

**BOOK REVIEW: "THE CRISIS OF BOKO HARAM TERRORISM" BY SOGO
ANGEL OLOFINBIYI (2023)**

Ogunseye Inioluwa Iyanu¹

Introduction

"On the Crisis of Boko Haram Terrorism," written by Sogo Angel Olofinbiyi in 2023, is 167 pages long and divided into eight chapters. Concepts of terrorism (pages. 1–24), the history of Boko Haram (pp. 25–34), democratic failures (pp. 50–63), socioeconomic effects (pp. 64–78), counterterrorism (pp. 80–100), theoretical viewpoints (pp. 104–129), methodology (pp. 130–157), and concluding remarks (pp. 160–167) are all emphasized.

Olofinbiyi's 2023 book explores the history, beliefs, and sociopolitical effects of Boko Haram, stressing socioeconomic factors such as poverty, corruption, and anti-democratic actions as major motivators. To improve terrorism research, it uses a qualitative analytical approach and questions the idea of religious motivation. In the book, the rise of Boko Haram in northern Nigeria since 2009, is connected to investor anxiety and economic disruption. To him, the main causes are social injustice, poverty, state-actor terrorism, corruption, and incorrect religious doctrine. He fills a crucial gap in the study of terrorism by contesting the notion that the terrorism is driven by religious motives and argued that it is the result of political and socioeconomic failings.

¹ Department of Political Science
Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo.
ii.ogunseye@acu.edu.ng

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Summary of Arguments

According to Onuchukwu and Charity (2024), Olofinbiyi blames the insurgency of Boko Haram on Northern Nigeria's human rights abuses, corruption, poverty, and unconstitutional rule. Jev et al. (2019), Njoku (2020), and Sambo and Sule (2024) contend that globalisation makes these problems worse by encouraging hate speech, undermining institutions, and increasing poverty. According to Olofinbiyi and Steyn (2019), Nigeria's socioeconomic and political problems are at the heart of Boko Haram's conflict, and the group portrays its resistance to Western education as a way to fight poverty and corruption (pp. 25–26). In contrast to what is commonly believed, Boko Haram rejects Western education because of social suffering and governmental corruption rather than because they want an Islamic state. In order to combat inequality, poverty, and corruption, jihadist organisations support Sharia law (Iyekekpolo, 2019). Olofinbiyi goes on to say that as conditions in northeastern Nigeria deteriorated, Boko Haram's expansion over a ten-year period.

According to academics like Ebi (2018), elite corruption has exacerbated poverty and fuelled the insurgency.

About the Author

With an emphasis on cybercrime, drug usage, rape, and prostitution, Professor Sogo Angel Olofinbiyi of the University of Venda in South Africa is an expert in terrorism, crime, and deviance. He has mentored more than fifty postgraduate students and taught throughout Africa.

Summary of Contents

40 participants from the government, civic society, students, religious leaders, and police were interviewed in-depth as part of the qualitative study that looked at Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria. It offers a thorough examination of stakeholder viewpoints on the situation and is 167 pages long.

Strengths

Olofinbiyi's investigation of Boko Haram stands out for its thorough analysis of the group's historical path, ideological bases, and regional trajectory, obtaining from official documents, scholarly works, and field interviews. His available writing

reveals complex sociopolitical dynamics, successfully linking the insurgency's development to systemic drivers like rooted poverty, institutional corruption, and governance failures. By rejecting reductive religious extremism narratives, the study positions Boko Haram within Nigeria's larger political economy, offering a multidimensional perspective on conflict drivers.

Thematically, on Origins and Genesis

Olofinbiyi skilfully examines the historical, cultural, and geopolitical elements that influenced the formation and growth of Boko Haram, charting its transformation from a regional religious movement to a terrorist organisation.

Ideological Underpinnings

Olofinbiyi examines the ideology of Boko Haram, analysing its perspectives on Islam and Western education while emphasising political and socioeconomic elements that go beyond religious fanaticism.

Socio-Political Ramifications

Olofinbiyi draws a connection between the rise of Boko Haram and Nigeria's

sociopolitical problems, emphasizing inequality, corruption, and bad government. He promoted comprehensive fixes and backs up his research with solid theories.

Counterterrorism Strategies and Regional Dynamics

Olofinbiyi studies the external and regional reactions to Boko Haram, assessing the efficacy and constraints of counterterrorism tactics. He points to military action, nonviolent talks, and community policing as crucial strategies for a long-term end to the insurgency.

Weaknesses

The work by Olofinbiyi is deficient of firsthand victim testimonies, deeper exploration of Boko Haram's ideological origins and internal dynamics, and critical analysis of the group's international ties, limiting milieu and counterterrorism understandings.

Conclusion

A perceptive examination of Boko Haram's insurgency is provided by Sogo Angel Olofinbiyi's "On the Crisis of Boko Haram Terrorism," which connects

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the group to human rights violations, poverty, corruption, and poor government in northern Nigeria. The book focusses on how socioeconomic difficulties and dehumanisation were exacerbated by years of poor management and political deterioration. It adds significantly to terrorism studies and is renowned for its in-depth research, lucid language, and sociopolitical contextualisation. Academics, decision-makers, and ordinary readers who want to learn more about the emergence of Boko Haram and its wider effects for Nigeria's stability and government should study it.

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