

Foreword

It is crystal clear that the world currently operates in unprecedented era. The challenges are real and the threat to the global prosperity as linked to the global pandemic (COVID-19) that has affected every dimension of the business environment is consequential. To many, the phrase ‘Things Fall Apart’ applies to several parts of life vis-à-vis this experience. That unpleasant event is characterized by high unemployment in many business sectors, business closures, and significant changes to social-cultural systems which have witnessed a sustained strain for most part of the year 2020. At the macro level, Gross Domestic Output (GDP), Gross National Income (GNI), Inflation rates and other economic indicators are not as promising as they used to be due to various measures that are introduced as life-saving but are equally unfriendly to the economy. Evidently, drastic actions are needed to reboot the economy towards ensuring survival within the ‘New Normal’ business environment. Given its hallmark as a significant contributor to the overall health of the economy in many nations, entrepreneurship will be at the forefront of these global economic recovery efforts. Interestingly, over the years, it has being conceptualized in a number of ways to give researchers and practitioners the opportunity to have a closer scrutiny of its ecosystem as a phenomenon. Hence, we tend to hear nomenclatures like women entrepreneurship, ethnic entrepreneurship, diaspora entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship within the faith-based contexts, and military entrepreneurship to mention but few. The dire need of global recovery would necessitate exploring all applicable opportunities including military entrepreneurship.

Meanwhile, one of the contentions around military entrepreneurship is the question of whether military establishments are amenable to entrepreneurship. The premise of this stance is that the former is inherently bureaucratic with most decisions in that context following a top-down stratagem. This perspective then contends that entrepreneurship is characterized by creativity, opportunity recognition and independence. In fact, ‘being one’s own boss’ is a recurring factor among what constitute the impetus for entrepreneurship. Notwithstanding, a critical and meticulous review of this shows that there is a point of convergence between the two phenomena. This is anchored on the fact that virtues such as discipline, versatility, and

dedication which are notably associated with military culture are equally amenable to entrepreneurship towards succeeding in the marketplace. Consequently, military entrepreneurship is expected to be among the pivotal routes out of the current global economic quagmire.

Statutorily, the military establishments are geared towards playing its role of defense in the national system. At the macro level, all over the world, the military agents and agencies espouse entrepreneurship in various ways, in the fulfillment of this cardinal responsibility. At the individual level, the discourse touches on veteran entrepreneurship where the focus is not only on contributing to the national economic development but also on ensuring steady stream of income after retirement. It is meant to provide individual and family support system that lessens dependence on governmental assistance after retirement and facilitate job creation. Clearly, it is a worthwhile endeavour.

Although the notion of military entrepreneurship is projected to be relevant all over the world, its popularity is not supported by commensurate scholarship effort. It is pleasing to see that Dr Sanya Ojo has not only made this case robustly but also extended the literature through the publication of this compendium which comprises various thought-provoking themes on this important topic. I congratulate him and the team of scholars who have contributed to the treatise for this bold move to fill this palpable research gap. The wealth of experience, commitment, and rigour expended in this publication is commendable. They have unpacked the subterraneous issues in this important topic and provided a meticulous synthesis of the relevant themes including the divide of civilian entrepreneurship and military entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, entrepreneurship innovation and knowledge economy, and franchising among others. The eclecticism of the book offers a plethora of benefits to readers; and positions it as a compelling companion for various stakeholders. Overall, it is a product of good effort in many ramifications and will continue to be relevant many years to come, far beyond the economic period characterized by the ravaging global pandemic.

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