

Debunking the Subterfuge: Africa was never will never be a Poor Continent

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Abstract

This work is a search for afro-optimism in recognition of the fact that the first human civilization occurred on the continent of Africa. It should be digested as an attempt to animate and interrogate Eurocentric accounts of Africa. The five horsemen of the apocalypse are the triangular slavery, colonialism, imperialism, flag-independence and debt peonage. Recently democratization has been added to ideological repertoire. This hiatus is provoking the extant narratives about Africanist scholars like Basil Davidson, Ali Mazuri, Maulana Karenga, Myers Mandami, Wamba-dia-Wamba, Mujuhid Nyahuma, Theophile Obenga, Cheikh Anta Diop and Zeleza. A radical departure from Eurocentric history of African appeared to challenge world history according to Eurocentric scholars. This work shows that Africa is not barren when evaluating the role of Africa in the advancement of human civilization. It uses both ancient Egypt and Ethiopia to show the great advancement that Africa had made to human civilization. The author shows that Egypt and Ethiopia, due to material conditions and geography, gave the world opportunity for the first human civilization. It argues that the Hellenic world owes a great deal to Egyptian civilization. The shows that negroid ancestors of Black Africa invented mathematics, astronomy, calendar, the sciences, arts, religion, agriculture, social organization, medicine, writing, technology and architecture. The work concludes that Africa was never, and is not and will never be a poor continent in human and material resources.

Keywords: Africa, neocolonialism, imperialism, civilization, Afrocentrism

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Introduction

The days of sterile monologues and camouflage dialogues between the developed nations (Euroamerica) and underdeveloped nations (African, Caribbean, Pacific) are going and before long will be gone forever. Man is esteemed for his physical prowess and skill have enslaved others, we no longer hunt for our meat, but buy it in supermarkets, we ride less and drive a lot contrivances in today's post-industrial society. The African nations have emerged from feudalism, into mercantilism, capitalism, colonialism, imperialism and descended into dependency culminating in debt-peonage (Bauer 1972, Onimode B. 2000 et-al). To know who we are is not only the first rule of wisdom but also that of knowledge. He continued, at a time when the Caucasians of Europe were walloping in cannibalism, the African negroes were mastering relevant technologies needed for the emergence of the first civilization (Diop C.A. 1996). Afrocentric scholars who are non-Africans like Basil Davidson, Thomson Hodgins, James Coleman, Bjorn Beckman et al, who viewed Africa not as a zoo or botanical garden but as being inhabited by human beings are revisited. Abdullah Smith has persuasively asserted about how oral sources of history are also equally important to both written colonial history and prehistorical world. Eventually, Eurocentric scholarship has no patient to interrogate the rules of oral history and mode of self-verification. Afrocentricism should not be regarded as flip side of Eurocentrism (Myers L.J 1988).

It is apposite to revisit Africa. Africa remains the home of the first human civilization in Egypt and the second largest continent and are of the seven major land masses on planet Earth. Although its majestic civilization is the most documented by history, but the least understood. It is never an error of judgment but a deliberate malignancy Europe decapitated Africa and its people programmed out of respectable commentary of history (George) Fredrick Hegel, Samuel white Baker (Davidson 1984) These supra 19th century scholars, including George Hegel with his schizophrenic negation of Africa from history of world civilization. The former never visited Africa while the latter had cultural myopia pretended not seeing magnificent civilizations and *ab antiquo* achievements of Africa. Arnold

Toynbee was an historian who got his claws into Africa in the following racist comment “when we classify mankind by colour, the only race yet to make any contribution to the 21st century is the black negroid race” (Browder 1992). This is not only a gaffe hogwash but poppycock indeed.

