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*Erasmus*

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CIVIL WAR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  
AND DEVELOPMENT: A CASE OF SIERRA LEONE FROM 1961 TO 2020**

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## **LIST OF ACCRONYMS**

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
SLDP	Sierra Leone Democratic Party
RUF	Revolutionary United Front
GDO	Government Diamond Offices
CDC	Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
HDI	Human Development Index
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
AFRC	Armed Forces Revolutionary Council

## **ABSTRACT**

While several researches have been done pertaining civil war causes in Sierra Leone, there is not enough knowledge on how civil war influences the growth and development of Sierra Leone economy. The broader topic of decade-long civil war has gained much attention from various scholars, non-governmental and governmental organizations. However, the effects of the civil war on the economy have received less attention. The goal of this qualitative study was to look at the effects of civil war on Sierra Leone's growth and development from 1961 to 2020. In the theoretical framework, the Keynesian economic theory, Benoit's hypothesis and the economic growth theories were used in the theoretical framework. Personal interviews were performed online to acquire data. Non-probability purposeful sampling was utilized in this study. A total of five people were interviewed, and secondary materials were used as well. A descriptive analysis was used to examine the data. The findings revealed that (a) the civil war in Sierra Leone impacted its economic growth in the long term. (b) The diamonds in the country contributed in fuelling the war, (c) Civil war contributed to the reduction in the employment rates in the country, (d) Civil war had tremendous effects on the developmental agenda of NGOs (e) The gross revenue of the companies was impacted during the war period, 1991-2002. (f) Youth unemployment has resulted in dismal living standards. For a socioeconomic shift, the country should strive to institute good political governance that will not be corrupt so that other measures can be effective, address insecurity and political instability in the country, give incentives to prospective investors to have several of them invest in the country. All these will help elevate the rates of employment in the country and boost the economy of Sierra Leone.

## **Relevance to Development Studies**

As one of Sub-Saharan Africa's poorest countries, this study will reveal how Sierra Leone's economic development has been hampered by the decade-long civil war. An in-depth understanding of political instability and ineffective political leadership and the implementation of the proposed recommendations will have a tremendous impact on people's lives and, eventually, the economy's growth. The findings of this study will be useful in understanding how civil war affects economic growth and development of any country. Other academicians will be able to use the data as well.

### **Keywords**

Sierra Leone, Civil war, conflict, economy, GDP, growth and development



# THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CIVIL WAR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: A CASE OF SIERRA LEONE FROM 1961 TO 2020

## 1.CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

There is a prevalence of poverty and low livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa. This has been significantly contributed by conflict, food shortages and political factors that have prevented governments from gaining economic stability. However, some countries in the region are doing better economically than others. According to Østby, Nordås and Rød (2009) close to 20 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa have undergone armed conflict at least once since attaining independence. Civil war has a devastating effect on economic growth and development and thus according to the World Bank, civil wars are development in reverse due to their retraction in economic development. Countries with Low income are categorized as high risk countries for civil war than countries with higher income. Therefore, civil war reflects the problem and failure of development (Collier et al., 2003). Civil war is a major threat to sustainable development and economic growth. Therefore it is critical to understand the role of the conflict in the economic performance of the region.

Over the last few of decades, Western Africa's countries have been plagued by civil wars, food shortages, and epidemics, preventing the majority of countries in the area from economically stabilizing and improving living conditions for their citizens (Moscona, Nunn, and Robinson, 2020). This research focuses on Sierra Leone, which emerged from a devastating civil war in 2002 only to be struck by the 2014 Ebola outbreak. Sierra Leone is amongst the nations in the Sub Saharan block facing humanitarian challenges. Though rising, the country has been under constant inflation and deflation, affecting the growth of the country's economy. The swaying economy of Sierra Leone has been attributed to many

factors (Wegenast and Schneider, 2017). Among other factors that have hindered Sierra Leone's economic growth, long-lasting civil war between 1991 to 2002 has been one of the significant factors that have affected the country's economic growth. According to World Bank (2003), war has adverse implications on economic performance of a country. According to the report, war destroys infrastructure and physical capital thereby disrupting human capital accumulation and creates political instability.

Sierra Leone gained independence in the 1960s. However, some African countries that got independence almost the same time as Sierra Leone have not experienced such a long-lasting civil war such as Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Ghana and Kenya. They have developed an economy with global standard infrastructure. South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt and Kenya for instance, have experienced steady growth with an expanded and stable economy and advancements such as international airports, world-class super high ways, and global tech. South Africa is endowed with diamonds and other minerals like Sierra Leone, which greatly contributes to the country's economy. Studies indicate that diamond mining in South Africa has a huge impact on the economy, which has significantly contributed to better living standards (Feinstein, 2005). The country is well endowed with natural resources like diamonds, gold and bauxite. However, in Sierra Leone, power conflict in the country and international influence affects the legal mining of the resources (Silberfein, 2004). Sierra Leone has experienced long-term civil war defined by chaos and anarchy where militias control some parts of the country.

Following the country's independence from Britain, decentralization of authority resulted in the development of a small political class that prioritized its own areas in the allocation of aid and resources (Allen 1968). This self-interested and greed-driven political agenda led to the increasing levels of socioeconomic inequality that would spark unrest over a decade after independence.

While growing mineral prices raised government income substantially, high tax burdens and widespread corruption contributed to an upsurge in civil discontent (Deaton 1999). Although the country has been experiencing political, social and economic turmoil since history, which contributed to low livelihoods in the nation, the 1991-2002 civil war escalated the situation, leaving the country devastated. The unemployment rates in Sierra Leone increased significantly in the course of, and after the civil war and continues to fluctuate, an indication that the Sierra Leone economy operates below full capacity and therefore inefficient.

Examining GDP before the civil war from 1961 to 1990, during the war in 1991 to 2002 and after the civil war, from 2003 to 2020 there was an increase in GDP, decline and slight increase respectively. Data from World Bank show that after gaining independence in 1961, the country began to experience a rising GDP, in the following trends; 1961-1.81%, 1962-4.54%, 1963-1.7%, 1964-6.69%, 1965-7.18% (*GDP growth (annual %) - Sierra Leone*). This was a good sign towards a flourishing economy. However, the GDP deteriorated on the onset of war in 1991. The World Bank data shows fluctuation in the country's GDP in the war period; 1991- 2.35%, 1992- (-)19.01%, 1993-1.37%, 1994-(-)1.95%, 1995- (-)8.00% (*GDP growth (annual %) - Sierra Leone*). The economy plummeted further during the war, as the GDP shows. There was a significant rise in GDP post-war, although it currently fluctuates. The post-war GDP entail 2009- 3.19%, 2010- 5.35%, 2011- 6.32%, 2012- 15.18%, 2013- 20.72 % (*GDP growth (annual %) - Sierra Leone*). The trends show that the country's economy dropped to the negative during the war, but the economy rose steadily after the war. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) found that the Human Development Index (HDI) value of Sierra Leone in 2019 is 0.452, with the country positioned at 182 out of 189 countries. This categorizes the country into the low human development category (*Human Development Reports*). The country has also been experiencing fluctuation in inflation following the war. The per capita income of countries that experienced civil wars

between 1960 and 1999 was less than countries that maintained peace. The countries that maintained peace showed a faster growth on average than countries which were under civil war (Collier et al., 2003). This research also uses the inflation rates between Sierra Leone and Senegal to illustrate the effects of civil war on the economy and development. Notably, Senegal is one of the countries in Africa that has never experienced civil war. This study also used data on merchandise trade, showing similarities between Sierra Leone and Liberia, a country that also experienced civil war for more than a decade.

Sierra Leone had a brutal civil war from 1991 to 2002, which took place for over ten years, and was stopped after intervention by the British government to subdue the rebels. Despite this intervention, the conflict has not been finished (Collier, and Duponchel, 2013). The periods of civil war in Sierra Leone influenced the drop of the said country's economy, thus trailing behind on essential aspects. While some scholars link the war to greed for economic profit, others argue that the war results from citizens' social and economic dissatisfaction. According to Collier, and Duponchel, (2013) the failure of the state to steer economic development and to provide public service to the citizens played a significant role in igniting the war. Studies show that two decades before the onset of war, Sierra Leone was a state with one party which served the interest of foreign diamond dealers and a few politicians thereby neglecting public service. This resulted in the country recording the lowest Human Development Index ranking globally world in 1990 (United Nations, 1993). Sierra Leone failed to provide employment and education to the citizens resulting in deprived youth rising up against the government.

According to Bellows and Miguel (2006), diamonds took a critical part in starting up and perpetuating the civil war in Sierra Leone. Research revealed that diamonds were smuggled which provided income and funding for arms for the militia leaders. The ravaging unending war during the period provided an avenue for large scale smuggling of diamond, whose profits was used as an incentive for the armed groups to continue with the war. The war in

the country discouraged economic investments (Bellows and Miguel, 2009). While diamonds did a critical role in fueling the civil war, just this aspect cannot give justification for initial objectives of the civil war's protagonists. Rather than that, other aspects created by the large diamond reserves can well explain the structural inequalities in Sierra Leonean society, which contributed to the outbreak of the conflict. For example, uneven profits from diamonds harvesting were exacerbated by the fact that the majority of diamond mines and mining permits were granted to governing relations and devoted fans of reigning governments. Therefore, economic disparity increased resentment among those who were left out of the advantages. To compound things, the government of Sierra Leone was not able to amass revenue from diamond industry on time. The Government Diamond Office's (GDO) cheap purchase price promoted smuggling and so failed to raise tax revenues essential for strengthening public sectors, especially militaries (Keen 2008).

After attaining peace in 2002, the country was hard hit by Ebola outbreak, which plunged the economy further. The outbreak had a social economic impact in the country. The disease reduced economic activity in the country which translates to reduced revenue from taxes. According to CDC report (2016), the epidemic affected the social economic activities of three countries, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. During the outbreak, Sierra Leone was the most hit in West Africa, recording the highest number of patients

The epidemic resulted in most of the government spending to be shifted towards eradicating the disease, with a deprived economy. Economic growth is directly related to higher living standards which results in higher economic standards of a country. Increasing the quality of health will therefore affect the economy positively (Birchenall, 2007). Therefore, the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone and the larger West Africa contributed in the derailing economy of the region. The disease negatively affected government spending and revenue.

Civil conflicts inflict significant economic consequences on a country. These conflicts are heinous in terms of human life and result in economic infrastructure destruction. Additionally, they weaken the state's legitimacy, jeopardizing its institutions, the protection of property rights, and the rule of law. Additionally, internal conflicts create enormous uncertainty in the economic climate, increasing the risk of both public and private investment. According to the UNDP research, Sierra Leone's civil conflict has left the majority of citizens below the poverty line. The country's GDP has been oscillating at a shallow level, resulting in inflation. As a result, the economy becomes unstable. Sierra Leone's independence did not benefit the country; it perpetuated a cycle of corruption and poverty, especially in critical sectors such as civil rights, infrastructure, and education. Therefore, this research explores the relationship between civil war and economic growth with a focus on Sierra Leone .

## **1.1 Nature of the Problem**

There has been civil war in Sierra Leone, which led to lost lives and contributed to the country's trailing behind in terms of infrastructure matters and destruction of the country's economy (Bellows and Miguel, 2006). The country's GDP fell drastically before the onset of the civil war in the 1980s. Comparing Sierra Leone with South Africa, South Africa is much more developed than Sierra Leone. Also, a comparison with a West African country, Ghana, shows that Ghana is well developed than Sierra Leone (Feinstein, 2005). The HDI data from UNDP indicates that the country is living below the poverty line, and the GDP continues to fluctuate at a lower level despite the war being concluded in 2002. Despite the country recovering from the war, the government continues to experience colossal challenges and an unstable economy, with many citizens living in poverty, being unable to foster sustainable development. There is immense income inequality in Sierra Leone despite agricultural, fisheries and mineral resources in the country. The country is primarily reliant

on basic commodity exports and continues to rely significantly on diamond mining as a key source of hard currency revenue (CIA World Factbook).

This study will use the GDP of the country since independence in 1961 to 2020 show how the variation in the country's economy before, during and after war. This forms the basis of the research, the relationship between civil war and economic growth and development with a focus on Sierra Leone from 1961 to 2020.

## **1.2 Justification and Relevance of this Research**

This research project proposal aims to examine the relationship between civil war and growth and development with a focus on Sierra Leone. While several researches has been done pertaining to the causes of civil war in Sierra Leone, there is not enough knowledge on how civil war affects the growth and development of the Sierra Leone economy. The broader topic of decade-long civil war has gained much attention from various scholars, non-governmental and governmental organizations. However, the effects of the turmoil on the economy have received less attention. The Keynesian economic theory explains the rapid economic growth during the war (Murdoch et al., 1997). This is attributed to the high expenditure on the military, which creates employment through technological developments filtered through industries. However, this has not been the case with Sierra Leone.

Economic growth is critical in every nation as it improves the living standards of the population (Acemoglu, 2012). Sierra Leone is one of the Low economy countries whose citizens experience low livelihoods. This project will provide insight into how civil war in the country affects growth and development of the economy. Understanding the effects will have far-reaching outcomes towards livelihoods and the nation's growth.

According to Collier and Duponchel (2013), war has a significant impact on output skills. Workforce reduces during the war, which results in reduced productivity of a nation. Civil conflict destroys lives, economies, and the country (Collier & Duponchel, 2013). The data collected through this project will potentially be used by key players in the economy of Sierra Leone to provide information regarding the effect of civil war on economic development. Further, other scholars may use the results for literature review and enhancing their knowledge base.

### **1.3 Background to the Proposed Study**

The research will be based on the context of Sierra Leone between 1961 to 2020. That is, after independence, before civil war began in the country, during the civil war and after the civil war periods. The country plunged in an immense violent war which resulted in 50,000 deaths, 500,000 displacement of civilians, and a massive destruction of the country's economy (Hazen, 2013). The 1991 to 2002 civil war in Sierra Leone was an armed conflict. The war as a result of revolt against the dictatorship in the country. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) led by Foday Sankoh with the support of the Liberian rebel turned president Charles Taylor, made an attempt to subvert the Sierra Leone government with Joseph Momah as the president then. The objective of the RUF was to control the resources of the country. The wealth obtained from the diamonds to a greater extent fuelled the war. Trade in alluvial diamonds and economic agendas significantly shaped the military factions, and the behaviour of rebel leaders.

The RUF was the strongest hence, acquired the diamonds, sold them to purchase weapons for the war. The diamonds also took a significant part in increasing the war period by increasing the level of rebel violence. According to Hazen (2013), roughly 50,000 people were killed during the conflict, thousands of civilians were tortured or had limbs re-



moved, or both, more than 200,000 people were internally displaced, and over half a million people were forced to seek shelter in bordering countries.

Towards the end of the war, Sierra Leone was among the bottom in the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI) ranking. Despite the intervention of the British troops, the war subsided but the country continues to experience lower economic performance. The war ended in 2002 after intervention by the British troops, the regional forces and the United Nations (Keen, 2005).

