

Academic Research Article Critique

Economic Sanctions and the Dynamics of Terrorist Campaigns

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Course name and number

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McLean et al, E. (2016). Economic sanctions and the dynamics of terrorist campaigns.

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Introduction

Generally, this article seeks to examine the effects that may arise as a result of economic sanctions that are used against states that may be fighting terrorism. The article has been written based on the work of four researchers who are; Elena McLean, Kaisa Hinkkainen, Luis De la Calle and Navin Bapat. The four have taken a neutral point of view in their effort to address this topic that relates to the effect that economic sanctions have in the war on terrorism in a country. The article has been structured using the general format that is used for coming up with research project. After coming up with the abstract, a review of the relevant literature has been done to form a background for the study. Six hypotheses have then been developed in relation to the issue that is being addressed and different conclusions have been drawn after testing these hypotheses.

The reason that the authors decided to come up with this research article to determine the various effects that economic sanctions may have on various countries where there is terrorism. However, the authors' point of view is that the economic sanctions are used as a means to fight terrorism in the country. Perhaps. The authors hoped that the information published in this article could be useful in influencing legislation in the country with regard to the use of economic sanctions in the war on terrorism. The language that has been used in this article is formal and the language used is simple and explanatory. In the end, the goal of this article is attained since the authors have succeeded in addressing the various issues raised through the hypothesis.

The hypotheses that were developed were based on two major perspectives. One was a country where there is transnational terrorism and where the government has come up with various to combat terrorism. The second perspective features a situation where the terrorists in the country are home-based and they get the support of the government (MCLean et al, 2016). From one point of view, this project was aiming at proving that when economic sanctions are imposed on a country, this may weaken the economy which may reduce the likelihood of the government in that country succeeding in the war on terror. On the other hand, where the terrorists are home-based when economic sanctions are imposed against a country, this may increase the resistance of the terrorist. However comprehensive sanction can weaken the economy and lead to collapse of transnational terror group.

Two types of states have been used in this article, the sender and the target. The sender is national that has the ability to initiate economic sanctions against another state due to its high economic potential and growth. The target country is the country where there is terrorism. This country's economy can easily be influenced by the sender with the use of economic sanctions such as blockades. The government in the target country can either be in support of terrorism or against terrorism. After testing the six hypotheses that have been developed in both cases, the article comes up with a number of conclusions.

One finding that is made is that the use of economic sanctions in a country where there is transnational terrorist usually reduces the chances of the government in the country to succeed in this war. The argument is that economic sanctions usually reduce the economic potential of a county which may generally weaken the economy. In such a state, the government may not be in a position to fight terrorism due to lack of resources or due to the decision to focus on other sectors of the economy that may be ailing (Hinkkainen et al, 2018). On the other hand, in a

country where the government was in support of terrorism, the use of sanctions will generally reduce the resources that a county may be using to fund terrorism. Such a country will have two options, one is to negotiate with the sender and come up with ways to fight terrorism and the other is to completely end their support for the terror groups which will lead to the demise of the terrorists.

Body

Quality of the Research Article

Generally, this research article is well written and it has met requirements for a paper with that of good quality. There is no doubt that the entire research has been developed and written in the right format. Right from the abstract to the conclusion various issues that have been raised have flowed in a manner that is logical. Relevant language and vocabulary have also been used in the paper. This has made it very easy for one to understand the various issues that have been raised. Right from the abstract, various issues that are to be discussed are raised in a logical order. The researchers have begun by identifying the aim of the study which is good since it informs the reader of the main purpose of the paper. However, it appears that the abstract has also served as the introduction. Although all the issues have been covered, I suppose it would have been more appropriate to include both the abstract and the introduction. This is because, the abstract would be useful in giving the general view of the paper while the introduction would identify various background issues in the study (Labaree, 2012).