However, the crucial reductionist logic is if Africa were and is that poor and hopeless as Afro-pessimists portrayed Africa, most transnational corporations (TNCs) and moneylenders could have left unprofitable continent long time ago. Africa remains poor because it is rich, while being portrayed as a poor continent so that Africans will continue to be hapless. Afro-pessimism is an inverted ideological repertoire, orchestrated, nurtured and inspired by Eurocentric scholars. It is a racist ideology that is an extension of the “dark continent” thesis; this are views that nothing good can ever come out of Africa. The exact repertoire of third wave democratic brokers, euphemistically tagged democratic political solution suspect this position was captured by Goran Hyden on his presidential address to the African Studies Association in 1995 in Orlando, Florida, quoted *in extenso*:

Africanists need to be united; the marginalization of Africa does also impinge upon the Africanist scholarship, which makes it threatened. It is the writings of eurocentric scholars that determine the pulse and intellectual trends of the world (Hyden 1994:4).

In retrospect Africa is the birth place of humanity, world second largest continent that Africa has more than half of the world's diamond, gold, oil, natural gas, wood, coffee, rubber, iron and coal. In exact figures: 75% sasol, gold 70%; vanadium 50%, cobalt 70%, platinum 46%, chrome 36%, manganese 30%, copper 20%, uranium 25%, coal 80%, iron ore 80% and tin 30% (Ake 1981). John Rhodes, 19th century British Imperialist, became the wealthiest person in the west because of his extraction of profits of Southern Africa's gold and diamond mines. This paper does not deny Africa has no problems, but other continents in Europe and America also have some crises of the commons. In fact, there is nothing “dark” about Africa as there is also no place on earth where there is no dark and night as

dictated by the rotation of earth towards the moon, this article's intention is to debunk the subterfuge that Africa is a poor continent it is necessary to borrow the spectacles of Africanists like Clement Tschloane Keto (1993:12). It is normal for Euro-American writers describe people of European descent with Eurocentric lenses; women issues from women lenses; Asian issues from Asian lenses; so it is neither necessary nor sufficient for Africanists like Soyinka, Achebe et al in Afrocentric perspectives. I revisit the submission of Achebe, who reminded us that "Until the lions have their historians, the tale of the hunter will always glorify the hunter" (Achebe 1994). It defies logic for Eurocentric scholars who never set foot on African soil to denigrate the continent like Frederick Hegel and its cronies with contempt, scorn and ridicule. The rise of Afrocentric and Africanist produce counter narratives justifying the relevance of afro-optimism in our troubled times (Fanon, 1967:166).

Conceptual Clarifications

1. Triangular slave trade: The trade in human chattel that started in 1444 and ended in 1887. It was supposed to be a willing trade between three continents: Africa, Europe and America, however the Europeans came with a gun powder against hapless Africans chiefs who were forced to signed their territories and populations to the Colonial masters written backed by treaties written in foreign languages. In fact, it was a two way trade between Europe and America, while the captured Africans were chattels or commodity.
2. Colonialism: It is an asymmetric rule by external sovereign of an area and people that are usually and indigenous people of African Caribbean and Pacific people (ACP) subjected by force or threat to accept superiors-inferior relationship which include racism in inherent in the economic and political subjugation. There were 8 variants of colonialism in Africa as dictated at the 1884/5 Berlin Conference: Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone, Mesophone, Belgiophone, Amerigophone, Italophone and Germanophone.
3. Flag independence: It is a symbolic independence of granting flag

and national anthems to colonies of Africa, starting from North, through West and East all the way to the Southern Africa. There are now 54 nation states in Africa. The independence is political without economic paraphernalia e.g Francophone Africa still using currency francais africana (CFA) while most Anglophone Africa like Nigeria uses naira and Ghana uses cedis as their currencies.

