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Trends in Terrorism Incidents in Nigeria and the United States: Analysis of Data from 1980–2013

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Abstract

It is imperative to evaluate past terrorism incidents so as to learn from historical facts in order to understand the current, and predict the future. This research aggregates data on international and domestic terrorism incidents from 1980 – 2013 in both the United States and Nigeria. This study further compared terrorist tactics, targets, and types of weapons and terrorist organizations that have perpetrated attacks in both countries during the 34 years period. Incidences of terrorism in both countries were compared using a paired t-test (two tailed test) to ascertain whether there is a significant difference in the amount of terrorism incidents that occurred in both countries. Also, autoregressive time series was used to explain and predict terrorism incidents in both countries. The study analyzed data mainly from the Global Terrorism Database and other scholarly literature using qualitative and quantitative approaches. Findings revealed that Nigeria continuously experienced more terrorism incidents in the most recent times than the US. However, on the average statistical analysis, results indicated no difference in the mean number of terrorism incidents that occurred in both countries. The outcome of this study will help to inform counterterrorism decisions and policies and provide opportunities for future research.

Keywords: Global Terrorism, Database, Terrorist incidents, Trends, Attack, Targets and Weapons.

Introduction

Historically, both the United States and Nigeria have encountered high incidences of terrorism since the 1970's. While Nigeria experienced frequent domestic terrorist attacks rooted in various forms of motivations and tensions, the United States equally experienced terrorist attacks perpetrated by homegrown terrorists, anti-American domestic terrorists affiliated with foreign terrorist organizations, and international foreign terrorists (Abigbova & Maiangwa, 2014; Alexander, 2002; Bhoumik, 2005; Global Terrorism Index, 2014; Global Terrorism Database, 2016). From 1970 to 2015, the Global Terrorism Database (2016) recorded about 150,000 cases of terrorism around the world. Of these terrorists'

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attacks, 1.9% (2,888) were directed against Nigeria while 1.8% (2,693) were directed against the United States. Notably, prior to 1980 Nigeria had zero incidents of terrorism. From 1980 to 2013, the Global Terrorism Database (2015) recorded about 115,250 cases of terrorism worldwide including domestic and international incidents of terrorism. Out of the 115,250 cases of terrorism, Nigeria experienced about 1.3% (1,535) and the United States experienced 0.9% (1,033). From 1970 to 1979, the United States experienced a peak period of terrorist attacks—1,348 incidents within the 10-years period; and 1,033 terrorists attacks from 1980 to 2013, making a total of 2,381 terrorist attacks from 1970 to 2013. According to the Global Terrorism Index (2014), Nigeria was ranked fourth and the United States was ranked 30th out of the 162 countries measured for the impact of terrorism on a 5-year weighed average.

It is important to note that the Global Terrorism Database (GTD), which is the main database used for this study, did not include incidents of terrorism in Nigeria during the Maitatsine uprisings from 1980 to 1985. Therefore, supplementary data were collated from other sources covering the 6-years period of Maitatsine terrorism incidents. Findings revealed about 65 terrorism incidents that resulted to over 8,533 deaths and rendered thousands of victims' homeless (Falola, 1998; Isichei, 1987). Thus, the total number of terrorism incidents in Nigeria for the 34-years period (1980–2013) is 1,600. Further, data for 1993 terrorism incidents for both countries were missing from the GTD database; however data for that year collected from other databases led to a final number of 1,041 terrorism incidents in the United States, while attacks in Nigeria increased by four incidents for a total of 1,604 terrorism incidents (Federal Bureau of Investigations, n.d.; Isichei, 1987; & Johnston's archive, 2015).

This study analyzes data on terrorism incidents in both countries from 1980 to 2013. The study further compared the incidents of terrorism in both countries by using a paired t-test (two tailed test) to ascertain whether there was a significant difference in the amount of terrorism incidents occurring in both countries. It also predicts terrorism incidents in both countries using a linear autoregressive model. To ensure a detailed comparison, it further compared terrorist tactics, targets, and types of weapons and terrorist organizations that have perpetrated attacks in both countries during the 34 years period.

Methodology and Data Collection Design

This study takes a comparative approach to studying the incidents of terrorism in both Nigeria and the United States due to their common features and susceptibility to terrorist attacks. Both countries play strategic roles in their various continents and are designated as regional, political, and economic leaders. Certainly, both nations are partners in the upkeep of regional peace and security and this has implication on the battle against terrorism. In addition, the United States has a vital interest in helping to strengthen Nigeria's democratic institutions, boost Nigeria's prosperity and security, and ensure opportunities for all of its citizens. The United States' national interest for Nigeria has progressively stayed reliable throughout the years due to its socio-economic interest in the Sahel regions. Apart from the foregoing, the U.S. has identified Boko haram (a major terrorist group in Nigeria) as a terrorist group with a potential to launch attack beyond the Nigerian territories and possibly into American allies and interest. Hence, the U.S. determination to nip terrorism at the source has partly necessitated the objective of this study.

