2018

A Global Perception on Contemporary Slavery in the Middle East North Africa Region

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Walden University
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Abstract

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Walden University

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Abstract

Although human trafficking continues to be a growing problem around the world, there are scarce quantitative methodologies for evidence-based research because it is hard to gather reliable and comparable data on human trafficking. It is also difficult to track patterns in human trafficking on a regional or global scale because the victims are a vulnerable population. Using Datta and Bales conceptualization of modern slavery as the theoretical foundation, the primary purpose of this study was to establish a baseline measurement of trafficking predictors in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) as well as understand the statistical relationship between measurements of corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism on the prevalence of contemporary slavery in the MENA region. Data were collected from the 2016 Global Terrorism Index, 2016 Democracy Index, 2016 Corruption Perception Index, 2016 Global Slavery Index, and the 2016 Global Peace Index and analyzed using multiple linear regression. The results of the study showed that corruption ($p=.017$) and state of peace ($p=.039$) were significant predictors for contemporary slavery in the MENA region. Whereas, terrorism and democracy were not significant predictors. The positive social change implications of this study include recommendations to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to create a central repository for the archival of human trafficking data. The creation of this archive will promote a more accurate accounting of a vulnerable population such as victims of trafficking, thereby increasing awareness of contemporary slavery among law enforcement, policy makers, and scholars.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Human trafficking is a global problem and has become one of the fastest growing enterprises of criminal activity in the world. Human Rights First (2017) estimated 24.9 million people are trapped in modern day slavery. Data obtained from the Global Report on Trafficking in Person (TIP) indicated that traffickers target women and girls for sexual exploitation; conversely, they target boys and men for labor trafficking (Hernandez & Rudolph, 2015). In 2016, there was an estimate of 45.8 million people enslaved in some form of modern slavery (Walk Free Foundation, 2016). Fifty-eight percent of the population that was reported enslaved were living in Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, and India (Walk Free Foundation, 2016). Therefore, the reported annual disparity in contemporary slavery statistics may be due to several factors: enhanced data collection, public awareness, and the need for better research methodology.

One area of concern for the disparity in reported numbers of trafficked persons by agencies may be due to definitions and terminology. The International Labour Organization (ILO) stated that *modern slavery* had not been defined (ILO, 2017a). The lack of an established definition can negatively affect the accuracy of collected data. The Global Estimate of Modern Slavery in 2017 included forced labor and forced marriage into the modern slavery statistics (ILO, 2017a). The statistics that were reported by Human Rights First (2017) for forced labor alone mentioned that there were 16 million exploited people. Forced labor can occur in many different trades, including mining, agriculture, hospitality, and construction (Human Rights First, 2017). Not to mention, contemporary slavery encompasses persons that are victims of domestic servitude, organ

trade, and child soldiers. Furthermore, contemporary slavery numbers are on the rise in Syria and according to the U.S. Department of State (2015), the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) continues to force girls and women into arranged marriages with war fighters while children are recruited as suicide bombers and subjected to forced labor and begging. The way that these victims are categorized and identified, are under review in this study.

It is important to know how traffickers identify potential victims in an effort to collect reliable standardized statistics. In countries like Romania, a trafficked person is identified in a criminal proceeding (Gallagher, 2017). Moreover, the trafficked person is often described as innocent while traffickers are calculating and shrewd. Human rights violations are prevalent in the media's reporting of human trafficking crimes and are widely discussed in political forums especially when traffickers are convicted. The 2017 U.S. State Department reported that there were 9,071 trafficking convictions documented globally (Human Rights First, 2017). This seems to be a very low number considering the estimation of trafficked victims worldwide and 14,894 prosecutions in 2016 (Human Rights First, 2017).

Low conviction rates can be explained by organizations around the world. First, low trafficking conviction rates may be due to the confusion of the terms *human trafficking, contemporary slavery, modern slavery,* and *slavery.* These terms are used interchangeably, leading to more confusion when data are collected, reported, and published. For example, slavery is defined in several ways including the League of Nations Slavery Convention's 1926 definition as "the status or condition of a person over

whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised" (Crane, 2013, p. 50). The United Nations (UN) defined slavery as all acts involved in the capture, acquisition, or disposal with intent to reduce a person to slavery (Guth, Anderson, Kinnard, & Tran, 2014). Albeit, Datta's (2014) definition of slavery is "possession and control of a person in such a way as to significantly deprive that person of his/her liberty, with the intent of exploiting that person through the use, management, profit, transfer or disposal" (p. 21). These organizations attempted to explain the conviction rate by focusing on certain practices and there is no universal consensus on the definition of slavery as it relates to contemporary slavery.

Other examples of terms used synonymously in the literature were *smuggling*, *migration*, *migrant,* and *refugee,* which makes the study of trafficked persons very challenging and has engaged the interest of national governments, legislators, researchers, activists, and the global community. In 2015, the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region estimated nearly 34.5 million international migrants, which included registered refugees and displaced persons, making MENA the world's largest source country for refugees (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2017a). Classifying countries according to their source, origin, destination, or transit can be ambiguous when studying contemporary slavery statistics (Stop Violence against Women, 2015). At some point, countries can be grouped under each of these categories thereby inflating the estimated numbers of victims trafficked.

The second explanation for low conviction rates is that low levels of crime are being reported in countries that are also reporting few trafficked victims (Kangaspunta,

2015). Low conviction rates were reported in nine out of 173 countries analyzed in 2014

by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) and did not have specific

legislation on TIP (Kangaspunta, 2015). Of those nine countries, Kangaspunta (2015)

cited only three countries in the MENA region that did not criminalize human trafficking.

The lack of reporting reliable data on migration has also become a concern in conjunction

with contemporary slavery and the MENA region recently recognized this problem. The

MENA region is working on ways to improve its data-collection system, which is being

hampered by chronic instability (IOM, 2017b). Forced migration from countries such as

Syria, Iraq, and Yemen may be due to prolonged crises across the MENA region, which

has been driven by economic and political factors like a civil war. Additionally, migrants,

refugees, and displaced persons are moving from conflict-ridden regions to more stable

areas at a record rate before conflict reaches their shores (Frelick, Kysel, & Podkul, 2016;

Magner, 2016). Furthermore, displaced persons are also looking for means of financial

support and a better quality of life while trying to escape regions in conflict. The last

explanation for low conviction rates mentioned by Kangaspunta (2015) found that

corruption can impact trafficking convictions because police and government officials

may purposefully ignore or enable trafficking.

Furthermore, the reporting of global human rights violations and trafficking is

continually in the media, but reporters fail to mention pragmatic studies. There is an

initiative to reduce the demand for human trafficking that continues to drive social

change domestically and internationally. In many news reports and in social media, when

the word child is mentioned, it gets the attention of organizations and agencies such as

the IOM, UNODC, Protection Project, U.S. Department of State, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). These agencies are valuable resources that compile data on this complex phenomenon into reports. The data is used for tracking statistics on criminal activity to identify trends in areas such as human trafficking and contemporary slavery. The ILO is also a valuable resource and maintains a database on most countries on the internet to set standards for the compilation of labor costs and estimations of unemployed people. Because of low wages in many countries and the fact that systemic poverty exists around the world, recruiters target individuals in countries where there are low levels of educational attainment and unemployment is high. The ILO continues to receive and enter data from more than 200 countries (ILO, 2017b). The ILO (2017b) monitors wage trends and implements justifiable policies to prevent wage dormancy around the world. In 2016, the ILO reported an inequality in wages of different groups of workers that appeared to be trending due to a shortfall in salary for women compared to men in various countries (ILO, 2017c). The disparity in wages adds to the human trafficking phenomenon especially in the MENA region, thereby increasing the demand for contemporary slaves (ILO, 2017c).

For many years, there has been a purported increase in contemporary slavery which has brought this phenomenon to the forefront. As the number of reported trafficked victims' increases in some countries, there still appears to be a lack of awareness of this phenomenon that has been fueled by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Studies have reported that women and girls mostly make up the majority of sexually exploited trafficked victims through prostitution (Cho, Dreher, & Neumayer, 2013). Because of the

suspected increase over the years in the reported numbers of trafficked victims, the media has primarily focused their attention on the sexual exploitation aspect of contemporary slavery. Those reported statistics are predominantly related to the trafficked victims' age, gender, and location. Those exploited victims are forced to work in slave-like conditions performing domestic work, manufacturing, agriculture, and construction. These are people who are considered working in forms of modern slavery and receive little attention by journalists.

The enslaved individuals are easily trafficked around the world, which makes contemporary slavery a lucrative business because the victims are considered a commodity and can be resold. Because of the high demand, traffickers do not discriminate based on a victim's sexual orientation, country of origin, gender, or religion. What traffickers see is an individual who can help them fulfill a need and make a profit, which is why in 2014, traffickers yielded roughly 150 billion dollars worldwide (Human Rights First, 2017). Traffickers and recruiters often use the internet to view the labor force surveys of developing countries as a means for recruitment. The recruiters make false promises to the potential victims and kidnap, abduct, coerce, or force them across borders illegally then exploit them for profit (Sigmon, 2008). Therefore, more awareness about contemporary slavery is needed not only domestically but abroad.

Background of the Study

Human trafficking, commonly known as contemporary slavery, is a lucrative form of transnational crime with the potential of earning huge profits for traffickers and organized crime groups. Structured criminal groups and terrorists organizations support

transnational organized crimes. Traffickers can range from individual operators to highly structured organizations (Hernandez & Rudolph, 2015). Often, traffickers target individuals who want to migrate across borders to a more politically stable region, for a better quality of life, or better employment opportunities. Likewise, Noyori-Corbett and Moxley (2016) asserted that human trafficking is a matter of supply and demand in countries of origin and destination. Hernandez and Rudolph (2015) found that traffickers have gone so far as to kidnap their victims and then transport them against their will, where they are exploited.

Britton and Dean (2014) emphasized that there is a lack of reliable human trafficking data in Africa because underprivileged countries are unable to collect accurate data. Chuang (2014) identified a broader legal definition of trafficking outside the sex sector to include forced labor while widening the human rights advocacy efforts. Cronin (2016) concluded that slavery in MENA is vastly different when compared to slavery in America. Datta (2014) inferred that policymakers require solid data before pledging resources to the modern day slavery cause. Farrell, Owens, and McDevitt (2014) acknowledged the need for more effective laws while identifying labor and sex trafficking cases and holding traffickers accountable. Gallagher (2017) examined three elements of the Global Slavery Index (GSI), which calculated the number of victims of human trafficking (modern slavery) for 2012, 2014, and 2016. Gallagher (2017) also pointed out there are two broader issues that include lack of critical engagement and lack of defining the problem and directing responses of anti-slavery.

