

THE IMPACT OF COLONIZATION ON THE AFRICAN WRITER'S PSYCHOLOGICAL BEHAVIOR

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ABSTRACT: *This paper deals with the Impact of Colonization on the African Writer's Psychological Behavior. It takes the African writer and the major role of the Psychological Behavior as stimulation factor in writing about Colonization. Therefore, colonialism is considered to be a relationship between the indigenous majority and a small number of foreign invaders in which decisions made by colonizers directly affect the lives of the colonized people. European powers became more and more interested in gaining territories for themselves. Many European countries felt that their resources were in short supply after industrialization and were keen to find new resources such as gold and ivory. However, it is probably the combination of several suppositions that is best suited to capture the motivating factors. It becomes us to bear in mind that the conquest of Africa was not carried out by a monolithic entity with a single set of objectives*

KEYWORDS: Wealth, Religion, Slavery, Western-Style Education.

INTRODUCTION

The Europeans had explored and traded in Africa for many centuries before extensive colonization began in the 1880s. This trade and exploration, however, mostly took place along the coast of the continent and the Europeans knew very little about the interior. In exploring the coastal areas, Europeans were hoping to find a trade route to India. Early African trade contact had been made with Portugal, the Netherlands, Britain and France from as early as the 15th century. Colonization is the forming of a settlement or colony by a group of people who seek to take control of territories or countries. It usually involves large-scale immigration of people to a 'new' location and the expansion of their civilization and culture into this area. Colonization may involve dominating the original inhabitants of the area. The economic boom in Europe resulting from the Industrial Revolution led to growth in African trade during the 1800s. Extensive supplies of African goods and natural resources began to be traded in the growing European market. The Europeans traded goods such as cloth, metals and beads in exchange for African ebony, ivory and gold. Europeans also obtained raw materials such as palm oil, cotton, copper, tin and wild rubber. They also discovered African diamonds in 1870. Through the exchange of goods, Africans acquired cooking pots, axes and guns. Early trade contact had been made with the coastal areas of Africa from the 15th century, and Europeans had occupied coastal areas from the early 1800s. Until the late 1800s, however, Europeans knew very little about inland Africa. The harsh climate, thick forests and the threat of disease had made the exploration of Africa's interior difficult. Advances in transport and medicine in the later part of the century, however, led to further exploration of the continent. From the 1880s, explorers started to investigate further inland. Some of these explorers were also missionaries who wanted to wipe out the internal slave trade in Africa. As the decade progressed, explorers from more European countries began to investigate Africa. By the 1880s,

Europeans were competing for trade and land in Africa. Some historians have suggested that this competition may have contributed to the outbreak of World War I. Europeans wanted to control Africa's trading markets and negotiated several agreements, called protectorates, to secure trade access. African rulers were often defeated if they resisted granting Europeans access to their lands. It has been suggested that the French wanted to regain their reputation after their defeat by the British at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, and to gain some territory. Many people in Britain saw the colonization of Africa as a chance to end slavery but also as a chance to increase trade. Belgium's King Leopold II had previously invested money in the exploration of the area and many historians believe that he wanted a return on his investment. By the late 19th century, European countries were claiming parts of Africa as their own territory. There were fears that disputes over land might cause a war, so in 1884 the Berlin Conference was called to discuss the colonization of Africa. In 1446, the Portuguese were the first Europeans to establish settlements, trade posts and ports of call along the oceanic coasts of African continent.¹ Africa seemed attractive to European rulers for economic and racial reasons. Africa offered Britain, France, Germany and other countries an open market for trade, a market that bought more from colonial power than it sold overall. From then on, African territory was randomly divided between European countries that tried to impose elements from their culture.