The time frame for this study was selected to cover the periods during which Nigeria and the United States experienced major terrorist threats. The analysis commenced at the point Nigeria experienced the level of terrorism that displayed a dramatic escalation of fatalities and brutal violence for 6 years. The Maitatsine uprisings of the 1980s made a marked impact in the history of terrorism in Nigeria. Though terrorism has continued intermittently since then, Nigeria has experienced three major waves of terrorism: the Maitatsine uprising, the Niger Delta militancy, and the Boko Haram insurgency. In the United States, 1980 –2013 also marked a period of intermittent terrorist attacks in which several domestic terrorist groups such as the Anti-Abortion Activists, Earth Liberation Front, Ku Klux Klan (KKK); lone-offender terrorists like the Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, Boston Marathon bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and the 2015 San Bernardino attackers, Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik; and foreign terrorists groups like al-Qaeda continued to target the United States and its interests around the world. This period includes the most devastating year in U.S. history because of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The statistical analysis is restricted to situations and terrorist threats within this time frame.

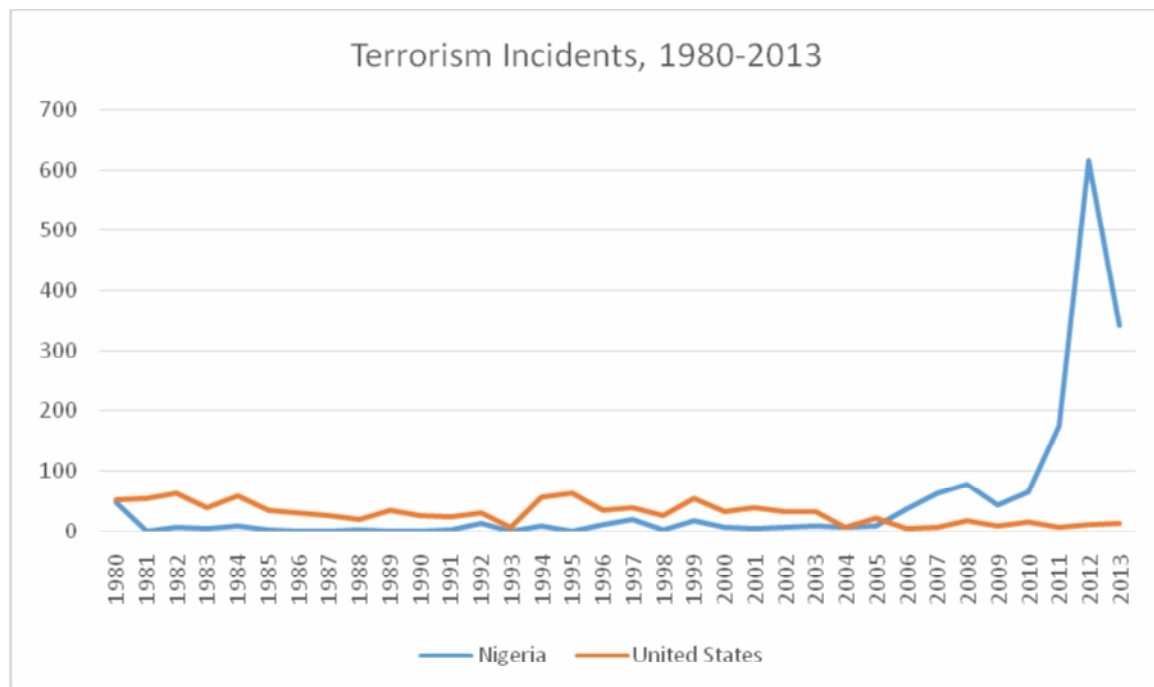
Data collected for this study originated from various databases that paid great attention to issues of validity and reliability. Secondary data was collected mainly from Global Terrorism Database (GTD) archives, which reports terrorism incidents and also offers ways to view and analyze data. The GTD defines terrorism as “the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a non-state actor to achieve a political, economic, religious, or social goal through fear, coercion, or intimidation (Global Terrorism Database, 2015: 9). Searching by perpetrators, the database listed the various terrorist groups that have perpetrated violent attacks from 1980 to 2013. The listing of various terrorism incidents specifically indicated each case by GTD identity numbers and includes the date of the incident, the country, city, perpetrator, number of fatalities and injuries, target type, and data source.

Other databases like the Global Terrorism Index, Johnston’s Archives, Heritage Foundations, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), The United States Department of State’s Country Reports on Terrorism, as well as journal articles in published, peer-reviewed, non-peer-reviewed, scholarly, and non-scholarly sources were consulted. In addition, search was conducted across various databases including books, government reports, online documents and local libraries.