Gammeltoft-Hansen and Tan (2017) made recommendations on human trafficking policies and the development of international human rights laws that are currently being discussed by the UN. Furthermore, Mattar (2013) concluded that cooperation is needed in combating human trafficking due to the phenomenon complexity, cross-border policies, and lack of credible statistics. Ngwe and Elechi (2012) compared the differences in ancient slavery to modern day slavery, and contemporary slavery is fostering human trafficking worldwide. Welch (2017) identified human trafficking as generating substantial income for the Islamic State (IS).

Future long-term planning is needed, and the focus should be placed on targeting known supply chains and financiers, which is crucial to the prevention of human trafficking. Welch also inferred that women are joining terrorist organizations as victims, not culprits of modern day, human trafficking. Lastly, Wilson and O'Brien (2016) concluded that human trafficking continues to dodge exact quantitative measures and has become a socially constructed charismatic social problem.

Problem Statement

Studies have shown that the trafficking of persons is considered the most profitable, unlawful activity after drugs and arms smuggling (Hernandez & Rudolph, 2015; Marinova & James, 2012). Alexandre, Sha, Pollock, Baier, and Johnson (2014) implied that human sex trafficking is the fastest growing business of organized crime. In addition to human sex trafficking, other categories of human trafficking were identified such as forced labor, organ removal for transplant, begging, and forced marriages (Amahazion, 2015; UNDOC, 2016). Research indicated that trafficked profits and

statistics of trafficked victims increased; however, few reports revealed their sources or described their methodology, and many failed to include the original data. Although human trafficking continues to be a growing problem around the world, there are scarce quantitative methodologies for evidence-based research (Datta & Bales, 2014; Weitzer, 2014, 2015). The lack of evidence-based studies is attributed to the inability for researchers to gather reliable and comparable data on human trafficking because the victims are considered being a part of a vulnerable population (Peerapeng, Chaitip, Chaiboonsri, Kovacs, & Balogh, 2013).

This study will hopefully be a benchmark that can be used to monitor the progress of global efforts to reduce contemporary slavery. Thus, I aimed to contribute to scholarly knowledge while providing more public awareness of contemporary slavery. The main focus was on the relationship of the selected predictors specifically used in this study for the MENA region.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to develop a better understanding of contemporary slavery in the MENA region while contributing to the empirical research based on individually selected predictors such as corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism on a global scale. Some of these predictors were previously explained by Cronin (2016), who indicated that slavery always existed in the MENA region; however, with the extremist Islamic upsurge, it is evident that contemporary slavery has become even more of a growing problem worldwide. As human trafficking continues to play an increasing role in the actions of 21st century terrorist groups, there is a need to see if

there is a link between contemporary slavery, corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism. To address this understanding, the intent of this study was to fill a gap in the literature by use of quantitative research and deductive logic.

Countries considered to be in the MENA region have an economic advantage over other countries due to their geographic location (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2017). Because the MENA region is the intersection of Europe, Asia, and Africa, its regional needs have begun to further economic development in the countries to include the integration of working women and youths. Additionally, researchers have indicated that victims and culprits of trafficking are in regions where poverty, corruption, and violence prevail (Welch, 2017).

By raising human trafficking and contemporary slavery awareness, more accurate and reliable collected data will be available. It is important to confront this multifaceted social challenge to enable decision makers to formulate better strategic plans on funding research gaps, creating stricter legislation, and ways of developing new antitrafficking policies worldwide.

Research Question and Hypotheses

This study is critical in providing an analysis of secondary data on contemporary slavery in the MENA region. This research is constructed from a Datta and Bales (2014) predictive model and the conceptualization of modern slavery as the theoretical foundation.

The research question and hypotheses for this quantitative study are as follows:

RQ1: Which, if any, of the predictors (corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism) explains the prevalence of contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located within the MENA region?

Ho1: There is no statistically significant relationship between the predictors (corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism) that produced a higher prevalence of contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located within the MENA region.

Ha1: There is a statistically significant relationship between at least one of the predictors (corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism) that produced a higher prevalence of contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located within the MENA region.

Theoretical Framework

There were more than 35 theories examined as potential framework for this study. The best fit was the probability theory, which was used in this quantitative study to determine which factor(s) predict the prevalence of contemporary slavery in the MENA region. The theoretical framework used in this study employs a theory brought to the forefront by researchers such as Bayes, Bernoulli, Boole, Borel, Cardano, deFermat, Pascal, DeMoivre, Kolmogorov, and von Mises, which is known as the probability theory. The probability theory involves patterns or situations involving chance.

The general philosophy of the probability theory applies to this study based on the subjective preferences of human beings. Classical views of estimating the probability of certain events showed that people's intuitive judgement would follow the probability theory. Von Neumann and Morgenstern (1944) first proposed the classical model of decision making under a risky environment, which was then challenged by Allais in 1953

and Ellsberg in 1961 (as cited in Borie, 2013). In 2011, Borie (2013) extended Von

Neumann and Morgenstern's approach to noncommutative probability theory. The

probability theory developed by Bayes in 1763 is further exemplified by the use of the

Bayesian approach (Von Neumann & Morgenstern, 1944). The Bayes approach is an

interpretation of probability used in child development, psychological developmental

research, and migration estimation. This approach can be used either objectively or

subjectively and applied as an epistemological interpretation while combining reasonable

expectations and personal beliefs. The Bayesian approach to probability is a good model

for learning from the data collected because the results are more intuitive with great focus

placed on predictive accuracy. Despite Bayes' theorem being a numerical inference,

Bijak and Bryant (2016) proposed two challenges that exist with the further development

of the Bayesian approach. First, there is a lack of training in the Bayesian methods (Bijak

& Bryant, 2016). Second, computational computer methods typically target the academic

community (Bijak & Bryant, 2016). Van de Schoot et al. (2014) posited that the use of

the Bayesian perspective eliminates worrying about having a small sample size, lends

itself to easier replication of conclusions in other studies, safeguards against over

interpreting highly questionable results and is the more epistemological superior. The

computational time increases when running the sample, but computer processors are

becoming more and more efficient with technological advancements.

The results from the theoretical framework for studying human trafficking may

lead to the development of more effective government policies and give lawmakers a

better understanding of the need to decrease contemporary slavery not only in the MENA

region but worldwide. The results show a more intuitive type of estimation of the study and is primarily focused on predictive accuracy with the ability to choose the hypotheses having the greater probability.

The Bayesian approach is increasing in popularity and fields such as social, behavioral, developmental, fundamental, and applied research (Van de Schoot et al., 2014). Statisticians conducting fundamental research have been interested by Bayesian methods; however, Kruschke (2013) offered an example of the Bayesian approach, suggesting that evidence from a crime can implicate one person and exonerate others. The exoneration can be based on data casting suspicion in the possibility of other suspects or in determining the likelihood that a suspect's prints are on the murder weapon.

Definition of Terms

The key terms for this study were selected from a review of the literature to include indices, peer-reviewed journal articles, governmental reports, and NGO reports. Some of the key terms found in scholarly research were not defined or lacked consensus. Some of the definitions appeared to be used in the legal sense while others were academic (Datta & Bales, 2014). Essential terms used throughout this study are:

Authoritarian regime: An authoritarian regime consists of a country having some formal institution of democracy and no free elections. State political pluralism is absent with absolute dictatorships, and no independent judiciary exists (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2017).

Bonded labor or debt bondage: Bonded labor or debt bondage involves the imposition of debt or a bond (e.g. charging recruitment fees or high interest rates) by

coercion on a person who compels another person to work through the use of physical threats or force and psychological pressure, which encompasses harboring, recruiting, and transporting (U.S. Department of State, 2017). Also, the ILO (2017d) considered it as an imbalance of power between the debtor-worker and employer-creditor.

Contemporary slavery. See definition mentioned below for *modern slavery*.

Child soldiering: Child soldiering involves the illegal recruitment of children through force, fraud, or coercion by armed forces such as paramilitary or rebel organizations and is considered an indicator of human trafficking (U.S. Department of State, 2017).

Destination country: A destination country is the country that receives the trafficked victim in which the person intends to live or work (ILO, 2017d).

Exploitation creep: Exploitation creep is a term coined from Chuang (2014) and explained by Welch (2017) and defined as being when data on slavery, human trafficking, forced labor, and sex trafficking merge.

Flawed democracy: A flawed democracy consists of a country having fundamental civil liberties, free and fair elections, and low levels of political participation (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2017).

Forced labor or labor trafficking: Forced labor, or labor trafficking, is defined as the use of force or physical threats, psychological coercion, abuse of the legal process, deception, or other coercive means to compel someone to work (U.S. Department of State, 2017). This term can include practices such as debt bondage (ILO, 2017a). This

can also occur where work is forced upon people for sexual services, is considered a human rights violation, and restricts a worker's freedom of movement (ILO, 2017d).

Forced marriage: A forced marriage is union that is decided by someone else and without the consent of a person being joined in the union. (ILO, 2017a). The required minimum age to marry varies worldwide and in many cultures is not defined or enforced (Sarich, Oliver, & Bales, 2016).

Full democracy: Full democracy consists of a country having a government functioning satisfactorily with a useful check and balance system. Civil liberties and rudimentary political freedoms are valued judicial decisions enforced and self-governing (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2017).

Human trafficking: Human trafficking is defined by the UNODC (2017) "as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation" (para. #2). Additionally, the State Department's Country Report uses *human trafficking* as an umbrella term for *slavery* (Guth et al., 2014).

Hybrid regime: A hybrid regime consists of widespread corruption, no independent judiciary, and has a weak civil society and rule of law (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2017).

Kafala system: The Kafala system is a sponsorship system for migrant employees known as "domestics" who perform work in the retail, hospitality, construction, and transportation industry (Parrenas & Silvey, 2016).

Migration: Migration is defined as persons or groups that move across international borders, or within a state, away from their primary residence regardless of their legal status (IOM, 2017b).

Modern slavery: Modern slavery is not formally defined in any international document or instrument, consists of forced labor and forced marriage (ILO, 2017a). Gallagher (2017) contended there is no international legal definition of modern slavery.

Origin country, *country of origin*, h*ome country*: Origin country, country of origin, and home country are terms that refer to where a migrant or refugee is derived from (ILO, 2017d).

Smuggling: Smuggling is defined as transporting someone to a location that is secret and illicit (IOM, 2017a, para. #10).

Source country: A source country is a country where traffickers recruit victims for their operations (Stop Violence Against Women, 2015).

