

Guardians of Peace

The Civilian Joint Task Force
in Countering Boko Haram
in Borno State, Nigeria

Seun Bamidele

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DEDICATION

It is a privilege to dedicate this book to my mother, who taught me that poverty does not define me. I also dedicate this book to my wife, Titilayo Bamidele, and my son, Jesulayoayemi Bamidele. Both endured my frequent absences during the fieldwork conducted for this book and always helped me put things in perspective. Your name, Titilayo, will be woven into my heart forever.

To all the inhabitants of Borno State in Nigeria who are longing for security and the means of earning a peaceful living in a quarrelsome nation: May your prayers for peace be answered, and may you enjoy the fruits of a stable and integrated community after suffering so much.

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FOREWORD

Jonathan S. Maiangwa
University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

I count it as a mark of respect to write the foreword of this book, *Guardians of Peace: The Civilian Joint Task Force Countering Boko Haram in Borno State*. I am persuasively fascinated by the level of dedication and commitment as well as the originality demonstrated by the author, Dr Seun Bamidele, to assemble this book at a critical time when research in violence-prone areas is difficult to carry out. I have closely related and worked with the author, and I have no doubt about his judgement and skill. He is a distinguished academic with vast experience in teaching and research in the field of Peace and Conflict Studies. He has made valuable contributions to edited volumes of books and journals and has attracted several grants and scholarships, one of which was by Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Germany, under the Special Programme on Security, Society and the State. This book, essentially focused on the activities of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) in Borno State, will undoubtedly enhance understanding and provoke more thoughts in this field.

Borno State, fondly known as the “Home of Peace”, is renowned for its cosmopolitan settlement with international borders with the Republic of Chad, Niger, and Cameroon and a national boundary between the Adamawa, Yobe, and Gombe states. It used to be one of the most serene places in Northern Nigeria; social relations among its inhabitants and communities were very cordial, and small-scale economic activities such as handcrafts, fabric dying, buying and selling, livestock, and cattle herding and marketing are trademarks of the state. Although Islam is regarded as the leading religion in the state, Christianity and some forms of traditional worship exist side by side. The major ethnic groups are Kanuri, Marghi, Babur/Bura, and Mandara, while people from other ethnicities from other parts of Nigeria are also found in the state. The Hausa language is the predominant medium of communication. Before now, the state was not known for religious uprisings or communal clashes like some states in Northern Nigeria. However, as an agrarian economy, unemployment, glaring poverty, out-of-school children as well as street urchins (*Almajirincì*), and hawking is high, and the National Bureau of Statistics designates the state as one of the poorest in northeastern Nigeria. This is in view of the fact that the largest employer in the state is the government, as most urban and semi-urban dwellers are either federal, state, or local government employees.

This is interesting, since the First Republic of Borno State has always been on the side of the opposition party against the national government. However, the All Peoples Congress (APC) won the 2015 general election at the national level, and Borno State coincidentally found itself on the same page as the ruling party. Since the country's return to civil democratic paths in 1999, party politics has become a major preoccupation of both the political class and the youth population, and the latter is often used as political thugs at election times. More worrisome of this development is that the political actors have seized the opportunity to take advantage of a high level of illiteracy, ignorance, and poverty in the state to promote their political ambition. It is, therefore, against this unpleasant circumstance that radical Islamists (Boko Haram) emerged in the state to engage in proselytisation and use violence as its tool of mobilisation against the political class to denounce anything "Western", including Western education.

After the poor military strategy against Boko Haram in 2013, some youths formed a group called "*Yan Kato da gora*" in the Hausa language (CJTF) and staged a protest against Boko Haram in Maiduguri that successfully pushed the group out of the city centre and into rural communities. It is within the context of this book, *Guardians of Peace: The Civilian Joint Task Force Countering Boko Haram in Borno State*, authored by Dr Seun Bamidele, one of the compendiums on the CJTF ever written captures attention. He conscientiously explores the dynamics and gradation that stimulated the evolution of the concept of insurgency-related peace as a line of thinking for countering insurgency in Borno State. He argues that insurgency-related peace is a collective effort made by locals to reject violence in their communities and promote the right to local governance. Dr Bamidele seeks to explain the inner workings of the CJTF in relation to its insurgency response, providing a panoramic overview of counterinsurgency strategies by the CJTF in Borno State.