1. Terrorism Incidents in the U.S. and Nigeria from 1980–2013

First, the research compared the incidents of terrorism in both countries by using a paired t-test (two tailed test) to ascertain whether there is a significant difference in the amount of terrorism incidents occurring in both countries from 1980 – 2013. Secondly, the study adequately explained terrorism incidents by using an autoregressive time-series to determine the fit of the AR (1) model at the 5% level of significance and enable predictions for future terrorism incidents. The hybrid research design combined both quantitative and qualitative elements to achieve a stronger understanding of the problems of terrorism. The first statistical step determines the significant difference in the mean number of terrorism incidents in the two countries. Notably, the paired (dependent or matched) samples t-test, with a significance level or alpha levels of .05 is utilized in the comparison.

Figure 1. Incidents of Terrorism from 1980–2013 (N=34)



Total terrorism incidents in Nigeria and the U.S. by years, 1980-2013. Adapted from *Global Terrorism Database (2015)*, Falola (1998), FBI (n.d.), Isichei (1987), and Johnston's archive (2015).

For comparative purposes, the data in Figure 1 above graphically represented the total number of terrorism incidents in Nigeria and the United States from 1980 to 2013. The total number of attacks in Nigeria increased sharply toward the last years of the 34 years period. However, the number of terrorist attacks in the United States steadily decreased. There were no terrorism incidents in Nigeria in 1986, 1989, and 1990. From 1987 until about early part of 2006, the incidents of terrorists' attacks in Nigeria continued to fluctuate at a low rate. The largest number of total attacks recorded in a single year in Nigeria (616) took place in 2012, with 38.5% of the total terrorism incidents; the lowest number of total attacks (one) took place in 1981 and 1995 at .06% each. From 2007 until about 2009, terrorism incidents in Nigeria increased from 164 to 344 terrorist attacks. From 2010 till 2013, the incidents of terrorism skyrocketed to about 1,195, comprising 74.7% of the total terrorism incidents, due to the violent activities of Boko Haram, which initiated its violent operations around 2006 and became highly violent around 2009. On the other hand, the United States had the highest terrorism incidents in 1995 (62), amounting to 6% of the total of terrorism incidents. The total terrorist attacks in the United States per year hit a much lower peak in 2006 with only six attacks. Notably, while terrorism incidents in Nigeria continued to skyrocket in the later part of the 34-year period before dropping in 2013, incidents in the United States remained steadily low after its peak in 1995.

2. Tests of Hypotheses and Inferential Findings

This research hypothesized a difference in the mean number of terrorism incidents in both Nigeria and the United States from 1980 to 2013. The study employed a paired t-test to statistically determine the difference in terrorism incidents between the two countries as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: T-test: Paired Two Sample for Means

	<i>Nigeria</i>	<i>United States</i>
Mean	47.38235294	30.61764706
Variance	14256.0615	274.9099822
Observations	34	34
Pearson Correlation	-0.34748541	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
Df	33	
t Stat	0.775075669	
P(T<=t) One-tail	0.221906851	
t Critical One-tail	1.692360309	
P(T<=t) Two-tail	0.443813702	
t Critical Two-tail	2.034515297	

The paired t-test table above shows that the mean number of terrorism incidents within the 34-year period in Nigeria is 47.4 while that in the United States is 30.6. In computing the P-value to determine the significance of the test, H_1 is rejected because the P-value (0.4438) is $> \alpha$ (0.05), indicating no difference in the mean number of terrorism incidents in both Nigeria and the U.S.

To determine the time-series model that fits the incidents of terrorism in both Nigeria and the United States the study hypothesized that terrorism incidents are adequately explained by the first-order autoregressive time series AR (1) mode. The autoregressive model shows the relationship between the actual (Y_t) and its lag (Y_{t-1}) years of terrorism incidents in Nigeria and the United States between 1980 and 2013(see Table 2 and 3). The simple linear regression analysis shown below tested the significance of the autoregressive model.

**Table 2. Simple Linear Regression:
First Order Auto-Regression Analysis of Terrorism incidents (Nigeria)**

SUMMARY OUTPUT									
<i>Regression Statistics</i>									
Multiple R		0.66734358							
R Square		0.44534745							
Adjusted R Square		0.42745543							
Standard Error		91.745654							
Observations		33							
ANOVA									
	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Significance F</i>				
Regression	1	0.00002	209512.8	24.89085	0.000022				
Residual	31	0.00003	8417.265						
Total	32	0.00005							
	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Lower 95%</i>	<i>Upper 95%</i>	<i>Lower 95.0%</i>	<i>Upper 95.0%</i>	
Intercept	18.9091	16.96	1.114739	0.27353	-15.687	53.5	-15.7	53.5	
Y_{t-1}	0.7409	0.149	4.989073	0.000022	0.43805	1.044	0.438	1.044	

The estimated auto-regression equation is: $(Y_t) = \alpha + 18.9091Y_{t-1} + 0.7409$.