4. New colonialism: It is a new form of colonialism that is subtle and not by physical force or by military occupation of the land and its people. The former colonial power still dictates the tune.
5. Imperialism: is from 1600 – 1810 is a superior relationship in which the area and its people are subjected to become source of raw materials and dumping ground for manufactured goods. According to Hobson, Hillferdin, Luxembourg, and Marx, from the age of discovery of the Portuguese and Spaniards it is economic and political control of the people by external sovereign.
6. Dependency: means a situations where the economy of peripheral colonial nations is conditioned by the development and expansion of the metropolitan.
7. Debt peonage: It is the Bretton Woods system established in 1944 Northampshire; International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (IBRD) and World Treaty Organization (WTO) surreptitiously established to control the world financial transactions. The last phase of imperialism is debt peonage. The London and Paris clubs of creditors are surrogates Bretton Woods system established to win both military and economic victory (WWII) by the Allies in 1945. This Bretton Woods institution (IMF) issues political conditionalities to keep developing countries perpetually undeveloped.

Measuring Poverty

Generally speaking, penury can be measured in absolute or relative terms. Either ways, it is often measured in monetary terms captured by levels

of income and consumption per capital. This universal yard stick for measuring penury is questionable, because African people are the only race subverted to triangular slavery, colonization by conquest, after flag independence, new colonialism, imperialism and Bretton Woods debt peonage with International Monetary Funds (IMF) political conditionality. However, Africa is endowed with natural resources: 40% of world diamond, gold, uranium, cobalt, oil and gas. Nigeria, Angola, Libya, Algeria are members of African Petroleum Exporting Countries (APEC). North Africa has oil and gas deposit, Sahara has uranium and Southern Africa has gold, diamond and copper. The epithet of a poor continent is a conceptual aberration. Africa was never and not a poor continent. The developing African Economy is that which is disarticulated producing what it does not consume, and consuming what it does not produce (Ake C. 1981). The African continent has been impoverished by eight imperialistic forces: five overt and three covert. Overt (slavery, colonialism, imperialism, dependency and debt peonage) and three covert forces (Neo colonialism, Neo dependency and Afropessimism).

The Eight Impoverishing Forces:

1. Overt forces:

- a. The enslavement of Africans
- b. The throwing of the shackles of bondage
- c. Silent sabotage in the plantations
- d. Rebellion and plots of slaves
- e. American civil wars and emancipation (1863)

2. Covert forces:

- a. Neocolonialism
- b. Dependency
- c. Afro-pessimism

As early as the Renaissance, Jean Bodin (1530–1596) asserted “Il n'est de richesses que d'hommes”— There is no wealth but human resources. People are the only and most valuable wealth. The European slave trader robbed the African continent of the only wealth - its manpower and labour force. Slave trade depleted Africa of millions of its strongest, most able bodies and intelligent manpower. They became plantation slaves working from dawn to dusk to develop Europe and the Americas. Ironically Europeans have the audacity to dub Africa as a poor continent. (Diop Cheikh Anta 1996, Mandami 1998, Wamba-Dia-Wamba 1998 et al). Slavery a shameful based on the absurd and arrogant notion that some human beings are inherently inferior, and therefore, deserve to be owned and maltreated by others, is said to be part of every country's history since the beginning of time. This vile practice is said to date from the prehistoric time and could be found in Ancient Egypt, Ancient Babylon, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, India, China, and in other parts of Africa, as well as in the so-called New World, just to name a few. Granted, but nothing compares to the 400years chattel slavery coupled with horrendous barbarism that Europeans, particularly the Dutch, the Portuguese, the Spaniards, the French, and the British, as well as the Euro-Americans, imposed onto the African people. 1444-1847 (403 years).

Trying to justify the unjustifiable, European and Euro- American apologists of slavery would justify their evil and horrendous human forced migration through the excuse that slavery did exist in Africa long before their incursion into the continent. “Actually, slavery existed in Africa years before we reached the continent. We came just to perfect the plan, “so they would claim. Of course, there were forms of child labor, child trafficking and women trafficking are still going on in the modern world. Still, nothing compares to the worst holocaust this European perfectionist of evil plans inflicted on Africa people for many centuries. And they termed their base practice nicely, calling it a Triangular Trade, implying a transaction between Europe, Africa, and the Americas. The truth of the matter is that there was no such three-way trade, involving Africa! A trade, by definition, is a voluntary transaction a deliberate

exchange of goods for goods or exchange of goods for money, or even a willing exchange of service. A trade is not done forcibly, by way of artful dodging, tricks, ploys and at gunpoint. There was no such trade willingly carried out between the Africans and the Europeans. Instead, there were European Kidnapping raids and stealing of valid and able-bodied Africans via stratagems and overpowering, fooling African kings and other chiefs with fire-arms, molasses, brandy and gunpowder. If there were any trade at all, it was between the Europeans and Americans.