Sierra Leone is among the poorest nations in the Sub-Saharan Africa. Apart from war, the country has been struggling with political wrangles, poor leadership, and corruption, which have also greatly affected the country's economic prospects (Keen, 2005). The Sierra Leone civil war had extensive destructive consequences on the various facets of the country, in the short and long run (Collier and Duponchel, 2013). Several studies demonstrate a correlation between per capita and the economic performance of the country which is reflected by the living standards of the citizens (Keen, 2005). Despite the large mineral deposits in the country, the population largely depends on foreign aid.

Many countries in the sub-Saharan Africa have very young population, and Sierra Leone is not an exception. Most of the youth in the country are either victims who grew up during the war period or ex-combatants (Gberie, 2005). Therefore, the human capital of Sierra Leone was drastically affected. During the war, many children could no longer attend schools which has greatly contributed to the low literacy levels in the country.

Sierra Leone was under a ten-year civil war, dating 1991 to 2002. During the war, the country's economy was ravaged, making it one of the poorest globally. The GDP of Sierra Leone since the onset of the war showed a recession pattern until the war elapsed in 2002 (Gberie, 2005). Ghana, a country in the West Africa, has better and developed infrastruc-

ture, with one of the stable economies in Africa. This poses the puzzle behind Sierra Leone's lagging economy as the country was under civil war.

## **1.4 Research Objectives**

The following objectives will guide this research proposal;

- To determine Sierra Leone's GDP before war (1961 to 1990), during (1991 to 2002) and after the civil war (2009 to 2020).

## **1.5 Research Question**

What are the economic effects of civil war on the growth and development of Sierra Leone economy from 1961 to 1990 before the war, 1991 to 2002 during the war and from 2003 to 2020 after the war?

### **1.5.1 Sub Questions**

What are the effects of civil war on Sierra Leone's Gross Domestic Product from 1961 to 1990 before the war, 1991 to 2002 during the war and from 2003 to 2020 after the war?

What is the effect of Ebola on Sierra Leone's GDP in the context of civil war?

How did the war affect trade?

## **1.6 The Scope and Limitations of the Study**

### **Scope**

This research focuses on the effects of civil war on the growth and development of Sierra Leone economy from 1961 to 1990 before the war, 1991 to 2002 during the war and from 2003 to 2020 after the war. Content analysis will be done to determine the effects of the

war on GDP of the country. Therefore, the research will use secondary data. Primary data will also be collected from financial institutions and businesses to determine the microeconomic influence of civil war in Sierra Leone. The sample population will be selected through non-probability sampling and purposive sampling.

### **Limitation**

The samples will be selected through non- probability, purposive sampling hence the samples will be self selected by the researcher. Non probability sampling was considered over probability sampling in this study because the procedures used to select the sample are much quicker, easier and cheaper.

The covid 19 pandemic will pose some limitation in this research. The number of participant was significantly reduced to reduce the chances of a face to face meeting while collecting data. The sample population for this study will be 2 financial institutions and 2 businesses in Sierra Leone, thus is not possible to generalize the whole population of financial institutions and businesses in the country is severely limited. The interviews as well as the follow up mechanism were conducted online via the internet using the online tools like video conferencing and emails. This posed a challenge to the respondents as there may be challenges of poor network connection while some may not be conversant with the technology tools

## **1.7 Theoretical Framework**

There have been long periods of unrest in Sierra Leone, stretching to a decade (1991-2002), which has impacted the country's growth and development. The situation in Sierra Leone gained public attention when it stretched for years without a solution being reached. The situation dragged the country behind in terms of development.

### **1.7.1 Economic Consequences of Conflict**

Different scholars have conducted research regarding the causes of conflict. Civil strife has historically been associated with indicators of social dissatisfaction, such as inequality, political repression, and ethnic and religious divides, rather than economic problems. Rebellion is viewed as the highest form of protest. These objective grievances and hatreds, on the other hand, are rarely the source of violent conflict. Civil conflicts arise when rebel organizations are financially viable and have revenue-generating prospects.

According to Sambanis (2002), the cause of economic conflict exists in two categories, which are explained by two economic theories on civil unrest. The modernization theory posits that modernization results in rapid socio-economic growth, which causes competition for the scarcely available resources resulting in conflict. According to Collier and Duponchel (2013), in their study on the economic legacy in the civil war in Sierra Leone, they reported that war significantly affects output skills. They further found out that firms size in 2006 was affected adversely by the severity of the unrest in the firms' areas. Their study's objective was to determine the effects of war on individual firms located in war zones. It was evident that the workforce reduces during the war, which resulted in reduced productivity of a nation. Civil conflict destroys lives, economies, and the country (Ehmer) *On the Economic Consequences of Civil Conflict*.

Theories related to economies after a conflict in any country are classified into three categories;

### **1.7.2 Economies Grow Faster During Wars**

The Keynesian economic theory argues that economic growth will also increase (Murdoch et al., 1997). This idea is predicated on the observation that conflict will result in more military spending, leading to increased government expenditure. This theory predicts that when the government expenditure increases, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increases,

which will be higher than the increase experienced in spending via the national income, which will result in to increase in demand and industrial production increases, leading to better roads and telecommunications (Murdoch et al. 1997). This theory explains that when the government's expenditure increases, income is raised by more than the amount of increased expenditure. The multiplier effect brings this about. Here, when the pay increases, consumption also increases where income rises again. Mankiw (2007) posits that conflict should result in a rapid increase in national income. The facet military expenditure has empirical evidence that, when the army expenditure increases, there will be an increase in the economy's growth. This assumption has become the "Benoit hypothesis." He did thorough empirical research in 44 countries that were less developed between the years 1950 and 1965. Benoit linked the expenditure in the military to the growth of the economy.

### **1.7.3 Conflict Decreases Economic Growth at the Time and During the Conflict**

Empirical data have supported the statement that civil unrest affects the growth and development of economies. Some researchers argue that economic growth will only be affected during the conflict, while others argue that war also affects any economy's growth after war phase. Benoit (1973) argues that conflict spurs economic development. However, most researchers in this field noted adverse effect on the economy during the civil unrest, relating two elements related to this outcome; destruction of human and physical capital and moving resources from sectors that are to the otherwise less productive sectors. This theory assumes that the economy declines during the war, resulting in a decline in foreign and domestic investments. Besides, increased government expenditure can discourage private investors. According to Collier (1999), economies' growth is 2.2% slower when there is conflict than how the growth path would predict. The reason being, conflicts shutter human and physical capital and impairing investments that might resuscitate both. Flores and Noorduin (2006) posit that conflict destroys and reduces the physical capital stock when

public infrastructure is destroyed. Humphreys (2002) adds that besides destruction, private and public actors' investments also reduce. He expounds that war often interferes with a capital flight leading to decreased investments by private actors. According to Humphreys, the decline in investment in human capital declines during the conflict because, when there is unrest, schools get closed and destroyed and the teachers and their students join armies and rebellions, which reduces investment in human capital.

#### **1.7.4 Post-Conflict economies grow faster**

There exists empirical evidence which proves that countries experience faster growth after conflicts than countries that have not been into conflict. Different theories explain this phenomenon differently. However, for this phenomenon to be accurate there has to be a condition, a commitment to peace. Meeting this condition will enable the country to shift the government's expenditure from a non-profitable sector like the military to a profitable sector like a human investment. Other scholars argue that shifting the government expenditure from military to non-military and demobilizing the ex-combatants critical to attain economic growth after conflict (Collier and Hoeffler 2004). To experience post-conflict growth, countries must attract international aid and investors to focus their economic potentials on economic growth and for the welfare of the citizens. This study will show how conflict and the economic growth relate. Therefore, the research will discuss civil war's effects on the Sierra Leone economy's growth and development.

### **1.8 Research Organization**

This research has six chapters. Chapter one is the introduction which gives background information on the Sierra Leone civil war, for the readers to understand the setting of the research. The research questions and objectives, the justification of the research topic and the limitations are also outlined in this chapter.

Chapter two covers the literature review, where existing literature on the topic will be used to in the research topic, the effect of civil war on the growth and development of Sierra Leone economy. Chapter three presents the statistics with conclusion, Chapter four of this research will entail the interviews and the analysis, where the analyzed data will be simplified to make it more understandable and display its significance as guided by the research questions of the effects of civil war on the growth and development of Sierra Leone economy. Chapter five will present triangulation where chapter three and four findings would be merged and chapter six will present the conclusion and the research recommendations.

## **2. CHAPTER 2 : LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter will address a variety of issues related to numerous studies on the effects of civil war on the economy. Additionally, this chapter will explore different theories on war and economy and their relevance to the research problem. Many African countries have experienced civil war. Sierra Leone is not an exception in this regard. It is one of Sub-Saharan Africa's wealthiest countries in terms of natural resources. According to Silberfein (2004), the country's diamonds have not benefited the economy but have instead contributed to the country's weak governance, which prompted the 1991-2002 civil war. This chapter examines the correlation between Sierra Leone's civil war of 1991-2002, and the economy of the country. Additionally, this literature study examines the influence of diamonds in the country and how it contributed to prevalence of the war. The ebola epidemic will also be explored on how it contributed in poor economic growth. Lastly, this chapter will identify and explain the research gap

### **2.2 Definition: Civil War, Growth and Development**

#### **Civil war**

Civil war is defined as a massive, protracted, physically violent fight that is organized politically and happens in a country, primarily between large significant factions of its residents for the dominance of physical force in a country (Sambanis, 2004). Civil wars are typically fought between incumbent governments that run the system and have a coercive power before the civil war outbreak and opponents—individuals who have failed to challenge effectively others' monopoly before the onset of the civil war (Collier and Hoeffler, 2007). However, their challenge precipitates the outburst. While the challengers may begin as a small number, they must grow numerically significant in order for the event to reach the



equal of a civil war (Sambanis, 2004). The challengers may aim to depose the incumbents in control of the state's existing territory, or they may seek to secede a portion of the original area. Civil wars entail widespread and prolonged internal political unrest in order to be differentiated from brief but intense instances of political unrest that fight the monopoly of force, like mutinies, biased assassinations, or coups (Collier and Hoeffler, 2007). While external actors may be involved in civil war violence, the majority of violence happens within a country's borders and is mostly perpetrated by internal players.

### **Economic Growth and Development**

Economic growth occurs due to changes in material output over a very short period of time, often one year. Economic growth is defined in economic theory as a yearly increase in material output represented in terms of value, or the rate of growth of GDP or national income (Van, 2016). Growth is possible, but it does not correspond to the economy's developmental trajectory. Therefore, economic growth entails not just a rise in material output, as well as all other socioeconomic activities and changes brought about by economic and non-economic causes (Khan, 2007). Therefore, economic progress is measured over a longer time span. Economic development involves a series of fundamental changes in an economy (Van, 2016).

The country's economic development will be facilitated by increased participation of industrial production's processing capacity (secondary sector), which will increasingly be controlled by the service sector at higher levels (tertiary sector) (Fayissa, and Nsiah, 2010). Economic growth entails a country's economy being more integrated with the global economy in a more effective manner (Khan, 2007).

The rise of accumulation is shown in the ever-increasing percentage of national revenue devoted to accumulation. Thus, economic growth is both a process and a phenomena that is extremely complicated. Economic growth, as defined by the percentage increase in na-

tional income per capita, is not a very accurate indicator of the degree of economic progress attained (Peru, 1986). Economic development does not only mean a growth in GDP and national income; it encompasses all of a country's long-term socioeconomic developments. It is quite exceptional.

## **2.3 Theories on Effects of War on Economic Growth**

The overall economic theory on how war and economic growth relate is ambiguous. Research on the effects of civil war on economic growth and development has two pedigrees which contrast. The first perspective is the Benoit's hypothesis (Benoit, 1973; 1978) which posits that conflicts positively impact growth and development of the economy. Benoit's hypothesis goes in tandem with the Keynesian economic theory,

### **2.3.1 Keynesian Economic Theory**

This theory states that the expenses of the military be taken as expansionary fiscal policy. According to this theory, the government has the responsibility of increasing the demand so as to boost growth. Proponents of this theory consider that consumer demand is the main driving factor in an economy. The theory encourages expansionary fiscal policy which includes the government spending on education, unemployment and infrastructure. This, therefore, enhances the economy by boosting demand.

### **2.3.2 Benoit's Hypothesis**

According to Benoit's hypothesis, military expenditure increases employment and production, improves infrastructure. It also increases the skills among the workforce and development of technology through military competencies and training. According to Blattman and Miguel (2010), wars have a significant role in the development of strong institutions. Hence war has a long-term positive effect on growth and development. Alternatively, the second view posits that war has a detrimental impact on the economy as resources get de-

stroyed during wars hence reducing the levels of investment (World Bank, 2003). Notably, according to Galvin (2003), expenses incurred during war have high opportunity costs as other sectors like health education and infrastructure crowd out.

### **2.3.3 Economic Growth Theory**

According to Economic Growth Theory, conflict may influence economies in a variety of ways, including depleting human resource and physical capital stocks, accelerating or delaying technological progress, By weakening or strengthening existing institutions, and by increasing the cost of capital, prices may be altered. Following a conflict, political and economic instability has the potential to increase perceived risk and reduce anticipated profits, resulting in shorter investment horizons. This may result in decreased investment and an increase in the cost of investment (Blattman & Miguel, 2009).

Additionally, there are social and structural changes that are partially or entirely the result of conflict. They are outside the objectives of this study but are worthy of note. A notable example is the transformation of the United States' production capacity and technical environment following World Wars I and II. While technical development accelerated, productive capacity increased dramatically.

The scholarly works on the effects of civil war are put in three primary groups. The first direction estimates the costs of civil war through the use of an accounting framework. In this group, the budgetary costs of the military expenses due to reduced revenues on taxation and the expenditure on the damaged infrastructure are recorded (Collier et al., 2003).

The second direction gives a comparison between the countries' performance affected by civil war to a benchmark country, which has been non-conflict (Stewart et al., 2001). It can also be a benchmark that can be created artificially (Abadie and Gardeazabal, 2003).

The third direction uses a regression-based viewpoint (Cerra and Sexena, 2008). The perspective can be put into two categories, the demand and supply perspectives. An approach

based on demand is primarily Benoit's war empirical model (Wijeweera and Webb, 2009). In the supply approaches, the most prominent model is the Feder and Ram models (Biswas and Ram, 1986), which has similarities to Luca's dual economy model. The models assume that there is a sector that deals with the production of military hardware for the market hence the model may not be suitable for countries with developing economies.

## **2.4 Leadership, Resources, and Conflict**

Literature in political science and economics continues to grow regarding the causes and the effects of civil war. Natural resources have a multifaceted role as a causal factor of civil war in Sierra Leone (Nillesen & Bulte, 2014). Past studies show that the leading causes of conflict are the greed and grievances hypotheses. Collier and Hoeffler (1998) have significantly influenced this perspective. Hoeffler and Söderbom (2004) explain the relationship between incidences of conflict and the export of natural resources. The explanation of conflict and natural resources is illustrated by how various effects interact. While money from the renting of natural resources to finance or facilitate the rebels, the money from the natural resources can also be used by the governments in power in suppressing the opposition groups (Humphreys, 2005). Various studies indicate that resources take a critical role in fuelling conflict. Other studies suggest that natural resources affect conflict but depend on conditions like the physical location of the resource and income (Lujala, 2010). According to Lamb (2000), valuable resources were used to fund civil wars to aid in purchasing ammunition, arms, and military assistance. Lamb (2000) further argues that the driving factor of conflict in many African countries is to generate profits out of the war. It is assumed that where assets and economic privileges have been obtained in an armed war, the parties involved in the conflict tend to prolong the war hence acquiring vested interests.

