

## HIV/AIDS and Diplomacy of Domination

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**Abstract:** It was Thomas R. Malthus in 1798 that attributed virtually all major social problems to human population growth and advocates population control as the solution to these problems. Elementary game theory and the concept of territorial justice in geography were used as methods to display strategic interactions among allies between opposing alliances and among agents within the procurement process. The study observed that HIV/AIDS virus did not exist anywhere in nature the question is raised as to where exactly the virus, all of sudden, stem from and its outbreak has been linked to vaccine programmes around the world so that the US strategic interests in the Southern hemisphere could not be adversely affected access to critical minerals in Africa and oil in the Middle East, for example the protection of US investments and other financial interests as in Latin America; usage of waterways and routes of transit throughout the world and military based agreements particularly in Asia. AIDS is expected to lower life expectancy in many countries. In Uganda, life expectancy is expected to drop to 32 years by 2015 where as without AIDS it would be 59. In Thailand life expectancy is expected to drop from 75-45 years during the same period. In Botswana and Malawi life expectancy is expected to drop from 79-39 years, 38 years in Zambia and 37 years in Sierra Leone. Similarly, AIDS is the major cause of infant mortality and is much higher in the Third World. For instance, in Africa it ranges from 50 to over 150 deaths per 1,000 births. This study concluded that while the AIDS epidemic will not lower population in the Third World countries, it will lead to large reduction in population growth in some of the worst affected countries from this deadly and artificially engineered disease.

**Key words:** HIV, AIDS, diplomacy, justice, power, economy

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### INTRODUCTION

It was Thomas R. Malthus in 1798 that attributed virtually all major social problems to human population growth and advocates population control measures such as late marriage, celibacy and moral constraints among others as the solution to these problems. Malthus postulation generated very keen interest and his research became the basis for many scholarly extensions particularly among economist such as Ricardo and Mills in whose view population set the limit to progress. A notable contribution in contemporary times is the research by Meadows *et al.* (1970) otherwise known as the Club of Rome. In their research titled *The Limit of Growth*, The Club of Rome exposed the nature of exponential growth and gone on to highlight the implication of the exponential growth of population for non-renewable resources such as doubling time of population and have gone further to show that population growing in a limited environment can approach the ultimate carrying capacity. Just as this Malthusian doctrine came into prominence during the turmoil of Industrial Revolution, it has aligned itself with dominant class as well as race and gender interests and repressive social movements during subsequent social crises.

As the current global crisis worsens, call for stringent Malthusian solutions are intensifying in the highest echelons of academia and policy making in the North, blaming global environmental destruction, poverty, hunger, pestilence and political instability on massive and unprecedented increase in human population in the Third world. Neo-Malthusian policy makers such as Boserup (1965), Simon among others, look to what they call the contraceptive revolution as the most urgent remedy for these problems. However, Malthusian arguments cannot be taken simply at face value. The origin and evolution of the Malthusian thinking and the international population control movement must be understood in the context of increasing concentration of economic and political power and widening global social inequalities. The fear of unequal reproduction across classes, races and region underlie Malthusianism.

It has been estimated by the United Nations that by the year 2025 total world population will be over 8 billion. Population growth in the underdeveloped countries or Third World accounts for about 90% of current global growth. This estimation continues that by the year 2025 about 85% of the global population will be there with sub-Sahara Africa contributing over 1.6 billion of

humanity at the current growth rate of 3.1%. It is on record that of the 36 million people in the world living with HIV/AIDS in the 2010, over 25 million live in sub-Sahara Africa. Also 12 million out of the world's 13 million children orphaned by AIDS live in Africa. About 3.8 million people were infected last year alone. Looking at specifics, South Africa is said to have the largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Africa with about or 20% of its adult population infected with the disease. This translates to about 5 million of South Africans with the disease, each month about 7000 HIV+babies die while Nigeria comes second with 2.7-3 million of its citizen currently infected with the disease. It is equally worth noting that about 17 million of the nearly 22 million people that have died from the disease were Africans. About 5.3 million are projected to be infected and 3 million will dies from the disease in this year with Africa projected to contribute 70-80% of them. The above grim statistics indicate a pandemic hurricane that is certainly overpowering the underdeveloped world, Africa most especially.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The study draws upon diverse tools of economics, politics and justice to provide an up to date assessment of the topic, its prospects and its effects. On the one hand Elementary Game theory enables us to display strategic interactions among allies between opposing alliances and among agents within the procurement process (e.g., Congress, defense contractors, the Pentagon). An interaction is strategic when the choices or the beliefs supporting these choices of two or more agents (e.g., nations) are mutually dependent in a significant fashion. This approach focuses attention on rational choices and conflict resolution and has been developed by John von Neuman and Oskar Morgenstern (Ofoegbu, 1980). Its six fundamental features as summarized by Professor J. Bernard are: rational behavior, strategy, pay-off matrix or function, rules of the game, alliances and solution (Ofoegbu, 1980).