Right from the abstract, the paper progresses right away to the literature review where information that is related to the topic of the study is reviewed. Perhaps, it the introduction or a small section that covers the research problem to be addressed and the main objective of the

study, the general outline of the paper in the initial section would be more appealing and the content would be straight forward. By simply going through the paper, one can easily relate through various issues that have been raised. For instance, one can easily tell how the use of economic sanctions relates to the war on terrorism. Various examples based on real-life scenarios have been used to strengthen the findings. A good example is the case of US and Yemen where US fails to put in place sanctions so as to prevent the al-Qaeda from gaining influence in Yemen. This example among many others has been used to strengthen the findings which have results in the researchers coming up with findings that are reliable.

Generally, considering how this article has been handled, one can easily see that the researcher has been able to follow all the guidelines that are required for the research. The data that has been used is reliable since it is based on actual events and occurrences in the world. The hypotheses have been clearly identified for both scenarios that are addressed in the paper. Each hypothesis has been dealt with at a single time and inference developed. Generally, this article is a true example of what a research article should be. Most importantly, a valid reason for researching on the topic have been identified and all processes undertaken in research have been identified. This article is also capable of influencing policy decision which implies that it's credible and reliable.

Use of Appropriate Research Methods and Ethical Application of Research Methods

This part assesses whether the article has used appropriate and ethical research methods in relation to the research goals. The main goal for the research that is conducted is to determine how the sanctions that are imposed against states usually affect the campaigns that aim at dealing with terrorism. The variables that are present in this problem are entirely qualitative. This also implies that most the data that will be used will be non-numeric and the methods that will be

conducted will be entirely qualitative. Apart from the fact that the method used is qualitative, these methods should be applied appropriately.

Going to the research, the paper is an embodiment of a clear understanding of the methods involved in coming up with the findings. Before coming up with the findings, different hypotheses were developed to form a basis of addressing various question in the research. Once the hypotheses were developed, an inquiry was then made so as to try and come up with the findings. These claims are examined closely before coming up with a report on the findings. One method that has been used is coming up with a dataset based on information obtained from two sources which include the TIES database which provides information on what happened when each sanction was applied and Jones & Libicki's data on terrorist groups (Hinkkainen et al, 2018). In the project, the authors have also managed to explain how they came with information and how they selected the samples that were used in the research. This shows that the authors also adhered to the right methodology when coming up with the findings for the project.

The main source of data for this paper has been the secondary sources. Data from various sources relating to the use of economic sanction in the war against terrorism has been used. Where the secondary sources have been used, proper citations have also been made. This can be clearly seen throughout the paper. Taking a closer look at the paper, one will also not fail to notice that various ethical conditions have also been adhered to by the author. One issue is on the credibility of the sources where the sources that have been used are credible. The other issue is that even after deciding to use the secondary sources for obtaining information on the research, this information has been used as it was obtained. The authors have not done any form of manipulation so as to come up with inferences that they would wish. This research is also free

from any form of bias since all the findings are made based on past scenarios of interactions between the two types of nations which are the sender and the target (Resnik, 2015).

Interpretation of Data and Empirical Findings

The findings that have been made based on the hypothesis made have been effectively explained by the researchers. Despite coming with the relationship that exists between the imposition of sanctions and the impact of this action, the researcher has gone ahead to explain how this relationship arises. The explanation that has been made of the findings is that economic sanctions may adversely influence the economy of the receiver country. This is because a sanction such as imposing tariffs on the goods sold by a certain country will lower the goods exported to the sender country. This effect among many others that may arise will definitely harm weaken the economy of the receiver. If the receiver was being involved in the war against terrorism, they may not be able to go on with the war. On the other hand, if the government was funding terrorism in the country, it will be forced to completely end such operations when comprehensive sanctions are put in place. Therefore, based on this explanation, there is no doubt that the data and the empirical findings have been interpreted appropriately.

