

AFRICA: CAN WE MIND IT?

Whatsoever is considered and propagated under the title: “The discovery of Africa” is regarded in Africa with every reason as colonization or subjugation. Unfortunately it is difficult to change the meaning of a principle that is rooted in the sustainable economical growth and increasing profit. At the time of strategic planning almost all aspects are being taken into consideration out of one called: humaneness.

With the development of the naval techniques the white civilizations got more far from the land of their ancestors and every new world that was discovered by them was considered automatically as their own property. In the medieval the shipping, advanced warfare and even the different diseases transmitted by the newcomers were means of an arsenal in order to attach the new areas to the crowns of kings or emperors. Therefore in a particular period of time always the nations that ruled over the oceans took decision over the distribution of the areas to be conquered. First the Spanish-Portuguese colonies were established than later the English and Netherlands ones who claimed their hegemony, too. The increasing level of the economy of these nations that demanded more raw materials was also an impact on the involvement of new areas.

The sailors got farer every time. With sailing around Africa in the 17th century the ships reached from Europe till Indonesia (Batavia that time), Columbus discovered America etc., but only the shore line of Africa was occupied by the conquerors who were hostile even between themselves. Their first settlements were just targeting how English can stop the French expansion, how can Portuguese prevent the English to spread while Africa supplied all of them with gold, raw materials and slaves. If we take a look at the map of Africa the different “official” languages give exact picture about these trends. Later even the Arabs entered the conquest and completed their income coming of the peaceful trade and caravan business with slave hunting and trade. The name of Ghana or Golden shore in Arabic means ghani, ghina= richness.

Two centuries ago or more the black natives of Africa lived on the level of the Stone Age in a well organized tribal system but with entire harmony with the nature. Their own culture and spiritual life goes back to thousands of years and major part of their system of logics and context are not being resolved by the white civilizations so far. Their terminologies and images regarding the property are quite different. In these cultures the property is not a case that has to be obtained and possessed at any case. They take only the quantity or amount that is essential as livelihood but the rest belongs to different spirits or to the nature. The system of the eternal circulation always secured for them the maintenance and survival. This sort of approach doesn't exist in the white cultures where the survival was always linked to the accumulation.

At the earlier periods southern part of Africa and the internal areas were always kept out of the conquest due to the strange epidemics and impenetrable natural conditions. Therefore in South Africa slavery is linked to a different image like in Nigeria, Senegal or Kenya notwithstanding later slaves were imported to South Africa from other part of the continent. However apartheid later played the similar role and caused the same shock like slavery. South Africa could get far from the interest of conquerors for long time. Jan van Riebeeck from Netherlands (Flemish today) was sent first to that place in 1652-1662 to handle a small settlement for ships coming to/from Indonesia as a logistic basement. At this site ships completed catering, took fresh water, unloaded sick sailors who were kept there till their recovery. The whole settlement consisted of not more than ten families at the beginning whose lifestyle was free of any control and they started business with local Khoji people. They bought mainly cows and vegetables from them. Nobody that time had any idea about

those treasures that earth kept. Later new settlers arrived and leaving behind the today Cape Town (Cape Colony) they occupied internal areas.



Jan van Riebeeck
(1619-1677)

These Boer settlers faced intensive resistance from the side of the native mainly Xosa tribes. The Boers were almost nomad society. Beside the strong Lutheran conviction nothing could describe them as Europeans. They lived in camps of coaches; their life was full of fight and struggle with the nature and the violent Xosas and later Zulus. When the treasures of Africa like gold and diamond beyond Cape Colony first glittered up even Britain declared its interest for the area. In the 19th century English were eager to prove that Cape Colony should operate under a parliamentary democracy and Boers are not matured to establish that without active British cooperation. With the parliamentary democracy arrived also weapons, army and anything else that can not be divided from democracies since this time. At level of interests the hostility between Boers and English became permanent that later converted into wars.



Cecil John Rhodes
(1853-1902)