The regression coefficients indicate the Y intercepts as 18.9091, which represents the expected number of terrorism incidents in 1979. The slope or expected yearly increase in the number of terrorism incidents in Nigeria is positively significant at $b_1 = 0.7409$. In terms of the model significance, Table 2 indicates that the Y_1 (autoregressive terrorism incidents) is useful for predicting Y (terrorism incidents) because the P-value (.0000) < α (.05). The regression coefficients and its significance substantiates that the autoregressive time-series model fits the prediction of terrorism incidents in Nigeria. The coefficient of determination indicates that the incidents of terrorism in the immediately preceding year explains 45% of the variance in the current terrorism incidents because $R^2 = 0.45$. The standard error of estimate indicates that the average difference between the actual and the estimated values of terrorism is 91.7.

On the other hand, the simple linear regression Table 3 further explains the relationship between the actual and the predicted terrorism incidents in the United States from 1980–2013.

**Table 3. Simple Linear Regression:
 First Order Auto-Regression Analysis of Terrorism incidents (United States)**

SUMMARY OUTPUT

<i>Regression Statistics</i>	
Multiple R	0.546499
R Square	0.298661
Adjusted R Square	0.276037
Standard Error	13.94944
Observations	33

ANOVA

	<i>Df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Significance F</i>
Regression	1	2568.78	2568.7	13.201	0.001
Residual	31	6032.19	194.58		
Total	32	8600.97			

	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Lower 95%</i>	<i>Upper 95%</i>	<i>Lower 95.0%</i>	<i>Upper 95.0%</i>
Intercept	13.19154	5.2174	2.5284	0.0168	2.550645	23.832	2.5507	23.832
Y_{t-1}	0.539648	0.1485	3.6333	0.001	0.236726	0.8426	0.2367	0.8425

Table 3 shows regression coefficient as ($R^2 = 0.298$) shown in Table 3 above, the Y variable 1 explains 30% of the prediction on the Y variable (terrorism incidents). This indicates that the independent variable fairly predicts terrorism incidents in the United States. The standard error of estimate indicates that the average discrepancy or difference between the estimated and the actual values in the model is 13.9. The distance between the estimated and the actual values is close, indicating that the prediction is almost exact.

The simple linear auto-regression coefficients in the United States as represented in the first-order difference equation is $E(Y_t) = \alpha + 13.9091 + 0.5396Y_{t-1}$. Therefore, α (y intercepts) = 13.19, which represents the expected number of terrorism incidents in 1979. The slope or expected yearly increase in the number of terrorism incidents in the United States is also positively significant at $b_1 = 0.5396$. In terms of the model's significance, Table 3 indicates that the Y_1 (autoregressive terrorism incidents) is useful for predicting Y (terrorism incidents) because the P-value ($.001 < \alpha (.05)$). The regression coefficients and their significance in the United States corroborate the earlier findings in the case of Nigeria. Notwithstanding that the standard error of estimate is higher in the case of Nigeria, the model fits the prediction of terrorism incidents in both countries. Therefore,

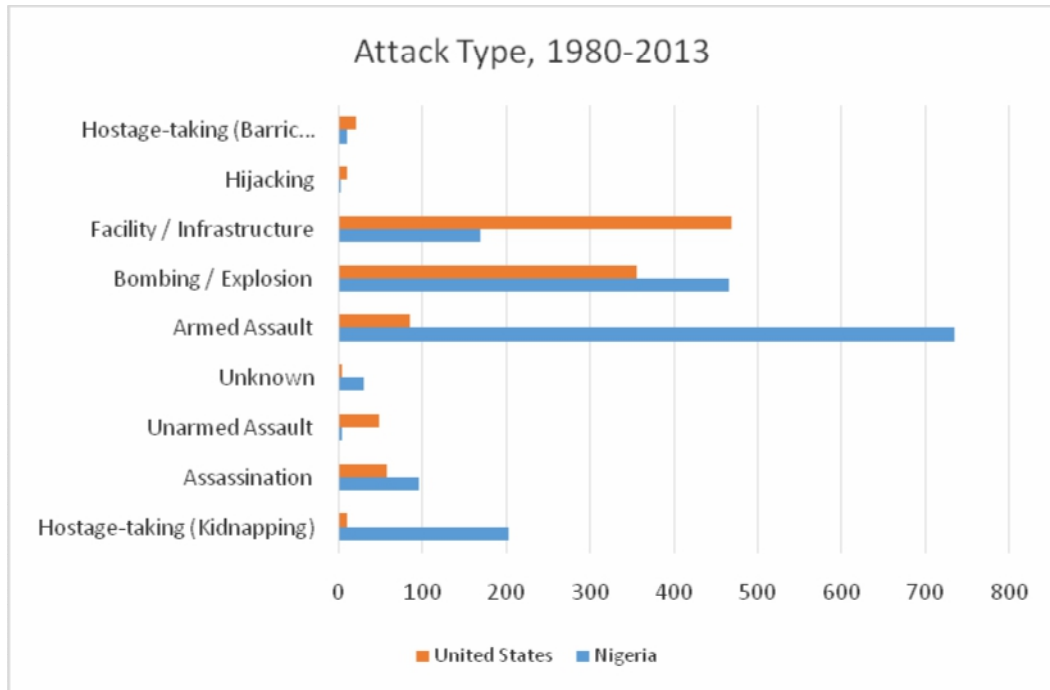
policy makers should consider applying this model in terms of developing future strategies to tackle terrorism.