Much of the games approach except for Professor Schelling's, discussed zero-sum and minimax strategies and sees these as vital in international politics. Zero-sum games are largely games of chance or winner takes all games. A's gains = B's losses. Rational options are restricted or limited and generally there is assumed to be a state of perfect information on likely moves. Minimax strategies are adopted. This ensures the maximum of all possible winning entries and the minimum of all possible losses. It therefore has a pay-off system which induces and this is its ideal solution or saddle-point.

For example, one ally's choice of defense spending depends on the choices of spending levels of the other allies whenever one ally can gain security from another's armed forces. Strategic interaction also involved congress's funding of weapon procurement since, the quality (or sophistication) of the weapons system put forward by the Pentagon influences the level of Research and Development (R and D) and hence the level of fixed costs. By deliberately putting forward sophisticated weapons with high fixed costs, the Pentagon can make a better case at a later date for larger production runs which by spreading fixed costs over more units can reduce per unit costs (Todd and Keith, 1999). As such, strategic behavior is a multiperiod affair with the Pentagon choosing first so as to influence the subsequent choices of congress. The Pentagon's choice is predicated on its beliefs regarding how its decision will impact on Congress's later decision.

Two basic kinds of games are germane to this study: noncooperative and cooperative games. In a noncooperative game, the players make their decisions without consultation or coordination with other players. That is the players attempt to optimize their objectives independently. A noncooperative game consists of three essential ingredients the player, their strategies or alternative choices and the payoffs associated with these choices. By contrast, a cooperative game has two or more players forming partnership or coalitions so as to maximize jointly their objective. If each member of the coalition can do better by staying in the coalition than by acting alone or in some alternative coalition then the coalition will remain stable. A loose alliance is best represented as a noncooperative game whereas a tight alliance is best described as a cooperative game. The amazingly successful thing about games framework in international relations is the fact that it is effectively used in simulating real-life problems in the world systems in developing highly accurate and predictive likely behavior on the part of other actors and in equipping decision-makers with considerable ranges of policy choices.

Justice on the other hand as commonly used in human geography, refers to equity in the spatial distribution of the benefits and burdens of society. It is also referred to as territorial justice or spatial justice. According to Knox and Marston (2004), spatial justice refers to the fairness in the distribution of society's burdens and benefits, taking into account spatial variations in people's needs and in their contribution to the production of wealth. Okafor (2008) defined distribution as who gets what where while where refers to location, what refers to the benefits or burdens of development. Very often these benefits and burdens are

not equitable distributed as some people and places get disproportionate shares of either benefits or burdens giving rise to spatial inequality which is unfair and unjust. Usually, disadvantaged people and disadvantaged places get disproportionate shares of the burdens. Indeed, spatial inequality is a manifestation of injustice. However, the relationship between inequality and social justice is not as simple as it might appear because an unequal distribution is not necessarily unjust (Smith, 1979).

It is thus important to emphasize at this juncture that equity is not necessarily synonymous with equality. Although, equality is probably the easiest criterion to apply in the evaluation of distributions, some problems make its application less easy than it might appear at first sight. For example, some inequality in the resource allocation to people and places may be required to achieve equality on outcome such as level of health. An area where morbidity is high would for instance, require more healthcare resources than one in which morbidity is low in order to achieve an approximately equal level of health. On the other hand, equal allocation of resources can produce inequalities in level of health where the need for care is unequally distributed in space. Smith (1979) captures these very appropriately when he notes that:

If we begin with unequal (Regional) levels of health it may require an unequal allocation of resources to attain equality in results with more money being spent on the least healthy or most needy producing the same result (e.g., a given reduction in the mortality rate) may require more effort or expenditure in some places than others. It can take more doctors and supporting services to improve health in city slums than in suburbs with a clean environment and sanitary housing. Similarly, it takes more doctors to care for a scattered rural population than to provide the same level of service in a city

It follows therefore, that the equal treatment of people and places can be unfair and unjust. Equity demands equal treatment in the same circumstance where circumstance can justify unequal allocation of resources. In other words, the unequal distribution of resources according to circumstance or levels of need is fair, equitable and just. To recap, spatial inequality is synonymous with spatial injustice if the former is not informed by the equity principle that is to say, if it is not a reflection of spatial variations in need. However, need is a pretty difficult concept to define. But in spite of its limitations, population size is generally regarded as a primary determinant of need (Barnett, 1984) and is often used as an index of need for a variety of public services.