This eleven-chapter book is carefully organised and coherent. As an empirical study, it relies on ethnographic design to provide firsthand information on the CJTF to enrich our knowledge and inform us about the group and its operations. The book is an evidence-based, probing study with pictorials of the CJTF and figures and graphs that clearly demonstrate the validity of claims. In addition, Dr Bamidele explores the gender dimension to illustrate how women can play a critical role in counterinsurgency. Another important discussion this book touched on is the promotion of collective action against insurgency, for which the author drew an inference from David Galula's theory of inclusivity on counterinsurgency that highlights the role of the civilian population and security agencies in defeating radical movements and ideology. I hereby recommend this book to a wider readership as instruction and learning material for members of the academia, security experts, lawyers, criminologists,

postgraduate students in the fields of Political Science, Peace and Conflict Studies, Sociology and Anthropology, Migration Studies, and Defence and Strategic Studies, and, very importantly, government agencies, policy- and decision-makers, and international organisations.

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FOREWORD

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In a security landscape that is fractured and disrupted by a plethora of actors, it has indeed become critical to ask the right questions. In the last decades since Nigeria returned to civil rule in 1999, scholars of the state and security provisioning, while still interested in who should be providing security, have also become interested in who is actually providing security. The State, through its mandated institutions, is increasingly finding it challenging to maintain law and order and provide adequate security for citizens. This may be due to a lack of financial and technical resources or necessary equipment as a result of competing demands in other sectors, the absence of political will, and, in some cases, the contradictions inherent in the origins and structures of state security institutions. There are varied non-state security actors cooperating with the state in providing security and, in other cases, competing with the state. It is this frame of state-non-state cooperation and collaboration that Seun Bamidele has explored in this topical, enthralling offering.

Since 2009, the Nigerian government has been battling the Islamist insurgency orchestrated by the Jama'at Ahl-Sunna Lidda'awati wal Jihad, colloquially known as Boko Haram. The key factor that has underpinned the insurgency is the group's extreme interpretation of Islamic doctrine. Boko Haram conveniently mobilised support and, in some instances, demanded compulsory conscription by harnessing the notion that broader Islamic piety had been fundamentally undermined and thus needed to be fought for. Furthermore, the group's anti-establishment position was welcomed by frustrated young men who saw recruitment into the ranks as an opportunity to oppose the ruling class.

The government counter-insurgency strategy found a willing and timely ally in the aptly named Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF). The Borno State government formally endorsed the CJTF in 2013 as a partner in counter-insurgency-related efforts. The book documents how the CJTF has been an effective partner to the military in combating Boko Haram's activities in the region. The specific counter-insurgency requirement demanded the need for innovative approaches to counter the persistent threat of Boko Haram. In *Guardians of Peace: The Civilian Joint Task Force in Countering Boko Haram in Borno State, Nigeria*, Dr. Seun Bamidele offers a compelling examination of how local communities, through the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), have stepped up to confront this challenge. Drawing on comprehensive field

research and insights from David Galula's counterinsurgency theory, Dr Bamidele presents a detailed analysis of the CJTF's critical contributions to restoring peace and security in Borno State. The book seeks to underscore the importance of local initiatives in combating insurgency.

The book does not overlook the challenges associated with the CJTF's operations. It thoughtfully addresses allegations of human rights abuses, operational weaknesses, and the need for formal integration into Nigeria's security framework. Through this balanced approach, the reader gains a nuanced understanding of the CJTF's successes, shortcomings, and its potential role in ensuring sustainable peace in a post-insurgency era. Bamidele's analysis reminds us of the role local communities play in security provisioning, in this case, counter-insurgency-related peace efforts. This challenges the classical view of insurgency-related peace as the responsibility of the State or traditional security forces. The book also documents the lack of a systematic approach to integrating CJTF members into local communities and Nigerian security formations; this is emerging as an issue of formal and continued concern.

When we consider the bigger picture, the role that non-state security actors like the CJTF and others around the country are playing underscores the need to reassess the premise and focus of Security Sector Reform and Governance (SSRG) policy and strategy, a serious policy and strategy will need to incorporate the role of non-state security actors. Bamidele's major recommendation is for the legalisation and institutionalisation of the CJTF as a formal local security entity, working with the military. The book advocates for a holistic local security approach, emphasising community participation and the increased involvement of women. Dr. Bamidele highlights how these grassroots efforts complement conventional security strategies, challenging traditional approaches to counterinsurgency and advocating for a stronger partnership between local actors and state institutions.