Tables 4, 5, 6, 7 and figure 2 are adapted from the Global Terrorism Database, which identified terrorist tactics, targets of terrorist attacks, weapons of attacks and various agitational groups that have perpetrated acts of terrorism against Nigeria and the United States. It is important to note, however, that data collected from other databases or literature is not included in the forthcoming data analysis. For purposes of accuracy, statistics on the characteristics of terrorism incidents are collected from the Global Terrorism Database. The Global Terrorism Database (GTB) provides data on terrorism incidents and its characteristics worldwide starting from 1970.

3. Terrorist Tactics Used in Nigeria and the United States, 1980-2013

Comparing other variables between the two countries, terrorists have utilized various violent tactics to express their aggression against the two countries, including kidnapping, assassination, armed assaults, bombings or explosions, arson of facilities or infrastructure, hijackings and hostage-taking (Global Terrorism Database, 2015). Tactics in most cases are violent actions carefully planned to achieve a specific goal. The GTD divided the total number of attacks in both countries into small sets of major tactical categories, though more than one tactic can be used in any given attack. For example, a facility attack may also involve hostage-taking, while bombings can be achieved using hijacked airplanes, such as in the 9/11 attack. The figure 2 graphically represent terrorist attack tactics in both countries from 1980 – 2013.

Figure 2. Total attack type in Nigeria and the United States 1980-2013.



Adapted from Global Terrorism Database (2015).

Figure 2 shows the 1,717 and 1,063 tactics used in the terrorist attacks that occurred in Nigeria and the United States from 1980 to 2013. The preferred method of terrorist attack against Nigeria was armed assault (735 incidents; 42.8% of the total attack type), while in the United States, the most common method of terrorist attacks were facility and infrastructure (469 incidents; 44% of total attack type) between 1980 and 2013. Following the first method of attacks against the United States is bombing, which was used 356 times (33.5%) within the 34-year period. Nigeria also frequently experienced bombings and explosions, accounting for over 27% of the total attack type. While Nigeria significantly saw kidnapping as a means of attack, accounting for almost 12% of the total attack type, U.S. terrorists did not use kidnapping to express their grievances frequently, as the type accounts for only 0.9% of the total attack type against the United States. In addition to these identified common attack types, the GTD included other ranges of attack type that were less frequently used. These include unarmed assaults, assassination, hostage-taking through barricades, and unknown attack types that could not be placed into any category.

4. Terrorist most common Targets in Nigeria and the United States

The trend in terrorists' preferred target types can be seen by examining a breakdown of the suspected targets of terrorist attacks within Nigeria and the United States from 1980 to 2013. The Global Terrorism Database (2015) created categories of target types by grouping similar targets; it then classified a total of 1,742 specific targets of terrorist attacks against Nigeria and 1,102 specific attack targets against the United States. The details of the target type are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 shows that the most common targets of terrorism in Nigeria between 1980 and 2013 were private citizens and their property, accounting for 24.7% of the total number of targets, whereas the most common target of terrorism in the United States between 1980 and 2013 were businesses, accounting for 24.3% of the total. Police are the second most frequent target type in Nigeria, accounting for 15.6% of the total targets, while abortion-related attacks, account for 21.2%, and is the second most common target type in the United States. However, U.S. terrorists targeting of police is quite insignificant, accounting for about 1.4% of the total target type. The third most common target type in the case of Nigeria was business, accounting for over 14% of attacks between 1980 and 2013, were as the third most common target type within United States was private citizens and their property, accounting for over 13% of the total target type. Still, most attacks categorized under other target types still directly or indirectly affected a large proportion of private citizens in that ordinary citizens are frequently killed or injured.

After targets against business and private citizens and property in Nigeria and the United States, respectively, the next most common target according to the GTD data for both countries was government (general) accounting for more than 13% of the attacks in Nigeria and over 11% in U.S. terrorist attacks between 1980 and 2013 (two examples are the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995 and the 9/11 terrorist target attack on the Pentagon). The next most common target type in Nigeria was military targets, accounting for 7.5% of the total. Comparatively, terrorist attacks on the U.S. military within the same time period account for 1.9% of the total U.S. targets, the tenth most common terrorist target. This indicates a decrease in military targets in the United States over 1970 to 2011, when military targets accounted for over 7% and was the fifth highest target type (Global Terrorism Database, 2015).