Bazzi and Blattman (2013) also explain that the rise in commodities' prices influences conflict. They posit that higher prices of commodities are linked with an increased possibility

of violence cessation. Arezki et al. (2015) and Berman et al. (2014) adopted a grid-based approach to finding out if mining sites have an effect on conflict. The two studies were conducted at different time frames hence arrive at different conclusions. Berman et al. (2014) found that natural resources can contribute to conflict onset, which may spill over to other areas of the nation later. However, Arezki et al. (2015) under an extended period and do not get similar results. Therefore literature on the conflict and resources have mixed evidence on the effects of natural resources on war. Another reason is related to the quality of leadership, which is linked to relative deprivation, marginalization, or social exclusion of some groups. Gurr (1970) posits that relative deprivation dictates the possibility for collective violence. Case studies and ample anecdotal evidence show a connection between conflict and relative deprivation. For instance, in the Sierra Leone case, Richards (2005), Keen (2005), and Peters (2006) show that the disconnection between the rural hinterland and the urban elite integrated with patronage and exploitative agrarian institutions have been favorable to support the transformation of the society.

## **2.5 Economic and Political Causes of War**

A number of literatures have addressed the causative factors of civil wars in Africa. Collier and Hoeffler (2004) posit that the risk involved in the outbreak of civil war is likely to increase in a low income per capita and a low speed of growth. Africa's main cause of war is poor political leadership (Tshitereke, 2003). Africa has always struggled with incompetent governance, which has hampered political unification and harmony in nearly every state in African (Zezeza, 2008). Regarding the varied structure of the majority of African governments, maybe the qualities of administrative subtlety, political tolerance, and social fairness are most needed (Bellows & Miguel, 2006). These critical components must be supplied by the region's leaders. Regrettably, the facts on the ground in the several African states have revealed that majority of African leaders are ineffective, corrupt, and disloyal (Van Evera,

2013). Apart from impeding national cohesion and economical growth, these rulers' views have set off a chain reaction, widespread and heinous violence Civilians from Sudan, Nigeria, Algeria, and Liberia (Zezeza, 2008). War demonstrates that political leaders in Africa have been unable to build national cohesion inside their own nations (Kargbo, 2012).

One of the primary reasons contributing to Africa's internal wars is the devastation caused by corruption (Smillie, 2010). Corruption, represented by theft and abuse of public monies, has stalled development efforts and hindered Africa's march toward socioeconomic change and political unification (Van Evera, 2013). Africa's riches have been mismanaged for so long that the populace is fed up with its leaders (Davies, 2002). This has sparked a wave of violent nationalism directed towards African leaders. As predicted, the outcome is perpetual strife among Africa's governments (Van Evera, 2013).

The Africa Union recognizes corruption's crippling effect on the political and socioeconomic stability of African governments. This may explain why the African Union's Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union adopted the "Africa Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption" on 11 July 2003. The convention is intended to encourage and improve the establishment of procedures necessary to avert, detect, penalize, and eliminate corruption in the private and public sectors in Africa by each state party. Africa is a continent that is one of the world's poorest continents. This is attributable in great part to environmental degradation, corruption, and a colossal foreign debt all contribute to aggravating poverty-stricken circumstances (Iiffe, 1995). Desertification has exacerbated famines in several African countries, including Ethiopia and Mali are examples of such countries. Hence, the population of individuals living in abject poverty has increased significantly. Sub-Saharan Africa's poor population increased from 217 million in 1987 to over in 1998, 300,000,000 ( Corbett 2005).

Collier (2000) states that grievances are not involved in conflict onset because the problem is collective. He asserts that the citizens may not involve themselves personally in the war; however, they wish to have justice by overthrowing the government. The rebels are usually fragmented, which reduces their possibility of attaining their goal of achieving justice (Davies, 2002).

Additionally, individuals may desist from joining rebellion groups as their goals may take longer to materialize. Fearon (2005) argues that the effect of the export of a primary commodity is not enough to provoke civil war. Notably, countries that produce more oil are more susceptible to conflicts than countries with little or no oil. It is not because oil offers incentives to the rebels. However, there is the likelihood that countries that depend on oil have weaker leadership and governance in government parastatals than other countries which have equal per capita income. Bates (2008) also notes that there is a difference in the evidence from qualitative accounts and cross-national regressions.

Sierra Leone is a country well-endowed with diamonds and other natural resources. Competition among individuals to seize and control the diamond-producing areas was regarded as the primary source of the civil war in the country. Lujala, Gleditsch, and Gilmore (2005) explore the effects of diamonds on the onset of civil war and its prevalence. They posit that diamonds relate directly to the commencement and pervasiveness of civil war. According to Jang (2015), diamonds had a substantive function in the Sierra Leone civil war by offering the RUF's funding so that the warfare can be sustained.

## **2.6 Effects of Civil war on the Economy**

Armed conflict, in its many expressions, continues to be widespread across the world.

While the incidence and severity of conflicts have been falling in Sub-Saharan Africa from the early 2000s, there has been an upswing in violence in recent years, mirroring the increased global conflict (Collier, 1999). In recent years, almost a third of the region's coun-

tries have been impacted by violence. The continent's perpetual political tensions, and civil wars have had a detrimental effect on Africa's socioeconomic growth, as socioeconomic progress cannot continue to exist in an atmosphere rife with violence, insecurity and instability (Conteh, 1998). Africa's wars and conflicts have exacerbated the continent's unemployment crisis. Today, a high percentage of unemployment, especially among the youth, is a major cause of alarm throughout Africa. It has been expanding at a 10% yearly pace (Kang and Meernik, 2005). Many young people in post-conflict nations are not only jobless; they have also lacked economic empowerment and education as a result of the conflict (Chen, Loayza & Reynal-Querol, 2008). It is useful to highlight that in the absence of other fiscal support, there is a risk that jobless previous fighters will involve in illegal deeds, particularly given the prevalence of small weapons in war-torn nations. Higher rates of unemployment translates to less utilization of human capital in a country (Conteh, 1998).

As studies repeatedly demonstrates, conflicts result in unimaginable human misery and significant economic and societal consequences. The loss of human life; infrastructure destruction, human capital, and institutions; political unpredictability; and increased uncertainty associated with conflicts can stymie economic growth and investment — not only during the civil war itself, but also in the aftermath, finding it challenging to evade the "conflict trap" (Collier, 1999). When these variables combine, they result in a sustained reduction in an economy's productive capacity; counterfactual research indicates that wars denote a drop in real per capita GDP of 15 to 20 percent past five years, in comparison to a no-conflict state (Collier, 1999). Also, conflicts tend to complicate state finances by reducing income through the destruction of a portion of the excise base while increasing military spending. Fiscal deficits and state debt increase, and resources are diverted away from developmental and social investment, exacerbating the devastating effects of the wars (Collier and Hoeffler, 2007). Conflicts present an extra problem at the regional level due to the possibility of spillover consequences.



Civil wars have a direct spillover impact on adjacent states (Hegre & Sambanis, 2006). Civil wars can also present indirect spillover effects by depressing economic activity (for example, due to increased uncertainty or trade disruption) or causing social strains in neighbouring nations, despite the neutrality of the countries in the conflict (Murdoch and Sandler 2002).

Conflict may have a substantial impact on a country's public finances, both on the revenue and spending sides. This impairs the government's capacity to respond effectively to disputes, exacerbating their social and economic consequences. Conflicts can diminish revenue by interrupting economic activity, eliminating a portion of the toll base, and decreasing the effectiveness of tax management (Hegre & Sambanis, 2006).

On the expenditure side, increased intensity of conflict is related with real budgetary military spending. Total government spending does not considerably increase during periods of war. This implies that security worries result in a shift away from growth-enhancing capital expenditures and toward military investment (Murdoch and Sandler 2002). Additionally, a rise in conflict intensity has the net impact of increasing the budget deficit (Hegre & Sambanis, 2006).

As with economic growth, conflict's budgetary consequences are mostly due to high-intensity conflicts. When war intensity is in the highest quartiles, both real revenue and real capital expenditures decline considerably, but military spending grows (Murdoch and Sandler 2002).

## **2.7 Effects of Ebola on Economic Growth**

Sierra Leone is among the West African countries that is regarded as hotspot for ebola. The ebola epidemic exacerbated the economic condition of Sierra Leone (Redding et al., 2019). Between 1991 and 2002, several hospitals were pillaged and utilized as hideouts and shelters for rebel groups. Facilities that were not used as insurgent hideouts were entirely

destroyed (Redding et al., 2019). Sierra Leone's economic and healthcare infrastructures were utterly destroyed by the war. The war claimed almost 20,000 lives. Sierra Leone had to reconstruct most of its infrastructure from the ground up following the conflict's conclusion. While the country's major teaching hospital in Freetown remained open throughout the war, it faced shortages of medications and other critical supplies and equipment, as well as a large outflow of qualified physicians and surgeons fleeing the war.

In December 2013, Sierra Leone was hard hit by the ebola epidemic. According to the World Health Organization, it accounted for more than 3900 of the 11 300 fatalities over the more than two-year outbreak (WHO). The 2014 Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone worsened pre-existing problems in the country's healthcare system (Benatar, 2015). At the height of the epidemic, the Ebola virus impacted every area of life in Sierra Leone, putting enormous strain on a healthcare system that had not been equipped to deal with such a large-scale healthcare catastrophe (Benatar, 2015). Numerous hospitals rapidly ran out of beds, and a large number of healthcare professionals, both Sierra Leoneans and international physicians and nurses who arrived in the country to assist with relief operations, either died from the virus or were taken to the United States or Europe for treatment (Adegun, 2014). This resulted in the decrease of the labor resource in the country as some workers died from the virus (Adegun, 2014).

The epidemic posed enormous socio-economic impacts on the countries affected. Epidemics wreaked havoc on commerce and service delivery by imposing travel restrictions and resulting in lost output as a result of disease and death (Huber, Finelli and Stevens, 2018). The West African Ebola outbreak is believed to have cost Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia more than US\$2 billion in GDP (Adegun, 2014). This happened mostly due to reduced agricultural production, a weakening in private sector investment, and cross-border businesses, as well as travel bans (Benatar, 2015).

In the three nations of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, the agriculture sector were badly affected by the Ebola epidemic (Huber, Finelli and Stevens, 2018). Agriculture contributes about quarter of Liberia's gross domestic product and employs nearly half of the available labour. The significant effect on both domestic and export agriculture was mostly due to restricted labour mobility, individuals relocating to secure zones, and foreign firms deferring investment owing to the evacuation of important expatriates (Benatar, 2015). Additionally, there were significant societal repercussions when bans on travel, sociocultural activities, and education were imposed (Adegun, 2014).

Further, healthcare systems were impacted. When public health resources get misdirected, entire public health systems suffer (Kieny et al., 2014). This resulted in decreased service utilization, decreased treatment quality, and the introduction of new illnesses. Oftentimes, when a government enters "emergency mode," accountability standards are loosened, allowing for the growth of negligence and corruption (Buseh, et al., 2015).

Basing on the above incidences, ebola significantly affected the productivity of the affected West African countries. There was a reduction in the per capita income of the affected countries due to disruption of economic activities. In Sierra Leone, the country the economy was still low as the country was still trying to rise from the dreadful effects of the civil war, and the outbreak of ebola epidemic plummeted economy further contributing to the economic situation of the country.

## **2.8 Research gap**

This research addresses the effects of civil war on the growth and development of the Sierra Leone economy, which this research seeks to address. This research will explore how the decade-long war in Sierra Leone led to dwindling of the country's economy and seek to explain why the economy continues to fluctuate despite the end of the war in 2002. This research will use data obtained from the Ministry of Planning and economic development,

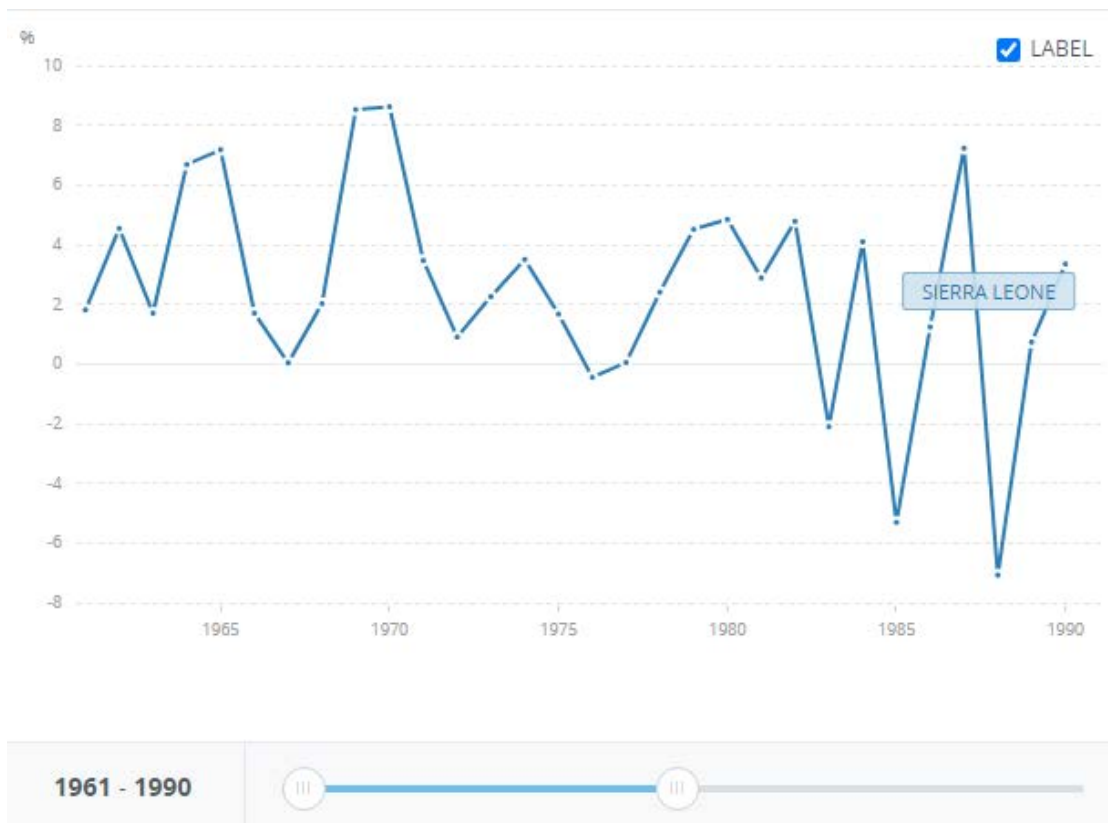
the major political parties- the ruling party and opposition, these are, Sierra Leone People's Party and All People Congress respectively. This research will also obtain data from the Non-Governmental Organization and Businesses and find out how the civil war affected the economy of Sierra Leone.