DISCUSSION

To recapture the primary developments that account for Europe's increased involvement in Africa, we review the role of Christianity, medicinal and technological advances, and the lure of capitalist gains. First, Europe experienced a Christian revival in the 19th century. Missionaries began to focus on the large working class with the goal of bringing spiritual salvation to the workers and their families. Due to their large successes, missionaries began to look beyond Europe. Missions were established all over Africa. Missionaries did not serve as direct agents of European imperialism, yet they drew European governments deeper into Africa. In their efforts to preach Christianity, to bring western-style education to Africa and to ingrain monogamy in African societies, missionaries often felt threatened by warfare within Africa. Hence, missionaries called on European governments for protection and intervention. Yet the motivation for Great Britain to send troops and become involved in the region was not really the lingering slave trade in Malawi. Great Britain was concerned with the presence of the Portuguese in Mozambique. The letters of the missionaries merely served as a convenient excuse to enter the region and establish British interests. Second, European medicinal discoveries and technological advances paved the way for Europeans to penetrate the African continent much more deeply and effectively. The discovery of quinine as a prophylactic drastically reduced the number of Europeans succumbing to malaria in Africa. For centuries, malaria, and to a lesser degree yellow fever, had thwarted European attempts at exploring the continent and establishing a firmer foothold in Africa. With quinine as an explicit part of each European's travel kit, considerations of life and death due to disease no longer impeded European intentions vis-à-vis Africa. Such medicinal developments were complemented by technological advances. Europe with advantages that proved crucial in European imperial ventures in Africa and Asia. Superior weapons technology certainly did not forestall opposition, but it clearly provided Europe with an edge that facilitated the realization of Europe's objectives. Both medicinal discoveries and technological advances reflect the novelties in manufacturing and engineering so characteristic of the industrial revolution. Third,

the relationship between expeditions of exploration and capitalism cannot be overlooked. For centuries, European explorers have traveled throughout the African continent in their attempts to discover new things and to chart the African continent. Explorers of note include David Livingstone, Mungo Park, Richard Francis Burton, and Henry Morgan Stanley. To find the source of the Nile river was for decades the goal of many adventurers; John Henning Speke became the first European to correctly identify Lake Victoria as the source of the Nile. From 1788 to 1877, an explosion of such exploration tours took place. Great Britain's Royal Geographic Society sponsored many expeditions and became a focal point for discussing the findings of the explorers through discourse, publications, and lectures. Upon the explorers' return to Europe, they described to European audiences what they saw and experienced and, most importantly, talked of great riches. It is important to realize that these explorers had immense freedom in relating their travel accounts. After all, they were the first to travel through Africa. Their travel accounts, consequently, tended to stretch the truth and exaggerate. Nonetheless, their stories greatly stimulated European interest in Africa as they implied great trade opportunities. These three developments are clearly significant for any attempt to answer the overarching question of why Europe colonized Africa. But these developments alone are lacking in their ability to provide satisfactory answers. Missionaries' zeal for spreading the Christian faith accounts for the activities of missionaries in Africa but does not have much explanatory clout with respect to European states' conquest of Africa. Likewise, simply because Europeans could now travel throughout Africa without easily succumbing to malaria does not explain the colonial intentions of European powers. Possessing superior weapons also does not account for their actual use in colonial conquests. Being fascinated by the travel narratives of European explorers who traveled through Africa, indubitably, does not lead to the colonization of an entire continent. Where to go from here? Various scholars have put forward their theories attempting to explain why Europe conquered Africa. Here, we will consider a small sampling of such attempts. Some scholars argue that economics was the sole determining factor. They contend that the capitalist systems within Europe produced more than what was consumed by Europeans. Consumer goods remained on the shelves as the working masses could not afford to buy them. Instead of reducing production in the industrial sector, industrialists and bankers tried to find new markets. However, there are distinct problems associated with this approach. Colonies, after all, were very expensive to establish and maintain. Simply because European powers were developing the economic potentials of their colonies does not mean that the colonies were established for that purpose. The economic exploitation of the colonies might have occurred in order to cover the expense of maintaining the colonies in the first place and to meet debt obligations incurred by European states during the world wars. What emerges is an unclear picture of causation. Other scholars considered geopolitical strategy a more decisive factor. Great Britain was interested in preserving its status as the economic giant. Free trade was instrumental to Great Britain's economic status. A series of events caused worries for the British government. According to Robinson and Gallagher, the British felt compelled to seek colonies and to create trading monopolies in order to maintain their status. In short, the creation of colonies was a direct consequence of prior arrangements in the realm of commerce collapsing or being threatened and thereby jeopardizing Great Britain's status. Hence, Brunshwig believed that France was most concerned with prestige. It wanted to be seen as a big player on the global scene, therefore the need for colonies. Yet other scholars argue that the impetus for European imperialism in Africa did not stem from factors within Europe. Kanya-Forstner⁴ (1969), for example, contended that the impetus came from the "men on the spot." He argued that we should focus on Europeans already in Africa to explain why Europe colonized Africa. The prime example is the actions of a small French military regiment in Senegal in the mid-19th century. The troops staffed outposts which were