Table 4. Terrorist Attack Targets in Nigeria and the United States, 1980–2013

Target Type	Nigeria (frequency)	United States (frequency)
Private citizens and property	431	153
Business	252	268
Government (general)	236	128
Police	272	15
Abortion-related	0	234
Military	130	21
Religious figures/institutions	127	56
Government (diplomatic)	7	48
Educational institution	93	57
Utilities	54	13
Telecommunication	33	1
Airports and aircrafts	2	29
Maritime	24	1
NGO	2	13
Terrorists/non-state militia	7	4
Transportation	15	7
Food or water supply	3	1
Tourists	0	5
Violent political party	6	1
Other	2	0
Unknown	32	9

Adapted from Global Terrorism Database (2015).

On the other hand, educational institutions are the fifth most frequent terror target type in the United States, accounting for more than 5% of the over-all targets analyzed. The fact that educational institutions is noted as one of the top five most frequently targeted types in the United States indicates aggression by terrorist groups against institutional research. Such terrorist groups include student radicals, black nationalists in the 1970s, and animal rights groups. In Nigeria, attacks against educational institutions account for 5.3% of the total target type and ranked the seventh highest type of terrorist target between 1980 and 2013. Terrorists groups like Boko Haram targeted institutions of learning in Nigeria because of their aggression against western education. Examples include the recent kidnapping of almost 300 Chibok girls from a federal government secondary school and the destruction of several university structures in northern Nigeria. Following military

targets and educational institutions, respectively, are targets against religious figures and institutions, which was the sixth target type for both countries within the same period. While religious institution attacks account for about 7% of the total target type in Nigeria, educational institutions account for about 5% of all U.S. targets.

5. Terrorists’ Weapons in Nigeria and the United States, 1980–2013

Table 5. Weapons types used in terrorists’ attacks against Nigeria and the United States

Weapon Type	Nigeria	United States
Sabotage equipment	4	35
Explosives, bombs, and dynamite	562	352
Incendiary	205	446
Melee	84	28
Chemical	1	7
Firearms	932	163
Radiological	0	1
Fake weapons	0	13
Vehicle	1	9
Biological	0	24
Unknown	104	302
Other	0	17

Adapted from Global Terrorism Database (2015).

The GTD documented a total of 1,893 weapons used to terrorize Nigeria between 1980 and 2013 and a total of 1,397 weapons used by terrorists to attack the United States within the same period. Terrorists in both Nigeria and the United States used similar weapons except the use of radiological, biological and fake weapons (fake bombs) that were only used in the United States. Table 5 shows that the most frequently used weapons by terrorists in Nigeria between 1980 and 2013 were firearms and explosives, accounting for 78.9% of the total, whereas the most frequent weapons used by terrorists in the United States within the same period were incendiaries and explosives, which account for more than 57% of total weapons used by terrorists in the United States. The data show that firearms were used less frequently in the U.S. than in Nigeria between 1980 and 2013. Thus, only 11.7% of the weapons used in U.S. terrorist attacks were firearms whereas 49.2% of all of the weapons used in terrorist attacks in Nigeria were firearms. Incendiary and melee weapons were also frequently used in terrorist attacks in Nigeria, as both weapons account for 10.8% and 4.4% of the total weapons used, respectively. All other weapons shown in Table 5 account for less than 3% of all weapons used in the Nigerian and the U.S. terrorist attacks between 1980 and 2013.

6. Terrorist Organizations Perpetrating Attacks in Nigeria and the U.S., 1980–2013

The Global Terrorism Database (2015) displayed information about the terrorist organizations responsible for attacks in Nigeria and in the United States. It gives a descriptive analysis of the terrorist groups that have perpetrated the most terrorist attacks in both countries from 1980 to 2013. Tables 6 and 7 list the 10 most active terrorist organizations in Nigeria and the 16 most active terrorist groups in the United States between 1980 and 2013. Twenty different terrorist groups are examined in each country. Tables 6 and 7 are ordered by total number of attacks and fatalities. Lone or unaffiliated terrorists like Timothy McVeigh (Oklahoma bomber), Kaczynski (the Unabomber) and Malik Hassan (Fort Hood, Texas) are excluded.

