis focuses on how system failures can be addressed and the possible societal transformation.

Studies on African conflicts have often addressed causes of the conflicts without paying much attention to the African systems. A detailed analysis of political systems in Africa would not be possible for this paper. However, as pointed out above, systems failure is a key cause to these conflicts. At this stage it is therefore necessary to highlight some cases of dealing with the systems failure.

In post-apartheid South Africa, the first African president, Nelson Mandela adopted multi-prong approach to deal with the issues that had plagued the country for almost a century. He embarked on building a multiracial society based on justice and equality. The new government adopted a new constitution by which the stated national aspirations could be addressed. It embarked on ensuring that truth was exposed, that justice prevailed, but in a condition of reconciliation and not vengeance. Although South Africa still faces a number of socio-economic and political challenges, numerous strides have been made by putting into place a political system that is universally recognized. The constitution allows universal adult suffrage. Besides, participatory approach is provided for. Although social disparity still exists, practically racial segregation and separatism that characterized apartheid is a thing of the past, thus we consider this to be a major societal transformation based on the established political system.

It is imperative to give Kenya's case in the analysis of the subject matter. As pointed out earlier, Africa's conflicts have had their dynamics to the extent whereby in the contemporary times, most of them are intrastate. Kenya's postelection violence is spectacular in the sense that here is a country which for long was considered to be the most stable in eastern Africa. The 2007-2008 post election violence revealed the vulnerabilities that had been part of the country's political system.

Although the country had twice experienced post election violence following the elections of 1992 and 1997, these were of much smaller magnitude compared to the 2007-2008 one. The latter one affected the entire country and beyond. The cost in monetary terms has not been quantified. However the death of over 1300 people and displacement of a bout 600,000 people reveals the nature of the violence (Oluoch, 2012). Although Kenya for long was regarded as a stable, the post election violence revealed the failures of the system.

First of all, the dispute over presidential election results revealed institutional malfunctions. Indeed the chairman of the defunct Electoral Commission of Kenya, Samuel Kivuitu, was on record saying that he couldn't ascertain who between the incumbent Mwai Kibaki and his principal opponent, Raila Odinga had actually won the elections, yet he had declared Kibaki the winner. Besides the electoral body, the judiciary also came in focus, particularly that the disputants had no faith in petitioning it to be the arbiter.

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Second, the violence revealed how divided the country was ethnically. Indeed, the voting pattern was on ethnic lines. This was not a new phenomenon in Kenya's politics, but it would be right for one to argue that successive governments had perpetuated ethnicity and effectively failed to deal with it. This was particularly evident in the patterns of distribution of national resources, including key government positions and resources for development. There were cases of serious regional disparity in development. Such attributes fit in the paradigm of an empirically weak state (Oyugi, 1994).

Third, that Kenya could not handle the violence by itself, relying on international actors, also reveals weaknesses in the system. It took the interventions of the African Union and United Nations, a number of western powers, among others, who through the Kofi Annan led mediation panel to reconcile the two warring sides. Besides, even after the restoration of normalcy and formation of a Grand Coalition Government, the country still could not handle the judicial aspects of the post election violence, preferring to refer the cases to the International Criminals Court (ICC). Such are actually indicators of system failure.

Using Kenya's case, it would be appropriate to argue that political systems failure emanates from lack of properly functioning institutions that creates undemocratic practices, lack of transparency and accountability. These have the potentiality of causing political violence.

How has Kenya dealt with these problems? What are the recognized social transformations arising from these? The reform process had been quite elusive for Kenya. The raging debates following electoral victories by Kenya African National Union (KANU) under President Moi under the 1992and 1997 multi party elections was on how to reform Kenya's political system with a view the powers of the 'imperial' presidency. Although the opposition parties and the civil society were demanding for comprehensive reforms, the ruling party campaigned for minimum reforms.

The Yash Pal Ghai led constitutional review commission of Kenya lacked the political support from the government, thus did not achieve much. In 2002, the opposition National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) used the reform promises to trounce KANU in the elections. However, the constitutional review ran into trouble with the executive divided down the middle. In the 2005 referendum, the draft constitution was rejected by Kenyans. Political analysts thus rightly point out that the dark day of the violence gave the reform momentum that led to the passage of the new constitution in 2010. The new constitution ushered in a new Kenya, with two-tier political system, with the national and county governments. Has any meaningful societal transformation been realized by the renaissance of the state of Kenya?

Constitutional change, accompanied by political changes are often characterized by other changes, among which include political culture. Early writer such as Bagehot and Alexander de Tocqueville of political culture analyzed the role of values, value, sentiments and symbols in American, British, and French politics. They made contribution to the analysis of political culture. Political culture been defined as commonly shared goals (Macridis, 1955), and components of the culture and values, beliefs and emotional attitudes about how a government ought to be conducted, what it should do (Beer, 1974). Understanding of Political culture is thus crucial to the analysis of a given political system.