Role of the Research Design in the Article

This part examines the role that has been played by the research design through an analysis of the research method that has been used by the researcher. Research design generally refers to the technique that is used by the researcher to handle the various parts of the research to ensure that a project is effectively been dealt with (Pavlov, 2008). In this paper the researcher uses descriptive research design where the thematic analysis has been used to come up with various arguments surrounding the issue that is being addressed. This technique is justified since

the research was supposed to be qualitative. Therefore, it was necessary come up with various explanations on how economic sanctions may have an effect on the war on terrorism. The technique that has been used is justified and valid since the most important aspect in this paper was to show the war on terrorism and economic sanctions relate which could only be done with the help of such kind of an analysis

Impact of the Research

This research can be very useful in matters that relate to policy formulation. In addition, the research has also contributed to theoretical knowledge. In order to determine how this research can be used to influence social policy the example of the sender and the receiver nation that was used while conducting the research will be used. For instance, if the sender nation has to impose a policy on a receiver nation as a way of dealing with terrorism, the sender nation must first determine the effect that will result from this intervention. However, the first step is to determine the role that is played by the government if the receiver country.

If the government in the receiver nation has put in place various measures to deal with terrorism, imposition will definitely deprive this nation of its ability to deal with the terrorist. However, if the government in the country is the one supporting terrorism, then the application of comprehensive economic sanction will work. On the other impact that comprises of the argument that this research adds to theoretical knowledge, the findings of this research are very essential since they explain various outcomes that arise as a result of imposition of an economic tariff as a way of dealing with terrorism. This relationship is somehow unique which also implies that it adds to the theoretical knowledge.

Conclusion

The purpose of any research or inquiry is to come up with findings that will help in addressing a major issue or concern in society. After the findings have been made and analysis of these findings conducted, the researcher is able to draw various conclusions that are used in making recommendations. This is the last part of this paper and it comprises an exploration of the significance of this research project that related to an inquiry that aimed at determining the relationship between economic sanctions and the dynamics of terrorist campaigns. In addition, a brief overview of the issues that have been raised in this paper in relation to the research is also addressed.

One reason why this research is important is that it helps in coming up with the best approach which can be used to deal with terrorism using economic sanctions. Based on the findings that have been made in this research before a country imposes a tariff on another country so as to deal with the terrorism, the country should first determine the role that is played by the government in the receiver country. If the government is one of the players in the terrorism in the country, applying measures that are not comprehensive will lead to lead to resistance which may have an effect on increasing the terrorism that actually decreasing it. However, based on this research it is clear that the sender nation can deal with terrorism in this case by applying comprehensive sanction measures. This will leave the government with only two options which are either to engage in negotiation with the sender nation or to end the support they give to the home-based terrorist (Hinkkainen et al, 2018).

This research is also significant since it also explains the effects that may arise if a sender country imposes economic sanction to a country where the government has also braced for the fight against terrorism. The argument is that the sanctions will definitely reduce the economic

potential of such a country as well as the ability to deal with terrorism. This will definitely achieve an opposite effect which is increase in terrorism rather than the demise of the terrorists. The other reason why this research is significant is it helps in identifying additional effects that may arise due to imposition of economic sanctions by a country to another. Apart from regulating trade and the exchange rate, the imposition of an economic sanction may generate spill-over effects that may contradict the policies that a country has put in place. The other significance of this research is it sheds light on the use of economic sanctions by one country to another not just as a tool but also as a weapon. In this scenario, various economic sanctions are used as a weapon for dealing with terrorism. This offers a new perception of the effects that may arise a result of economic sanctions.

This paper offers a collective review of the research article based on various issues that have been addressed. It is evident that the aim of the research has been achieved which was to describe how the imposition of economic sanctions may influence the war on terrorism in specific countries. The researchers that were being this research have displayed a great possession of skills that are required in coming up with valid research that has reliable findings. Qualitative research techniques have been used appropriately in the analysis of the issues that are concerned. The researchers have also explained the relationship that exists between imposition of sanctions and the impact of this action as well as how this relationship arises. Basically, the research was a true embodiment of the possession of the skills required in coming up with a project that is reliable.

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