Table 6. Groups Responsible for Most Terrorist Attacks in Nigeria, 1980–2013

Rank	Terrorist Organizations	No. of Terrorist Incidents	No. of Fatalities
1	Boko Haram	808	3,665
2	Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND)	78	280
3	Maitatsine	65	8,533
4	Movement of Niger People for Justice (MNPJ)	10	37
5	The Joint Revolutionary Council	7	14
6	Modakeke Ethnic Activists	6	84
7	Ijaw Militants (IM)	5	7
8	Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF)	4	0
9	Odua People's Congress	3	1
9	Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB)	3	16
9	Fulani Militants	3	13
9	Niger Delta Vigilante (NDV)	3	19
10	Egbesu Youths of the Bayelsa (EYB)	2	22
10	People's Democratic Party	2	2
11	Effiat Ethnic Group or Jbibio Peoples	1	80
11	United Front for Nigeria's Liberation	1	14
11	Hauso Ethnic Group	1	13
11	Anti-Government Group	1	11
11	Katap Ethnic Group	1	10
11	Itsekiri Militants	1	10

Adapted from Global Terrorism Database (2015), Isichei (1987), and Falola (1998).

Table 6 indicates that Boko Haram was responsible for more than 85% of all terrorist attacks between 1980 and 2013 and 28.6% of all fatalities from terrorist attacks in Nigeria. The second most active terrorist group in Nigeria was the MEND, which carried out about 78 attacks and slaughtered approximately 280 people, accounting for 2.2% of the total number of fatalities. Maitatsine is ranked the 3rd most active terrorist organization in Nigeria with the highest number of fatalities accounting approximately 66.5% of the total fatalities within this time frame.

Table 6 further shows that some terrorist organizations are ranked the same because their frequency of attacks is the same although with different number of fatalities. For example, the Odua People’s Congress, MASSOB, Fulani Militants, and Niger Delta Vigilante are each ranked 9 with three total terrorist attacks. Egbesu Youths of the Bayelsa and People’s Democratic Party are both ranked number 10 with two terrorist attacks, while Effiat Ethnic Group or Jbibio Peoples, United Front for Nigeria’s Liberation, Hauso Ethnic Group, Anti-Government Group, Katap Ethnic Group, Itsekiri Militants, and Muslim Militants were each ranked 11 with one incident.

Table 7. Groups Responsible for Most Terrorist Attacks in the United States, 1980–2013

Rank	Terrorist Organizations	No. of attacks	No. of fatalities
1	Anti-Abortion Activists (AAA)	129	2
2	Animal Liberation Front (ALF)	88	0
3	Earth Liberation Front (ELF)	77	0
4	White extremists (WE)	52	9
5	Jewish Defense League	30	1
6	Omega 7	24	1
7	Army of God	21	2
8	United Freedom Front	19	0
9	Aryan Republican Army	16	0
10	May 19 Communist Order	14	1
10	The Justice Department	14	0
11	Ku Klux Klan (KKK)	13	1
11	Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional	13	0
12	Coalition to Save the Preserves	8	0
12	Up the IRS, Inc.	8	0
13	World Church of the Creator	6	3
14	al-Qaeda	3	2,997
15	Anarchists	3	0
15	Earth First	3	0
16	Black Liberation Army	2	0

Adapted from Global Terrorism Database (2014).

Table 7 shows that Anti-Abortion Activists launched the largest number of attacks in the United States, followed by Animal Liberation Front, Earth Liberation Front, White extremists, and Jewish Defense League. These five groups were responsible for 358 terrorist attacks in the United States between 1980 and 2013.

The analysis of terrorist organizations shown in Table 7 is limited to the 20 most active terrorist groups in the United States during the 34-years period. As with Table 6, Table 7 indicates that some terrorist organizations are ranked the same because their frequency of attacks are the same although they had different number of fatalities. For example, May 19 Communist Order and The Justice Department are both ranked 10 with fourteen total terrorist attacks each. It could be said that each organization operates at the same frequency but with varying objectives and intensity. While many of the attacks of these groups resulted in fatalities, the terrorist attacks perpetrated by al-Qaeda on 9/11 resulted in 2,997 fatalities, accounting for 99.3% of the total number of fatalities in the 34-years period. The table also shows that non-fatal attacks were more common than fatal attacks in each of the years covered by the database between 1980 and 2013.

Discussion and Implications

The quantitative analysis determined the average difference in terrorism incidents between the two countries from 1980–2013. It further validated the reliability of the research instrument and tested the hypotheses on predicting terrorism incidents in both countries.

In comparing trends in terrorism incidents between Nigeria and the United States, this study hypothesized that there is a significant difference in the average number of terrorism incidents in both Nigeria and the United States from 1980–2013. The graphical representation of the data from the 34-years period seems to support this hypothesis, but the outcome of the paired t-test disputed the hypothesis by not rejecting the null hypothesis (see Figure 1, and Table 1). This means that, on average, there is no difference in terrorism incidents between the two countries from 1980–2013. The objective of this aspect of the research is to determine if any difference in the mean number of terrorism incidents within the 34-years period may have affected or explained the slope in each country's past experiences. Results showed that both countries are terrorism-prone areas. Further investigation using the time-series model to predict terrorism incidents indicated that the first-order autoregressive time-series model adequately explained and predicted terrorism incidents in both countries. Using this model to predict terrorism incidents will help policy makers to develop proactive strategies in tackling terrorism.