left over from the slave trade era. Without frequent communication from France and without a clear mission the troops grew more and more anxious and restless. Eventually they began launching attacks on African villages and conquered land on their own accord. The explanations for Europe's colonization of Africa, then, are as diverse and manifold as the conjectures of history will allow. It is likely that each supposition contains some elements of reality and holds some explanatory power. Consequently, the question "Why did Europe colonize Africa?" demands a thorough exploration of all factors, domestic and foreign, influencing a particular state's conquest in a particular part of the African continent. The history of external colonization of Africa can be divided into two stages: Classical antiquity and European colonialism. In popular parlance, discussions of colonialism in Africa usually focus on the European conquests that resulted in the scramble for Africa after the Berlin Conference in the 19th century. ^[1]^[2] In nearly all African countries today, the language used in government and media is a relic inherited from one of these waves of colonization. The existence of a vast African diaspora is largely the legacy of the practice of transporting millions of African slaves out of the continent by these external colonizers. Modern scholars also blame the current under-development of Africa on the colonial era.^[3] Africa suffered from the consequences of colonialism. The French and British empires covered huge areas with a range of cultures and people at different stages of evolution. In order to rule the new territories, both of them had to implement various policies and bring institutions to every corner of the empire. Colonizers divided the land and set up private property rights that did not exist before. They invested in education, health care system, and infrastructure and so on and so forth. England and France had a great influence in reshaping the colonies. The British, as well as the Germans used the idea of 'Imperial Monarchy'. As for the French, they had to struggle with incorporation of Africans into a republican tradition ^[4]. In this process, some of the local values and institutions were replaced with modern ones. Moreover, colonization obstructed the internal process of state formation and development in Africa and left legacies of corruption and political instability^[5]. As a matter of fact, the opinions are biased between researchers; some of them consider that Europeans had a positive influence in Africa; others affirm that Africa can be developed only by Africans and not by outsiders. Nevertheless, a clear conclusion cannot be drawn because some of the measures taken by colonizers had different outcomes and not necessarily positive ones. As a consequence of colonialism, nowadays Africa is a mixture of people, languages, religions, customs etc. Slavery was also practiced in the African societies, and it was the African leaders and intermediaries who brought most of the slaves to the coast. Colonial rule can be regarded as the phase of Africa's integration into the international system ^[6]. According to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, the term 'colonialism' is used to describe the process of European settlement and political control over the rest of the world. . In most cases, colonizers reject cultural compromises with the colonized population and try to impose their own rules, maintain order, and show superiority.^[13] the independent countries did not develop easier or faster. British colonies developed more than the rest and this can be seen even nowadays due to the investment made. Uganda has benefited from higher educational investments during the colonial period and as a result the percentage of literate people is bigger in this country than in Senegal and Ethiopia. Furthermore, the former British colonies are more competitive in political terms, inheriting a decentralized state structure. The manner in which Africa is portrayed nowadays is derived from an encounter with the West, the intervention of the post- 1885 'Scramble for Africa', and the partition of the continent between European powers. The map of Africa changed since then and the only countries that escaped from colonization were Liberia and Ethiopia, although they were never completely free. Colonial rule lasted between sixty and eighty years for the most part. The changes that appeared were deep, touching various aspects including cultures and institutions. The exploitative connection

