



Problems and hypotheses on the war of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries

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Political Science, International relations, International Economy

I. PROBLEM

For its part, **VITRY GUTTONET** defines the problematic as a set of questions to the problems posed by the researcher in a well-defined field on a problem or phenomenon to be studied¹.

Professor **SHOMBA** for him, the problem means a problem to be solved by scientific processes. As nouns, problematic designates the set of questions asked in a field of science in order to seek solutions that are necessary².

MAYALAK maintains that "we must not believe that a problem is reduced solely to a series of questions that we ask ourselves. It is above all the expression of the researcher's concern."³

The question of conflicts in of the Great Lakes sub-region is becoming very alarming on the international scene, especially since it contains the central part of Africa and even the world; And that this war is an irrefutable reason for the disintegration of Africa in general. Indeed, it has become the focus of attention for writers and researchers in various fields and disciplines. But so far, we have not yet seen the desirable coexistence between scientific theories and the political manoeuvring of the parties concerned on the trail of their exchanges in the conflict resolution process. Notwithstanding this, our concern is also to discover and denounce the invisible actors in these conflicts. This is why the major question that we consider to be the guiding principle in this scientific approach is the following:

¹ VITRY GUHONET, L'économie politique, Paris, 3rd ed., p.17.

² SHOMBA K. S., Methodology and Epistemology of Scientific Research, Kinshasa, ed., PUK, 2016, p.40

³ MAYALA KIAWETE. G. The advantages and disadvantages of the DRC's membership in sub-regional organizations, Thesis, L2 RI, FSSAP, UNIKIN, 2010-2011, Unpublished

: Why have all the negotiations that have been held since the beginning of this war not been able to bring an adequate solution so far?

Having this main question, it raises some secondary concerns that may well clarify it. We also ask ourselves the following:

1. Who are the invisible actors, authors of the proxy for war within the ECGLC?
2. What are the mechanisms to be put in place to avoid this foreign power of attorney?
3. What are the challenges and prospects for successful integration into the ECGLC during and after the war?

II. ASSUMPTIONS

The hypothesis is a proposition relating to the explanation of natural phenomena, provisionally admitted before being submitted to the control of experiment. It is also a series of answers that are supposed to be provisional or plausible with regard to the questions raised by the problem.⁴

As for **Pinto Roger**, hypotheses are defined as the proposal of answers to the questions that are asked about the object of the research formulated, terms such as observation and analysis can be answers⁵.

- For the fundamental question of this dissertation, we will be brief by saying that in our opinion, it is the lack of political will of the foreign policy actors of these states. We will be required to clarify this thought throughout the course of the year.
- ✓ Regarding the first secondary question, we are convinced that the war that is degenerating within the ECGLC does not have the policies of these three countries as its main actors. It should be remembered that the great beneficiaries of the raw materials and other wealth fraudulently and disproportionately exploited in this sub-region during the war are the Westerners, in connivance with their African political and military partners, the latter who must be perceived here as catalysts for the African peoples and the peoples of the Great Lakes in particular.

As proof, the eco-fin agency published on December 18, 2019 at 11:45 a.m., that, five American companies are being called to court to respond to child labor in

⁴ Dictionnaire universel, Paris, ed., Hachette, 2004, p.80

⁵ PINTO Roger, *Méthode en sciences sociales*, ed., Dalloz, Paris, 1997, p.20.

cobalt mines in the DRC during the so-called war period, a human rights firm, has filed a federal class action lawsuit in Washington against five tech companies.

Five U.S. companies are being sued to address child labor in DRC's cobalt mines during the so-called war period, a human rights firm has filed a federal class action lawsuit in Washington against five U.S. technology companies. APPLE, Microsoft, Alphabet (parent company Google), Delle Technologies and Tesla are accused of turning a blind eye and even encouraging the cruel and brutal use of young children children to mine cobalt in the DRC⁶.

All this maneuver requires a political deal from the U.S. government, which on January 28, 2022, delegated the U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor, Deleep Singh, and several senior U.S. officials, including the ambassador to the DRC Mike Hammer," To discuss with Congolese Deputy Minister of Mines **Godard Motemona** on the strengthening of the economic partnership between the DRC and the United States, by continuing their assistance them secure mining sites. A security that we describe as demagogic. Because the US has never been active in the struggle to keep the peace in this area and the continuation of the war in this area proves it.

This justifies that the degeneration of tensions in the ECGLC is a favorable climate for the United States, because it is obviously a source of gain for it, because the largest customers of the minerals exploited in this dilapidated period of the sub-region are the American multinationals.

It should be noted that at the same time that the US is reassuring its security partnership in mining areas overrun by Rwandan-backed M23 rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo, it is also signing Rwandan Status of Force Agreements (SOFA) as part of broader efforts to strengthen military cooperation with Rwanda. "Recorded in Kigali on Thursday, May 28, 2020, this agreement, according to a statement by the Rwandan Ministry of Defense: will force the existing good military cooperation between the United States of America and Rwanda.⁷"

This determines a hybrid character of the United States that we qualify as "**flexible neocolonialism**" within the CEPGL.

Notwithstanding the USA, **Etienne RUSAMIRA** affirms, as we have noted in our State of the issue, that "the turbulent history of the African Great Lakes

⁶ (ECOFIN Agency) - International Right Avocates: Published on ECOFIN Agency. Minées, December 18, 2019, 11:45
Emilians Tossou (ECOFI Agency) International Right Avocate , Op.cit., 31 January 200, 10:43

⁷ Job KAKULE: Rwanda has signed a new military agreement with the United States. *Newspaper* :_ ., GL. New, 29 May 2020, 11:28 am.

region clearly shows that French interference remains one of the determining parameters in the realization of the positions of the various local political and military actors⁸.