On the second half of the 19th century appeared on the African scene Cecil John Rhodes who introduced the capital policy and concentration in the continent on large scale. He represented the interest of the British crown. He was the governor of South Africa in Transvaal and he established the British South Africa Association and the well run De Beers Enterprise dealing with diamond mining (Kimberley). His wealth increased to an extent that nobody could estimate it due to the mining and stake manipulations. He never dealt directly with mining. He handled the stakes and in the stock exchange and he gained. The clashes were permanent between him and the Boer Paul Kruger and maybe that was the only quarrel he lost. The governor of Pretoria, Kruger defeated Rhodes and even if the representation of British interests were failed in Transvaal but not to the north and to the south of Transvaal. Rhodes was not serving the British crown exclusively. When he started his career he was supported by the Rothschild family. Nevertheless Rhodes didn't represent them either. Rhodes was an individual phenomenon. His dream was to link Cape Colony with Cairo. That meant colonies, interests, infrastructure and the railway line exclusively. English settlers were sent to get forward into the internal territories of the today Zimbabwe and they found huge areas rich in gold and diamond. In order to get these areas they signed tricky contracts with the Matebele king, Lobengula, who had no idea what his fingerprint meant on the place of the signature. However he understood soon. It meant his kingdom. Endless wars began between the well equipped English who defended their legitimate rights and the deceived "barbaric" black tribes that were known in the history under the name: Matebele war. In spite of English used the most developed automatic weapons against the spears and arrows they could hardly win. Rhodes is buried in Rhodesia that is called after him (today Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi together) in 1902. Even if he didn't die in war at the time of his funeral at Matopos (60 km from Bulawayo) the chiefs of Matebele tribes were present and expressed their respect by shouting: Bayete what title is given for their kings and means: His Majesty. The question is: who behaved that time like gentlemen at Matebeleland? We can't forget to mention at the same period of time Herbert Kitchener who also represented the British crown in Egypt and Sudan in 1886-1899 than later in 1911-1914. Between these two periods he served in India.



Herbert Kithcener
(1850-1916)

His method was not the manipulation of stakes and stock exchange like in the case of Rhodes. He was strategist, politician, state official and diplomat. His method was to create dividedness and generating hostilities. He kept the blood of English soldiers too expensive while the blood of blacks very cheap and if that latter one was shed the world doesn't care about it at all. Egypt was ally to the British Empire. He occupied northern part of Sudan starting from Egypt by making the local tribes mainly the Shagiya's ally to him. Their chiefs enjoyed the "grace" of Britain by recognizing their legitimacy for their kingdoms, their children could learn in British schools etc. For the sake of a good friend like Britain, Shagiya people sacrificed even their own sons. Further on they were the determining factor in the local colonial army and became warriors at the frontlines where the blood of other Sudanese tribes had to be poured out. They fought with Djaalies, Dungulawies and with all who were on the way of British interests. The result was not only the territories that were conquered cheaply with the less British casualties but the dividedness of natives that was maintained on long term, too. Recently it has been found that even the southern tribes live in areas that strategically have significance so with the same method these Shuluk, Dinka and Nawir people are manipulated with remote control from a far place to be hostile between each other and to be enemies against the northern tribes.

In the above article I was only scratching the surface and didn't enter in deep analyses of the particular countries or Africa. However it can be seen what I want to make clear. Africa could live nicely without the outstanding world but today the world can not live without Africa. Two centuries ago people of Africa lived in harmony and tranquility following their own traditions and culture. No African had intention to go for example from Sudan to London and after putting the Sudanese flag somewhere in London to declare it as the hunting area of his tribe exclusively. However the same phenomenon happened systematically by the white side. It was forced to the black nations to go thru a non-desirable social evolution during two hundred years or less what the white cultures realized during thousands of years. In order to achieve this goal the necessary infrastructure, schools and institutions have been established by the white colonialists it is true. On the other hand it is also true that these infrastructures they built not for the blacks but for their own welfare. The age of colonies is over officially but the withdrawal didn't take place and the dividedness has been maintained. Only the withdrawals of particular infrastructures have taken place. Perhaps the situation is even worse this time than it was at the age of colonies. At the moment the outstanding world expects from blacks to organize self administration and internal order in areas where the outstanding world has no interest at all to maintain the internal order and self administration. Political status quos and interesting internal balances are taken place where the result is always the devastation of black masses.

The poverty, diseases, local wars and much more what we don't even mention are killing the nations. The outstanding world is there to continue the same game that began with the Spanish, Portuguese, English, and Boers in order to possess this continent but at this time they want it without blacks.

The technological gap is increasing, the differences between the standards of civilizations are growing too, and what is the solution?

We can see some examples from the world of animals. If an animal was captured and kept in captivity by men and after a period it was thrown back to the nature again this animal can die soon. Sometime men help this animal to make wild again by teaching it for hunting and imitating natural environment in order it can run its life alone.

The process of making wild again works properly at the case of humans unfortunately. They make human wild but not in order to help. They make them extra wild by giving arms in the

hands of native people who were casted out even from the achievements of the last several hundreds of years and train them in order to maintain dividedness. Advanced weapons are in the poor hands of people whose brain is working according the standard of Stone Age in order to realize the biggest massacres between them than the outstanding world makes comments and reports that introduce the brutal reality but not the forces and interests hidden behind.