Terrorism: Terrorism is the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence to achieve political, economic, religious, or social goals through fear, coercion, or intimidation by a non-state, which can be a physical or psychological act (Institute for Economics & Peace, 2016b). There is no single agreed upon definition of terrorism worldwide (Institute for Economics & Peace, 2016b; Mesjasz, 2015).

Transit country: A transit country is the intermediary country that the victims move through once they have been recruited by the trafficker (Stop Violence Against Women, 2015).

Assumptions

This study is based on the assumption that there is no unified or centralized data repository where international statistics reside. I assumed that the secondary data collected was done correctly and without bias. Because human trafficked victims are considered a vulnerable population, the accuracy of the reported data may be skewed, and victims may go undetected.

Delimitations

Like other studies on sensitive populations, my study had distinct delimitations. First, the MENA region was studied rather than all world countries. Second, the population of refugee migration of victims of force labor trafficking was not examined. Third, no live subjects were used in this study. Lastly, the creation of a new instrument nor the ability to find an existing research instrument that suited my needs was not practicable.

Limitations

This study has the potential for numerous limitations because of the use of secondary data. The primary limitation in this study affects the general validity, which is victims are hard to identify. The second limitation is the study contained only four selected predictors. There are numerous other selected variables that were not included and could be considered. The third limitation is lack of consensus on trafficking points in

interpreting data. The fourth limitation is these selected predictors could have overlapping effects when drawing conclusions. The fifth limitation is that the reported numbers of trafficked persons are only estimates due to varied definitions of terms that are not agreed on worldwide. The disparity in definitions often leads to unreliable and inaccurate data collection. The sixth limitation is that there is no standard to test the outcome of an index or check potential bias of the selected predictors. The final limitation is time constraints for completion of the dissertation promptly without using a mixed methods approach.

Reasonable measures to address the limitations in this study were taken because I was removed from the subject of the research in order to remain objective. A potential bias that could have influenced the outcome of the study was the ability to quantify the number of victims based on an estimation or composite estimation. This bias was addressed by extrapolating the data of the overall number of the population for each country in the MENA region. Despite the challenges that exist for collecting data for this vulnerable population, more empirical research is greatly needed in order for more stringent trafficking policies to be developed by lawmakers. Future research should also address any potential limitations as they relate to the important issue of human rights.

Significance of the Study

This study has theoretical and practical significance. This study will help fill a gap in scholarly research by providing a better understanding of whether corruption, democracy, state of peace, and/or terrorism are prevalent predictors of contemporary slavery in the MENA region. Theoretically speaking, this study presents the particular

path of approach for researching contemporary slavery in the MENA region. The study also makes a scholarly contribution in reporting the results while using secondary data.

From a practical sense, I hope the study will draw attention to the concerns in data collection and trafficked estimations so that governments and NGOs can take the necessary steps to reduce this problem domestically and internationally while making an impact on social change. Furthermore, the practical side of the significance of this study has two positive implications that could affect social change and combat contemporary slavery not only in the MENA region, but around the world. First, this study is designed to increase awareness of contemporary slavery among law enforcement, policy makers, scholars, and the general public. Second, this study may serve as an instrument to implore governments around the world to increase and endorse sponsorship of reliable data collection in countries that do not have the funds available to conduct their own research.

Rationale

The rationale for this study is based on the concern for the rise in contemporary slavery estimations, which has been amplified since important legislation was enacted like the UK Modern Slavery Act of 2015, the Palermo Protocol 2000, and Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. The estimates of the numbers of victims of contemporary slavery have been found to vary significantly because of low public awareness, trouble in pinpointing victims, and vague definitions of terms (Noyori-Corbett & Moxley, 2016). Finally, the objective of the study was to address the reported shortcomings of contemporary slavery while analyzing the data from the predictors of trafficked victims in the MENA region.

Summary

Chapter 1 consisted of an introduction to the study, background of the study, problem statement, purpose, and theoretical framework, assumptions, delimitations, limitations, significance, and rationale. The potential for the social change aspect was also addressed. The research question for this study was introduced as well as which of the selected predictors could explain the prevalence of contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located in the MENA region.

Chapter 2 will present a review of the available literature about contemporary slavery and the theoretical framework used to support this study. Chapter 3 will describe the topic selection, research design and data approach, data collection and analysis procedures, validity threats, and ethical considerations of using secondary data. Chapter 4 will present the results and key findings of the study. Lastly, Chapter 5 will discuss the interpretation of the empirical data for this study and make recommendations for future research.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Introduction to a Global, Social Phenomenon

The literature review places great focus on contemporary slavery. This globally recognized social phenomenon has manifested itself into areas such as the illegal trade of individuals who are forced into child soldiering, debt bondage, forced marriage, sex trafficking, domestic servitude, and labor exploitation. Chapter 2 described the paradigms of the probability theory in order to demonstrate the impact that predictors such as corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism have on contemporary slavery in the MENA region.

Literature Search Strategy

A search of the literature was conducted digitally using several electronic databases. The articles reviewed for this research were collected from Google Scholar, Cornell University, and Walden University. The databases that were searched for full-text articles in EBSCO, ERIC, JSTOR, Legal Trac, Library of Congress, NCJRS, PsychoInfo, ProQuest Central, PubMED, SAGE, Science Direct, SocINDEX, and Thoreau. The key terms used during searches were *human trafficking, contemporary slavery, MENA, Middle East North Africa, modern day slavery, modern slavery,* and *slavery*. The journal articles analyzed for this study were primarily found in peer-reviewed publications from the Walden University library. A few articles that were reviewed and included in this study were prior to 2013 and seemed relevant to this study. The older articles used in this study hope to shed light on the theoretical framework which was necessary for the foundation of this study.

Probability Theory

There are two schools of thought regarding statistics. The classical or frequentist approach and the Bayesian approach. The dissimilarity between the two approaches is the definition of probability as being subjective. A review of the literature revealed that a frequentist views probability such as in the use of the repeated coin toss landing on heads half the time. Whereas, a Bayesian expresses that there is no reason to believe the symmetry of a coin lands on one side (heads) than the other side. The Bayesian approach is very controversial and highly debated. Sinay and Hsu (2014) contended that use of the recognized Bayesian approach has been used for multiple regression models. Furthermore, Kruschke (2013) explained that Bayesian estimation can be used to measure the credibility of a null value and there was extensive discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the use of this 250-year-old theorem.

When trying to find a suitable theory for the basis of a study, researchers must be able to frame their research questions to reject or accept the null hypothesis. The Bayes factor is a statistic that does not overemphasize parameter estimates. The Bayes factor supports hearty Bayesian estimation that can be used in conjunction with determining small, moderate, and large sample sizes when there are outliners, standard deviations, and different means (Kruschke, 2013). The Bayesian approach is well suited for studying topics such as migration and trafficking patterns. Likewise, Dienes (2014) found that a priori power is a useful concept and can be calculated in advance with the use of software, such as G*power, or the use of the Bayes factor calculator. The rationale for use of the probability theory in this study, placed great focus on the probability approach.

Studies Analyzed

This review of the literature consists of studies that used various methods to analyze factors of human trafficking. The first case that was reviewed was conducted by Chen, De Arteaga, and Herlands (2015). This study was shown to quantify patterns of online prostitution advertisements by human trafficking rings. Descriptive analytics was used in the approach that identified autocorrelations within a single set of variables through canonical autocorrelation analysis. Numerous features were extracted from online advertising websites for prostitution from two perspectives.

The next case that was reviewed was conducted by Van Dijk and Klerx-Van Mierlo (2014). They presented a global index of ratings in their quantitative study of national government policies for monitoring compliance with international standards for antihuman trafficking. These researchers found there was a positive correlation between the number of convictions of traffickers and use of specialized prosecutors by means of using the TIP country reports (3P index) and Council of Europe Convention against Human Trafficking (GRETA). Their research showed that quantitative indices can be effectively used for multiple purposes.

Studnicka (2010) used a multivariate approach that analyzed the relationship between trafficking and corruption, which showed a relationship existed between the two in Brazil. The study made several recommendations to successfully combat trafficking and corruption. Five different sources of data were used in a multimodal approach to objectively measure corrupt practices of government officials using a survey

questionnaire that was given to respondents. The results of the study implied that by strengthening government official integrity, the overall rate of corruption will decrease.

Reich and Porter (2013) addressed estimating the probability of a large terrorist attack. Bootstrapping resampling was done to acquire estimates using incidents such as the 9/11 attack. Wheldon, Raftery, Clark, and Gerland (2016) conducted a study to show that Bayesian population reconstruction can be used for estimating past populations by age, fertility and mortality rates, and international migration patterns. The authors of this study found that Bayesian reconstruction worked well with data from different countries. Additional correlation studies were also reviewed that were conducted by researchers like Bales. Bales (2014) used an approach that revealed a relationship between corruption and the level of government response to TIP when using the 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and 2016 Transparency International (TI) indices.

The Datta and Bales study was used for the basis of my quantitative research and was conducted in 2014 by these researchers on modern slavery in Europe. Datta and Bales (2014) discussed the challenges of studying slavery and formulating and testing research questions. The predictors used in their study were built on the extrapolation of estimates of the occurrence of slavery. According to Datta and Bales, slavery is a phenomenon at the community level that can be differentiated between slave and slave holder and what is allowed in the community. The community can choose to be ignorant and not raise objection to levels of corruption by local officials involved in TIPs.

Datta and Bales (2014) furthered their analysis and proposed a casual model of slavery/trafficking in Europe where they utilized slavery in Europe as the dependent

variable (DV) using a multivariate regression approach. The predictors they analyzed were state stability risk, freedom of speech, access to financial services, geography, and age. Datta and Bales (2014) also made recommendations in order to develop a better pragmatic understanding of modern day slavery. Since that study, Bales (2014) has published multiple books and articles on slavery that are relevant to this research.

Upon review of Datta and Bales (2014) study, I examined how contemporary slavery is impacted by analyzing corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism in the MENA region, which are the current predictors listed in the 2016 indices. Datta and Bales introduced their comprehensive theoretical model explaining several factors that are predictors of contemporary slavery in Europe in order to fill a gap in the lack of empirical work that exists. Unfortunately, upon review of those predictors in the 2016 indices, some were updated and no longer available. The current predictors in the indices used in my study are corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism.

Upon further review of the literature, I examined common themes that emerged. First, there appeared to be an inability to commonly define contemporary slavery and human trafficking. This was apparent through the use of the historical definition versus the contemporary exploitation definition in finding common ground worldwide. Second, a better understanding of the rights of workers as human beings to better define terms such as forced labor is important. An agreed upon definition of terms is crucial to global legislation, but it impacts how data is collected on this important human rights topic. Third, better economic opportunities in more developed countries is needed. Fourth, the use of common predictors such as democracy, state of peace, corruption, and terrorism

are described in theoretical human trafficking models and play a key role in data collection and interpretation of results. The common themes from this study will hopefully impact social change.

