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The State and Terrorism: Nigerian Immigrants' Perspectives on Boko-Haram

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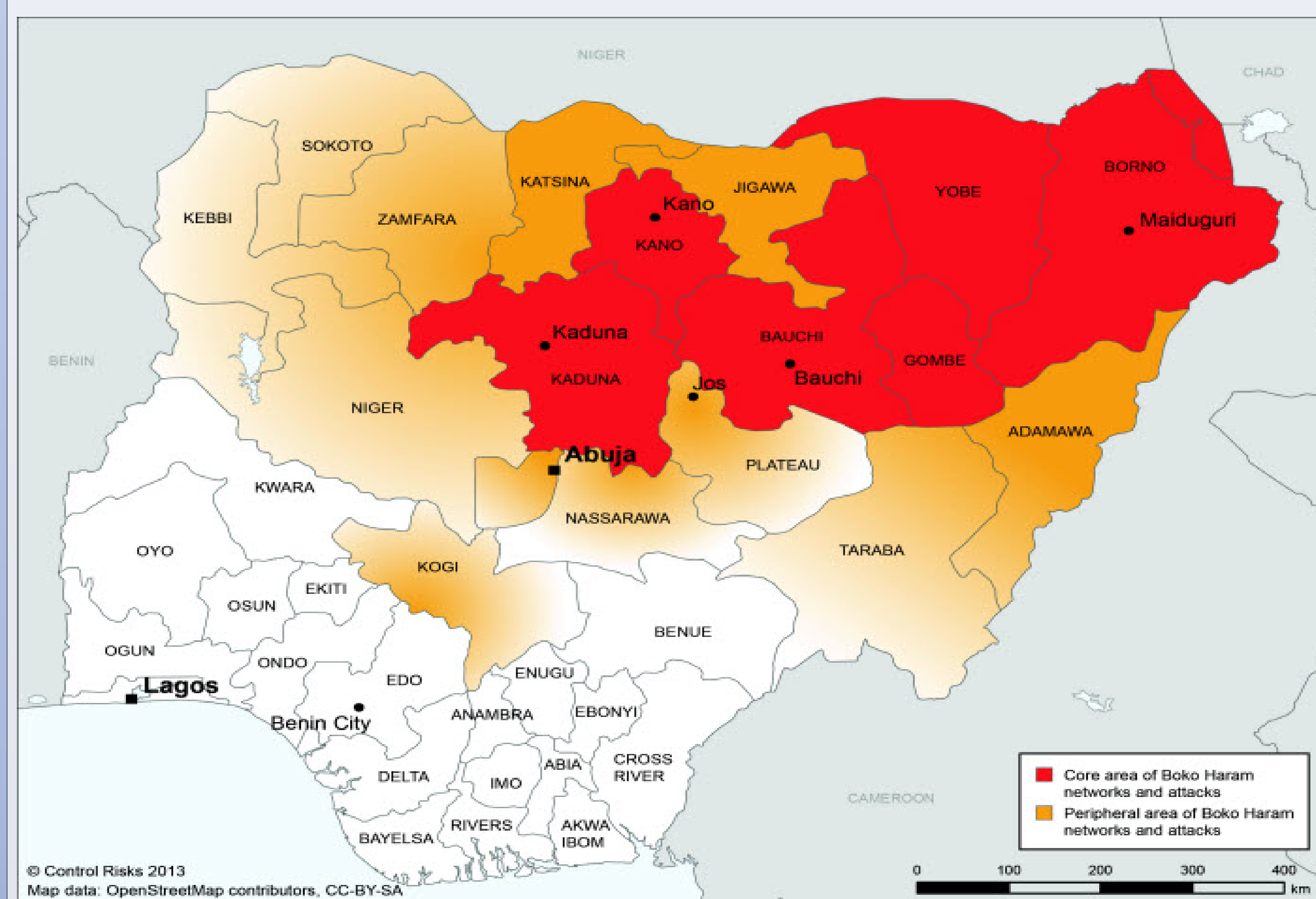
The State and Terrorism: Nigerian Immigrants' Perspectives on Boko-Haram