It was indeed a two-way trade done willingly between Europeans and Americans; hence a bilateral not any triangular trade. Basically, between Europeans and Africans, there was a European robbery with its infamous Middle Passage, that is, the forcible transportation of African people from Africa to the New World, as part of the Atlantic slave trade. Late Dr. Walter Rodney, a brilliant Guyanese historian and political figure, and author of *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, quoted *in extensio*:

Strictly speaking the African only became a slave when he reached a society where he worked as a slave. Before that, he was first a free man and then a captive. Nevertheless, it is acceptable to speak of the trade in Slaves when referring to the shipment of captives from Africa to various other parts of the world where they were to live and work as the property of Europeans.—Rodney, 1972:95

It is unimaginable the ordeal that these stolen Africans had to go through in the hands of European predators. They suffered many traumas right from the day of their captivity on the continent through the notorious journey of the Middle Passage to their final destination- the plantations of the New World where they received the most horrible treatment ever for over four hundred years. Many of the captives did not even complete the journey. Most of them died *enroute* for various reasons: they were chained together and too tightly packed on board of the enslavers' ships, there suffocating and dying in numbers, some, on the other hand, simply refused to be enslaved and elected to throw themselves overboard and drowned. Those who made the Middle Passage never returned

to their homeland to recount the terrible ordeal, suffice it to read *The Interesting Narrative of the life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, The African* (1789), an autobiography in which Olaudah Equiano, from Igboland, in Nigeria, described, among other things, his capture as a boy. Equiano expressed in vivid terms, how sad the Africans felt about being uprooted and carried across the Atlantic on the enslavers' ships. As for the Stolen Africans' experiences during the notorious Middle Passage Equiano recalled that they were treated like animals in the voyage across the Atlantic. Orlando said there was little or no room for movement on the ship and they were so packed that breathing became very difficult. Due to the tightness of the compartment, some of the human cargo passed out and were thrown overboard and became fish food. Acts of extreme barbarism perpetrated by the enslavers against African people included branding the enslaved Africans with hot irons and restraining them with shackles to prevent fierce resistance, and still Africans rose!

Abolitionist Phase – Throwing off Shackles of Bondage

In fact, resistance to slavery, which latter developed into a large-scale movement known as abolitionism or abolitionist movement started on the African soil, the very time Africa people were being stolen. A staunch resistance to slavery continued through the ignoble Middle Passage, all the way to the American and Caribbean plantations and beyond. Actually, the arrival of the Africans in the Americas was a nightmare at Calvary. In addition to the myriad traumas and miseries that the captors, so-called "slave owners" and their agents inflicted on Africans, bloody whippings, rapes, sexual harassment, and many other abuses were their daily plight. In the face of such soul-murdering psychological violations, Africans refused to stand by and look. They fought and fought till their last veins to shake loose the shackles of the immoral servitude. This resistance took many forms, including pacific disobedience or silent sabotage and armed rebellions by the enslaved Africans. Individual runaways, as well as snitches by great diasporic African orator, such as Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth to denounce the ignominious institution of slavery.

Some effective strategies were used by enslaved Africans to make the management process as difficult for the so-called “slave masters” and their acolytes as possible. The enslaved Africans regularly engaged in what historian Peter Kolchin has called “silent sabotage.” Work slowdowns, fake illnesses, the mysterious disappearance of tools or supplies - all disrupted the workings of a plantation.