Robert Dahl (1967) identifies four salient elements of culture, which are also applicable to political culture in particular. First is their orientation to problem solving, that is are they pragmatic or rationalistic? Second is their orientation to collective action, that is, are they cooperative or non cooperative? Third is their orientation to political system, that is, are they allegiant or alienated? And fourth is their orientation to other people, that is, are they trustful or mistrustful? These become relevant in analysis of societal transformation. It's important to point out that many scholars of political culture have tended to focus on studies of advanced democracies. Most studies of Africa's conflicts have tended to concentrate on the causes, impacts, and management. This paper is however unique in its linking addressing systems failure to societal transformation.

The example of South Africa that is analyzed above indicates societal transformation. Although in Kenya's case the constitution was promulgated three years ago and the full implementation was expected to begin after the 2013 elections, and other institutions of reform had been put in place prior to that, complete societal transformation cannot be said to have taken place. If we were to gauge this from the perspective of political culture, we can point out that cultural transformation is a gradual and long term process. However, there certain impacts that can be pointed out.

Even though the 2013 presidential election results were disputed, the disputants sought for legal recourse as opposed to resorting to mass action as in 2007. This was primarily due to the judicial reforms that had taken place. Furthermore, the impact of newly created institutions such as National Cohesion Commission had some impact in regulating public actions and utterances. That the new constitutions provided for two levels of governments and more elective offices, this had the impact of increasing public participation in politics both as candidates and the electorates. Such is likely to expand the participatory process in politics and development. These are likely to be enhanced by the devolved system of government. The chapter on the Bill of Rights is likely to have the intended consequences; promotion and the protection of individual rights.

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We have used the examples of South Africa and Kenya to demonstrate the societal transformation that takes place or likely to develop by addressing conflicts that arise from failed systems. More cases could be analyzed. Such include Liberia, Uganda, and Cote d'Ivoire. It is prudent that such transformations be seen in progressive terms, unlike the earlier coerced ones under Marxists or Leninist African leaders such as Mengitsu Haile Mariam, or Burkinan Thomas Sankara.

Key issues emerging while addressing system failures may involve; understanding the system failure causes, sustaining governance institutions, heeding to the important roles of constitutions, addressing policy errors, considering issues of resource allocation, redefinition of values, addressing the issue of ethnicity from the perspective of the problem of multi-national states of Africa and multi-racial states, and not forgetting the role of other actors to existing systems.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

Africa has had a major share of violent conflicts since independence in most of the states in the 1960s. Furthermore, since the end of the cold war, the continent has continued to experience some of the worst conflicts with devastating impacts in the world, with some taking genocidal proportions such as the 1994 case of Rwanda. Others have been quite prolonged with serious human rights repercussions, loss of lives and destruction of property, besides being threat to international peace, stability and security. Such include the conflicts in Somalia, Darfur and the North Southern Sudan conflicts, the case of Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberian and Sierra Leonean civil wars. The African conflicts have had their dynamics. One such notable dynamics is that while in the immediate post independent period, a number of conflicts were primarily interstate, in the post cold war Africa most of the conflicts have taken intrastate dimensions.

This paper having focused on system failure as a cause of conflict in Africa, and the writers having analyzed how addressing system failure can be a panacea to Africa's conflicts in the context of social transformation, comes with some recommendations based on these cause observations;

- Failed systems are conditions not only for internal conflict but a broad spectrum of effects
- When systems fail, control is often lost hence lawlessness becomes a normal condition
- A series of enhancement changes the face of system failure from local domain.
- Systemic sources of conflict are pervasive and affect large numbers of people.

Additional to the causes, the authors hereby identify some outstanding effects and deduce that the effects have greater negativities as can be mentioned below;

- State system failure are causes of insecurity in a wider magnitude
- System failure causes have led to pariah states in Africa and may continue if not checked
- When systems change anyhow and become fluid and brittle, breakages mean having a new balance becomes extremely hard.
- Lack of predictability in the political systems renders them institutions of the few to the exclusion of the majority.
- Failures provide opportunity for exploitative environment from the business class.
- Structural variables which concentrate power centrally lead to degenerations that breed conflicts.

The authors recommend that with these causes and effects, such system failures can be addressed. It further opens a panacea for scholars to brainstorm over the same for more solutions. It becomes also imperative to underscore in line with this discussion that systems are never mounts of permanent adversary systems because they fracture, erode, collapse, and fail necessitating transformation or overhaul/replacement.

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