**Nature/Discovery:** The HIV/AIDS concept is mired in a myriad of controversy with many people claiming its authenticity or otherwise. HIV/AIDS was first discovered in 1981 in the USA among homosexuals and drug addicts. Victims of this deadly plaque develop one or several life threatening infections, the principal ones being Kaposi's Sarcoma, a new and rare virulent form of skin cancer and Pneumocystis carinii Pneumonia. Subsequently, American and French researchers identified and isolated different strains of the virus and named them as LAV (Lymphadenopathy-Associated Virus) and HTLV-II (Human T-cell Lymphotropic retrovirus). By 1986 these two names were merged into HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) by an international committee. It is this HIV that is said to cause AIDS by invading and destroying the human body's disease-fighting T cells that are crucial in activating the body's immune system, thereby rendering its victim to the invasion of a variety of infections, cancer and other fatal diseases. However, not all HIV carriers are AIDS victim.

Another version of the HIV/AIDS concept traced the origin of the virus to a closely related virus in a breed of a chimpanzee in Africa. This was reported by a team of scientist headed by Dr. Beatrice Hahn of the University of Alabama, Birmingham. They made their finding public on January 31, 1999 at a conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic infections held in Chicago, USA. Dr. Hahn's team reported that the chimpanzee virus is known as SIVcpz or Simian Immunodeficiency Virus-chimpanzee. This confirmed the earlier suspicion of scientist that HIV-I, the type of AIDS virus that has caused the overwhelming majority of cases in the world come from chimpanzees although, the sub species was not known until then. This subspecies in which SIVcpz was discovered live in their natural habitat in west and central Africa. Hahn's team has confirmed the origin of the AIDS virus by analyzing frozen tissue from Marilyn, a chimpanzee who died in 1984 at the age of 26. The researchers have been able to perform various kinds of genetic analysis that were unavailable at the time Marilyn died. The team of scientist then said that research will now focus on why the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS is lethal for humans while the related virus causes, apparently, no illness in the chimpanzees even are 98% genetically similar. Still another version claims that in the 1970s President Jimmy Carter of the USA commissioned the Global 2000 report. The findings of the report blamed virtually the world's entire problem on the population growth the non-white people. Interestingly enough in the 1980s the AIDS epidemic broke out claiming huge amount of lives in the Third World nations as well as among the black and Hispanic populations of America. It was said that the virus

originated from green monkeys in Africa and was later passed on to the local population by either acts of bestiality or consuming them as food. From thereon AIDS spread like wild fire across African continent and later on to the rest of the world claiming millions of lives. However, the story was just a smokescreen.

On June the 22nd 1988 the Los Angeles Times published an article refuting the idea that the human AIDS virus originated from green monkeys. It uncovered evidence that the DNA composition of AIDS was totally inconsistent with the green monkeys. In fact, it could be proven that the AIDS virus could not be found anywhere in nature and could only have ever survived in the human biological system.

If the virus did not exist anywhere in nature the question is raised as to where exactly the virus, all of sudden, stem from. On July the 4th 1984, the New Delhi newspaper in India called The Patriot published an article making the first detailed charges of AIDS as being a counter biological warfare agent. An anonymous American anthropologist is quoted as claiming that AIDS is genetically engineered at the US Army Biological Warfare laboratory at Fort Dietrich, Maryland. Then, on October 30th, 1985, a soviet journal repeated the charges made by the Indian newspaper making it an international controversy. All this was easily passed off as a communist rhetoric by the west however on October 26th, 1986 the Sunday Express became the first western newspaper to run a front page story confirming the findings of the Indian and Soviet newspapers, entitled AIDS made in Lab Shock. In this study the distinguished physician Dr. John Seal and professor Jacob Siegel, the retired director of the Institute of Biology at the Berlin University both concluded that the AIDS virus was manmade.