While the book is rooted in the experiences of northeastern Nigeria, its relevance extends far beyond the region. Scholars, policymakers, and practitioners nationally, across the region, and, of course, internationally - will find the book valuable for understanding the interplay between local initiatives and national security efforts. At a time when addressing global security issues increasingly relies on community-driven initiatives, this book underscores the importance of recognizing and providing a national framework for the engagement and management of non-state security actors. It makes a significant contribution to the fields of community security, counterinsurgency, and peacebuilding, emphasizing the vital role of grassroots participation in resolving modern security crises.

Dr. Bamidele's extensive experience in conflict, security and development studies shines through in this work. His commitment to rigorous research and

his deep connection to the subject matter make this book an essential resource for understanding the complex dynamics of hybrid counter-insurgency and peacebuilding. As the world faces evolving security threats, *Guardians of Peace* serves as a vital reminder of the power of community-led efforts in creating lasting solutions. It is therefore my pleasure to wholeheartedly recommend this book, and I am confident that it will spark meaningful conversations and inspire innovative strategies to address security challenges in Nigeria and beyond.

Dr. Jimam T. Lar
University of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria

PREFACE

This book seeks to provide a renewed understanding of insurgency-related peace by emphasising the significance of local insurgency-related peace initiatives. The term “insurgency-related peace” describes the collective efforts made by locals to reject violent insurgency, secure their rights to self-protection and local governance, and protect their lives. The book adopts a qualitative, ethnographic approach within the context of insurgency-related peace discourse and focuses on the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), an insurgency-related peace group in Borno State, Nigeria. It aims to evaluate the potential of unconventional local insurgency-related peace measures and offer insights into how insurgency-related peace initiatives can be more successful in combatting Islamic extremism in Nigeria. By directing attention to the role of local community members in insurgency-related peace efforts, this book challenges the orthodox view of insurgency-related peace as the sole responsibility of the state or traditional security measures.

The rise of religious insurgency in the twenty-first century has led to the formation of several insurgency-related peace groups employing various strategies. The CJTF, also known as *Durza Ka* in the Kanuri language, has emerged as a major player in Borno State, Nigeria. It was formed as a response to the atrocities committed by the Boko Haram insurgency, starting as a call for volunteers in 2009 by locals. The group, now totalling over 26,000 men and women, has become a critical player in ending Boko Haram’s reign of terror. The literature on this topic focuses on the challenges these insurgents pose to civilians and the insurgency-related peace efforts of the state, including military operations. Nevertheless, little is known about the CJTF specifically.

This book aims to bridge this gap and provide a qualitative, ethnographic analysis of the group, using David Galula’s insurgency-related peace theory to examine its actions and contest the dualistic understanding of conventional vs unconventional local insurgency-related peace approaches. The goal is to establish the value of the CJTF insurgency-related peace group, position unconventional local insurgency-related peace movements as a viable complement to conventional methods and offer insights into how insurgency-related peace initiatives can effectively combat Islamic insurgency in Nigeria.

Boko Haram is one of the most notorious insurgent groups in Africa. It has caused the death of thousands of locals in Borno State since its activities began in 2009. The group’s motivations are based on issues such as the implementation of the Salafi doctrine in the caliphate, claims of religious

superiority, corruption among political leaders, and fear of religious domination. Thus, violent insurgency has devastated Borno State for more than 10 years, leaving visible impacts on its society with serious implications for insurgency-related peace, security, and development in the country.

In response to the actions of Boko Haram, locals in Borno State began organising meetings calling for armed resistance against the group's atrocities. Over time, their insurgency-related peace efforts have evolved into a well-organised group of at least 26,000 members, who regularly collaborate with the military in both urban and rural communities. They are armed with weapons such as dynamite, advanced firearms, cutlasses, and charms.

The Borno State government formally endorsed the CJTF in 2013 as a pragmatic insurgency-related peace strategy in response to the devastation caused by Boko Haram. However, despite joint insurgency-related peace efforts between the CJTF and the military, debates have arisen about their alliance, and there remains a deep-seated distrust between them. Moreover, there is limited knowledge about the CJTF as an organised insurgency-related peace group.