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Introduction

The Boko-Haram Islamic insurgency has constituted a major security threat to Nigeria since 2009 when the violent phase of the insurgency began. By September 2014, Boko-Haram had killed over thirteen thousand people, destroyed many villages and towns and displaced more than I million Nigerians from their hometowns and villages. Over three hundred thousand Nigerians have fled to neighboring countries as refugees. On a daily basis, many Nigerians live in fear of being killed or maimed by this terrorist group. This research will address and help answer the question, "Are Nigerians who have migrated to the United States equally concerned about this terrorist group's deadly activities?"



Literature Review

Many scholarly works have been done on Boko Haram, including how and why it started, the many atrocities it has committed, and how the Nigerian government responded to the insurgency. Several other works have analyzed Boko Haram as an existential threat to Nigeria as a nation. A few studies on the insurgency have examined its implications for civil-military relations in Nigeria. See the reference section of this poster for citations of some of these works.



Methodology

Emails questionnaires were sent to members of five Nigerian organizations in the United States. Out of the 65 surveys, 54 were returned. Participants were asked to report demographic information, their opinions on Boko Haram, and how they felt about suggestions that the Nigerian government should negotiate an end to the insurgency with Boko Haram. Responses were collected and analyzed to determine participants' perspectives. All the surveys were completely anonymously and no personal information was collected. Participants did not face any risk by taking part in the study. Information obtained from the survey will not be disseminated beyond its use for this paper. Multiple regression and independent sample T-test was used to analyze the results.

Major research questions

- What do Nigerian immigrants in the U.S. think of the Boko Haram insurgency?
- What are the opinions of Nigerian immigrants on how the Nigerian government is handling the Boko Haram crisis?
- Are Nigerian immigrants in the USA still concerned about what goes on in Nigeria?



Hypotheses

- The longer immigrants have lived in the U.S. the less concerned they are likely to be about Boko Haram.
- Nigerian immigrants who visit Nigeria often are more likely to be concerned about Boko Haram.
- Nigerians from the North will be more concerned about Boko Haram than those from the South or other parts of Nigeria.
- Immigrants who are currently employed in the U.S. would be less concerned about book Haram.
- Immigrants who intend to eventually return to Nigeria are more likely to be concerned about how the Nigerian military has performed against Boko Haram.
- Nigerians who have acquired U.S. citizenship or Green Cards will have less concerns about what goes on in Nigeria.
- Nigerian immigrants in the US who read Nigerian online newspapers are likely to be less satisfied with the government's handling of Boko

Table

| Model | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | T | Sig. |
|--|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------|------|
| | B | Std. Error | Beta | | |
| 1 (Constant) | 4.489 | .815 | | 5.507 | .000 |
| How long have you lived in the USA? | -.544 | .147 | -.531 | -3.710 | .001 |
| How often do you visit Nigeria? | .451 | .156 | .380 | 2.884 | .006 |
| Which of the six geo-political zones of Nigeria do you hail from? | .005 | .078 | .008 | .059 | .953 |
| Are you currently employed or self-employed in the US? | -.389 | .181 | -.268 | -2.147 | .037 |
| How would you assess how the Nigerian military has performed against Boko Haram? | .238 | .087 | .336 | 2.735 | .009 |

Dependent Variable: How personally worried are you about the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria?



Results

The study shows that four out of the seven hypotheses were confirmed to be statistically significant. While the other three hypotheses were not confirmed. It is possible that the small size of the sample affected the results. Nigerian immigrants' length of stay, the frequency of their visits to Nigeria, their employment status in the U.S. and the poor performance of the Nigerian military are strong predictors of the degree of concern that immigrants have about Boko Haram.



Conclusion

Nigerian immigrants in the US are just as concerned about Boko Haram as Nigerians who live in Nigeria. The study shows that they view Boko Haram with great alarm and they do not think that the Nigerian government has adequately responded to the insurgency.

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