## CHAPTER 3: STATISTICS WITH CONCLUSION

### 3.1 Statistics with the Conclusion

For this study, archival data was obtained in addition to information gathered from individuals via semi structured interviews. To reduce the risk of validity in a qualitative case study, researchers frequently utilize a data triangulation technique incorporating many sources of data (Guion, Diehl, & McDonald, 2011). The data gathered from the archives focuses mostly on GDP trends prior to, during, and after the civil war, from 1961 to 2020. Secondary data will also show a comparison between Sierra Leone and Cape Verde GDP in the context of Ebola, and the rates of inflation between Sierra Leone and Senegal. Senegal has never been affected by civil war. The information presented below, shows the GDP patterns before the war, from 1961 to 1990, 1991- 2002 during the war and 2003- 2020 after the war, and the inflation rates between Sierra Leone and Senegal.

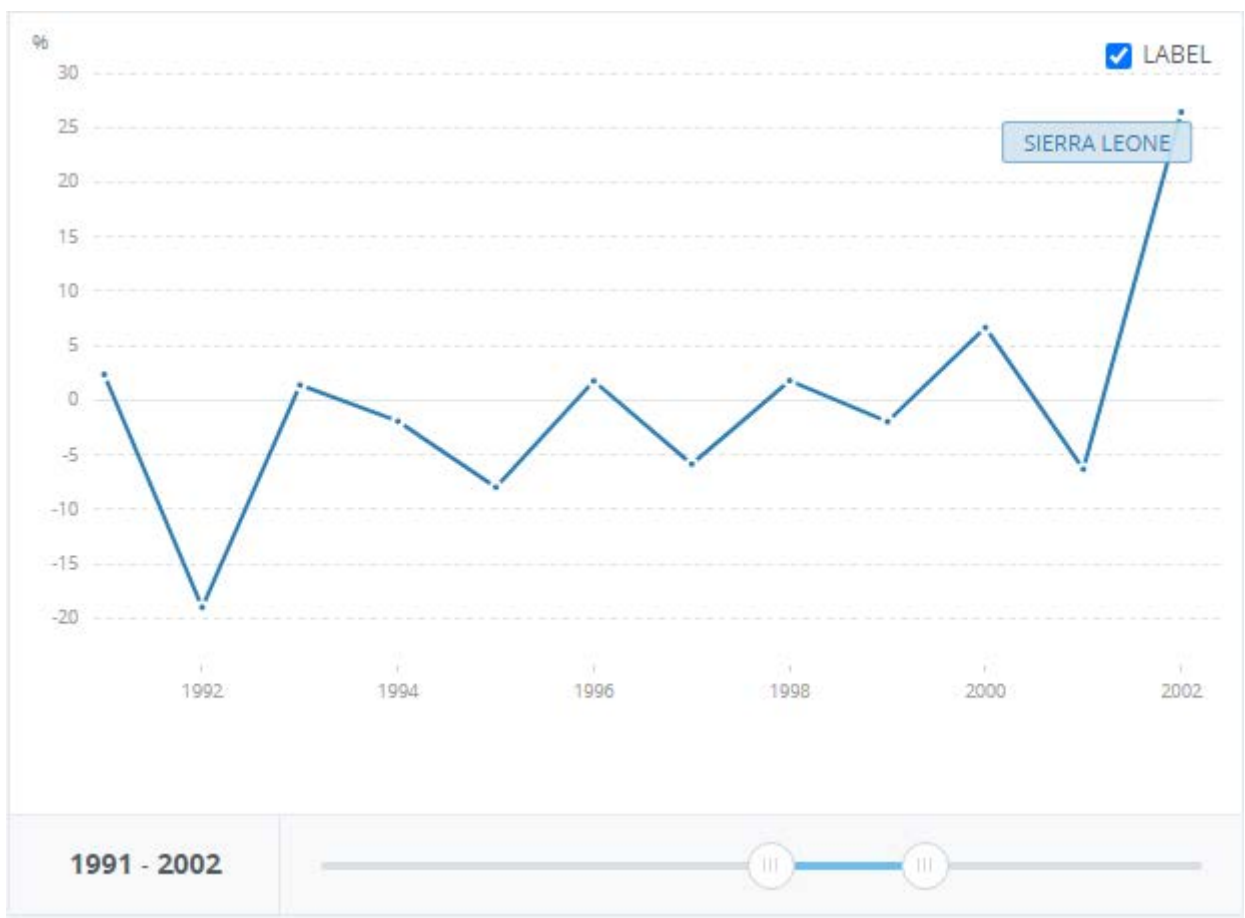
**Figure 1: Sierra Leone GDP growth before the Civil War (1961 to 1990)**



Source: World Bank Accessed November 8, 2021

The figure above represents the GDP of Sierra Leone just after attaining independence, from 1961. The GDP of Sierra Leone just after independence was low. In 1970, the GDP growth of Sierra Leone was at its peak, at 8.62%. However the fluctuation continued and towards the start of the war in 1988, the country recorded the lowest GDP, of -7.08%.

Figure 2: Sierra Leone GDP growth during the Civil War (1991-2002)

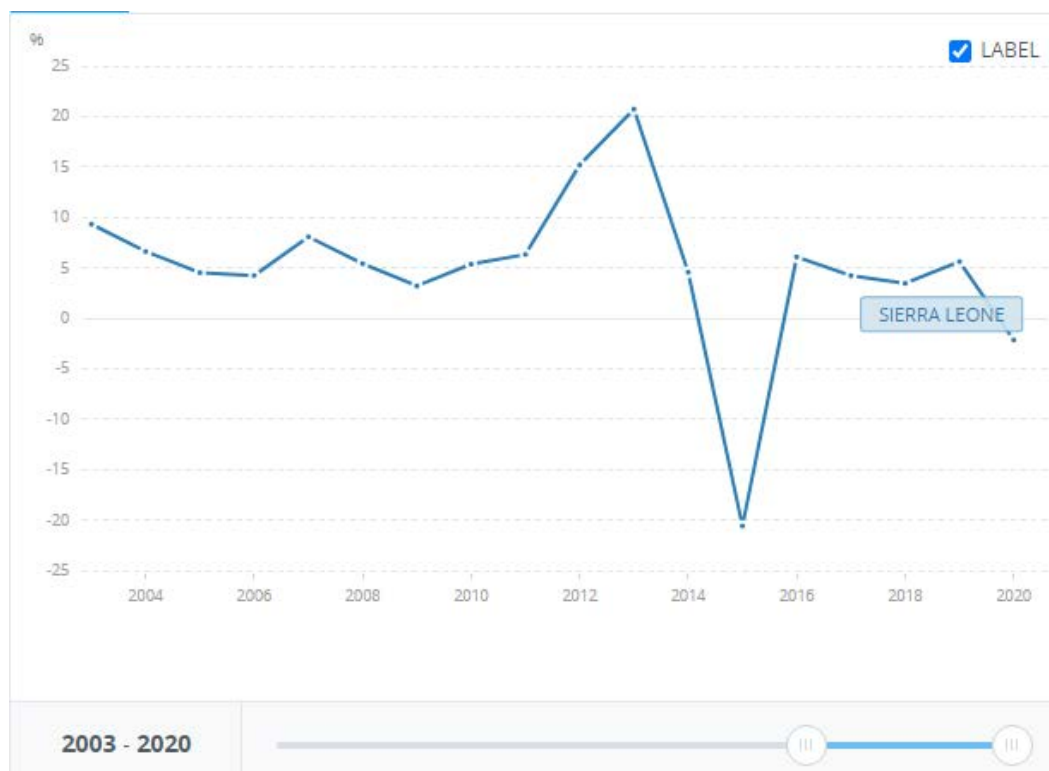


Source: World Bank Accessed November 8, 2021

In figure 2, the GDP growth of Sierra Leone during the war period, from 1991 to 2002. The graph shows that the GDP of the country dropped further to negative. The GDP was at the extreme negative in 1992 recording a GDP of -19.013%. The country continued to

experience a fluctuating GDP, between 1% and below zero, However, towards the end of the war in 2002, the country exhibited a positive growth and recorded a GDP of 26.417%.

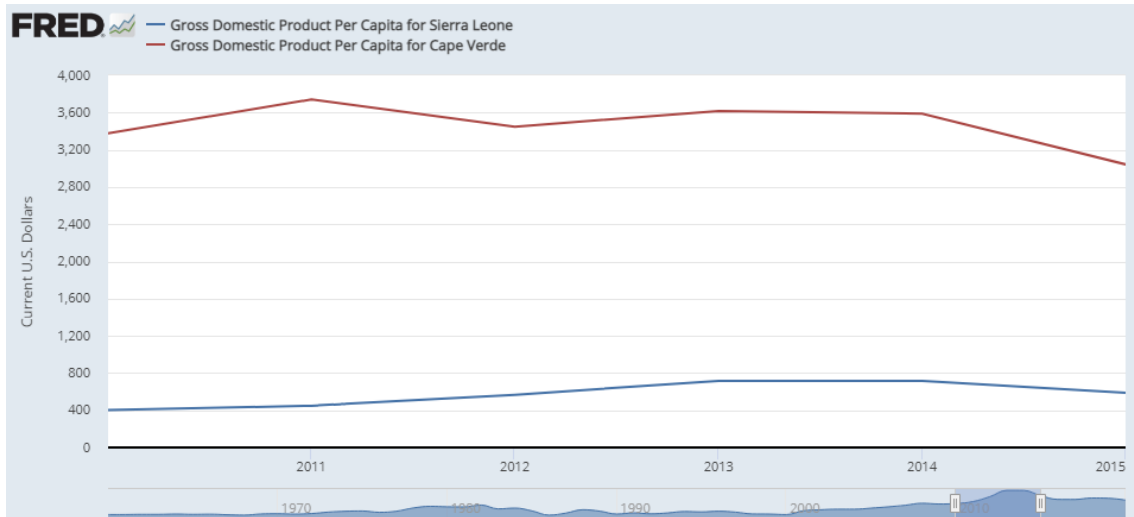
**Figure 3: Sierra Leone GDP growth after the Civil War (2003-2020)**



**Source: World Bank** Accessed November 8, 2021

Figure 3 represents the GDP growth of the country from 2003 to 2020 inclusive. From the graph, it is noted that the country had a fluctuating GDP and began rising steadily from 2009 at 3.188% to 20.716 in 2013. However, in 2014 the GDP dropped to 4.557 and dropped further in 2015 to -20.599%.

**Figure 4: Comparison between Sierra Leone and Cape Verde GDP in the context of Ebola**

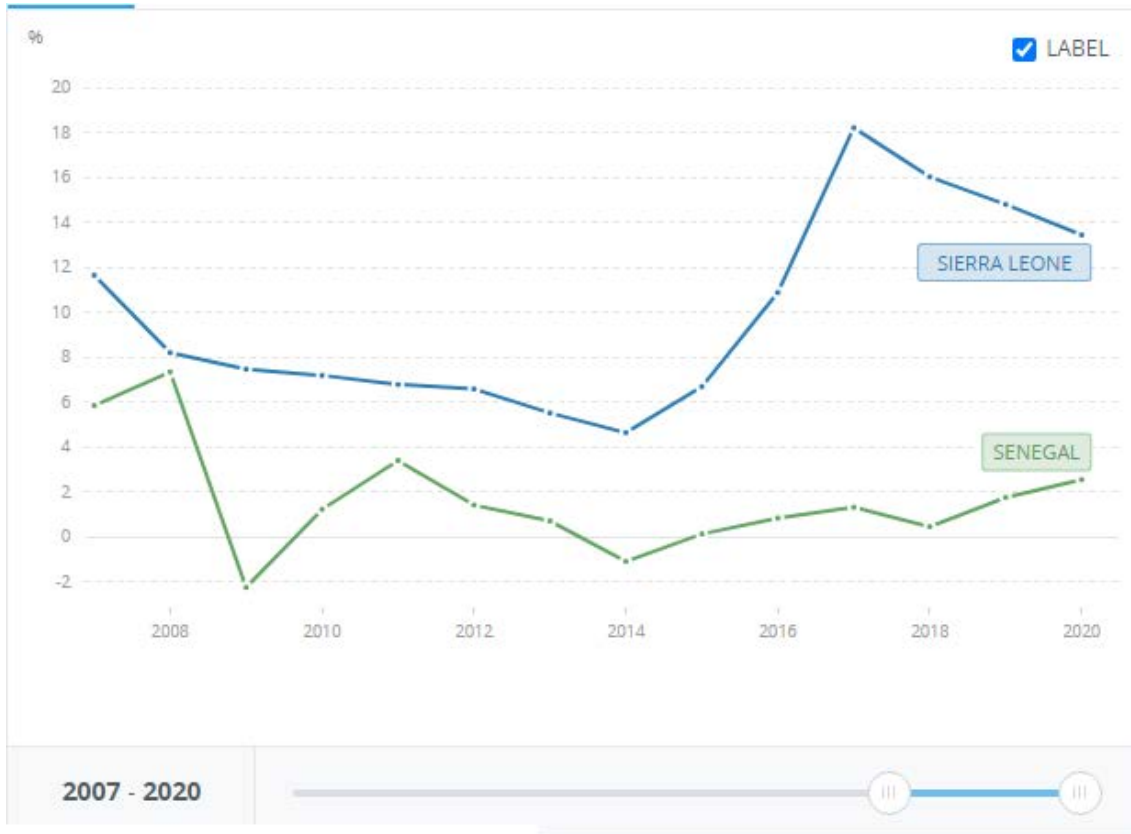


Source: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/> Accessed November 8, 2021

Cape Verde is one of the West African countries that was not affected by the ebola epidemic. The comparison on the gross GDP per capita for both countries show a declining pattern during the epidemic. However, it is notable that the GDP of Sierra Leone was higher when compared to the previous year before the onset of Ebola. In 2013 before the epidemic, the GDP was 716.83 current US Dollars, in 2014 it dropped to 714.69 and dropped further in 2015 to 588.22 current US Dollars. Cape Verde, although not affected by the epidemic also showed a declining GDP, which is not extreme as compared to the previous year before the onset of Ebola in West Africa. The declining GDP of Cape Verde can be attributed to lockdown effects, and other measures taken to prevent the entry of the virus in the country.