The CJTF has gained notoriety, being accused of acts of hooliganism, robbery, vandalism, rape, and thuggery. Despite these allegations, the CJTF remains armed and strong, growing in size. This is due to a prevailing atmosphere of suspicion and fear among locals, who believe that the CJTF is necessary for their protection both from one another and from Boko Haram attacks. The concern is that if the CJTF were to be disarmed and disbanded, the locals would be vulnerable to the insurgency-related peace efforts of the state, i.e., military operations. As a result, some see CJTF members as unsung heroes who are necessary for the survival of locals in the state.

The primary focus of the book is the problem of the security threat posed by Boko Haram extremism in Borno State, the limitations of the military in addressing the insurgency, and the history, character, and strategies of the local group, CJTF, which has risen against the insurgency. Moreover, the alliance between the military and CJTF raises important questions about the significance and role of a local, nontraditional movement not initially trained in military warfare and their involvement in insurgency-related peace efforts. Some view this as conflicting with the military's objectives, while others recognise the importance of local, community-led security architectures in addressing specific security challenges in an area. Many argue that local security groups are better equipped to identify the enemy, have better knowledge of the terrain, and possess stronger intelligence-gathering abilities than the military, while scholars have focused mainly on the political, military, and law enforcement approaches implemented by the government. Nevertheless, the Nigerian military's choice to involve the CJTF in insurgency-

related peace operations in Borno State has sparked new discussions on community self-defence and civilian-military cooperation.

Therefore, the book aims to examine the group's potential as an effective insurgency-related peace tool by applying David Galula's insurgency-related peace theory to analyse its actions and challenge the traditional dichotomy of conventional vs unconventional local insurgency-related peace.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is the result of a long and inspiring research process, during which I have collected many experiences and met several people who helped and encouraged me to discover the richness and potentialities of the topic.

The research for this book was enabled by a generous grant from Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Germany, under the Special Programme on Security, Society and the State scholarship, which supported the fieldwork on which most of this book is based.

An ethnographer is a burdensome presence in the lives of study participants: As I need guidance to accomplish basic tasks in unfamiliar cultural settings, I ask tedious questions about why people are doing what they are doing, and I always watch and listen. In other words, as an ethnographer, I ask much of my study participants, and I am infinitely grateful to everyone in Maiduguri who generously gave me their time, energy, and perspectives. Since my degree, I am especially indebted to my host, Prof Jonathan Maiangwa. Particular thanks are also extended to Dr Olusegun Idowu, Mr Segun Omolayo, Dr Samuel Oyewole, and the late Mr Abubakar Musa, who were extraordinarily patient and helpful throughout my fieldwork. They helped me make connections, talked to me about their lives, and even assisted me in navigating the opaque insurgency and conflict zones. I would also like to thank the CJTF, as an insurgency-related peace group, for providing me with logistical support and a base of operations. The members were central to the progress of my research. To all of you, *Na go de*.

I express my deepest gratitude to my mentors and colleagues, who provided both intellectual and moral support throughout this process. For guidance and comments on various versions of this work, I thank Prof Anthony Diala, Dr Bonnie Ayodele, Prof Azeez Olaniyan, Dr Samuel Oyewole, Prof Jim Lar, and Prof Kunle Ajayi. I would also like to thank the peer reviewers, whose constructive suggestions helped to strengthen this book. I also want to thank my colleagues for providing me with an intellectually stimulating and warmly collegial environment in which to write this manuscript.

Parts of Chapters 5 and 6 were previously published in two journal articles: “Securing through the failure to secure? Civilian Joint Task Force and Counter-Insurgency Operations in the North-Eastern Region of Nigeria”, which appeared in the *Journal of African-Centered Solutions in Peace and Security*, Volume 4, Issue 1, and “Sweat is Invisible in the Rain’: Civilian Joint Task Force and Counter-Insurgency in Borno State, Nigeria”, which appeared in *Security and*

Defence Quarterly, Volume 31, Issue 4. Earlier versions of Chapters 4 and 6 were published in the following articles: “The Civilian Joint Task Force and the Struggle Against Insurgency in Borno State, Nigeria”, in the *African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review*, Volume 7, Issue 2 as a briefing, and “Creating the Deserved Protection: Reflections on Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) Counter-Insurgency Operations in the North-Eastern Region of Nigeria” in the *Journal of Law, Society and Development*, Volume 4, Issue 1.

Many thanks go to the editorial service of Dr ML Klos, Mrs Jane Mqamelo and Ms Ingrid Kluyts, they shepherded this book project through completion. I have greatly appreciated their careful, timely management of all aspects of the editorial and production process.