There were also several rebellions and plots, including the 1740 Rebellion during which rebellious enslaved Africans in the New York colony torched a building and killed nine white men; the Stono Rebellion in South Carolina in 1740, which was put down by a militia of armed planters and the New York City Panic of 1741 (the widespread reactions or terror among whites hundreds of miles away in New York City) that followed

Visible Impoverishing Force: Colonialism / Imperialism and the Scramble for Africa

Africans conjured away one evil, that is, slavery only to fall prey of another evil of equal magnitude on the continent, that is, Colonialism. The imperial partition of Africa or the scramble for Africa under the disguise of the civilizing mission began in earnest with the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885. By the eve of WWI (1914), almost all of Africa had been divided between seven European countries with only Liberia and Ethiopia remaining independent nations. Many of the boundaries drawn up by Europeans at the Berlin Conference still endure today with little or no regard to natural landmarks or historic ethnic or political boundaries established by the Africans themselves. The disregard of those boundaries, most of which were retained after independence, often continues to generate conflict in Africa today. *Ita possidentis* is revisited as a principle of International law. But, Africans could not sit and look this imperialistic exploitation of Africa for too long. So, some most prominent African nationalists, such as Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), Nelson Mandela (South Africa), Julius Nyerere (Tanzania), Robert Mugabe (Zimbabwe), Patrice Lumumba (DRC), Mojola Agbebi (Benin republic), Dr. Namdi

Azikiwe (Nigeria), Chief Obafemi Awolowo (Nigeria), Ahmadu Bello (Nigeria), Hubert Koutoukou Maga (Benin) and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa (Nigeria) took matters in their own hands and fought fierce battles to shake loose the shackles of colonialism and earn by dint of arduous fights, the independences of their respective countries.

Africa was no historical part of the world, so Europeans said. Still seven European countries found it expedient to scramble for Africa. In fact, in the middle of the 19th century, the military forces of European countries invaded Africa. They conquered the already weakened African peoples and divided the continent among themselves. Indeed, at the notorious Berlin Conference in 1884-1885, Britain, France, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, Spain, and Germany divided up Africa among themselves, the lion's share being held by the first two countries. As a matter of fact, Britain and France alone held 32 colonies in Africa, with Britain retaining 17 and France 15. Out of 55 African countries, two imperialistic European nations had total control over 32. The divisions of the African continent that these seven greedy European imperialistic countries operated were purely artificial and mostly for the convenience of the Europeans. No consideration was given to the natural geographical features, nor did these Europeans recognize and respect ethnic ties and family units. Many ethnic groups and even families were separated. For example, one part of the Ewe-speaking ethnic group remained within the boundaries of Ghana (former Gold Coast), while the other part lived across the border in Togo. Ethnic groups from Cote d'Ivoire (former Ivory Coast) were spread out in Ghana, Guinea (the Republic of Guinea), and Mali. Moreover, ethnic groups from Nigeria were scattered in Benin Republic, Cameroun, Niger, and Togo. This was a start of the European *divide et impera* "divide and conquer" colonial policy. Through their dictatorial government policies, these Europeans invaded Africa, not for their so-called Civilizing Mission, but for economic gains, thus impoverishing continent. If anything, the invaders came to Africa for an impoverishing and "Un-civilizing Mission." The examples of two British brothers-in-robbery, the Rhodes Brothers, Herbert Rhodes

(1852-1889) and Cecil John Rhodes (1853-1902), two magnates of the western world are worth mentioning.