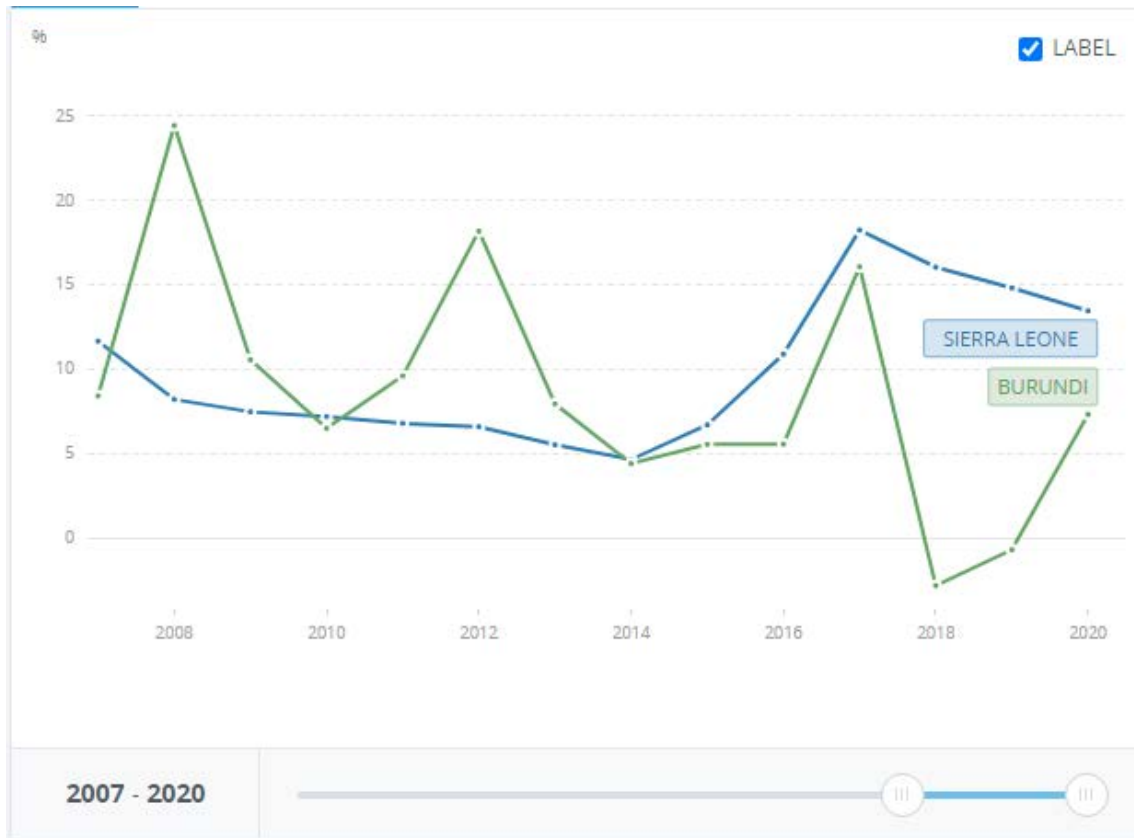
**Figure 5: Comparison in Inflation, consumer Prices between Sierra Leone and Senegal (Country without civil war history)**



**Source: World Bank** Date Accessed November 8, 2021

From the graph presented, it is noted that even after the civil war, Sierra Leone continued to experience inflation in its economy. Compared with Senegal, a West African country that has never been on civil war, the rates of inflation in Senegal are lower as compared to Sierra Leone. Although both countries show a fluctuating economy, Sierra Leone recorded higher rates of fluctuations. In 2017, the inflation rates in Sierra Leone was at 18.22 % while Senegal recorded 1.31%

**Figure 6: Comparison in Inflation, consumer Prices between Sierra Leone and Burundi (Country with civil war history- 1993 to 2005)**



**Source: World Bank** Accessed November 8, 2021

Figure 6 shows the inflation rates between Sierra Leone and Burundi. Notably, Burundi is one of the African countries that experienced civil war for more than a decade. The inflation rates in both countries are high. The two countries share a similar characteristic of civil war and high inflation which confirms the effects of civil war on a country's economy.

**Figure 7: Comparison in Merchandise Trade (% of GDP) between Sierra Leone and Liberia (Country with civil war history- 1993 to 2005)**



**Source: World Bank** Accessed November 8, 2021

Liberia is a sub Saharan nation which borders Sierra Leone to the North west. The country was involved in civil war for fourteen years, from 1989 to 2003. The brutal civil war, just like in Sierra Leone ravaged the economy of the country. Figure 1.7 shows merchandise trade percent of GDP between the two countries. According to the graph, Sierra Leone and Liberia show similar trends. The merchandise exports was recorded at lower levels due to the effects of the civil war experienced in both countries.

### 3.2 Conclusion

Chapter three presented the GDP, Inflation rates and data on merchandise trade between Sierra Leone and various countries. Comparing the GDP growth of Sierra Leone before during and after the civil war. The GDP growth of Sierra Leone in the period of war

shows a recessing pattern. Sierra Leone had higher inflation rates than Senegal and the merchandise trade rates between Sierra Leone and Liberia show a similarity.

## **CHAPTER 4: INTERVIEWS WITH ANALYSIS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

This study adopted the qualitative method. The research aimed to determine the relationship between civil war and economic growth with a focus on Sierra Leone from 1962 to 2020. The country showed a rising GDP after independence in 1962. However, during and after the civil war period, the economy of Sierra Leone has been adversely affected, which is evident by the country's low GDP, high inflation rates and low merchandise trade rates. The objective of this research was to have a better perception of the effects of war in Sierra Leone's economic growth and development. The economic growth theory was adapted for the Sierra Leone setting to create the conceptual framework.

Chapter four gives a summary of the data collected from the personal online conducted interviews with personnel from the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) which is the Ruling Party, All People Congress (APC)- Opposition Party, which is the opposition party, Action Aid as an NGO based in Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone Brewery Limited. The interviews were conducted to comprehensively understand the causes of the civil war in Sierra Leone, the factors that fuelled the civil war to continue for a decade and the effects it has posed in the economic growth and development of Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2020.

The researcher invited the participants requesting an interview appointment. The choice of respondents was purposeful with consideration that they had first hand information regarding the civil war and the economy of Sierra Leone. The participants expressed their interest and volunteered to take part in the study. The interviews were conducted through the internet, via video conferencing. This platform was used as it has some form of privacy with regards to participant's information. The respondents were taken through the objectives

that the study aimed to achieve. There were no constraints placed on the participants that may have impacted their experience during the interview, and therefore the results.

## **4.2 Data collection**

Personnel from the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) which is the Ruling Party, All People Congress (APC)-Opposition Party, which is the opposition party, Action Aid as an NGO based in Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone Brewery Limited participated in individual online interviews for the study, all of which followed research ethics guidelines.

Participants were informed before filling out the informed consent form that participation was voluntary and that they might leave at any time during the interview whenever they felt uncomfortable. Individuals signed the consent form to provide their consent. Prior to gaining consent, no interviews were done. A copy of the consent form was issued to each participant.

## **4.3 Evidence of trustworthiness**

To establish trustworthiness is a significant problem in qualitative research because of concerns about external validity, like partiality on the researcher and participants.

Validity threats, on the other hand, can be mitigated by using strategies to convey study results in a true and valid way that matches the meaning provided by respondents (Lietz, Langer, & Furman, 2006).

To lower the risk and increase the reliability of the results, the researcher used member-checking by having some of the respondents go through the data and corroborate that my explanation was correct. This allowed the participants to respond to any questions that had remained unanswered throughout the interview. Despite the fact that the study's conclusions cannot be used for generalization due to the small sample size, the respondents con-

firmed a thorough understanding of the issue and provided detailed descriptions of events in Sierra Leone's political leadership since independence, bolstering the study's credibility.

#### **4.4 Presentation of Results**

This section of the study presents the findings of the five respondents' individual interviews. I undertook online interviews with each participant to learn about their perspectives on how the civil war has harmed Sierra Leone's economic growth. In order to gather information and get a deeper understanding of the implications with a special focus on the topic under research, each participant answered a set of interview questions connected to economic growth theory customized to the Sierra Leone context. Since independence, the country has not experienced a stable economy. The interview findings will be given in a descriptive format.

#### **4.5 Research Question: What are the economic effects of civil war on the growth and development of Sierra Leone economy from 1961 to 1990 before the war, 1991 to 2002 during the war and from 2003 to 2020 after the war?**

##### **4.5.1 First respondent: Ministry of Planning and Economic Development**

1. For how long have you worked with the government?

I have been a government employee from 1990, just before the onset of civil war in the country. I have served in the ministry of Planning and Economic development for close to twenty years.

2. What was the main cause of the Sierra Leone civil war of 1991-2002?

There are many factors that have been attributed to ignite the 1991-2002 civil war in Sierra Leone. First, good leadership has been an issue. A section of the population was not con-

tented with the leadership of the regime during the period hence became rebels and fought against the government.

Also, the prevalence of corruption is very high in Sierra Leone which resulted in wealth disparity in the country. Having a few wealthy elites and several citizens living in abject poverty in a country is an issue that is said to have been the cause of war.

### 3. How did the civil war impact economic growth of Sierra Leone in the long term?

The decade long civil war in Sierra Leone has had a devastating effect on the economy of the country. Before the war, the country's economy was trying to rise and the country was doing relatively well. The civil war caused the economy to recess as all drivers of economic growth were impacted by the war. First human capital was destroyed during the civil war. Many individuals who would have contributed to the economy of the country lost their lives. During the civil war, businesses closed down and there were no economic activities ongoing in the country. Business premises, hospitals and schools were all vandalized. The continual of the war saw the exit of foreign investors as the environment was not suitable for business anymore. All these happenings relate to economic growth. Human resources were lost during the war, while they are the key drivers of economic growth. Skilled and promising young individuals were lost during the civil war, reducing the number of educated and skilled individuals in the country. The effect was spread to learning institutions, students dropped out of schools, some of whom joined the civil war as rebels. This has had a significant effect on the economy, as a decade later, the country lacked trained and well educated citizens, thus affecting employment rates, which directly affects the economy of the country. During the war, the economy of Sierra Leone plummeted even further. Even after the war, the country has not been able to attain a stable economy as the effects were adverse.

### 4. Comment on the fiscal balance of the Sierra Leone during the civil war



During the civil war, economic activities were affected and the government could not collect revenue to finance the country. At the same time the government was constantly spending, using the revenue that was available to finance its troops and purchase arms. This difference resulted in a negative fiscal deficit. This implies that during the war the government could not finance consumption from its own revenue. Thus resulting in inflation in the period of war.

5. What was the impact of the war on domestic investment?

Domestic investment is essential for the economic growth of any country. However, the Sierra Leone civil war that lasted for a decade saw the closure of most domestic businesses. Enterprises were affected as the environment could not allow trade to take place. Both public and private entities faced a major blow in their operations. Businesses closed down, which was a major contributing factor to the lapse of the Sierra Leone economy.

#### **4.5.2 Second Respondent: Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)- Ruling Party**

1. How did the diamonds contribute to economy depression?

As expected, a country rich in minerals like diamonds should thrive economically. However, this has not been the case with Sierra Leone. There have been wrangles over diamond mines between the state troops and the rebels. Each group wanted to control and own the mine.

Fighting centred in and around the diamond regions during the nine-year civil war. Sierra Leone was to be controlled by whoever owns the diamond mines. Additionally, revenues from smuggled diamonds supported the RUF's invasion funded the conflict. Sierra Leone has been in utter devastation since the civil conflict began. Therefore, it would be true to say that the diamonds even fuelled the war, and as the war continued, there was a further depression of the economy.

2. Comment on the effect of the civil war on the economy with regards to employment rates

The war affected the economy of Sierra Leone negatively. Public and private investments were largely affected by the conflict. These investments were among the key drivers of the country's economy. Therefore, the closure of businesses saw many people losing their jobs, hence, the employment rates went down. Additionally, with a recessing economy after the war the country is still experiencing low employment rates as it may not be able to finance higher number of employees.

Further, the war resulted in many youth dropping out of school to join the armed conflict. A decade later, it has resulted in a pool of uneducated youth in a country who lack any kind of training hence cannot secure any form of employment. Having a population that does not contribute to the economy of the nation will definitely have a negative effect on the economy.

3. In what ways did the civil war influence politics? What was the economic effect?

Politically, when conflict breaks out, it has an impact on government institutions as well as those in positions of authority. Many times, a regime is deposed and replaced with a new type of governance. In Sierra Leone, In March 1996, Sierra Leone elected a civilian government. Again, A group of dissatisfied Sierra Leone Army (SLA) officers attempted a coup in May 1997, establishing the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) as Sierra Leone's new government. Therefore, the war shaped politics of Sierra Leone during the conflict period. The war influenced politics, hurting the economy further.

4. How did the Ebola epidemic in the context of the civil war affect economic growth?

The Ebola epidemic is one of the factors that have contributed to the slow economic growth in Sierra Leone after the civil war. The country was recovering from the effects of a

decade civil war, trying to rebuild the economy. However, the Ebola epidemic resulted in more deaths as the health facilities after the war was not ready enough for such large numbers of patients. The epidemic caused losses in the country in the treatment of the disease and in the loss of human capital therefore derailing the economy.

#### **4.5.3 Third Respondent: All People Congress (APC)- Opposition Party**

1. What role did Sierra Leone political leadership play during the civil war for economic stability?

During the war period, the leadership of Sierra Leone concentrated on fighting the RUF to restore peace in the country but was all in vain until there was intervention of external bodies. Basically, the political leadership during the war did very little to salvage the economy of the country. Although there was peace after the 1996 elections which saw Ahmad Tejan Kabbah take the leadership, peace was restored through a signing of the peace accord but the economy continued to sway. Sierra Leone has never experienced economic stability.

2. How did the opposition party contribute to economic recession?

The rebels, RUF during the time of war, were not ready to down their arms and establish a peaceful Sierra Leone. Even after being driven to the interior of the country, RUF continued to loot from the citizens. This resulted in several SLA soldiers in joining the rebels to loot from the citizens. These acts only exacerbated the economic challenges in the country as the citizens could still not engage in economic activities.

#### **4.5.4 Fourth Respondent: Non- Governmental Organization, Action aid, Sierra Leone**

1. What were the effects of the war on developmental agenda in Sierra Leone?

Sierra Leone is a country that had attracted the attention of many NGOs due to its economic challenges even before the war. The NGOS were focused in their various missions

in ensuring development in the country. However, the civil war resulted in most of the organizations to retreat and move to different countries due to insecurity issues. The development agenda was halted as there could have been no development amidst civil war. This retreat of several NGOs affected the development of the country, the plight of the citizens and the economy at large.

2. The war resulted in a reduction in the number of NGO's in the country. How did that affect the economy of the country?

The number of NGOs significantly reduced during the war. Notably, different NGOs have different mandates and mission. Some NGOs which were geared towards economic empowerment of special groups also retreated. The main goal of economic empowerment was to see the economic status of the country rise. However, the exit of such NGOs created a gap in the economic empowerment sector. The youth and women were greatly affected by this, hence the creation of a society with no economic strength. NGOs also ensured the well being of citizens by providing food relief aids and other basic commodities. However, the withdrawal increased their suffering further, which had a negative effect on economic growth.

3. How did the NGO's mitigate the economic effects of the civil war?

Some NGOs like the World Food Program whose mandate is to ensure the world achieves zero hunger, would still work where there is crisis. These organizations were able to help the citizens with basic commodities during the civil war as most of them had no capacity to feed themselves.

#### **4.5.5Fifth Respondent: (Company) Sierra Leone Brewery Limited**

1. How did the war affect the gross revenue of the company from 1991-2002?

The 1991- 2002 civil war had a negative implication on the company. First, the company was forced to shut down for the better part of the period due to extreme conflict which posed insecurity to the company and the employees. Due to this, the company also was forced to downsize the number of employees to ensure that it works with a manageable number. During the war period, many other retailers in the brewery industry closed down due to the fear of being vandalized and looting as it had happened with some businesses. Also the prospective clients were forced to remain indoors due to security concerns. Therefore, during the war period, the company's gross revenue was greatly affected, as making a sale during the time was almost impossible. Also, during the war, the citizens had a very difficult time in trying to afford basic needs. Most of them could not afford even food, and shelter, hence the products of our company were regarded as luxury good during the period. All these affected the sales of the company.