Indeed, this Western manipulation of the African statesmen of the Great Lakes is an effective stimulus in the creation and resistance of rebel groups in this sub-region in order to satisfy the expectations of these so-called Western groups.

So here, we find that the actors in this war are first of all the Western countries that are making the efforts to maintain themselves in the world market of raw materials, then the statesmen of the sub-region who are driven by a greed on the scale of sacrificing their peoples by the ticket of the actions of armed groups.

- ✓ To the question of knowing the mechanisms to be taken to escape this situation, we first think of new negotiation techniques in this ambiguous situation, Professors **LUKIANA MABONDO** and **Julien TAZI** think that it is important to specify that in negotiation, it is impossible to have a negotiation tactic without linking it to a strategy. Clearly, any negotiation tactic depends greatly on its strategy. From the above, each strategy corresponds to its tactical line.
- ✓ We believe that in future mediations, it would be important to use the following techniques to remedy the situation, as in our view, we find them proportionate to the circumstance.

A. THE BLUFF TACTIC⁹

It consists of making the other party off guard, taking him at his word and putting him in a very uncomfortable situation.

Paul KAGAME, President of Rwanda, considered for some time as the main agent of instability in the Great Lakes region, in his agitations after hearing the words of Kinshasa, describing the March 23 movement as "*terrorist fighters*", he falls involuntarily and unexpectedly into the defensive in favour of the M23, punished by the principles of international humanitarian law, which is set out in the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, obviously Additional Protocol 1, Article 51-2 and Additional Protocol 2, Article 13-2, which "also prohibit acts aimed at spreading terror among the civilian population. Neither the

⁸ Etienne RUSAMIRA, Geopolitics of the African Great Lakes and Fashoda Syndrome: The Role of the French State in the Rwandan Genocide and the Political Destabilization of the Region. *Newspaper* : Euro studio, 1 April 2008

⁹ LUKIANA M., and TAZI J., *theories and practice of negotiation*, Kinshasa, 2016, ed. Créative Barthel the barthel, p.102.

civilian population as such nor civilians shall be the object of attack. Acts or threats of violence whose main purpose is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited" ¹⁰

By these provisions, the M23 leaders fall into the illegality of being integrated into the FARDC as was the wish of the so-called strongman of Rwanda, so, he said in an interview on July 4, 2022 *that if you qualify the M23 elements as terrorists, so why did you go to Nairobi? It doesn't make sense !*¹¹ He minimizes the crimes of war and aggression committed by the terrorist movement on the margins, by describing it as an ethnic group in order to make it escape the sanctions that spring from international humanitarian law.

In the bilateral relationship between BURUNDI and RWANDA, President **KAGAME** said in an interview in May 2021 that he was ready to extradite the refugees prosecuted in Burundi for attempted coup d'Etat but unfortunately this statement has so far remained a dead letter because, from now on, the granting of refugee status to these alleged rebels who destabilize the functioning of the state in Burundi is a sign of complicity between Rwanda and the suspects. What justifies the non-respect of his word, to extradite them so that they can suffer the rigour of the law in Burundi.

B. ULTIMATUM TACTICS¹²

It is a very common practice in negotiation. It serves to put pressure on the other party to make decisions urgently.

We believe that this tactic would be important in order to bring the so-called fort of the Republic of Rwanda to its knees, by demanding it within a very limited period of time, failing which the state of war will automatically be established at the end of the period. Here, then, "**hard power**" would apply, which would allow the attacked states to act as realists and not as idealists¹³.

Secondly, to this question, we propose the departure of the elements of the United Nations missions in these three countries, because according to our observation, they play a fraudulent role in this area, which consists of facilitating the export of exploited raw materials by taking advantage of the climate of tensions in the latter. Then we are thinking of the termination of the contracts signed with the West that allow them to have access to the wealth that the DRC abounds, whether in a context of defensive or security context.

¹⁰ LUKIANA M., and TAZI J., theories and practice of negotiation, Kinshasa, 2016, ed. Créative Barthel the barthel, Pp 111.

¹¹ Susie Allègre: Frequently asked questions about the aspects of international law relating to the fight against terrorism. UNODC, 2009, p.72

¹² idem

¹³ LAUDRY AMISI, brandishing arrogance, Paul KAGAME defends the M23, Ouragan, public article, on July 4, 2022 at 9:00 p.m.

- ✓ Finally, in order to build a successful integration into ECGLC, we first propose to the international society to help the States of this sub-region to get rid of leaders or statesmen who are not on the margins of democracy with the nation.

Then to strengthen the effectiveness of the international and national judicial systems for the prosecution of leaders who presume to be stronger than the law, and subject them to proportionate sanctions.

Thirdly, to facilitate the peoples of these States to choose leaders who have a renewed vision of politics that seeks development through legitimate and cooperative means. And that the three countries (Burundi, Rwanda and DRC) schedule and organize new meetings to define new bases for trilateral cooperation in order to make the ECGLC effective in the face of its objectives which aim at the integral economic development of the stakeholders.

Fourthly, all these States must take precautions before any collaboration or partnership with Western countries and define the distribution of benefits in each economic and commercial collaboration in order to privilege the interests of nationals.

In the end, each state must take responsibility for securing its wealth without taking into account the hand of association of the predators so as not to give free rein to their demagogic policies.

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