These two brothers, who died at young ages of 37 and 49, respectively, were two wealthiest men in the western world. Where did they get so much money from? Indeed, Cecil Rhodes went to Africa upon his older brother, Herbert Rhodes's invitation in 1870 at the age of 16 with no money. Before, his arrival on the African continent that will later turn him into the western world's premier tycoon, his older brother was already, one of the biggest cotton-farmer in the Natal Province, in South Africa. Then in 1871, the two brothers staked a claim in the newly opened Kimberly Diamonds Fields, where Cecil Rhodes was to amass all his fortune. Cecil Rhodes's power in the diamond-mining industry Developed until in 1880, he formed the De Beers Mining Company. This company has subsidiaries and affiliates in 25 countries today and the various companies within the De Beers "family of companies" are responsible for over 40% of world diamond production by value. This Mining takes places even today in African countries Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Tanzania. Africa is "poor!" indeed and in words as well as gross domestic product. In the first three cases, it is a 50-50 joint venture with the respective governments, while in the Case of Tanzania it is a 75-25 joint venture with the Government. Unbelievable, yet true! 75% of mining that takes place in the country of Tanzania is owned by De Beers Mining Company, and only 25% goes to the Tanzanian Government. With such anomalies such as a devastating and impoverishing strategy, how and when will Africa get off its economic knees. In spite of all this, many people of European descent and compradores claimed Africa to be a "poor Continent". Many modern Eurocentric scholars travelled to Africa for research and return abroad with crazy theories without addressing the real problems facing Africa. These allopathic scholars called themselves anthropologist, sociologist and economist who just travel to Africa under the disguise of field research, do nothing but flirt with Africa issues and involve in outrageous academic masturbation.

Argumendo, can any of these researchers document that during almost a century of colonial rule in Africa, any African country became the world

economic power? Can anyone posit that when seven European countries laid siege to Africa after the notorious Berlin Congress and controlled the entire Continent for 76 years, they created any economic wealth in various colonies under their control? Can it be proved that Europeans left the continent after the African nations ousted them by dint of arduous fight to earn their independence, left billions of pounds or dollars behind? 1884, the year of the European partitioning of Africa through 1960, the year during which most African countries earned their flag independences, that is, 76 (seventy-six) good years of terrorist control over an entire continent. How did these “civilized” Europeans who came to “civilize” Africa, manage the continent to leave it in such shambles? Was colonial governance in Africa for 76 years any better than postcolonial governance in the 57 years inherited by compradores rather than led by committed nationalists? The Ghanaian independence granted from 1957 in a la Macmillan wind of change sweeping across African countries received only flag independence, while mostly French 15 former colonies have no economic independence because of CFA which was the official currency dictated by France (Jalee P. 1968).

Invisible Impoverishing Force: Neocolonialism / New Scramble / Debt Peonage/ Bretton Woods

It is not uncommon to hear people exclaim and wonder: But African is not the only enslaved and colonized continent! How long then are Africans going to sit and keep blaming everything on slavery and colonialism or Europeans? Why can't Africans take matters in their own hands and stop making excuses? Yes, Africa is not the only enslaved nor is it the only colonized continent, but Africa is the only continent that was enslaved for over 400 years. From the inhumane treatment and the long odyssey imposed onto African ancestors, one can tell how much Africans have worked the greatest miracle of human endurance. Saying this does not in any way whatsoever corroborate the nonsense governance that many contemporary African compradores leaders are implementing on the continent. In fact, most of them are corrupt, egocentric, and megalomaniac.

In fact today, African has more misleaders than true leaders, In fact, they are pseudo followers rather than leaders Examples of ruthless misleaders permeate throughout the continent. Indeed, after the European “Un-civilizing” mission had been shaken loose and wiped out, most African military men who became Presidents in their respective countries were heartless-dictators. Little deranged and ruthless leaders such as late Jean-Bedel Bokassa, a.k.a. Bokassa I of Central African Republic, Idi Arnin Dada of Uganda, Mobutu Sesse Seko of ex-Zaire (now DRC), and Sani Abacha of Nigeria were hard-core tyrannical Heads of State that the continent of Africa has ever produced. Other most feared African dictators include Lieutenant General Idriss Deb Itno of Chad, Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, General Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo, Colonel Seyni Kountche of Niger, Lieutenant Lansana Conte of Guinea Republic, late major (later General) Mathieu Kerekou of Benin Republic, and Admiral Didier Ratsiraka of Madagascar (Malagasy Republic), to name just a few.

