

CALL FOR CHAPTERS FOR AN EDITED BOOK

Managing Election-Related Violence for Democratic Stability in Ghana III: Threats, Resilience and Sustainment

Background

After several years of political instability and socio-economic decline partly caused by endemic militarization of politics and society, Ghana, has since the inauguration of the Fourth Republic in 1992, become a relatively stable democracy. Political transitions in Ghana have been fairly orderly and peaceful, taking place in accordance with democratic rules provided under the fourth republican constitution. These democratic successions are significant for two key reasons: they have been seamless and free from the all-too-familiar military takeovers to which prior constitutional orders succumbed, and despite some instances of violence, Ghana's elections have not demonstrated the wide-scale and atrocious levels of electoral violence witnessed in Kenya, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, and other African states. Under its Fourth Republican Constitution, Ghana has witnessed an unprecedented degree of stability, which has taken place alongside a discernible drift towards the transformation of this country into a more functional, responsive and inclusive liberal democracy. This is clearly visible in terms of the processes through which formal rules and decision-making procedures governing political exchange are now established, implemented, and altered. These political processes are, in turn, based primarily, though by no means exclusively, on the principle of the separation of powers, which is complemented by broad-based institutions that include fairly vibrant oversight structures for checking political and administrative excesses.

Yet these democratic gains have come about in several instances with a myriad threat that point to a clear disconnect between the importance attached in rhetoric to democratic consolidation and the threat that democratic processes in Ghana portend. It would be naïve to pretend that these gains have not been accompanied by veritable threats to the stability of Ghana's democracy. The greatest source of threat derives from electoral violence, underpinned by hate speech, abusive language, growing activities of politically aligned thugs or vigilantes and the use of spirituality in politics. But the electoral violence is also escalated partially by the perception that in Ghana, elections are a win-or-die affair. Opposition is synonymous with hell, therefore all necessary means must be used to win elections. Since 1992, the incidence of localized electoral violence and use of political thugs have persisted as the most critical threats to the future stability of democracy in Ghana.

Despite the critical role that they play in the consolidation of democracy, elections in Ghana are plagued by localized violence that threatens the peace, security, and stability of the country. Confined though these incidents have been, electoral violence, being a variant of political violence distinguished by the underlying calculus relating to motive and timing, has accompanied every election—at least under the Fourth Republic. However, election-related

violence has been a recurring issue that continues to push Ghana to the brink of all-out violence during the preparations toward each election. Election-related violence is routinely employed by the political class as an operational or counter strategy to obtain electoral advantage. Electoral violence has become an accepted part of the political strategy of the largest political parties. What explains Ghana's susceptibility to electoral violence and the likely occurrence of armed conflict, in spite of the country's enviable democratic credentials? What has been the impact of violence on Ghanaian politics and how has the country coped with it? What explains the resistance of violent electoral politics to change, despite the ubiquitous presence of formal and informal democratic institutions in Ghana? How does violence impact various groups and individuals, particularly women, when they seek to gain access to the political centre in Ghana? What can be done to ensure that democracy thrives and endures in Ghana? These questions were posed in the first volume of *Managing Election-Related Violence for Democratic Stability in Ghana*, published by the KAIPTC in 2012, and they remain as pertinent today as they were then. The second edition, *Managing Election-Related Conflict and Violence for Democratic Stability in Ghana II* in 2016 investigated the anomaly of the increasing acceptance of violence and its functional utility in Ghana's democracy from varied perspectives.

As Ghana approaches another electoral cycle in 2020, a sequel to the first and second editions, is necessary. The third edition adopts a three-prong approach. First, it seeks a detailed analysis on the current security threats in Ghana as it enters another electoral cycle. Second, it examines what makes the country hold together in spite of the threats identified by examining the resilient sources and mechanisms. Third, it forecasts into the future of Ghana's democratic journey and conditions for sustaining the relative stability. The editors believe that the provision of realistic, comprehensive, and dispassionate answers to these questions can contribute greatly to the generation of new insights and approaches needed to forestall violence in the upcoming national elections in 2020 and beyond, as well as to the promotion of peace, security, and democratic stability in Ghana. The complexity of violence in democracy and the dual currents of democratic consolidation and deconsolidation mean that answers to the fundamental questions raised above cannot be found in a single all-embracing variable or perspective. Rather, the contributors to the volume seek answers that will afford fuller insights from the complex relationships between state and society, between state and sub-state actors in the security arena, and within a multiplicity of psycho-cultural and historical factors.

Key words: Elections, Ghana, Security, Africa.

Suggested Topics

Submissions are cordially invited from interested scholars of Ghanaian or African politics on (but not limited to) the following topics:

- Democracy, Election and Election Related Violence in Ghanaian Politics;
- Electoral Conflict and Violence in Ghanaian Politic;

- Inter-Party and Intra-Party Violence in Ghana;
- Electoral Violence as a Substitute for Political Patronage;
- Spirituality and Politics in Ghana
- Politics of the Voters Register
- Security Threats Assessment in Ghana
- Sources of Resilience in Ghana
- Election Preparations and Management
- Settlement of Electoral Disputes
- Funding Political Parties and Election Campaigns
- Exploitation and Abuse of Incumbency in Ghanaian Politics;
- Use and Abuse of Language in Ghanaian Politics;
- Exploitation of The Youth in Contemporary Ghanaian Politics;
- Ethnocentrism and The Future of Democratic Stability in Ghana;
- Election Security in Ghana;
- Domestic and International Election Observation in Ghana;
- Gender and Elections in Ghana;
- Managing Political Violence in Ghana;
- Challenges of Democratic Consolidation in Ghana; and
- Reorienting the Democratic Path in Ghana

Submission Guidelines

Word limit for each chapter: 6000
 Word limit for abstract: 300
 Referencing style: APA

Important Dates

Abstract submission: 12 December 2019
 First Authors Meeting
 (to discuss abstracts) 23 January 2020
 First draft submission: 23 March 2020
 Second draft submission: 25 May 2020
 Final submission: 1 July 2020
 Publication Date August 2020

Abstracts should be sent with a short biographical note (max 150 words) to the Editors at Kwesi.Aning@kaiptc.org; naila.salihu@kaiptc.org; ferdinand.danso@kaiptc.org

Each contributor will receive a copy of the book when published. No financial payments are available for this publication.