Indices Used in the Study

Studies were conducted on predictors such as democracy, state of peace, corruption, and terrorism. Annual reports were also reviewed, and I analyzed those predictors that were deemed suitable for this study. The 2016 GSI attracted worldwide attention after the annual reports were published in 2013, 2014, and 2016. The GSI was published by the Walk Free Foundation and ranked countries very generally. My quantitative study focused on forced labor, slavery, and human trafficking; however, researchers have argued that data obtained cab be unreliable as modern slavery, contemporary slavery, and human trafficking are difficult to detect. The GSI also reported that in 2016, Middle Eastern women and children were being forcefully recruited or captured by the non-stated armed terrorist groups (Walk Free Foundation, 2016).

The next index analyzed for this research was the 2016 CPI. Governmental corruption plays an important role in determining modern day slavery and is difficult to assess. The 2016 CPI presents a classification of countries based on perceived levels of corruption. I used the 2016 CPI in my study, and countries that were ranked low are afflicted by poorly functioning public institutions, police agencies, and judiciary. Whereas, higher ranked countries have stronger standards for public official integrity.

The third index that was analyzed in this study was the 2016 Democracy Index (DI). The 2016 DI provided a synopsis of how the world population performed in areas such as the benefits of living in a democracy and the level of public trust in government. According to the 2016 DI, the MENA region showed improvement from 2006 to 2016 in regional democracy scores. Further discussed in the 2016 DI was that once civil unrest subsides in the MENA region, the macroeconomic and social indicators will improve even more. When this occurs, then security can be restored, and public resources can be used for military expenses and transferred to education and used toward health issues in those countries. However, the 2016 DI also pointed out that countries such Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt will continue to face tremendous budgetary pressure because they border conflict areas. Furthermore, from 2015-2016, MENA experienced a rise in the level of violent crime demonstrations, societal safety and security, and political instability (Institute for Economics & Peace, 2016a).

The fourth index used in this study was the 2016 Global Peace Index (GPI). The world was less peaceful in 2016 than in 2008, with great focus placed on countries in the MENA region (Institute for Economics & Peace, 2016a). The Institute for Economics and Peace (2016a) linked this deterioration in peace to the Syrian conflict, refugee inflows, and internally displaced people, which increased 52% in less than a decade. The GPI reported an increase in deaths as a result of the impact of terrorism and political instability in countries around the world. According to the 2016 GPI, it is difficult to define peace. The GPI measured peace along the following categories: safety and security in society, domestic and international conflict extent, and militarization.

The final index used in this study was the 2016 Global Terrorism Index (GTI). The increase in global terrorism has profoundly impacted highly peaceful countries. The MENA region has experienced the greatest amount of economic impact because of increased terrorism events that occurred with 9/11, the Iraq War, Paris 2015 attacks, and the rise in terrorist groups forming in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan (Institute for Economics & Peace, 2016b). Conflicts in the MENA region has also highlighted terrorism because of the attacks in Paris and Brussels and political instability in countries that have sustained refugee inflows, ongoing civil wars, and continual political crisis. Because of the continued conflict and displacement of people, children are being purchased for use as soldiers and suicide bombers. Terrorists groups such as Al-Qaeda, IS, and Boko Haram engage in criminal activity such as kidnapping, which serve as an income source to secure woman for their terrorist fighters. These terrorist groups often recruit affiliates in prison, and from the internet using cyberspace to spread propaganda, acquire funds, and plot attacks, which add to the problem of the ease of acquiring trafficked persons.

In 2016, the GTI estimated that the probability of a terrorist attack that kills more than 10 people is 10%, while the probability of killing more than 100 people is 1%. Additionally, increased roles in terrorism are held by women as they perform countless activities and attain caliphate positions within extremist's groups. Spencer (2016) explained that scare literature exists on female roles in terrorist organizations, such as Al-Qaeda and Hamas, but there are many roles that women can perform in these groups. For example, girls between 14-18 years old are marrying ISIS soldiers and give birth for

jihad, the girls function as suicide bombers, and perform online recruiting for ISIS networks, which is crucial to the cause. Of the 19 countries analyzed in this study, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Yemen were listed on the GTI 2016 as part of the 10 worst countries affected by economic terrorism where fighting is on-going. For example, traffickers target victims through coercion and fraud in an effort to exploit them for profitable purposes, such as prostitution. Furthermore, the 2016 GTI reported that Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Syria accounted for 72% of all deaths in 2015 as a result of terrorism by Al-Qaeda, the ISIL, Boko Haram, and the Taliban.

The Important Role Predictors Play on Contemporary Slavery

Published online material indicated human trafficking has also become a profitable service industry involving corrupt public officials, law enforcement officers, and dishonest recruiters as principle participants (Weitzer, 2015). There is little known about who the traffickers are and what predictors influence trafficking protocols around the world. Crane (2013) explained that contemporary slavery has become the fastest growing form of organized crime and it exists on every continent. In 2016, the Middle East had a population of more than 411 million people and is a reflection of great diversity (World Population Review, 2018). The MENA region is known to include high-income countries rich in oil in places like Kuwait, Qatar, and UAE, yet forced labor of migrants is still prevalent in these Gulf States. In low-income countries such as Egypt and Morocco have less economic development and are in a vulnerable position to be recruited into modern day slavery.

What is Known About Contemporary Slavery

Researchers have conducted studies on the global increase of human trafficking, but very few of them included their methodology and data collection process. Crane (2013), Kangaspunta (2010, 2015), and Peerapeng et al. (2013) concluded that human trafficking has received very little theoretical or concerted attention in scholarly research due to the limitations of studying this hidden and vulnerable population. Crane (2013) expounded that the geographic location of the host and source countries also needed to be considered regarding where individuals are being recruited from and transported to. Russell (2014) explained that human trafficking has been in existence for centuries, but only has been brought to light because of media, social, and political attention.

Some regions identified as being the most prevalent for human trafficking are located in the Middle East, Latin America, West Africa, and Asia (Crane, 2013). There are other countries where human trafficking occurs; however, these countries consider TIP a noncriminal offense so reliable data is hard to obtain (Weitzer, 2015). Also, laws on trafficking are not universally enforced or agreed upon. This has created a great challenge for government officials and law enforcement in order to prosecute traffickers. As a result, the countries that do not consider human trafficking a criminal offense are not even located on the United States' State Department Tier system. The Tier system ranks countries in order of being egregious participants in modern day slavery (U.S. Department of State, 2015). How countries are ranked in the Tier system is described in Appendix A.

Researchers seem to be in agreement about the root causes and push-pull factors of trafficking in person. Some of the root causes of trafficking included the following: social and cultural factors, economic pressures, political instability, and trafficker greed (Datta & Bales 2014). Additionally, some significant TIP predictors used by Datta and Bales (2014) in their European included state stability risk, freedom of speech, access to financial services, geographic location, and age.

Human trafficking and contemporary slavery appear driven by the possibility of financial gain from illegal networks when supply cannot satisfy the demand. Bales, Schloenhardt, Salt, and Stein predicted that as demand is increased, there is a subsequent rise of trafficking networks that results in traffickers seeking profit from lack of supply (Smith & Miller-de la Cuesta, 2011). Furthermore, human trafficking is known to involve the settlement of family debt, and payment can be in the form of money, services, or products (Crane, 2013). In an effort to pay off this debt, contemporary slavery will continue to increase because of insufficient wages paid to workers worldwide. The low wage earned by the workers never allows the workers who are victims the means to pay off their debt to the traffickers. Upon review of the literature, Weitzer (2015) gave one example in China, where parents were the chief participants in the exploitation of their children to repay their debts in a timelier manner.

Contemporary Slavery Concerns

There are several major concerns regarding the contemporary slavery phenomenon, but there is little known about human trafficking. What is known about this phenomenon is that there is a need to educate the public, medical providers, and law

enforcement personnel on the elements of human trafficking to increase awareness. Researchers are in agreement that raising awareness, highlighting governmental neglect of the issue, and quantifying the routes and experiences of trafficked victims has become more visible and is attributed to the media's focus on sexually exploited adult women (Russell, 2014). Because of this focus, there is a need for more stringent legislation and the enforcement of penalties and sanctions against traffickers and their countries when they are prosecuted. Amahazion (2015) argued that according to the UNODC, few traffickers have been convicted, which is attributed to inconsistent enforcement of the trafficking laws. The lack of trafficking convictions is due to the challenges in evaluating written policy performance, especially when it came to enforcing laws on human trafficking (Cho, 2015; Kangaspunta, 2015). Gaps in the literature regarding geographic locations of victims and traffickers indicate that more exploration is needed to expand the geographical whereabouts of the victims and study the concerns of this phenomenon.

Literature Review

Studies conducted on contemporary slavery, modern slavery, slavery, and human trafficking are challenging because of the inability to obtain accurate data on such a vulnerable population. Researchers have recently begun to explore relationships between trafficking and forced labor, but collecting comparable data presents a problem because there is no explanation as to how the data was calculated (Bales, 2007; Crane, 2013; Kangaspunta, 2007; Russell, 2014).

Ollus (2015) explained that human trafficking resulted from forced labour migration and that labour exploitation is significant today because of private performers

such as individual traffickers rather than state-sponsored activity or networks. The traffickers that are committing this crime make it difficult for researchers to collect accurate trafficking data. Therefore, one important gap that needs further exploration is standardizing data collection techniques and reporting accurate statistics. Some of the trafficked statistics annually reported worldwide do not contain a valid instrument for tracking data. The countries that report human trafficked data comingled their statistics to include smuggling, trafficking, kidnapping, and prostitution.

The second gap is there is no central reporting agency where trafficking information gets reported. Kangaspunta (2010) identified several global trafficking databases that base their numbers on severity, responses, and victims' experiences. Studnicka (2010) explained that there is not one central database that has been recognized nor established to differentiate and categorize corruption practices in different countries. A collective methodological practice has been accepted and uses a variety of data sources since there is no single source that provides reliable data for all forms of modern day slavery (ILO, 2014).

The third gap is that key terms are not clearly defined. Researchers use these terms interchangeably because there is no consensus on the definition of trafficking itself (Bales, 2007; Bernat & Zhilina, 2010; Russell, 2014; UNODC, 2017). Standardization of key terms is needed worldwide.

The fourth gap that exists is that there is no standard profile describing a human trafficker. Traffickers can be anyone, including solo operators, a family operation, a married couple, business leaders, and governmental officials who act as enablers to

recruit victims. Conversely, clearly defined profiles of trafficked victims do not exist, and these profiles are generalized based on poverty and low education levels attained. However, Nils Christie's seminal theory described the "ideal victim" as being weak and blameless (Wilson & O'Brien, 2016).