2. What were the economic effects of the war with respect to supply and demand?

The civil war affected the business at all the angles. During the war, the supply and demand chain was affected. The company being the supplier, faced a major blow as almost all of the retailers closed down their businesses due to insecurity in the country. The citizens on the other hand were facing tough economic times hence could not afford to purchase most commodities. Both the supply and the demand curve were affected by the war.

3. How did the civil war affect trade?

Generally, no business can thrive amidst civil war. The levels of insecurity during the war period was very high and most traders were forced to stop their trading activities. Both domestic and international trading activities were affected by the war. Most businesses closed down and multinational companies relocated to other nations where there was peace.

## **4.6 Summary of Findings**

This study was aimed at establishing the effects of civil war on the growth and development of the Sierra Leone economy, from 1961 to 2020. The participants for the study entailed the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) which is the Ruling Party, All People Congress (APC)- Opposition Party, which is the opposition party, Action Aid as an NGO based in Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone Brewery Limited. The information gathered was examined to gain a better understanding of how the civil war impacted the Sierra Leone economy's growth and development.

### **The Summary from the Findings**

The respondents contend that the civil war in Sierra Leone impacted the economic growth of the country in the long term. The determinant of economic growth like human capital, domestic and foreign investments were all affected by the war, therefore there were no economic activities in the country.

The second respondent commented that the diamonds in the country contributed in fueling the war. The diamond mines were areas of conflict between the state troops and the rebels. The rebels would use the diamonds to fund its members and in exchange of wars. The diamond played a role in prolonging the war and intensifying the conflict therefore causing further depression of the economy. The second respondent also added that the civil war contributed to the reduction in the employment rates in the country. Domestic and foreign investments were a source of employment for several citizens in Sierra Leone. Their closure due to unfavourable environment to conduct businesses resulted in the downsizing of employees and ultimate closure of the businesses. This increased the rate of unemployment in the country. Increased rate of unemployment resulted in recession of the economy. The war also influenced politics by causing an election to be held in 1997, and an

attempted coup in 1997. The war influenced politics which exacerbated the war, hurting the economy further. In the context of civil war, the ebola epidemic contributed to the recession of the Sierra Leone economy as the country was trying to rise from the effects of civil war hence the health system could not manage the situation. The results were losses of human capital which hurt the country's economy.

According to the third respondent, the political leadership of Sierra Leone during the war failed to instil peace in the country. The government focused on fighting back the rebels which caused a negative effect on the country's economy. The country never experienced economic stability since the onset of war in 1991. The opposition the then RUF, also contributed to economic recession by looting from the citizens and smuggling diamonds in exchange for arms. This only increased the poor livelihoods of the citizens and hurt the economy of the country.

The fourth respondent argues that the civil war had tremendous effects on the developmental agenda of NGOs. The development of projects and other activities were halted as a result of the war, which caused the humanitarian aid organizations to leave the country due to increased insecurity. This had a significant effect on the economy as most of the NGOs focused on empowering the community. As much as the crisis made some of the humanitarian organizations leave the country due to insecurity, others still remained and provided the basic commodities to the needy citizens.

The fifth respondent posits that the gross revenue of the company was impacted during the war period, 1991-2002. The supply and demand chain was significantly affected as the company could not make sales. The destruction of this curve resulted in losses. Generally, the civil war affected both local and international trade activities, thus a contributing factor to the recessing economy of Sierra Leone during the war as many other businesses closed down.

#### **4.6.1 Commonalities and Differences**

The data presented from the interviewees had some commonalities and differences as identified by the researcher. First, the interviewees agreed that the ultimate effect of the war was recession of the economy through different angles. The interviewees agreed that the civil war resulted in a halt in all economic activities in the country, affecting trade.

The respondents also agreed that the civil war led to inflation in the country. The effect of inflation was felt by all the respondents, companies, NGO's and ordinary citizens.

According to the interview data, the respondents agreed that high inflation rates contributed to the low economy and poverty levels in Sierra Leone.

The respondents agreed that the civil war which caused inflation resulted in closure of several businesses which led to loss of employment among the citizens, plummeting the rates of unemployment in the country.

On the other hand, the respondents disagreed on the function of diamonds in the Sierra Leone civil war. According to the interview data, part of the respondents posit that the duration of the civil war lasted a decade because diamonds took part in fuelling the civil war.

According to the interview data, one group posit that diamonds played a role in fuelling the war and increasing its duration. According to the respondents, the two warring groups in Sierra Leone would fight to acquire the diamond mine areas. The RUF would sell the diamonds in neighbouring countries in exchange of firearms, hence furthering the war.

However, the second group argue that the diamonds was not responsible for the period of the war and the concentration of the civil war. According to this group, the diamonds were only smuggled and sold to neighbouring countries so that the rebels could sustain themselves and their families.



## **CHAPTER 5: TRIANGULATION**

### **5.1 Introduction**

The aim of this research was to find the relationship between civil war and economic growth with a focus on Sierra Leone before the war, from 1961 after the country attained its independence to 1990, during the war from 1991 to 2002, and after the war from 2003 to 2020. Sierra Leone was under a civil war for a decade, which saw the economy of the country declining to negative levels.

### **5.2 Discussion of Findings**

The effects of civil war on the economy in the long term

Civil war is one of the factors that affect the economic growth of any country. The respondents contended that civil war affected the economic growth of Sierra Leone.

#### **5.2.1 Sierra Leone GDP before the Civil War (1961 to 1990)**

From the secondary sources, the data shows that the GDP of Sierra Leone just after independence was low. The country experienced a fluctuating GDP as it was trying to rise from the colonial period. In 1970, the GDP of Sierra Leone was at its peak, at 8.62%. However the fluctuation continued and towards the start of the war in 1988, the country recorded the lowest GDP, of -7.08%. Generally, the economy of Sierra Leone from 1961 to 1990 was not stable as evidenced by the fluctuating GDP. After attaining independence, The economy increased by an average of 4.0 percent over in the first decade. This expansion was fuelled mainly by agriculture output and robust mining (Cartwright, 2017).

#### **5.2.2 Sierra Leone GDP during the Civil War (1991-2002)**

In figure 2, the GDP of Sierra Leone during the war period, from 1991 to 2002. The graph shows that the GDP of the country dropped further to negative as there was no economic

growth during the civil war period. The GDP was at the extreme negative in 1992 recording a GDP of -19.013%. The country continued to experience a fluctuating GDP, between 1% and below zero, indicating that there was zero development and economic growth during the period of war. However, towards the end of the war in 2002, the country exhibited a positive growth and recorded a GDP of 26.417%. Notably, the peace accord was signed in 1999 after which the country recorded a slightly higher GDP. In 1999 the GDP was at -1.979%, after the signing of the peace accord, the GDP rose slightly to 6.653% in 2000. However, in 2001, the GDP dropped to -6.345% as insecurity was high and the UN troops had begun disarmament of the rebels, thus marking a positive GDP when the war was finally declared over in 2002. According to Bellows and Miguel, (2006) Sierra Leone's civil conflict devastated the country's economy, reducing it to one of the world's poorest countries. Sierra Leone's civil war, which ranged from 1991 to 2002, resulted in a massive relocation of people inside the country, resulting in an economic collapse that left about 75% of the residents living in abject poverty. according to the interview data collected, the civil war resulted in recessing economy which saw several businesses and other economic activities close down. The interviewees reported that the recessing economy resulted in high inflation rates thus raising the cost of living in Sierra Leone.

### **5.2.3 Sierra Leone GDP after the Civil War (2003-2020)**

The civil war in Sierra Leone ended in 2002. Figure 3 represents the GDP of the country from 2003 to 2020. From the graph, it is noted that the country had a fluctuating GDP and began rising steadily from 2009 at 3.188% to 20.716 in 2013. However, in 2014 the GDP dropped to 4.557 and dropped further in 2015 to -20.599%. The Ebola epidemic played a role in the recession of the Sierra Leone economy in the context of civil war. Notably, the war had just been concluded in 2002 and the country was trying to rise from the skirmishes to rebuild and reconstruct the country. The Ebola epidemic brought down all the efforts

channelled towards economic growth and affected the GDP of the country. The country was declared Ebola free in 2015, after which there was a steady increase in the GDP from -20.599% to 6.055% in 2016. Himelein et al., (2015) posit that the Ebola epidemic primarily hampered the shipping of agricultural commodities to consuming regions. Workers were scared of going to polluted infected regions, and the traders numbers fell by 20 percent during the peak of the outbreak. This reduced farmers' earnings and led to uncertain agricultural prices. According to primary data, the Ebola epidemic, which set in after the conclusion of the war, played a part in delaying the economy of Sierra Leone from picking, as the epidemic resulted in lockdowns hence, economic activities could not be conducted. The economy that was trying to rise after the skirmishes went again down on its knees due to mitigation against the spread of the Ebola virus.

#### **5.2.4 A comparison with Cape Verde**

Comparing the GDP of Sierra Leone with Cape Verde, a country in West Africa that did not report a single case of ebola, their GDP show a declining pattern. However, Sierra Leone which was largely affected by the epidemic was more economically affected. The declining pattern of Cape Verde can be attributed to the lockdown instituted in the country to avoid the entry of the virus in the country (Adegun, 2014). In 2013 before the epidemic, the GDP was 716.83 current US Dollars, in 2014 it dropped to 714.69 and dropped further in 2015 to 588.22 current US Dollars. Cape Verde, although not affected by the epidemic also showed a declining GDP, which is not extreme as compared to the previous year before the onset of ebola in West Africa. In 2013 before the onset of Ebola in other nations, Cape Verde shows a GDP of 3, 616.03 current US Dollars, in 2014 during the epidemic it recorded a GDP of 3588.62 current UD Dollars which is a slight difference compared to Sierra Leone. Generally, the West African countries were affected by the epidemic. However, according to Adegun, (2014) countries like Cape Verde only felt the effect due to

border closure. Countries like Sierra Leone that were badly hit by the virus suffered economically. Therefore, the Ebola epidemic in the context of civil war contributed to the low economic situation currently evidenced in the country

### **5.2.5 Fluctuating GDP after the civil war**

It is noted from the secondary source that civil war in Sierra Leone significantly affected the economic growth of Sierra Leone. This is evidenced by the data presented before, during and after the civil war. It also evident that the Ebola epidemic, in the context of war, took part in hurting the economic growth of Sierra Leone. However, it is critical to observe that, despite the conclusion of the war in 2002, and the end of the Ebola epidemic in 2015, the country continues to experience fluctuating and lower levels of GDP. According to Richards et al., (2004) inadequate infrastructure, a lack of a well-established educational system, a lack of civil rights, and corruption in government, are all contributing factors. These factors contribute to the difficulty of overcoming poverty. Due to the lack of developed roads and power infrastructure, high transportation costs act as a barrier to commerce and constrain economic progress.

### **5.2.6 Comparison in Inflation, consumer Prices between Sierra Leone and Senegal (Country without civil war history)**

Secondary sources show that even after the civil war, Sierra Leone continued to experience inflation in its economy (World Bank). Compared with Senegal, a West African country that has never been on civil war, the rates of inflation in Senegal are lower as compared to Sierra Leone. Jackson, Tamuke and Jabbie, (2019) state that inflation demeans each unit of currency, resulting in progressive increases in the prices of goods and services. It is an economic expression that refers to the fact that citizens must pay more money to get goods and services. The respondents agreed that the civil war resulted in high costs of living resulting in most of the population living in abject poverty. Although both countries show a

fluctuating economy, Sierra Leone recorded higher rates of fluctuations. In 2017, the inflation rates in Sierra Leone was at 18.22 % while Senegal recorded 1.31%. Levin, Natalucci and Piger (2004) state that increased inflation almost always results in an increase in the cost of raw commodities. Additionally, the cost of living may go high and workers are likely to seek greater salaries in order to offset the increased cost of living. Further, this increase in pricing may result in increased uncertainty and volatility. When businesses are unsure about future expenses, they may delay investment choices. Businesses, on the whole, want a low and stable inflation rate. Clearly, inflation is not good for the growth and development of an economy. Low inflation rates is good for the economy as it promotes economic stability, which in return promotes investment, saving, and economic growth, as well as aids in the maintenance of global competitiveness (Levin, Natalucci, & Piger, 2004). Senegal as a country that has experienced lower inflations performs better economically compared to Sierra Leone. Therefore, inflation was a result of the civil war, which was detrimental to the economic growth of Sierra Leone.

### **5.2.7 Comparison in Inflation, consumer Prices between Sierra Leone and Burundi (Country with civil war history- 1993 to 2005)**

Burundi is one of the African countries that experienced civil war for more than a decade. The inflation rates in both countries are high. The two countries share a similar characteristic of civil war and high inflation which confirms the effects of civil war on a country's economy. Looking at the secondary sources, the high rates of inflation results in consumer prices Increased aggregate demand, increased investment in capital goods and increased debt (Elder, 2004).

### **5.2.8 Comparison in Merchandise Trade (% of GDP) between Sierra Leone and Liberia (Country with civil war history- 1993 to 2005)**

Liberia was involved in civil war for fourteen years, from 1989 to 2003. The brutal civil war, just like in Sierra Leone ravaged the economy of the country (Jennings, 2009). Merchandise trade as a percent of the GDP refers to the total of merchandise imports and exports divided by the value of gross domestic product, all expressed in current US dollars (Hrechyshkina, and Samakhavets, 2019). Merchandise trade as a percent of the GDP are on sometimes employed as indicators of trade "openness." Figure 1.7 shows merchandise trade percent of GDP between the two countries. According to the graph, Sierra Leone and Liberia show similar trends. The merchandise exports were recorded at lower levels due to the effects of the civil war experienced in both countries. Trade openness helps nations to flourish economically by leveraging economies of scale in larger cross-border markets and producing in accordance with their comparative advantage (Ulaşan, 2015). The two countries experienced civil wars hence were under trade restrictions which led to low levels of Merchandise Trade (% of GDP).

### **5.2.9 Civil war resulted in the loss of human resources**

The first aspect that has affected the economy of Sierra Leone in the long term is the loss of human resources. The participants agreed that the civil war had an impact on human capital. The civil war led to the loss of lives. The country lost both skilled and educated personnel during the war. Human capital is an essential requirement in the growth of any country's economy. According to Kucharčíková, (2011), Human resources are critical in a country's economic growth. For a country to experience economic growth, its physical resources needs to be efficiently used by the labour force and other kinds of human capital in order to maximize the country's output potential.. Therefore, Sierra Leone lost human capital during the war, who were the key drivers of the economy.

### **5.3.0 Effect on domestic investment and trade**

The respondents agreed that, the war also affected businesses and all other trading activities. Both private and public investors could not bear the effects of the war. The insecurity during the period resulted in many businesses to close down as the environment was no longer favourable for conducting businesses. Private investors moved their investments to other peaceful countries while domestic investors closed down with the hope that they would soon reopen. Small scale traders were also affected as the RUF troops engaged themselves in looting from the citizens. Generally, the environment was not favourable for any business activity affecting the supply and the demand curve. According to Saibu, (2012) Civil war-torn countries will experience a decline in tourism, international investment, and local investment. According to a 2007 Oxfam analysis titled "Africa's lost billions," the cost of conflict in Africa has been estimated to be equivalent to the amount of international aid. For instance, a state like the DRC has endured a particularly terrible conflict, which has cost the country £9 billion, or 29 percent of its gross domestic product, in addition to the deaths of around 4 million people. Therefore the closure of businesses significantly led to economic losses, affecting the economy of the country as the government was also not able to collect revenue. This caused the economy to recess in the civil war period.