The outbreak of AIDS has been linked to vaccine programmes around the world. The internationally respected London Times newspaper published an article as a front-page story on May 11th 1987, entitled Small Pox Vaccine Triggered AIDS. The study established a direct correlation between the smallpox vaccine administered by the World Health Organization to an estimated 50-70 million people in different central African countries and the subsequent outbreak of AIDS in those regions. The evidence suggests that AIDS is a genetically engineered virus spread through vaccination programmes in Third World countries. Germ warfare against the innocent and the weak aimed at eliminating an entire populace off the face of the earth; a modern day final solution for the purpose of installing an economic policy that will give complete domination to the west.

Her new doctor put Christine Maggiore, an American citizen, to HIV test as a routine. I had no symptoms or illness, Maggiore said. No particular risks or fears. So, naturally she did not expect anything unusual from her test results. Therefore, she was put on AZT (An antiretroviral drug for HIV). About a year into her diagnosis she met another doctor. Further testing produced varying results. First Maggiore was positive, then she was negative and then she was positive again. Confused about all the contradictions, Maggiore began her search into the HIV/AIDS mystery.

Maggiore believes that since, HIV share the same genetic structure as all other known retroviruses and there are hundreds of retroviruses normally found in healthy people, HIV cannot therefore, cause AIDS. She argues that even if HIV could kill T-cells, it only infect one in 1000 T-cells which is not enough to cause AIDS. Also, she adds, most healthy people have had infections with cell killing viruses like those that cause herpes and mononucleosis. These viruses affect millions of T-cells, up to half of all immune cells without causing T-cells depletion or AIDS. She concluded that HIV bends the rule of science. According to her there is no scientific evidence validating the hypothesis that HIV is the cause of AIDS or that AIDS has a cause. A good hypothesis is defined by its ability to solve problems and mysteries, make predictions and produce results. The HIV hypothesis has failed to meet any of these criteria.

Dr. Stefan Lanka has studied the AIDS controversy extensively. According to Steven Ransom and Phillip Day, researchers of the book, World Without AIDS which seeks to provide incontrovertible evidence that HIV is a scientific fraud, Lanka's position is that HIV is nothing but a complete myth. They quote him as saying, viruses can reproduce themselves only by infecting a suitable host cell and appropriating the chemical machinery they find there. The proteins making up the viruses are characteristics for each specie of virus. The composition of a given virus results in a specific shape for the virus particle. Lanka also refers to other particles which look like other viruses but aren't these particles, he says are referred to as virus like particles and are far from rare. It is this virus like particles that Lanka claim have served to muddy the waters considerably as far as AIDS research is concerned because particles like these have been called HIV. Yet, says Lanka, none of these has been characterized to exist as an entity which one may justifiably call a virus.

Both the ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immuno-Absorbent Assay) test and the Western Blot test have been designed to identify the presence of antibodies supposedly unique to the (Yet to be isolated) virus.

Introducing a foreign antigen into the blood sample taken from a patient carries out the test. The blood is then monitored for any sign of reaction. These tests are supposed to be highly specific but some question their veracity. For, instance, enclosed in the test kit of the Western Blot which is the confirmatory test, Ransome and Day (Both journalist based in Britain) say is a leaflet which reads, The test for the existence of antibodies against AIDS-associated virus is not diagnostic of AIDS and AIDS-like diseases. Negative test do not exclude the possibility of contact or infection with the AIDS-associated virus. Positive tests do not prove AIDS or pre-AIDS disease status.

**International politics of AIDS:** Power has been define by various writers as man's control over the minds and actions of others (Morgenthau, 1978), the ability to get one's wishes carried out despite opposition' (Frankel, 1969), the ability to influence the actions of others in accordance with one's own ends (Organski, 1958), actor capacity to alter or influence the policies, priorities and choices of other actors (Ofoegbu, 1980). The international politics of HIV/AIDS is nothing but the international politics of power through the game of numbers vis-a-vis population control. Writing in *Marriage and Morals*, Bertrand Russell, an eminent western philosopher advocates it cannot be expected that the most powerful military nations will still while other nations reverse the balance of power by mere process of breeding.