I deeply appreciate my family, who spurred me on from fieldwork to a finished manuscript. To my spouse and partner in life, Titilayo Bamidele, it is hard to overstate what you did to make this book possible. From your long-distance moral support during my many months of fieldwork to your careful readings and thoughtful feedback on every single chapter at every single stage of its development to your sweetly uninhibited enthusiasm for this project, you saw it through with me from start to finish. Finally, to my parents, thank you for the love of learning and curiosity about the world you instilled in me all my life.

The author gratefully acknowledges the Gerda Henkel Foundation Duesseldorf for their invaluable support towards his research, which this book is based on.

INTRODUCTION

The conflict between the Nigerian state and Boko Haram has been one of the most devastating insurgencies in recent African history. The Boko Haram insurgency, which began in the early 2000s, escalated significantly in 2009, causing widespread destruction, death, and displacement in northeastern Nigeria, particularly in Borno State. As the conflict raged, the Nigerian military struggled to contain the insurgency, and despite various military operations, Boko Haram continued its violent campaign, leading to questions about the effectiveness of traditional state security efforts in addressing the insurgency. However, a significant shift occurred when local communities, increasingly frustrated by the inability of the state to protect them, began to organize their own defence initiatives. One such initiative, the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), emerged as a local militia that played a crucial role in complementing the state's security efforts and confronting the Boko Haram insurgents. This book seeks to explore the emergence, evolution, and impact of the CJTF and to examine its significance as an unconventional and grassroots-driven peace initiative in the face of a brutal insurgency.

This study is both timely and critical, as it explores a novel and often overlooked aspect of peacebuilding: the role of local civilian groups in counterinsurgency efforts. While most scholarship on insurgencies and counterinsurgency focuses on the military or state-led efforts to combat insurgent groups, this book shifts the focus to local civilian initiatives. The CJTF, a group initially formed out of desperation to defend local communities, has evolved into a formidable force that has become a vital partner in the fight against Boko Haram. Its contribution to local security in Borno State, particularly in terms of intelligence gathering, local knowledge, and community mobilization, challenges traditional approaches to counterinsurgency, which often exclude civilian actors or treat them as secondary to the military.

The book traces the history of the CJTF from its origins in 2009, when local volunteers began organizing in response to Boko Haram's increasing violence, to its eventual formal recognition by the Borno State government in 2013. During this time, the CJTF has grown from a loose network of vigilantes into a highly organized and structured militia of more than 26,000 men and women. It has played a central role in defending local communities, gathering intelligence, and providing critical support to the Nigerian military. The CJTF's growing role and influence in the fight against Boko Haram is emblematic of a broader shift in how insurgency-related peace is conceptualized and operationalized. The book contends that the CJTF's efforts represent a new model of

peacebuilding that is based on the active involvement of local communities in securing their own peace and stability, rather than relying solely on top-down interventions from state forces.

At its core, this study presents a challenge to the prevailing view that insurgency-related peace is the sole responsibility of the state and its military. While the military's role is undeniably important, this book argues that it is not sufficient to combat insurgency and restore peace without the active participation of local communities. The CJTF provides a powerful example of how local groups can fill the gaps left by state security forces, offering a valuable complement to traditional counterinsurgency strategies. The book emphasizes the importance of integrating local initiatives into the broader peace process and security framework, arguing that such efforts are essential to achieving lasting peace in conflict zones.

The study also addresses the complexities and challenges that arise from civilian-led security initiatives like the CJTF. While the group has been widely recognized for its successes in curbing Boko Haram's activities, it has also faced criticism and controversy. The CJTF has been accused of committing human rights abuses, including extortion, arbitrary arrests, and violent reprisals against suspected insurgents. These issues have led to debates about the role of untrained civilians in security operations, with some arguing that the CJTF's actions may ultimately undermine peace and security rather than promote it. This book does not shy away from these criticisms but seeks to engage with them critically, exploring the delicate balance between the CJTF's positive contributions to local security and the potential risks posed by its unchecked actions.

Furthermore, the study considers the future of the CJTF and the challenges it will face in a post-insurgency Nigeria. As the conflict with Boko Haram winds down, there are growing concerns about what will become of the CJTF. Should it be disbanded, or can it be integrated into a more formalized and regulated security structure? The book offers recommendations for how the CJTF can be institutionalized and incorporated into the broader security framework of Borno State and Nigeria. By exploring the group's successes, challenges, and future prospects, the study provides valuable insights into how local militia groups can be effectively managed and integrated into long-term peace and security strategies.