### **5.3.1 Employment Rates**

Majority of the respondents agreed that domestic and foreign investments played an important function in the economy as far as employment of citizens is concerned. The private and the public investors provided a source of employment to the citizens of Sierra Leone, therefore, their closure implied that several of the citizens were left without jobs. This greatly affected the economy of the country as it directly translates to a reduction in government revenue. Korkmaz, (2015) stated that unemployment may exacerbate conflict, as jobless young people seek recognition and economic benefits through violent activities,

post-conflict policies should prioritize job development.. The higher levels of unemployment also resulted in most youth joining the rebel groups due to financial incentives. This increased the intensity of the war, hurting the economy further.

Another respondent presented that, during the war, public institutions like schools and hospitals were brought down and destroyed completely. Learning in the country was halted and it forced many school going children to drop out of school due to insecurity. A decade later after the war, the result is the existence of several uneducated, unskilled and unemployed youth in the country. Most youth in Sierra Leone are locked out of the employment bracket due to their lack of skills and lack of formal training. Okun's law (1962) established a statistical link between economic growth and a country's unemployment rates. The law defined a statistical connection that allowed for the estimation of a regression between unemployment and economic growth. Hence, the higher unemployment rates is a significant hindrance towards economic growth.

However, two respondents disagreed that the civil war resulted in a rise in unemployment rates. According to them, the employment rates in Sierra Leone has been low since the country gained independence and hence the war had no significant impact.

### **5.3.2 Effect on NGO development agenda**

Respondents mentioned that the civil war resulted in hindering the development agenda of most NGOs in the country during the time. The respondents agreed that economic empowerment and development activities were difficult to be implemented during the war. Workers with the humanitarian organizations had to look for safer grounds, and most of them moved from the country. This was a loss to the country as the agenda of development was hindered. The citizens that were being empowered economically could do nothing to assist themselves become independent. This was a blow to the economy as the NGOs moved out of the country. According to Moradi, (2020) war affects the emergence



of economic fabric of nations. The repercussions of war include prolonged physical and psychological injury to the population and decrease in material and human resources.

Some respondents disagreed that the war affected the developmental agenda of NGOs in the country. According to them, some humanitarian organizations were still available during the war and helped the citizens with basic needs. Hence, the war did not entirely affect the agenda of NGOs.

### **5.3.3 Diamonds and economy depression**

Diamonds are minerals whose value can significantly contribute to a greater economy. For instance, South Africa is one of the African countries that is well endowed with minerals. The diamonds in South Africa however is beneficial to the country, as it is one of the countries in the continent with the highest GDP. On the contrary, interview findings indicated that the diamonds in Sierra Leone has not been beneficial to the citizens and the country. The areas with the diamond mines were the causes of confrontation between the rebels and the state troops. Each of them had an interest in owning and controlling the mine areas. The diamonds mined by the RUF were smuggled to nearby countries in exchange for arms. The diamonds acted as a form of currency. According to Hirsch, (2001) Sierra Leone has borne enormous social and economic consequences due to its civil war and struggle to control diamonds. Diamonds were crucial in igniting, maintaining, and intensifying the Sierra Leonean civil war sabotaging efforts to achieve peace. Sierra Leone's war, reaffirm the connection between resources, governance, and civil society (Silberfein, 2004). Therefore the diamonds played a role in fuelling the civil war in Sierra Leone. Consequently, as the war intensified, the economy hurt further. Hence the diamonds in Sierra Leone were also a cause of the country's economy depression.

### **5.3.4 The Ebola epidemic in the context of civil war and the economy:**

As evidenced in the secondary source, the ebola epidemic in the context of civil war contributed to further depression of the economy as it came at a period when the country was trying to establish itself after ending the war in 2002. The epidemic erupted at a time when the country could not manage to curb the spread of the disease as the health facilities were destroyed during the war period. The epidemic resulted in more deaths and incurred the government a lot of expenditure to curb the spread at a time when there was no source of revenue to the government. According to Davis (2015), ebola epidemic extracted tremendous social and economic consequences. The outbreak is projected to have knocked more than US\$2 billion off the GDPs of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. This was mostly due to a decline in private sector investment, decreased agricultural output and trans trade, as well as travel bans.

## **6. CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION**

### **6.1 Conclusion**

This research aimed to find out the relationship between civil war and the growth and development of the Sierra Leone economy. By analyzing the GDP of Sierra Leone before, during and after the war, comparison in Merchandise Trade (% of GDP), and Inflation and Consumer Prices this thesis showed that civil war directly affected the growth and economic development of Sierra Leone.

The methodology employed in this research was helpful in answering the research questions as the respondents being purposefully selected were rich in information pertaining civil war and the economic growth of the country. The data collected from the respondents

together with the secondary data provided insights which were helpful in answering the research question, What are the economic effects of civil war on the growth and development of Sierra Leone economy from 1961 to 1990 before the civil war, 1991 to 2002 during the civil war and from 2003 to 2020 after the civil war?

The effects of the civil war was felt across the country hence hindering development. The effects had a long term effect on the growth of the country's economy which is evidenced by the fluctuating GDP at lower levels compared to other west African countries. The long term effects was a result of the loss of human capital in the period of war. A country without human resources and a failure to invest in human capital is prone to no achievement.

The findings revealed that the war resulted in loss of employment opportunities for the citizens of Sierra Leone. This led to a rise in the levels of unemployment. In the general accepted theory, a decline in the levels of employment reduces the growth rate of the economy of any country, and when employment rates increases, the economy growth rate also increases. Therefore, the decline in the levels of employment during the war was detrimental to the economic growth of Sierra Leone whose effect has been felt to date.

According to primary data collected, businesses were significantly affected during the war period. Civil war stymies economic activity and production, destabilizes institutions, and undermines corporate confidence. It affects the economy, resulting in long-lasting negative consequences even after the war has ended, which is evidenced in Sierra Leone. The country lost several investors during the civil war, which resulted in loss of economic prospects for the country. Increased foreign direct investment benefits both the industrial and service sectors. This generates jobs and contributes to the country's reduction of unemployment among educated youth, along with skilled and non - skilled labour. Higher employment results in increased earnings, which translates into increased purchasing power for the people.

The findings revealed that the high rates of inflation was a hit to the citizens because it resulted in higher costs of living which most of the residents of Sierra Leone could not afford. The low livelihoods in the country has been a major contributing factor to slow and lower economic growth levels. Sustainable livelihoods on the other hand allows people to adapt to and recover from stresses and shocks and pressures, while also enhancing their own and future generations' well-being .

The findings showed that the civil war in Sierra Leone impacted the growth of the country in the long term. First, as presented in the findings, the results show that human capital was lost during the war which is a major requirement in the growth of the economy. The loss of human capital translates to reduction in labor requirements hence reducing employment rates in the country which was detrimental to economic growth. The findings also revealed that the general rates of unemployment reduced significantly during the war. According to the findings, the diamonds in Sierra Leone was a major contributing factor to fuelling the war. As expected, a diamond producing country would thrive economically. However, this has not been the case with Sierra Leone. A comparison with other countries like South Africa which also produces diamonds presents a wide disparity with regards to economic growth. The diamonds in Sierra Leone contributed to the continuity of the war hence hurting the economy further.

Also affected by the war according to the findings in the long term were businesses. According to the findings the war in Sierra Leone saw the exit of foreign investors and the closure of domestic businesses which resulted in sluggish economic growth. The war affected the supply and demand curve affecting the normal operations of businesses. The war caused restrictions on trading activities resulting in low trade merchandise share of the GDP, which implied that the movement of goods in and out of the country was restricted, and this resulted in low economy.

The secondary sources findings also revealed the effects of war on economic growth and development of Sierra Leone. Comparing the GDP of the country before, during and after the war revealed a pattern which implied that war affects economies. A comparison of GDP with Cape Verde, a country that has never been in civil war revealed that economies go down during civil wars. Civil war also resulted in inflation in consumer prices in the country. Inflation is one of the factors that affect growth as it translate to higher living costs. therefore, war causes inflation which negatively impacts the economy. Similarly, war affects trade openness. During war, trade movements are restricted reducing the free flow of goods and services, hence low returns which translates to low economic growth.

## **6.2 Recommendations for Action**

The findings of this research showed that the Sierra Leone decade war had a long term effect on the country's economy. The study revealed that despite the conclusion of the war in 2002, the country's GDP continues to fluctuate at very lower levels. One of the reasons behind the fluctuating GDP has been attributed to inflation, low merchandise trade share of GDP. The research gave insights on how the fluctuating GDP can be overcome and for the country to experience higher levels of GDP.

The leadership of the country should also ensure that it offers good leadership which is inclusive so that there can be no possibility of dissatisfied groups which may end up forming the rebellion group. Having a government that is inclusive ensures that all the parties are involved in the decision making processes reducing the chances of rebellion.

The findings indicated that war directly affects investment in the country. During the war, investors moved their investments out of the country due to fear of loses. This study recommends that the government should work with key stakeholders to address the twin is-

sues of political instability and insecurity, which may help the private sector invest more. The government can further promote investment despite the low state of the economy. This will help elevate the rates of employment in the country and boost the economy of Sierra Leone. The study also recommends that Sierra Leoneans potentials should be unleashed, and the government should collaborate with the private sector to achieve long-term economic growth and development.

### **6.3 Recommendations for Further Study**

The aim of this qualitative case study was to establish the economic effects of civil war on the Sierra Leone economy and development before during and after the war time. The number of participants was limited to 5 persons with experience and understanding of Sierra Leone economy and civil war. Using other qualitative research methodologies, I recommend a bigger sample size. Involving other members of the public in a comparable study might provide unforeseen findings.

The GDP during the pre-independence period was not included in this analysis. I recommend that future study on the economic impacts of civil war in Sierra Leone should include these political periods. In addition, I recommend taking a quantitative approach including a survey method and statistical analysis tools to see whether there is any empirical evidence of a link between Sierra Leone's civil war and economic growth. Future researchers should duplicate this study in other African nations that face comparable problems such as civil war and a volatile economy to determine whether the outcomes differ.

### **6.4 Implications for Social Change**

The findings of this research unveiled critical social issues. The results showed civil war which resulted in unemployment, inflation and trade restrictions are some of the challenges that hinder economic growth and development in Sierra Leone. Since its independence in

1960, Sierra Leone has been unable to escape the cycle of economic insufficiency and underdevelopment. Sierra Leone's economic difficulties are caused by the effects of the civil war. The Sierra Leoneans would benefit from peace, if this is observed in the country. Peaceful country would reduce the prevalence of war and wrangles in the country and would ensure there is a focus towards economic growth. A peaceful nation guarantees a growing economy.

# APPENDICES

## Appendix A: QUESTIONNAIRE 1

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to take part in this exploratory study to determine the effects civil war on the growth and development of the Sierra Leone economy from 1961 to 2020. My name is.....and I will take you through the interview session. The purpose of this exploratory research is to fulfil a requirement for a master's degree in..... This research seeks your candid opinion on how civil war has harmed Sierra Leone's growth and development from 1961 to 2020, with a particular focus on the elements that contributed to the country's economic challenges under the previous regimes.

Please reply honestly and as best you can to the questions posed during the interview. Your replies will be kept in strict confidentiality. Please do not write your name on the paper.

### Ministry of Planning and Economic Development

1. For how long have you worked with the government?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

2. What was the main cause of the Sierra Leone civil war of 1991-2002?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3. How did the civil war impact economic growth of Sierra Leone in the long term?



.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

4. Comment on the fiscal balance of the Sierra Leone during the civil war

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

5. What was the impact of the war on domestic investment?

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.....  
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## Appendix B: QUESTIONNAIRE 2

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to take part in this exploratory study to determine the effects civil war on the growth and development of the Sierra Leone economy from 1961 to 2020. My name is.....and I will take you through the interview session. The purpose of this exploratory research is to fulfil a requirement for a master's degree in..... This research seeks your candid opinion on how civil war has harmed Sierra Leone's growth and development from 1961 to 2020, with a particular focus on the elements that contributed to the country's economic challenges under the previous regimes.

Please reply honestly and as best you can to the questions posed during the interview. Your replies will be kept in strict confidentiality. Please do not write your name on the paper.

### Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)- Ruling Party

1. How did the diamonds contribute to economy depression?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

2. Comment on the effect of the civil war on the economy with regards to employment rates

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3. In what ways did the civil war influence politics? What was the economic effect?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

4. How did the ebola epidemic in the context of the civil war affect economic growth?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

## Appendix C: QUESTIONNAIRE 3

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to take part in this exploratory study to determine the effects civil war on the growth and development of the Sierra Leone economy from 1961 to 2020. My name is.....and I will take you through the interview session. The purpose of this exploratory research is to fulfil a requirement for a master's degree in..... This research seeks your candid opinion on how civil war has harmed Sierra Leone's growth and development from 1961 to 2020, with a particular focus on the elements that contributed to the country's economic challenges under the previous regimes.

Please reply honestly and as best you can to the questions posed during the interview. Your replies will be kept in strict confidentiality. Please do not write your name on the paper.

### All People Congress (APC)- Opposition Party

1. What role did Sierra Leone political leadership play during the civil war for economic stability?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

2. How did the opposition party contribute to economic recession?

.....  
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.....

## Appendix D: QUESTIONNAIRE 4

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to take part in this exploratory study to determine the effects civil war on the growth and development of the Sierra Leone economy from 1961 to 2020. My name is.....and I will take you through the interview session. The purpose of this exploratory research is to fulfil a requirement for a master's degree in..... This research seeks your candid opinion on how civil war has harmed Sierra Leone's growth and development from 1961 to 2020, with a particular focus on the elements that contributed to the country's economic challenges under the previous regimes.

Please reply honestly and as best you can to the questions posed during the interview. Your replies will be kept in strict confidentiality. Please do not write your name on the paper.

### Action aid, Sierra Leone

1. What were the effects of the war on developmental agenda in Sierra Leone?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

2. The war resulted in a reduction in the number of NGO's in the country. How did that affect the economy of the country?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3. How did the NGO's mitigate the economic effects of the civil war?

.....  
.....  
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**Appendix E: QUESTIONNAIRE 5**

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to take part in this exploratory study to determine the effects civil war on the growth and development of the Sierra Leone economy from 1961 to 2020. My name is.....and I will take you through the interview session. The purpose of this exploratory research is to fulfil a requirement for a master's degree in..... This research seeks your candid opinion on how civil war has harmed Sierra Leone's growth and development from 1961 to 2020, with a particular focus on the elements that contributed to the country's economic challenges under the previous regimes.

Please reply honestly and as best you can to the questions posed during the interview. Your replies will be kept in strict confidentiality. Please do not write your name on the paper.