A 1995 partially declassified American CIA report on Political Perspective on Key Global Issues assert that World population growth is likely to contribute, directly or indirectly, to domestic upheavals and international conflicts that could adversely affect US interests. Population will also reinforce the politicization of international economic relations and intensify the drive of less developed countries for a redistribution of wealth and authority in international affairs.

America's strategic interests in the Southern hemisphere have converges on a variety of concerns access to critical minerals in Africa and oil in the Middle East for example; the protection of US investments and other financial interests as in Latin America; usage of waterways and routes of transit throughout the world and military based agreements particularly in Asia.

At the heart of these issues however, lies a single factor: population. Simply stated, large populations are capable of exerting more than smaller ones do. Growing populations also produce more demands on their own natural resources thus, affecting the price of export goods such as metal ores, petroleum and so forth that has traditionally been the backbone of western industrial

superiority. Populous nations produce and consume a greater proportion of the earth's goods thus, establishing themselves as economic competitors in the realm of international trade. Moreover, they are capable of building large military forces and dominating regional (Or even world) conflicts. In fact, the term demography and democracy come from the same root. Even in the non-democratic society it is the larger group of people that possess the greatest potential to influence public activities.

The importance of power at the group and national level has been expressed this way: Politics is concerned with primacy in power. In international politics power is the ability of one actor usually but not always a government, to influence the behavior of others, who may or may not be governments. International primacy means that a government is able to exercise more influence on the behavior of more actors with respect to more issues than any other government can the amount of power an actor possess is a function of weight (Degree of participation in decision making), scope (The value that are influenced) and domain (The people who are influenced) (Huntington, 1993).

In other words, it is far more likely that a large group of people can exert control over a smaller group than vice versa. According to many contemporary western analysts, current population growth trend could produce a global situation even more menacing to the security prospects of the western alliance than was the Cold War for the past generation (Eberstadt, 1991). Gregory Forster, a sociologist at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, USA has suggested that low fertility rate of the US and its NATO allies (As well as of the former Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies) would make it difficult for them to maintain military forces at the Cold War level. Foster claims that in contrast, if the high fertility rates in the Third World are not matched with commensurate growth in jobs, they could contribute to the expansion of Third World militaries as productive alternative to unemployment. (Foster, 1989).

Western analyst fear that whether the Third World surpasses the west in terms of economic and political power or whether it remains caught in the poverty trap continuing the migrant and refugee flows into the North, the results are likely to be painful for the richest 1-6th of the earth's population that now enjoys a disproportionate 5-6th of its wealth (Kennedy, 1993). Identifying with the fears and potential pains of the world's richest for US (Former) National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brezinski observes that economic inequality between the North and the South which is exacerbated by Third World

population growth could great further alienation, ideological confusion and irrational ethnic sentiments leading to forms of quasi-fascism severely threatening the global social order and US hegemony (Brezinski, 1993).

Rather than advocating greater global economic equality, arms control and other fundamental solutions, the neo-Malthusian experts look to population stabilization in poor countries as the major solution to global security crisis. Giving voice to eugenicist beliefs, some western analysts are calling for antinatalist policies in the South and pronatalist policies in the North. Kennedy claims that in order to move the world towards a better demographic balance, fertility rates in poor countries should be lowered while they should be raised in the richer ones (Kennedy, 1993).

As discussed earlier, population control was a major plank of the global management strategy of the US. Not only was Third World population growth was seen as a major threat to US national security but the initiative for international population control came from the military particularly men like General William Draper, General William Westmoreland, General Maxwell Taylor and Vietnam War era Defense Secretary Robert McNamara. It was McNamara, subsequently the President of the World Bank, who initiated World Bank activism in global population control. Given this military connection it is not surprising that many population control programmes have been run on a military mode as war against Third World overpopulation. They have used overt and covert psychological and biological warfare to change Third World consciousness and its peoples' reproductive behavior.

**The political economy of HIV/AIDS control:** Spatial inequality and uneven development in their different guises raise questions of justice. Unequal access to healthcare services and other essential social services is one of the many dimensions of inequality and uneven development. These inequalities are reflected in geographical differences in quality of life and well-being as well as in the resources and opportunities that contribute to them. What then are the causes of spatial inequality? One reason suggested in the literature on the subject is geographical variation in natural resource endowment. We therefore expect places that are richly endowed with these natural resources to be more developed and their residents to enjoy good quality of life.