In further interrogation, did these African leaders do anything different from the dictatorship used by their colonial masters? Are African dictators today doing anything different from what they had learned from the imperialistic European colonizers? In fact, this old generation of African leaders are perfect copy-caters of colonial masters. Their minds are incarcerated to the point that they don't think about the masses they are supposed to lead, but only about their personal gains, just like colonial masters of yesteryear did. It was Carter G. Woodson, the “father of African-American History,” who once pronounced that:

When you control a man's thinking, you do not have to worry about his actions. If you can determine what a man thinks you do not have to worry about what he will do. If you can make a man believe that he is inferior, you don't have to compel him to seek an inferior status, he will do so without being told and if you can make a man believe that he is justly an outcast, you don't have to order him to the back door, he will go to the back door on his own and if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. (Greene, 2018)

Not only did the ex-colonial masters do solid ground work incarcerating African leaders' minds. The European colonizers may have let are still running the continent through *compradores*. They impose their *diktat* (dictated peace). Those who tried to rid themselves of such mental incarceration become enemies of the West, and subsequently, are overthrown and even assassinated. The case of late ex-Zaire Prime Minister, Patrice Emery Lumumba is elucidating. However, the assassination of Lumumba, stem dictator Mobutu was supported by the West until his demise. Moreover, there were and still are so many civil wars in Africa, including the Darfur Genocide today, the Rwanda human extermination and Chad's hot-years. Other examples include the Nigerian, Liberia and Sierra Leonian Civil wars, DRC, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Conakry, Congo-Brazzaville, the Civil War in Madagascar, the so-called Arab Spring in the Maghreb. But if Africa were that much poor and people on that continent barely find food to eat, they walk naked and yet in the various wars on the continent, they use heavy weaponry and tanks, where do poor Africans get these weapons from and how do they acquire these heavy and expensive weapons? And who are the suppliers of the weapons? And who are those weaponizing the polity of Africa?

The new scramble for African resources is well in place in exchange for armored combat vehicles and ammunitions so that the so-called "savage warmongers" may continue to kill each other, thus severely depleting the continent more and more of its labor force and other natural resources. The West's dealings with Africa reminds me of a novel written by former Benin Minister of Communication and current General Manager of Benin National Lotterv Department, Gaston Zossou, titled '*La Guerre des Chases dans l'Ombre*' [The War of Things in the Dark]. This old generation of African leaders will not get it. They won't get the artful tricks until new generations of young Africa-centered leaders who can separate the goat from the sheep, win elections and rule their countries. A worst form of slavery is, of course, mental slavery and we must rid ourselves of this gangrene. Down with the hypocrisy of the West in regards to Africa! Down with the West turning Africa into a beggar continent with its many natural

resources! It is true many of the current African leaders are so corrupt that it is imperative to educate a new generation of God-fearing leaders and politicians to help Africa regain its rightful place of a richly endowed continent by the Creator with bountiful resources, hence a rich continent on this journey of liberating African leaders' minds, Covenant University bearers and Afe Babalola University are torchbearers always striving to live up to their mantras of educating a new generation of leaders.

Moreover, contemporary African leaders should stop being fooled all the time. There is a saying that: "You can fool all the people most of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." Considering the many trials and tribulations Africans had suffered, there was a time all Africans were gulled into believing that the White man's God may be superior to the Black man's God because they can fool all the people some of the time; some Africans still believe that absurdity today because they can fool some of the people all the time; but because they cannot fool all the people all the time, many Africans today refuse to believe such nonsense and know that God is one, and he will always deliver his people from evil.

Conclusion

What went wrong? What issues should Africanist address? What has been the intellectual struggle in Africa? How do African bring the past benefits to bear in understanding our extant realities? There is a heuristic value to post questions than to post the wrong ones. The colonial exploiters have substituted themselves with compradores class, syphonning the wealth of Africa into the western banks while penurizing the African masses into superfluous appendages.

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