between Africa and a global economy changed the way the whole world was seeing Africa, it changed into an inferior race. Colonial conquest was just a means of showing racial arrogance, humiliating African leaders and their people^[7]. Established empires, notably Britain, Portugal and France, had already claimed for themselves vast areas of Africa and Asia, and emerging imperial powers like Italy and Germany had done likewise on a smaller scale. With the dismissal of the aging Chancellor Bismarck by Kaiser Wilhelm II, the relatively orderly colonization became a frantic scramble. The 1884 Berlin Conference, initiated by Bismarck to establish international guidelines for the acquisition of African territory, formalized this "New Imperialism". Between the Franco-Prussian War and the Great War, Europe added almost 9 million square miles (23,000,000 km²) one-fifth of the land area of the globe to its overseas colonial possessions. Vincent Khapoya notes the great self-esteem some European states felt at possessing territory many times larger than themselves. He adds the significant contribution made by Africans to struggle among the great powers. He states that one million people of African descent fought for the Allies in World War I and two million in World War II. Khapoya considers the colonizers' administrative styles. "The French, the Portuguese, the Germans and the Belgians exercised a highly centralized type of administration called 'direct rule.' The British sought to rule by identifying local power holders and encouraging or forcing these to administer for the British Empire. This was indirect rule.^[8] France ruled from France, appointing chiefs individuals without considering traditional criteria, but rather loyalty to France. France established two large colonial federations in Africa, French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa. France appointed officials, passed laws and had to approve any measures passed by colonial assemblies. Local groups in German East Africa resisted German enforced labour and taxation. The Germans were almost driven out of the area in 1888.^[9] A decade later the colony seemed conquered, though, "It had been a long drawn-out struggle and inland administration centres were in reality little more than a series of small military fortresses." In 1905, the Germans were astonished by a widely supported uprising. This resistance was at first successful. However, within a year, the insurgency was suppressed by reinforcing troops armed with machine guns. German attempts to seize control in Southwest Africa also produced ardent resistance, which was very forcefully put down. King Leopold II of Belgium called his vast private colony the Congo Free State. Effectively this meant those exploiting the area were free of all restraint and answerable only to the Belgian king. The treatment of the Africans under this system was harsh enough to cause the other colonial powers to plead with the Belgian king to exercise some moderating influence. Eventually the Belgian government annexed the territory as a Belgian colony. Khapoya notes the significant attention colonial powers paid to the economics of colonization. This included: acquisition of land, often enforced labor, introduction of cash crops, sometimes even to the neglect of food crops, changing inter-African trading patterns of pre-colonial times, introduction of laborers from India, etc. and the continuation of Africa as a source of raw materials for European industry.^[17] Colonial powers also focused on abolishing slavery, developing infrastructure and improving health and education.^[10]

CONCLUSION

Colonialism encouraged competition and conflicts between ethnic groups. Africa was self-developing before Europeans came to help. With violence, colonialism created new frontiers, and developed new political and economic objectives. After the end of colonialism, Africa started developing on its own, though in Western terms. The main achievement of colonial rule

is state-building. The colonizers regarded themselves as agents of change. The colonial powers developed modern export systems, infrastructure and education facilities that were necessary to make the whole colonization venture profitable. The commercialization of land, labor and products gave a specific money value to activities that had been previously used in social matters. In pre-colonial Africa, farmers and peasants were producing for either their own use or to trade for other goods though the concept of production for the global market did not exist for them.

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