The fifth gap is that the focus of human trafficking has been placed on the trafficked victims, and not on the traffickers themselves. Return the focus to the traffickers while getting the victims the needed services for mental, physical, and emotional healing. The sixth gap is that not all governments comply with the minimum Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) standards. There is a need worldwide to ensure governments are taking steps to comply with standards and enforcing legislation.

The seventh gap is that it is difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of antitrafficking policies in different countries. Not every country sees human trafficking as an egregious human violations issue. So, what legislative provisions determine the most effective laws needed for obtaining the desired outcome in the successful prosecution of traffickers? Perhaps a better way to uncover the mechanics of contemporary slavery and make it more noticeable is with public engagement.

Summary

There are numerous gaps in the literature concerning ways to decrease contemporary slavery. The gaps in the literature will allow for future empirical studies to be performed on this global topic. Chapter 2 presented a review of the available literature about contemporary slavery and the theoretical framework used to support this study.

Chapter 3 will describe the topic selection, research design and data approach, data collection and analysis procedures, validity threats, and ethical considerations of using secondary data.

Chapter 3: Research Method

Selection of Predictors

I conducted a content analysis of several online governmental organizations and NGO indices for the year 2016. The initial search revealed that the 2016 GSI was originated by Forrest and published by the Walk Free Foundation. The updated variables I selected from the 2016 GSI were used to calculate the strength of government responses, vulnerability measures, and national estimates for the prevalence of contemporary slavery. The 2014 Datta and Bales study also used a limited number of variables that originated from secondary source data. Several of the predictors that Datta and Bales (2014) selected are no longer available in the 2016 GSI and have been updated.

I used the 2014 Datta and Bales predictive model on slavery in Europe as the basis of my research. I selected the MENA region rather than Europe and added the 2016 current predictors to my research. The 2016 predictors I selected have not received much consideration in the literature. Guth et al. (2014) argued that secondary date use should be limited if reliable findings are to materialize. The DV used was *contemporary slavery* rather than *slavery* because the definition of human trafficking is not agreed upon worldwide. I focused on four predictors in 19 countries located in the MENA region. In my study, I addressed predictors that could explain the prevalence of contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located within the MENA region. Those predictors are corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism.

Research Design and Defining the Variables

Research designs are important to any type of study being conducted. Babbie (2015) explained that designing a research study involves making a set of decisions regarding topic selection, purpose, and what population will be studied. Therefore, it is important in any study to define the dataset and variables that will be used as shown in the codebook outlined in Appendix B of this nonexperimental study. Furthermore, this study used secondary data due to the available data and a limited number of variables that are predictors as shown in Figure 1 for contemporary slavery.
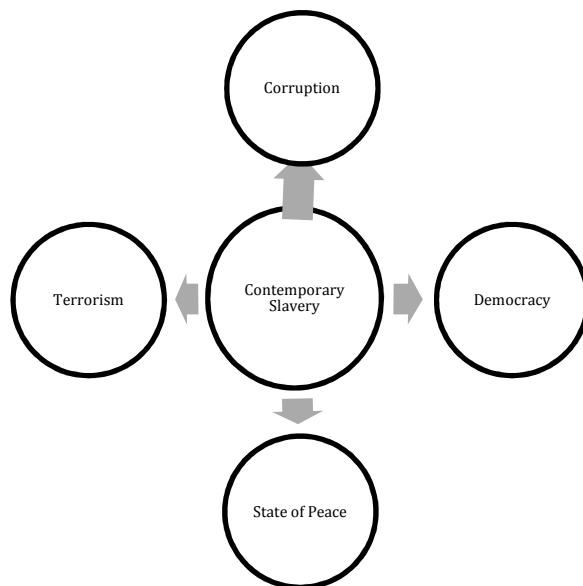
Figure 1. Independent variables and dependent variable.

The DV and independent variables (IVs) used in this study are described as follows:

Dependent Variable

In my study, a table for the MENA region was constructed along the same lines that Datta and Bales (2014) study used for Europe. Table 2 in Chapter 4 listed the proportion of trafficked person in each country, the population for each country in 2016, and the estimated number of slaves in 2016, which was derived by multiplying the estimated proportion of trafficked person by the population size. I researched 19 countries in the MENA region. The GSI 2016 model was used because statistical testing identified these predictors and their prevalence of modern slavery. The 2016 GSI measured 24 variables, which were placed into four groups, as factors that affected vulnerability to enslavement. Those groups are political rights and safety, financial and health protections, protection for the most vulnerable, and conflict according to the 2016 GSI.

Independent Variables

Factor 1: Corruption. This variable is unique, and corruption was measured using the 2016 CPI, which ranks a country on a 100-point scale from 0 = highly corrupt to 100 = clean. The 2016 CPI was subjected to an external independent review process as explained in the methodology of the index. Random sample surveys were conducted face-to-face in 25 countries using a standardized instrument. The survey results were extrapolated to countries with a corresponding risk profile. The 2016 CPI calculated the data across three dimensions to include the estimated number by population (size of problem), the predictors of contemporary slavery, and how governments are handling the

problem. The 2016 CPI used a model that contained 24 variables that affected

vulnerability to enslavement and divided the variables into four groups:

- Civil and political protections.

- Social health and economic rights.

- Personal security.

- Refugee populations and conflict.

In Chapter 4, I will discuss that I reversed the scale to be from low to high, 0 = clean and

highly corrupt = 100. This will allow for all four predictors in my research to be level.

Factor 2: Democracy. This measure is unique and is based on the 2016 DI

included 60 indicators categorized into five groups:

- Electoral process/pluralism.

- Civil liberties.

- Functioning of government.

- Political participation.

- Political culture.

These scores were based on the indicators within the categories of the countries that are

classified into four groups:

- Full democracy.

- Flawed democracy.

- Hybrid regime.

- Authoritarian regime.

Then the scores were broken down into four categories: (a) below 4 = authoritarian regimes, (b) 4 to 5.9 = hybrid regimes, (c) 6 to 7.9 = flawed democracies, and (d) 8 to 10 = full democracies.

Factor 3: Peace. The 2016 GPI was composed of 23 indicators of fear of violence or violence that rank the levels of economic global peace. These themes are:

- Societal safety and security.

- Ongoing domestic and international conflict.

- Degree of militarization.

The scores for each of the indicators are combined and scored on a scale of 1-5. The scoring criteria is as follows: 1 = very low, 2= low, 3 = moderate, 4 = high, and 5 = very high

Factor 4: Terrorism. 2016 GTI was considered the most complete dataset, and was constructed from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) which is an open-source event database (University of Maryland, 2017). The countries were ranked by an ordinal composite score. This measure is unique because it ranks countries based on four indicators classified as follows:

- Total number of terrorist incidents in a given year.

- Total number of fatalities caused by terrorists in a given year.

- Total number of injuries caused by terrorists in a given year.

- A measure of the total property damage from terrorist incidents in a given year.

These factors are scored between 0 and 10. A 5-year weighed average was applied to try and reflect the psychological effect of terrorist acts over time. Zero represented no impact from terrorism while 10 represented the highest impact.

Research Data Approach

The goal of this study was to offer a new researcher outlook, contribute to scientific research, and promote public awareness while providing an overview of the prevalent predictors of contemporary slavery in the MENA region. This study took into consideration that many Arab countries use the Kafala System, which restrains worker mobility in the MENA region. The Kafala System originated from the Bedouin hospitality tradition; however, now it is used to standardize migrant labor in many Arab countries (ILO, 2017d). This can affect how data is reported for the MENA region. More importantly, the focus on contemporary slavery in the MENA region is of great concern for three reasons. First, the initial research revealed that the MENA region had not been thoroughly explored using the predictors I selected for this study. Second, the MENA region is under researched regarding contemporary slavery. Third, I chose to expand the important work performed by Datta and Bales (2014) in their European study to contribute to a wider understanding of human trafficking and influence policy.

Setting and Sample

This research did not require a particular setting as secondary data sources were used. No live subjects were required in this quantitative study. One current standardized list for MENA countries could not be found. In order for the sample size to be determined, I selected the countries that were consistently listed from the online search of MENA

countries listed in Table 1 for this study. A sample was taken from that population and

shown in Table 1.

Table 1

List of MENA Countries

Country	WB	IST	GTI	GPI	GSI	DI	CPI	20th	TIER Placement
Algeria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3
Bahrain	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
Djibouti	X	X	X	Sub-Sahara	X	Sub-Sahara	Sub-Sahara	ESA	3
Egypt	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
Iran	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3
Iraq	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
Israel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1
Jordan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
Kuwait	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2 Watch
Lebanon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
Libya	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Special
Malta								WSE	2
Mauritania			X	Sub-Sahara		Sub-Sahara	Sub-Sahara	ESA	3
Morocco	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
Oman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2 Watch
Qatar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2 Watch
Saudi Arabia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2 Watch
State of Palestine		X	X	X		X		X	
Sudan			X	X	X		Sub-Sahara	ESA	3
Syria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3
Tunisia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2 Watch
United Arab Emirates	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
West Bank and Gaza	X								
Yemen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Special

The websites that listed names of countries in MENA were entered the

spreadsheet and the columns labeled as follows: World Bank (WB), Intifada (IST), GTI,

GPI, GSI, DI, CPI, and 20th Century (20th). The U.S. State Department Tiers (TIERS)

column was also included in Table 1 because this column indicated how each MENA country ranked in meeting the minimum standards of human trafficking.

Population Selection

The population used for this study were countries considered by the eight organizations listed in Table 1 to be in the MENA region. A population is known as a complete set, group, or collection that is being generalized by the researcher in order to draw a conclusion (Babbie, 2015; Frankfort-Nachmias & Leon-Guerrero, 2015; Frankfort-Nachmias, Nachmias, & DeWaard, 2015). A population was employed for this study rather than the use of participants. Examples of a population are government organizations or businesses. The population values were based on the data collected from the sample. Those numeric estimations allowed for the testing of hypotheses that use statistical procedures and draw inference from the population in the sample. The characteristics of interest for this study were countries considered to be in the MENA region. Because there is currently no standardized list of countries in the MENA region, I created a table of the lists I found on the internet websites and then analyzed the lists to narrow the sample down to 19 from 24 countries.

Research Question

A quantitative research question, two hypotheses, and several objectives were constructed to specifically focus on the purpose of this study. This researcher made predictions about the expected relationships among the selected variables. For example, to find out whether contemporary slavery on a global scale in the MENA region can be

predicted by corruption, democracy, state of peace, or terrorism. The research question

and hypotheses are being restated as follows:

(RQ1) Which, if any, of the predictors (corruption, democracy, state of peace, and

terrorism) explains the prevalence of contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries

located within the MENA region?