**Sierra Leone Brewery Limited**

- 1. How did the war affect the gross revenue of the company from 1991-2002?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

- 2. What were the economic effects of the war with respect to supply and demand?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

- 3. How did the civil war affect trade?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



## **Appendix F: Participants Consent Form**

### **Consent Form**

You are requested to participate in a research project examining the effect of civil war on the growth and development of Sierra Leone from 1961 to 2020. The researcher is inviting personnel from the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)- Ruling Party, All People Congress (APC)- Opposition Party, Action aid, Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone Brewery Limited with information on civil war and the economic growth of Sierra Leone to take part in the research.

This form illustrates a procedure known as "informed consent" that enables you to thoroughly understand the research before choosing whether or not to participate. This research is being carried out by a researcher (Alusine Daramy) a Masters student at International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands.

### **Background Information:**

This research aims to find out the effects of civil war on the growth and development of the Sierra Leone economy from 1961 to 2020 and gain a deeper understanding of how the civil war impacted different areas, which are critical drivers of the nation's economy. The Sierra Leone's Gross Domestic Product before, during, and after the war will be examined to establish the extent of the effects.

### **Procedures:**

If you accept to take part in this study, you will be required to:

- Take part in a 45-70 minute personal interview session.
- Take part in a 15- to 30-minute interview review session.

Here are a few examples of sample questions:

1. How did the civil war impact economic growth of Sierra Leone in the long term?
2. Comment on the fiscal balance of the Sierra Leone during the civil war
3. What was the impact of the war on domestic investment?
4. Comment on the effect of the civil war on the economy with regards to employment rates
5. How did the civil war affect trade?

**Voluntary Nature of the Research:**

This is a volunteer study. Your choice to participate or not participate in the research will be honored. Nobody will regard you differently if you opt out of the survey. If you decide to enroll in the study now, you may always withdraw afterwards. You also may pause at any point.

**Benefits and Risks of Participating in the Research:**

Participating in this kind of research entails some slight discomforts that may occur in everyday life, like tiredness, tension, or being irritable. Participating in this research will not jeopardize your well-being or safety.

This research would be helpful since it will be a study to investigate the effects of civil war on the growth and development of the Sierra Leone economy.

**Payment:**

No remuneration will be provided for your participation in this research. However, I will write and personally sign a letter expressing my gratitude for your contribution to the study.

**Privacy:**

Any information you give will be treated with strict confidentiality. Your personal data will not be used for any reason other than this research study.

Also, the researcher will not incorporate your names or any other identifying information in the study results. The researcher will keep the data safe by storing it in a protected file only available to the researcher. The university requires that data be retained for a minimum of five years.

**Questions and Contacts:**

You may now make any inquiries. Alternatively, you may reach the researcher at (email address) in case you have any queries afterwards. If you want to speak confidentially about your participant rights, you may contact supervisor, he is the International Institute of Social Studies representative and may speak with you about this. His contact information is as follows:

The researcher will provide you with a duplicate of this form for your records.

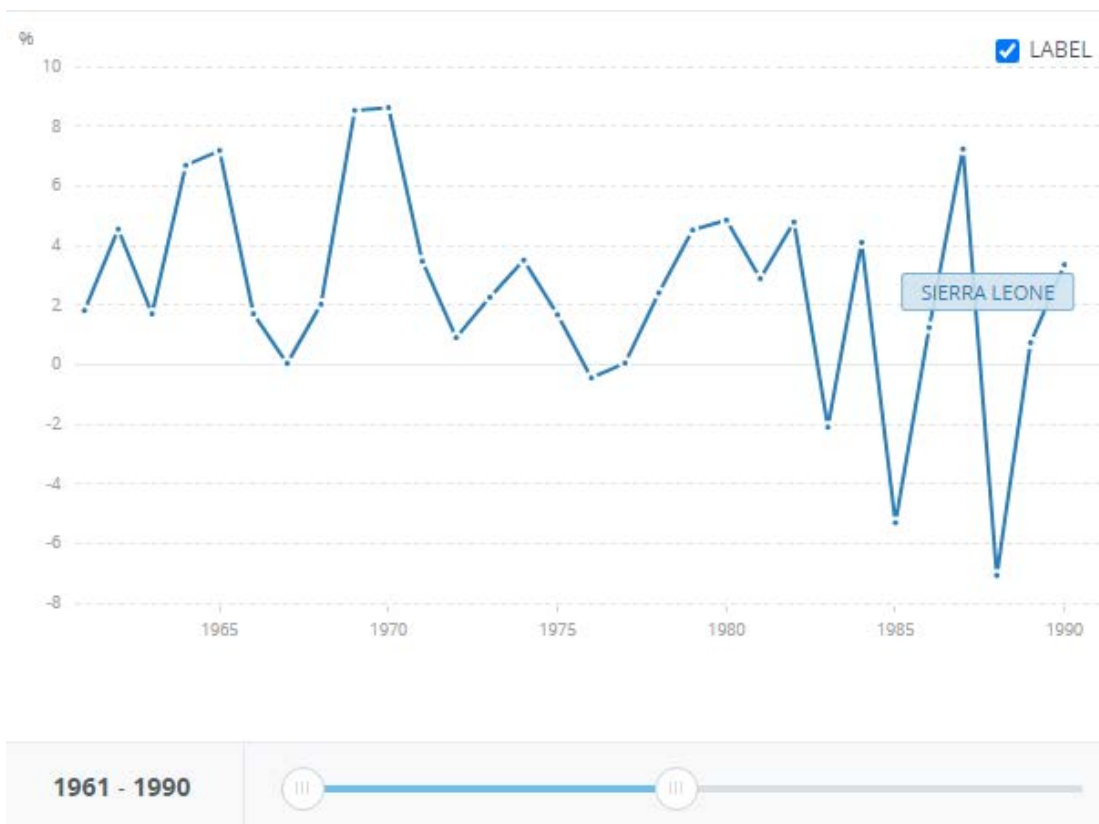
**Statement of Consent:**

I have read the material above and believe that I sufficiently understand the research to make an informed decision about my partaking. I realize that by appending my signature here, I am consenting to the conditions stated above.

Participant's Name .....  
Participant's Signature .....  
Date of consent .....  
Researcher's Signature .....

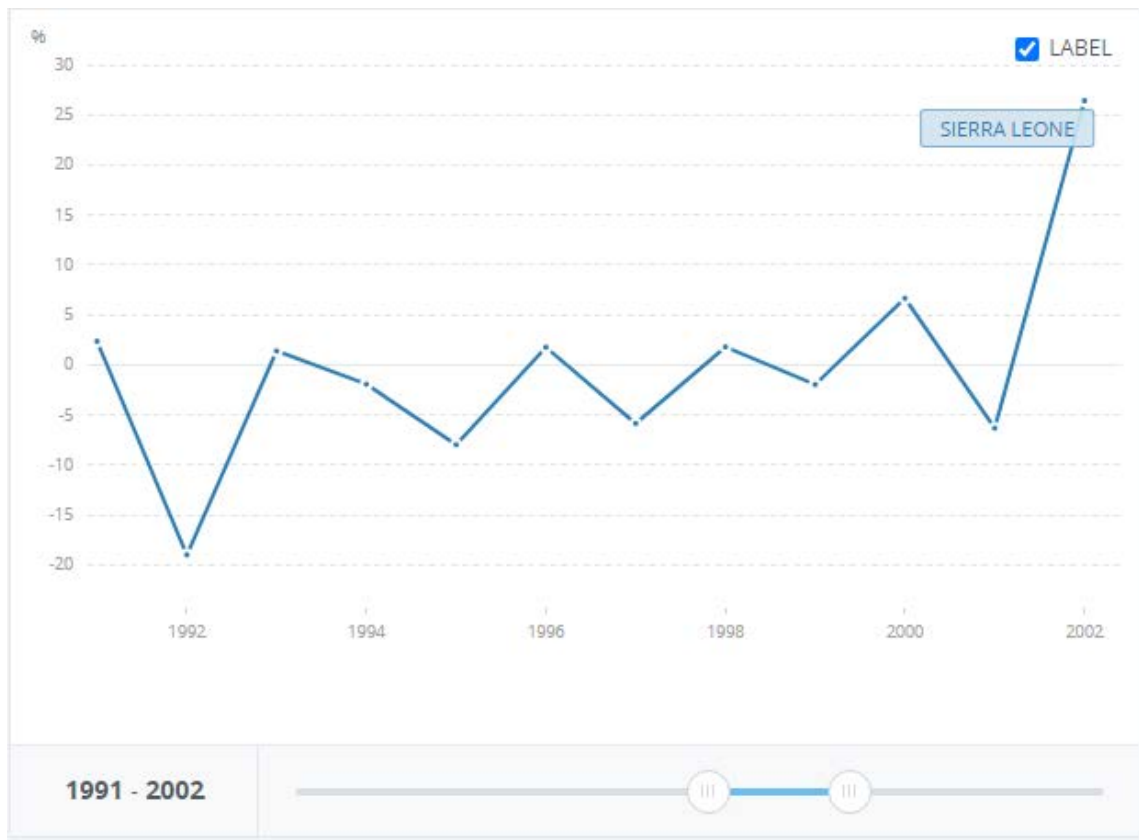
Figure  
Sierra Leone GDP before the Civil War (1961 to 1990)

1.1



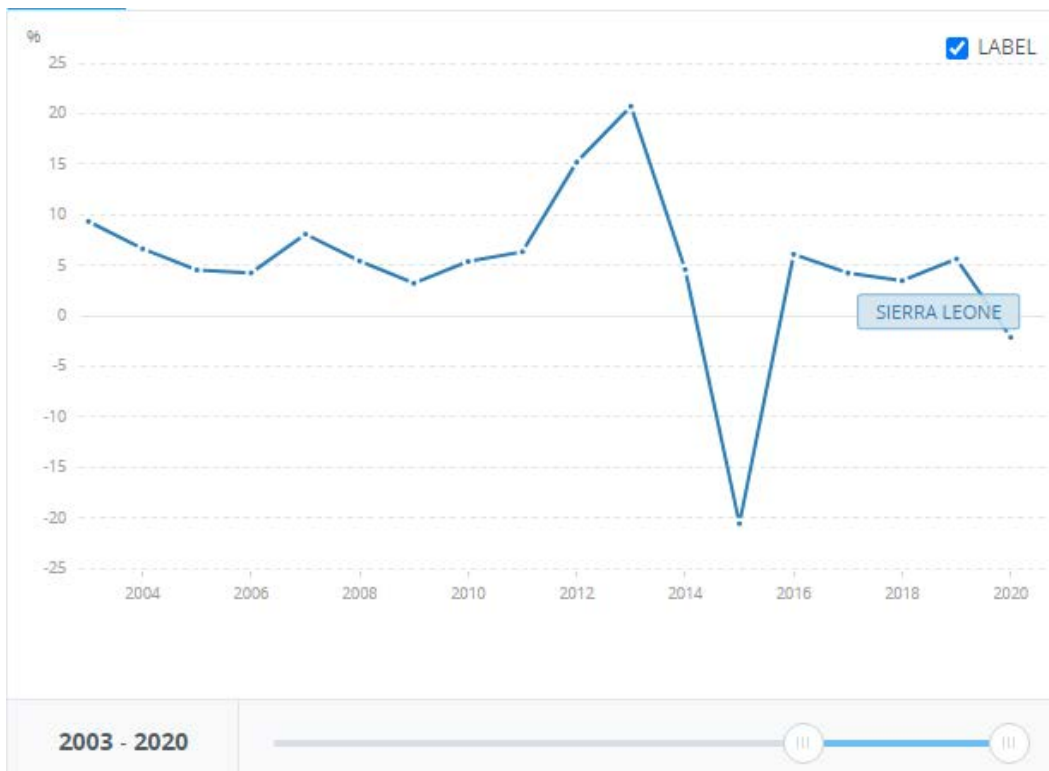
Source: World Bank

Figure 1.2  
Figure 8: Sierra Leone GDP during the Civil War (1991-2002)



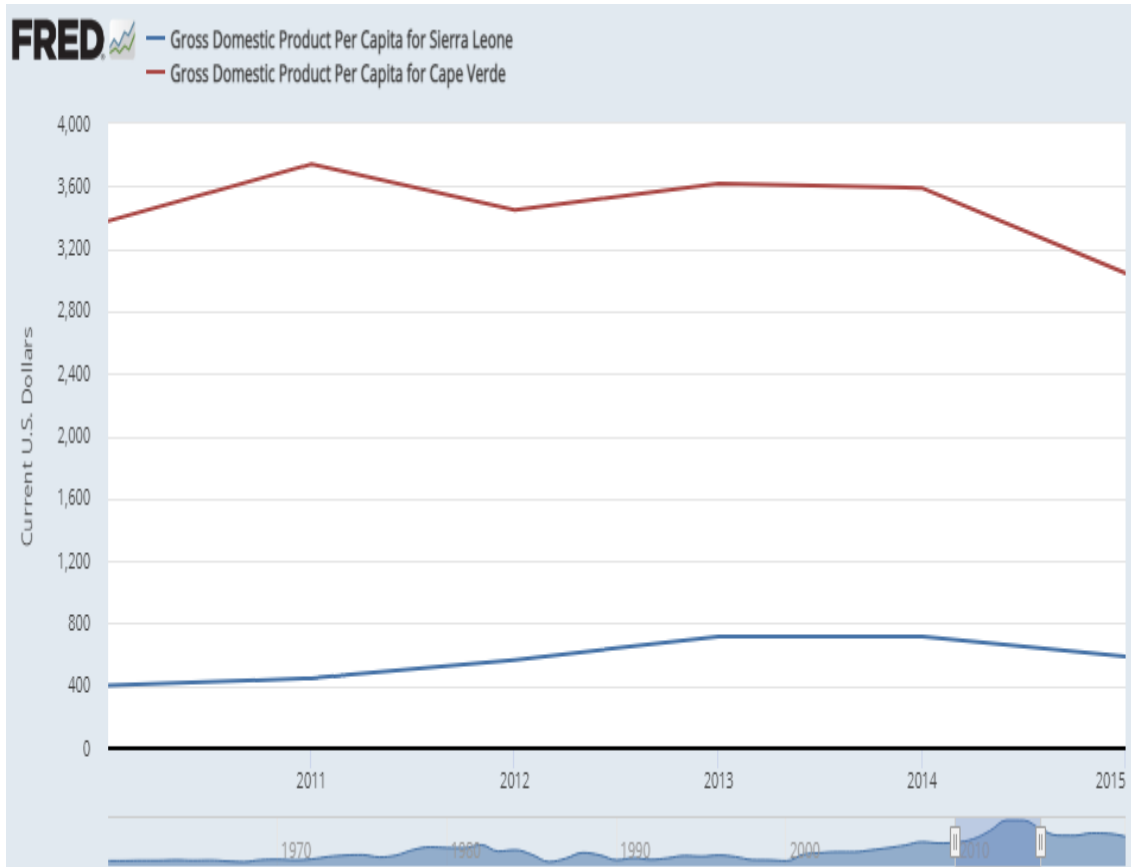
Source: World Bank

**Figure 1.3**  
**Sierra Leone GDP after the Civil War (2003-2020)**



**Source: World Bank**

**Figure 1.4**  
**Comparison between Sierra Leone and Cape Verde in the context of Ebola**



source: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/>

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