Contextualizing the Study

The significance of this book lies in its contribution to the ongoing debates on insurgency, counterinsurgency, and peacebuilding. Insurgencies and violent extremism are not isolated to Nigeria; they are global issues that affect many

regions, from the Middle East to Southeast Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa to Central America. As the international community grapples with the challenge of combating insurgencies and violent extremism, the role of local communities in addressing these threats has become a focal point for scholars and policymakers alike. This book builds on existing scholarship in the fields of counterinsurgency, peace studies, and security studies by offering a nuanced examination of how local civilian groups can play a central role in addressing the challenges posed by insurgency.

In particular, the book draws on the work of scholars who have examined the importance of local knowledge and community participation in counterinsurgency efforts. Theories of counterinsurgency, such as those articulated by David Galula (1964), emphasize the need for a comprehensive strategy that incorporates both military and civilian elements. Galula's framework, which focuses on winning the hearts and minds of the local population, underscores the importance of local involvement in counterinsurgency operations. This book extends Galula's ideas by showing how local militias, like the CJTF, can actively contribute to the security and peacebuilding process. By focusing on the CJTF's evolution, operational strategies, and collaboration with the military, the book highlights how local actors can be integral to the success of counterinsurgency operations.

Moreover, the book engages with the literature on peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, which often stresses the importance of community involvement in rebuilding societies torn apart by conflict. As the world increasingly recognizes that sustainable peace cannot be imposed from the outside, but must be built from within, this book makes an important contribution by demonstrating the value of local peace initiatives. The CJTF's success in Borno State provides a compelling case for why local groups should be considered central players in peacebuilding efforts.

The Contribution of Bamidele's Research

Bamidele's research represents a significant contribution to the literature on local insurgency-related peace efforts, offering new insights into the role of civilian-led initiatives in countering Boko Haram and other insurgent groups. His work is particularly noteworthy for its focus on the CJTF, a local militia that has played an outsized role in securing peace in Borno State. By conducting original fieldwork and analyzing the CJTF's operations, Bamidele fills a critical gap in the existing scholarship on insurgency and peacebuilding. The book's findings challenge the prevailing narratives about the role of state security forces in counterinsurgency operations and offer a fresh perspective on the importance of community-driven peace efforts.

Bamidele's work also engages with broader theoretical and methodological debates in the field of conflict studies. By utilizing a case study approach, the book offers a detailed, grounded analysis of the CJTF, providing a rich understanding of how local groups can contribute to peace and security in complex conflict environments. The study is firmly rooted in the context of Borno State and the Nigerian experience, but its implications extend far beyond Nigeria, offering lessons for other regions facing similar security challenges. The book's emphasis on the integration of military and civilian efforts, and its exploration of the future of local security groups like the CJTF, offers valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars working in conflict zones around the world.

Structure of the Book

The book is structured to provide a comprehensive examination of the CJTF and its role in insurgency-related peace. Each chapter builds on the previous one, offering both a historical and theoretical analysis of the CJTF's emergence, development, and impact. Chapter 1 introduces the CJTF and its origins, setting the stage for the rest of the book. Chapters 2 and 3 provide a theoretical framework and review of relevant literature, highlighting the importance of local security initiatives in counterinsurgency. Chapters 4 through 7 provide a detailed analysis of the CJTF's operations, strategies, and collaboration with the military. Chapter 8 focuses on the operational skills of the CJTF and its contributions to intelligence gathering, while Chapter 9 evaluates the group's effectiveness and the challenges it faces. Chapter 10 addresses the broader challenges facing the CJTF, including legal issues, military training, and criticisms of its tactics. Finally, Chapter 11 concludes the book by offering recommendations for strengthening the CJTF's role in the future of Borno State's security landscape.

Conclusion

This book offers an in-depth exploration of the CJTF's role in insurgency-related peace in Borno State, Nigeria. By focusing on the contributions of this local, civilian-led security group, it challenges conventional notions of counterinsurgency and peacebuilding. Through a detailed analysis of the CJTF's strategies, successes, and challenges, this work makes a significant contribution to the field of conflict resolution and peace studies. The book emphasizes the need for a more integrated approach to security, one that includes both military and civilian actors working together to combat insurgency and build sustainable peace. In doing so, it provides valuable lessons for policymakers, scholars, and practitioners working in conflict-affected regions around the world.

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