The quantitative hypotheses are the predictions made by the researcher regarding

the expected outcomes of the relationships between the variables. The hypotheses for this

study are as follows:

(Ho1). There is no statistically significant relationship between the predictors (corruption,

democracy, state of peace, and terrorism) that produced a higher prevalence of

contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located within the MENA region.

(Ha1): There is a statistically significant relationship between at least one of the

predictors (corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism) that produced a higher

prevalence of contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located within the

MENA region.

Role of the Researcher

I approached this study with an open mind and accepted controversial

perspectives and opinions from colleagues, researchers, and my committee. I was careful

in using sources that met Walden University's criteria for research. Keyword searches

were conducted to eliminate bias to produce sufficient results in several databases.

Furthermore, I investigated the foundations of particular research methods that described

what good research consists of in order to produce a quality dissertation.

Data Collection

The method of data collection for this study that was utilized concentrated on the identification of secondary sources using internet search engines. I did not participate in the data collection process since I chose to use secondary data. A list of MENA countries was developed, which required corroboration from other online resources to form one list of countries in MENA.

Data Analysis Plan

The data for this study came from several online data sources as listed in the reference section. An analysis of the data was performed after being input into SPSS from the indices to see if the selected IVs are significantly predictive of contemporary slavery in the MENA region. First, an estimate of contemporary slavery in the MENA region was needed. The 2016 GSI was used to estimate the total number of enslaved persons for the 19 countries in the MENA region, which will be discussed in Chapter 4. A table that listed the estimation of slaves in the MENA region was constructed and the countries were listed in alphabetical order for the proportion of trafficked persons, the population of the country in 2016, and the estimated number of slaves in 2016, which is a result of multiplying the estimated proportion of trafficked persons by the population size.

Measure 1 (IV) data is derived from the 2016 CPI and obtained through the TI website. Measure 2 (IV) data is derived from the 2016 DI reported by the Economist Intelligence Unit website. Measure 3 (IV) data is derived from the 2016 GPI obtained through the Vision of Humanity website. Measure 4 (IV) data is derived from the 2016

GTI obtained through the Vision of Humanity website. The DV data is derived from the

Walk Free Foundation 2016 GSI.

A list of descriptive statistics is explained in Chapter 4 noting any disparity

between the selected predictors. Next, a list of inferential statistics showing a preliminary

analysis of the predictors of contemporary slavery in MENA is needed and will be

explained in Chapter 4. A multiple linear regression analysis using robust standard errors

will test the hypotheses to show which of the IV, if any, are contemporary slavery

predictors. The data collected for this study was also run in SPSS using the Bayesian

extension method. The Bayes factor allowed for the ratio of the data likelihood given the

null vs alternative hypothesis as shown in Appendix C. This approach was effective

because a robust Bayesian estimation can be used in conjunction with determining small,

moderate, and large sample sizes when there are outliners, standard deviations, and

different means (Kruschke, 2013).

Threats to Validity

Problems can exist when trying to assess the reliability of measuring a research

study. Researchers should try to ensure that their study is conducted as error free as

possible. There are two important characteristics of measurement used when conducting

research: validity and reliability (Frankfurt-Nachmias & Leon-Guerrero, 2015). First,

reliability is important in any study and the measurement produces consistent results each

time (Frankfurt-Nachmias & Leon-Guerrero, 2015). Second, validity is important

because it indicates how sound the research design and methodology are in the study.

Researchers should try to control for factors that impend the validity of the study. One factor in this study that could affect the internal validity is the size of the population (N=19). The external validity of this study could be affected by the data collection methodology as this study relied upon secondary data rather than live participants. In an effort to overcome validity challenges in this study, scoring systems were used in the indices in order to produce the same measurement every time, regardless of who is performing the measurement.

Ethical Consideration

My study postured no threat to live participants because a population was used instead of participants. The quantitative approach was best suited for this study because the population, MENA, is adequately represented by the sample. My objective was to determine whether or not the selected predictors are prevalent in contemporary slavery in the MENA region on a global scale. According to the methodology explained in the 2016 indices that were analyzed in this study, a peer review of the 2016 published data was done and explained in those indices to uphold trustworthiness. A peer review was also performed by my committee on the findings of this study. The feedback provided to this researcher was incorporated into the results of this study in an effort to achieve an increased reliability for the study. Lastly, my dissertation committee was also used to reduce bias that can occur in any research that is conducted. Monthly contact with the dissertation committee served as a check and balance and source of review in an effort to increase the credibility for this research and its publication.

Summary

This chapter explained the methodology research design based on one research question and two research hypotheses that I planned to use when collecting and analyzing the data. The findings from the prevalence of contemporary slavery predictors in the MENA region will be presented in Chapter 4. A summary and recommendation for future studies on contemporary slavery will be detailed in Chapter 5.

Chapter 4: Results and Findings

Introduction

I undertook this study to explore the insights and perspectives of worldwide experts on contemporary slavery. This nonexperimental study did not allow for the manipulation of the IVs. The purpose of this quantitative study was to examine the relationship between the DVs and IVs. It is important to understand the probability of the predictors and whether corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism are prevalent in determining the probability of the likelihood of an increase or decrease in contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located within the MENA region. The research question and hypotheses are within the framework of contemporary slavery and restated as follows:

Research Question

(RQ1): Which, if any, of the predictors (corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism) explains the prevalence of contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located within the MENA region?

Hypotheses

(Ho1): There is no statistically significant relationship between the predictors (corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism) that produced a higher prevalence of contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located within the MENA region.

(Ha1): There is a statistically significant relationship between at least one of the predictors (corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism) that produced a higher

prevalence of contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located within the MENA region.

Data Collection and Results

Data collection is an important part of conducting research. Not only is the amount of available data important, but the amount of time it takes to collect the data must be taken into consideration when conducting a study. Also, the application of the data is paramount because it can be used to predict important events such as elections, estimations of migration, and public opinion. Upon approval from Walden University's Institutional Review Board (01-25-18-0503383) the data for this study was collected.

The timeframe for data collection was not an issue in this study as secondary data was used from selected websites. The methodology used in obtaining the data from each of the indices was reviewed when initial research of this topic was conducted. There were no discrepancies in data collection from the plan presented in Chapter 3. The Excel spreadsheet I created was imported into SPSS and the results analyzed. A standard linear regression model was run independently for each variable since regression is a broadly used numerical method in a quantitative model. The intent of this study was to use only the SPSS Bayesian extension for linear regression. However, the standard linear regression analysis was used and deemed a better fit for this study. There was more output to report in SPSS and the standard regression showed the descriptive statistic output. Linear regression estimates the coefficients when having more than one IV and best predicted the value of the dependent variable (IBM, n.d.).

Table 2 contained several important columns of data that were analyzed in this study. The first column listed the names for each of the countries in MENA that were used in this study. The second column showed the three-letter country code for each individual country. The International Organization for Standardization (IOS) internationally developed these globally recognized abbreviations (IOS, 2017). The country is then coded once the IOS is notified by the UN of a new country member. The new country gets an alpha country code assigned to them (IOS, 2017). The third column listed which region each MENA country was located in. ME was for Middle East and NA was for North Africa. Columns 4 to 6 were fractions of the population estimated to be enslaved, country population, and estimated number of people enslaved. According to the 2016 GSI, the researchers multiplied the fraction of the population by percent estimated to be enslaved and the country population, which equaled the estimated rounded number enslaved in 2016.

Table 2

2016 Contemporary Slavery in the MENA Region

Country	Abbrev	Region	Frac of Population estimated enslaved	Population	Estimated Enslaved
Algeria	DZA	NA	0.626	39,667,000	248,300
Bahrain	BHR	ME	0.467	1,377,000	6,400
Djibouti	DJI	NA	0.520	888,000	4,600
Egypt	EGY	NA	0.626	91,508,000	572,900
Iran	IRN	ME	0.626	79,109,000	495,300
Iraq	IRQ	ME	1.130	35,730,000	403,800
Israel	ISR	ME	0.140	8,343,000	11,600
Jordan	JOR	ME	0.639	6,718,000	42,900
Kuwait	KWT	ME	0.467	3,892,000	18,200
Lebanon	LBN	ME	0.626	4,591,000	28,700
Libya	LBY	NA	1.130	6,278,000	70,900
Morocco	MAR	NA	0.639	34,378,000	219,700
Oman	OMN	ME	0.295	4,491,000	13,200
Qatar	QAT	ME	1.356	2,235,000	30,300
Saudi Arabia	SAU	ME	0.292	31,540,000	92,100
Syria	SYR	ME	1.130	22,769,000	257,300
Tunisia	TUN	NA	0.766	11,102,000	85,000
United Arab Emirates	ARE	ME	0.404	9,157,000	37,000
Yemen	YEM	ME	1.130	26,832,000	303,200

From this empirically-derived estimate of persons enslaved as shown in Table 2, I noted a minimum value of 4,600 in Djibouti and a maximum value of 572,900 in Egypt. These numbers indicated the difference in population between the two MENA countries to the enslaved population. The logged transformation column, which was mentioned in Chapter 3 and displayed in the Datta and Bales (2014) study, was not needed as all variables were approximately normally distributed and not skewed in this research.

Table 3 shows the country, abbreviation, region, and indices from which 2016 data was taken. The data from the 2016 GTI, GPI, DI, and CPI indices for each MENA country was entered into an Excel spreadsheet for import into SPSS. Table 3 lists the MENA countries and 2016 indices used.

Table 3

2016 Indices

Country	Abbrev	Region	GTI Terror	GPI Peace	DI Democ	CPI (Rcorr) Corruption
Algeria	DZA	NA	4.282	2.213	3.56	66.0
Bahrain	BHR	ME	4.206	2.398	2.79	57.0
Djibouti	DJI	NA	1.780	2.292	2.83	70.0
Egypt	EGY	NA	7.328	2.574	3.31	66.0
Iran	IRN	ME	3.949	2.411	2.34	71.0
Iraq	IRQ	ME	9.960	3.570	4.08	83.0
Israel	ISR	ME	5.248	2.656	7.85	36.0
Jordan	JOR	ME	2.858	2.127	3.96	52.0
Kuwait	KWT	ME	4.449	1.842	3.85	59.0
Lebanon	LBN	ME	6.068	2.752	4.86	72.0
Libya	LBY	NA	7.283	3.200	2.25	86.0
Morocco	MAR	NA	0.892	2.086	4.77	63.0
Oman	OMN	ME		2.016	3.04	55.0
Qatar	QAT	ME	0.230	1.716	3.18	39.0
Saudi Arabia	SAU	ME	5.404	2.338	1.93	54.0
Syria	SYR	ME	8.587	3.806	1.43	87.0
Tunisia	TUN	NA	4.963	1.949	6.40	59.0
United Arab Emirates	ARE	ME	0.422	1.931	2.75	34.0
Yemen	YEM	ME	8.076	3.399	2.07	86.0

Note. Regions are NA= North Africa and ME=Middle East.