If this explanation is correct then, Nigeria with its lucrative resources should be one of the most developed country in Africa. But this is not the case. Making sense of spatial inequality requires an understanding of the

political economy of development and underdevelopment especially the role of political power and the workings of a market economy. Japan also belies the Resource Endowment theory. At best, natural resource endowment might give some initial advantage or provide an enabling condition. Another explanation derives from the radical paradigm in human geography and situates inequality within the context of mode of production. In this regard it is argued that inequality, both spatial and personal is endemic to the capitalist mode of production and that capitalism by its nature necessarily produces inequalities. Johnston *et al.* (2003) put it bluntly when they note that uneven development and its concomitant, spatial inequality, constitute a basic geographical hallmark of the capitalist mode of production. Basically, capital is invested for profit and the payment of returns on investment involves transfers from one place to another (Smith, 1979). Thus, some places grow at the expense of others and these other places become relatively disadvantaged along with the people who reside there.

One element of the discourses that deserves some elaboration because of its implication for the production of inequality and injustice on a global scale is the concept of comparative advantage in the contemporary world economy (and national economies too). Comparative advantage is the principle whereby places and regions specialize in activities for which they have the greatest advantage in productivity relative to other regions or for which they have the least disadvantage (Knox and Marston, 2004). This principle has brought about an international division of labour that was driven by the needs of the developed countries and imposed on the rest of the world. One consequence of this is that the economies of the Third World countries especially those in sub-Sahara Africa focused on primary production (Agriculture, mining, etc.) that was oriented to and dependent on the needs of the developed countries. Thus, developing countries specialize in primary products with low value added, while the developed countries specialize in secondary and increasingly, tertiary and quaternary products with high value added.

The specialization in primary products is the role inherited by most developing countries within the international division of labour. This role is clearly disadvantageous for the countries concerned. One reason for this is that for these products, both the elasticity of demand and price elasticity are low. The demand for the products tends to increase by small amounts in response to increases in income in the developed countries, the principal markets for primary products. Likewise, reductions in the price of primary products result in only small increases in demand. On the other hand, the

elasticity of demand and price elasticity of the products of the developed countries are both high. As a result of this situation, the term of trade (i.e., the ratio of prices at which exports and imports are exchanged) are disadvantageous for developing countries and it adversely affects their earning power as well as the income levels of their citizens. Knox and Marston (2004) aptly capture the dilemma of developing countries when they observe that no matter how efficient primary producers may become or how affluent their customers, the balance of trade will be tilted against them. Quite simply, they must run in order to stand still. There is therefore, a structured inequality in the world economy which affects quality of life and human well-being in different regions of the world. In fact, the international division of labour endangers the net flight of resources from developing to the developed countries and perpetuates income and other forms of inequality between both groups of countries.

It is interesting to note that several medical practitioners both orthodox and traditional have laid claim to a cure for the disease. Some of them with enough proofs to convince any dispassionate and objective skeptic. They have however, been rebuffed, frustrated and at times harassed for questioning the capitalist claim that there is no cure for the disease. Their methods have been described as unscientific and too traditional by the western acculturated minds of the establishment. But the AIDS victims know better. To proclaim a cure for HIV/AIDS will mean a drastic reduction in the profit of the giant pharmaceutical companies and their indigenous surrogates. These are the people who continuously propagandize with religious fervor the incurability of the disease as if it were a divine revelation. They propagate that AIDS can only be controlled through a cocktail of anti-retroviral which cost \$200-400/annum/patient (The Indian version cost \$300/annum/patient).

The effectiveness of these Anti-Retrovirals (ARVs) has also been a subject of controversy. According to some scientists who disagree with the whole HIV/AIDS dogma, anti-retrovirals and other AIDS drug are highly toxic chemicals that have been known to further compromise the immune systems of patients who use them. As evidence they cite the label on the ARVs like the one on the popular Azidothymidine, AZT which reads, toxic by inhalation in contact with skin and if swallowed. Target organs: blood bone marrow. If you feel unwell, seek medical advice. Where possible wear suitable protective clothing. Even Richard Beltz, the creator of AZT called for the abandonment for the drug because of its extreme toxicity, even in the short term and the fact that it was carcinogenic even at the smallest dose.

What puzzled critics of the current AIDS drugs in the market is the fact that they have not passed through the usual stringent trials that precede introduction of such highly toxic drugs into the market. Rather, the deal the world has been handed are drugs hastily put together and clinical trials hastily run by the pharmaceutical companies that produce the drugs themselves. As such AZT and other anti-retroviral drugs or strong antibiotics prescribed for HIV positive persons to prevent the onset of AIDS have very serious consequences more often than not actually leads to the patients death rather than his recovery.