Additional inquiries on the terrorist tactics or types used in both countries revealed that armed assaults, bombings and hostage-taking (kidnapping) are preferred method of attacks in Nigeria while facility and infrastructure, bombing and armed assault are respectively common terrorist attack types in the United States. While Nigerian terrorists significantly used kidnapping as a means of attack, U.S. terrorists did not use kidnapping to express their grievances frequently. The tactics used by these terrorists points to the level of their sophistication, the Nigerian Terrorist engaged in acts of kidnapping for ransom in order to force the government into negotiations, terrorists in the United States focused more on attacking facilities and national infrastructure, in which the primary motive was to cause harm to non-human targets and attract national attention (Miller, 2016; Global terrorism Database, 2015; Alexander, 2002; Onwudiwe, Tsado, Ejiogu, McGee-Cobbs, & Okoye,

2016). Obviously, attacking facility or infrastructure and kidnapping worsens the level of risk to terrorist groups because these tactics necessitate advanced arrangement, planning, complex operations and intelligence proficiency to effectively carry out the task (Department of Homeland Security & Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008). Notwithstanding that Bombings and armed assaults requires less organizational planning, however, those tactics tend to have more impact on both the target group and the general population in terms of creating widespread psychological consequences or fear, sustaining campaign of violence and decreasing government's effectiveness.

Further investigation indicated that the most common targets of terrorists in both countries were private citizens, property, government and businesses. Hence, terrorism caused outrageous fatalities and injuries in both countries resulting from international and domestic terrorist attacks on persons. Obviously, terrorist attacks on government facilities, were meant to destabilize the fundamental foundations of the state and to exhibit government's failure to protect the country, its main leaders and strategic infrastructure. Notably, attacks on police, military and religious institutions were high in Nigeria, whereas abortion related attacks were prominent in the United States.

It is deduced in this article that economically and religiously motivated terrorists groups in Nigeria posed the greatest threat to the Nigerian political entity and the general public. Religious extremism has been empirically proven to be one of the topmost factors that proliferates terrorism in Nigeria. According to Juergensmeyer (2003) "the idea of cosmic war is compelling to religious activists because it enables and exalts those who consider themselves a part of it . . . to provide themselves with a sense of power" (p. 187). Hoffman (1993), also asserts that religious terrorists implement their terrorist operations for the grace of the deity and they believe that their actions are sacramental acts with imminent reward from divine providence, Boko Haram and Maitatsine followers inclusive. Special interest groups like the Anti-Abortion activists, Animal and Earth Liberation Fronts are the topmost terrorist groups in the United States. They also engaged in ideologically motivated violence in order to coerce the general public and the government to modify policies and behavior considered important to their causes (Dyson, 2012; Jarboe, 2002). Their *modus operandi* includes the use of explosives, dynamite, incendiary, bombing, kidnapping, physical threats and assassinations to force change. These dangerous weapons are used by terrorists to inflict life threatening injuries on persons and destroy properties. In developing counterterrorism policies, government need to significantly examine the patterns and characteristics of terrorist incidents to ensure effective and efficient strategies.

Conclusion

Analyzing terrorism incidents in the United States and Nigeria between 1980 and 2013 reveals a range of patterns and trends. The paper provides a general overview of patterns of terrorism incidents including patterns of terrorist attacks over time, tactics, targets, weapons used, and terrorist organizations responsible for most terrorist attacks within the 34-years period. It also predicted terrorism incidents using autoregressive model. Seventeen years after the worst terrorist incident that quaked the whole world – the 9/11 terrorist attack, investigating past terror trends is important to learning lessons and developing better counterterrorism strategies. Knowledge of 34 years data on terrorism incidents is vital to discovering patterns that were either ignored or previously unnoticed, evaluate relevant information necessary to address the threat of terrorism, provide greater

understanding of the operational capabilities of terrorists, re-assess the nature and level of terrorist threats in the past and help to improve policies relating to homeland security. This study covered an in-depth comparative analysis of terrorism incidents, thus reflecting characteristics that are very common among terrorists in the two countries. Notwithstanding that, on average, there is no difference in terrorism incidents between the two countries from 1980–2013, the year-by-year graphical representation of terrorism incidents showed a downward slope in the United States and a continuous increase in terrorism incidents in Nigeria within the 34 years period.

The questions are: Is there a reason for the recent declining of terrorism incidents in the United States? Why did most terrorist attacks in the U.S. result to less fatalities than terrorist attacks in Nigeria? Has the recent global trend in terrorism incidents impacted Nigeria more than the United States? Evidentially, the United States has effective counterterrorism strategies suitable to the national circumstances of the country. While Nigeria, is still struggling with countering terrorism, international support from the United States and other Western World with better experiences in countering terrorism will be helpful in the Nigerian case. This empirical assessment would add to the body of knowledge and provide for future research regarding the trends in terrorism incidents.

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