The following is an analysis of the scores based on the results of the data and a description of the tier placement is located in Appendix A:

Global Terrorism Index. In 2016, Iraq (Tier 2) scored 9.960 and suffered the highest impact from terrorism on a scale of 0 to10. On the other hand, Qatar (Tier 2 Watch) scored 0.230, which was a low ranking for the country on the global scale of terrorism as shown in Table 3.

Global Peace Index. In 2016, MENA saw the biggest deterioration in peace levels based on refugee inflows, increased internationalization, the impact of terrorism, and political instability. For the purposes of this study, negative peace is achieved by the absence of violence or fear of violence, whereas positive peace is achieved with attitudes, institutions, and structures that sustain passive societies. Table 3 shows the ranking of MENA countries regarding the measure of the regions peacefulness on a scale of 1 to 5 in Table 3. Qatar (Tier 2 Watch) ranked most peaceful in the MENA region with a score of 1.716 while Syria (Tier 3) had a score of 3.806.

Democracy Index. In 2016, as shown in Table 3, Syria (Tier 3) scored a 1.43 with having an authoritarian regime and Israel (Tier 1) scored 7.85, which had a flawed democracy, but the basic civil liberties in Israel are respected. One thing to consider when reading this study is that there is no agreement on how to measure democracy, but the terms *democracy* and *freedom* are used interchangeably around the world (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2017). There also appeared to be no improvement by any region on average for democracy according to the country rankings in the 2016 DI.

Corruption Perception Index. In 2016, Syria (Tier 3) scored 87 in the recoded

CPI column with having a high corruption level in Table 3. Whilst, the United Arab

Emirates (Tier 2) scored 34 with a low level of corruption in their country. Countries

listed with high scores of corruption are inflicted with political instability, war, terrorism

that fueled corruption. The CPI (Rcorr) scores were based on a ranking from 0 to 100

from low to high corruption. The 2016 CPI mentioned bribery as being prevalent in

countries that had a high corruption score. Some of the bribery examples given were

individuals contacting the court system, police, schools, hospitals, or to obtain utilities.

Furthermore, in countries such as Lebanon (Tier 2) and Yemen (Special Tier), corruption

goes unreported because people may be in fear of reprisal. Furthermore, there are no safe

mechanisms for informers in the MENA region to report such criminal activity in order to

establish and raise awareness and tackle bribery and corruption in the region.

Statistics in the Study

Descriptive statistics for the study are presented in Table 4. Table 4 shows a

summary of the baseline descriptive characteristics used in this study.

Table 4

Descriptive Statistics

Variables	Obs (# of Countries)	Mean	SD	Min	Max
FracPop	19	.68468	.339269	.140	1.356
Terrorism	18	4.77694	2.829780	.230	9.960
Peace	19	2.48821	.606876	1.7160	3.80600
Democracy	19	3.539474	1.5812775	1.4300	7.85000
Rcorr	19	62.89	16.203	34	87

Nineteen countries were selected from the MENA region and provided a meaningful representative sample of the MENA region as no universally agreed upon list existed. Establishing the effect size or power level was not needed because I did not conduct a statistical test on the population. The confidence interval of 95% was used and is the default level in SPSS and equivalent to the credibility interval in Bayesian (Kruschke, 2010). Nineteen MENA countries were used in this study to determine the probability that one or more of the predictors (terrorism, state of peace, democracy, and corruption) had an impact on contemporary slavery in the MENA region.

Tables 4 and 5 are the results of descriptive and inferential statistics. The results showed that all variables accounted for a normal distribution and the standard deviation (SD) being approximately 1/3 of the range for skewness as indicated in the figures below. The DV was labelled ass *frac of population enslaved*, which was trafficked persons in some form of contemporary slavery. Terrorism, state of peace, democracy, and corruption were the IVs.

Global Terrorism Index. The SD for terrorism was 2.829780 and nearly twice

the mean, which was 4.77694. The minimum was .230 and maximum of 9.960, which

was a substantial distribution. This was an indication that this predictor was in the middle

of the distribution because the global scale range was from 0 as having no impact from

terrorism and 10 as highly impacted. This model was not significant with the *p* value at

.203 and the R^2 =.099. Additionally, 18 of the 19 countries reported data for terrorism in

the 2016 GTI; however, Oman was the only country that did not report data and that cell
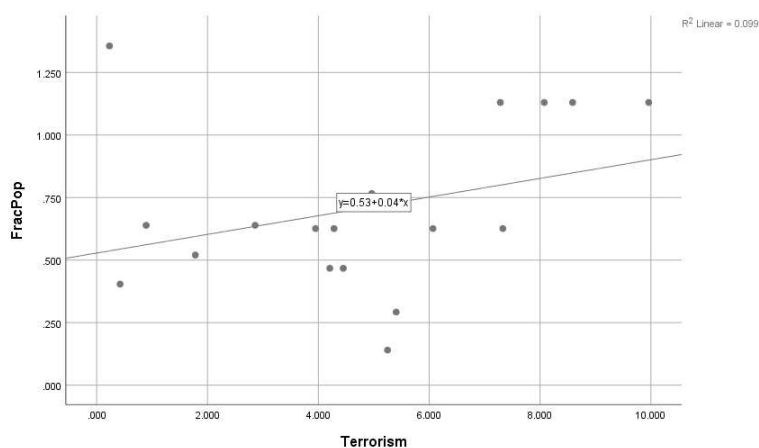
was left blank.

Figure 2. Terrorism skewness.

State of peace. The SD was .606876 and the state of peace minimum 1.7160 and

maximum was 3.80600. The global scale ranged from 1 being low peace level and 5 high

level of peace. The mean was 2.48821, which indicated an average probability of

contemporary slavery prevalence during peaceful times in the MENA region. This model

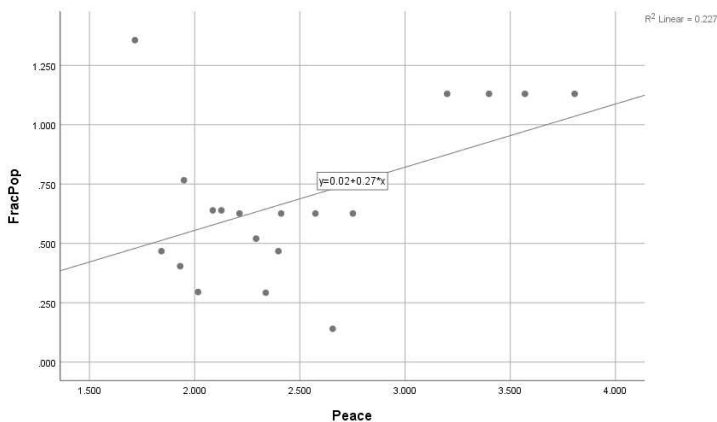was significant with a *p* value at .039 and the R^2 =.227.

Figure 3. Peace skewness.

Democracy Index. The SD was 1.5812775, almost double the mean of 3.539474.

Overall, the DI ranged from the minimum 1.4300 and maximum 7.8500. The global scale

was from 0 to 10 with the breakdown as shown in Appendix B. This variable had a low

probability of being a prevalent predictor of contemporary slavery in the MENA region.

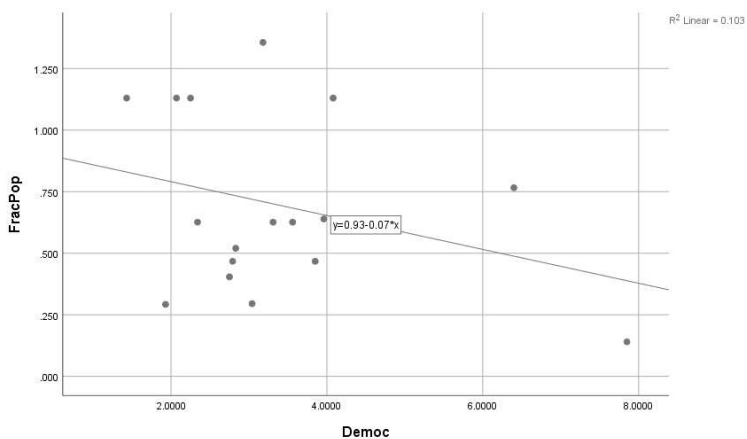The model was not significant with a *p* value at .181 and the R^2 =.103.

Figure 4. Democracy skewness.

Corruption Perception Index. Overall, Rcorr had a mean of 62.89 and an SD of 16.203 nearly 4 times as much. The minimum score for corruption was 34 and the maximum 87, which indicated that corruption had substantial variation to the likelihood of being a predictor for contemporary slavery in the MENA region. The reversed global scale (Rcorr) for this study had a range from 0 being low to 100 being highly corrupt. This allowed all the measures in this study to be measured at the same range. The model was significant at .017 and the $R^2 = .290$.
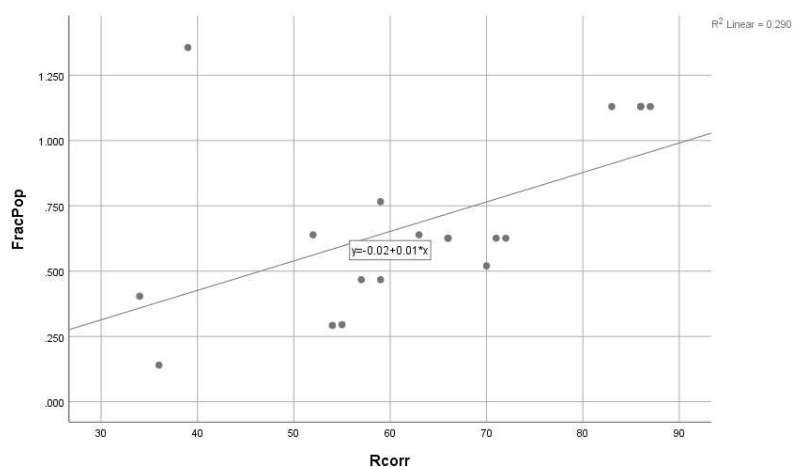

Figure 5. Corruption skewness.

Sample Selection

The sample that was selected for this study was representative of the population. The variables were entered in as nominal or scale. According to Frankfort-Nachmias et al. (2015) nominal variables are the simplest type of measurement. Nominal variables were used for the classification of countries in either the ME or NA region of MENA,

whereas all the other variables entered were continuous variables. Continuous variables were used in the selected indices and were appropriate for this study because they showed progression.