According to Professor Ibrinke Akinsete, head of National Action Committee on AIDS, nowhere in the world that I know that a cure has been scientifically proven. I repeat: there is no cure. What we have are drugs which have been able to stop the multiplication or the replication of the virus within the body. And what those drugs do is to keep the viral load at very, very low level so that the viral will not be able to multiply and infect other cells of the body. These are the anti-retroviral drugs. Because the viral load is kept very, they are not able to multiply and infect other cells. The immune system picks up and therefore, the quality of life is enhanced, the person is able to go back to his or her work, do the normal duties and live it is possible to be on anti-retroviral and die of AIDS. This virus is a very, very, clever virus. It mutates very fast. It changes its outer coat; it changes its outer configuration so that the drug will not be able to attack it. It develops resistance to the drugs (TELL magazine).

The giant pharmaceutical companies will do everything to discourage the Dr. Abalakas; the Jacob Abdullahi among others, so that they will continue to rip-off the purses of the numerous victims of this deadly and artificially engineered disease.

These situations are even more vexing when one compares the needs of Third World countries and the spending patterns in the developed countries: The UNDP has calculated that the annual cost of providing a basic education for all children in peripheral countries would be around \$6 billion which is less than annual sales of cosmetics in the United States. Providing water and sanitation for everyone in peripheral countries is estimated at \$9 billion year<sup>-1</sup> which is less than Europeans annual expenditure on ice cream. Providing basic health and nutrition for everyone in the peripheral countries would cost an estimated \$13 billion year<sup>-1</sup> less than the annual expenditure on pet foods in Europe and the United States. Reducing the military expenditures of core countries (In the region of \$500 billion year<sup>-1</sup>) by <10% each year would pay for the cost of basic education, water

and sanitation, basic health and nutrition and reproductive health programs for everyone in peripheral countries (Knox and Marston, 2004).

### CONCLUSION

A 1994 study by the US Bureau of Census has estimated that owing to AIDS-related death, a doubling of the overall death rate in the African countries, Brazil and Haiti and a tripling of the death rate in Thailand are expected between 1985-2010. AIDS is expected to lower life expectancy in many countries. In Uganda, life expectancy is expected to drop to 32 years by 2015 where as without AIDS it would be 59. In Thailand life expectancy is expected to drop from 75-45 years during the same period. In Botswana and Malawi life expectancy is expected to drop from 79-39 years, 38 years in Zambia and 37 years in Sierra Leone. Similarly, AIDS is the major cause of infant mortality and is much higher in the Third World. For instance, in Africa it ranges from 50 to over 150 deaths per 1,000 births. This study concluded that while the AIDS epidemic will not lower population in the Third World countries, it will lead to large reduction in population growth in some of the worst affected countries. For instance, a 46.0% reduction in population growth rate in Uganda, 46.8% reduction in Zambia, 21.8% reduction in Thailand and 18.9% reduction in Haiti are expected in the year 2020 due to AIDS related deaths. In Thailand population growth rate is expected to turn negative (-0.8%) owing to AIDS by 2020. There are 121 million fewer people expected in the 16 countries for which the Bureau of the Census study provides AIDS adjusted mortality estimates.

The former South African President, Thabo Mbeki at a point insisted that it was time to hear the other side of the HIV/AIDS debate. It was unscientific to keep insisting on dogma even in the face of somewhat empirical evidence, Mbeki said. For daring to voice such a dissension, Mbeki became the villain of the western press and other proestablishment AIDS activists. He was hounded and blackmailed at every turn. He was even accused of not caring about the millions of South Africans purportedly dying from AIDS and the many million more at risk. The heat was on and Mbeki then was forced to beat a diplomatic retreat.

On a final note, it is important to recognize the structural character of the problem of HIV/AIDS, associated as it is with the operation of market forces and the structure and operation of the capitalist world economy. These factors produce and reproduce spatial inequality at different geographical scales: local, national, and global. This raises questions concerning the role of the state in an era of economic reforms; reforms that are characterized by the retreat of the state and the

ascendance of the market. Should Africans be left at the mercy of market forces which are known to deliver rough justice? Are we fully cognizant of the implications of relying on market forces to distribute society's products?

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