The inferential statistics for this study are described in Table 5 and showed what IVs are likely predictors of the prevalence of contemporary slavery in the 19 MENA countries.

Table 5

Inferential Statistics

Independent Variable	Coefficients	Constants	R^2	p values	
Rcorr	0.011	-0.025	0.290	0.017	**
Terrorism	0.037	0.528	0.099	0.203	
Democ	-0.069	0.928	0.103	0.181	
Peace	0.266	0.022	0.227	0.039	**

Note. ** p=<.05

Summary

In this chapter, I presented the results of the data analysis derived from SPSS, which was the software used for coding and organizing the data. I also addressed the process by which I conducted the data analysis. This study utilized a descriptive quantitative data analysis technique of the use of secondary data that was collected from five 2016 websites as outlined in this paper. This data analysis considered elements of likelihood and probability of the variables selected for this study. The content analysis involved an analytical approach examining indices used in a neutral way of attaining

quantitative accounts for defining measures used as predictors for a specific population, such as MENA. The final chapter explains the findings, limitations, recommendations, social change implications, and conclusion for this study.

Chapter 5: Findings, Limitations, Recommendations, Social Change, and Conclusions

Introduction

In this final chapter, I discuss the findings for contemporary slavery and estimating slavery in the MENA region. The limitations of the study are discussed as well as ideas for future research and social change that emerged from the data analysis on what could be done to mitigate the effect of contemporary slavery in the MENA region. The chapter ends with a brief conclusion of the study.

Interpretation of the Findings

The purpose of this study was to develop a better understanding of contemporary slavery in the MENA region while contributing to the empirical studies based on individually selected predictors such as corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism on a global scale. Furthermore, the nature of the study was to research the importance of this phenomenon because of a lack of empirical data being reported on the numbers of trafficked persons in this vulnerable population.

This quantitative study explored several predictors of contemporary slavery in the MENA region. The findings from my study extended the knowledge in the discipline by comparing the likelihood of the predictors (terrorism, state of peace, democracy, and corruption) that explains the prevalence of contemporary slavery in the MENA region. The study showed that the state of peace and corruption are significant predictors of contemporary slavery in the MENA region.

The theoretical framework I used proposed that, based on the probability theory, variables such as corruption and state of peace are significant predictors; democracy and

terrorism were not significant predictors for contemporary slavery in the MENA region. The predictors in this study were all challenging and hard to quantify because there is no standard for data collection. The global scales used in this research were taken from the 2016 indices and were considered subjective when scoring democracy, state of peace, terrorism, and corruption mainly because the terms cannot be agreed upon worldwide.

Overall, the study supported the research of either accepting or rejecting the null hypotheses for the IV's because this research was based on evidence that can be verified despite the data being an estimation of the enslaved population in each country. There still remains a wide variation in contemporary slavery figures and academia continues to highlight the unreliability of those statistics. This study showed that the data collected from 19 countries located in the MENA region was effectively analyzed to illustrate which of the predictors (corruption, democracy, state of peace, and terrorism) were significant in explaining the prevalence of contemporary slavery on a global scale in countries located within the MENA region.

Estimating Slavery in MENA

As with defining terms such as slavery, modern slavery, modern day slavery, contemporary slavery, and human trafficking, estimating the prevalence of enslavement in the MENA region also had its challenges. First, there was an overlap with different types of enslavement being blended together, which inflated the trafficked numbers that continue to be reported. Second, contemporary slavery is an illegal activity and it is difficult to estimate the enslaved population together with corruption levels because both are obscured from the public.

Defining and Operationalizing Contemporary Slavery

A clear definition of the term human trafficking must be outlined globally together with the exact types of slavery that will be included in contemporary slavery rather than using the term slavery as an umbrella concept when reporting data. There is also a need for all countries to work closely with the UNODC and ILO when measuring modern slavery around the world. It is also important to have a central repository for the archival of human trafficking data to be maintained. The repository can be with the UNODC or other entity, so that the data collection process is standardized and uniform for a more accurate accounting of a vulnerable population such as victims of trafficking.

Limitations of the Study

There were several limitations to the trustworthiness, validity, and reliability that arose from the execution of this study. First, contemporary slavery is a surreptitious activity and the exact magnitude of the victims trafficked has not been documented. Second, there is not a sole entity or agency where countries report human trafficking data. Third, definitions and data collection brought about challenges to make comparative research possible. For example, when tracking human rights violations, it was discovered that the terms are still not universally agreed upon and this type of crime is improperly classified when reported to officials. Also, because there is no single accepted definition of what establishes terrorism, the definition of terrorism as defined by the 2016 GTI methodology was used because it recognized the psychological impact on society together with the physical action of the terrorist attack. Fourth, only data from 2016 was

analyzed. The 2016 predictors from the GSI were updated from the 2014 study conducted by Datta and Bales. Fifth, the MENA region was the only population used in this study.

Recommendations

There are a number of recommendations that should be considered in order to further research on this global issue. First, a time series study is recommended. A time-series chart could be constructed displaying the measurement of change in the variables over time (Babbie, 2015). Second, geographical expansion for countries located in Asia would increase the population size on future studies. Third, research based on access to full copies of evaluation reports rather than only those publicly available would provide more in-depth results. Incorporating reports in other languages rather than English would provide additional sources of data. Fifth, include the application of the British system of multiple systems estimation (MSE) to obtain better international crime statistics tracked through multiagency National Referral Mechanism that consist of police agencies, labor inspectors, and NGO's. which was used in research conducted in the Netherlands in 2016 (Walk Free Foundation, 2016). Additionally, including all forms of contemporary slavery in the research model versus highlighting sex trafficking might result in more comprehensive data and richer results.

Specific incidents, laws, penalties, terminology, and definitions differ from country to country. Therefore, the strengths of this research are that the findings will serve as a measurement tool to establish a framework to better recognize and strengthen future prosecution efforts for countries to expand upon the limited research on

contemporary slavery. However, the generation of a firm and accepted list of definitions would allow for better cross-categorical research.

Implication for Social Change

This study was conducted not only for empirical considerations, but to have an impact for social change. I identified significant themes for positive social changed based on the data analysis. The potential impact this study has at a societal level is that community success is important because many countries all over the world do not believe trafficking or contemporary slavery is happening. Some victims live in brothels and have experienced abuse, violence, deprivation, and torture, which can all lead to trauma. It is important to realize that this effects society as a whole even though most of the social impact of contemporary slavery is on those who are trafficked. Increase public education and have city officials encourage communities to institute prevention programs and encourages collaboration on prevention, prosecution, and protection for trafficked victims.

There were also methodological and theoretical implications for data analysis specifically in the MENA region as it related to contemporary slavery. First, secondary data offered methodological benefits that contributed to this phenomenon especially in the MENA region, which generated new knowledge on the selected predictors. Second, the goals for this study was the same as that of other researchers to contribute to scientific knowledge by offering an alternative perspective on this global issue. Third, a systematic process was necessary in this study, and required accepting challenges that occurred with existing and archival data. Fourth, this study provided a framework for decision makers.

Lastly, ontologically speaking, this study set out to measure the association between the variables. Epistemologically speaking, this study was designed to examine the probability of the variables associated with the prevalence of contemporary slavery in the MENA region. Therefore, recommendations for practice are long overdue because contemporary slavery is a limitless cycle. In order to increase awareness of this globally recognized problem that has diverse effects socio-economical and legal implications, the results of this study will be published, distributed, and presented at future conferences.

Conclusions

Men, women, and children are subjected to experiences that are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatic when exposed to contemporary slavery. The key essence of the study was to explore the perceptions of contemporary slavery on a global scale in the MENA region because enslavement is such a horrific human rights violation. Additionally, including all forms of contemporary slavery in the research model versus highlighting sex trafficking might result in more comprehensive data and richer results. The use of secondary data was effectively used in this study. The findings in this study have significant implication for public awareness, policy change, and the need for sociological research to continue on this topic.

This dissertation was organized into five chapters. Chapter 1 introduced the global perception on contemporary slavery in the MENA region. Chapter 2 reviewed the literature and empirical studies conducted on this social phenomenon in the context of the theoretical framework. Chapter 3 described the design, research approach, data collection, and ethical considerations untaken. Chapter 4 presented the findings and

results. Lastly, Chapter 5 expounded upon the limitations, implications for social change,

and thoughts on future research on contemporary slavery.

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Appendix A: Tier Placement

Tier Number	Tier Placement
Tier 1	Government meets Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) minimum standards.
Tier 2	Government does not fully meet the TVPA minimum standards, but are making substantial efforts to comply.
Tier 2 Watch List	Government does not fully meet the TVPA minimum standards, but are making substantial efforts to do so and (1) the absolute number of victims of severe trafficking is significant or increasing (2) there is a failure to provide increasing efforts to combat trafficking (3) the country is making commitments to take additional steps over the next year.
Tier 3	Government does not fully meet the TVPA minimum standards and are not making substantial efforts to do so.
Special Cases	Any countries not listed in Tiers 1-3

Note: Information was taken from the U.S. Department of State TIP Report 2016 and put into a table.

Appendix B: Codebook

Country: Name of country

Abbrev: 3 letter country code

Region: ME = Middle East or NA = North Africa

Fracpop: Fraction of the population estimated enslaved (DV)

Population: Number of people in country for 2016

Enslaved: Estimated number of slaves in country for 2016

Independent Variables:

> **GTI 2016 Terror:** Rankings from 0 to 10. Scores with 0 being no impact from terrorism and 10 being highest measures impacted by terrorism.
>
> **GPI 2016 Peace**: Indicators of fear of violence ranking from 1 to 5 (low to high).
>
> **DI Democ 2016:** Democracy Index ranking of regimes from 0 to 10.
>
> **CPI 2016 Corr:** Corruption Index ranking ranging from 0 = highly corrupt to 100 very clean.
>
> **Rcorr:** Corruption Index ranking recoded from 0 = very clean to 100 = highly corrupt.

Appendix C: Model Summary

Bayes Factor Model Summary

Bayes Factor	R	R^2	Adj R^2	Std Error of Estimate
.092	.574	.329	.123	.31405

a. Method:JZS

b. Model: (Intercept), Rcorr, Democ, Terrorism, Peace

c. Bayes factor: Testing model versus null model (intercept)

Model Summary

Model	R	R^2	Adj R^2	Std Error of Estimate
.092	.574	.329	.123	.31405

a.Predictors: (Constant), Rcorr, Democ, Terrorism, Peace

b.Dependent Variable: FracPop