



My rant on Africa

Four years ago an African country made an announcement that shocked the economic and political world. This announcement was not greeted with pride or happiness, instead it was greeted with fear and panic, and what followed was extensive interference from the West in this country's affairs to stop other African countries following suit. This announcement was made by then President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo. He said, "Nigeria is no longer in debt to the West, we have paid off all our debts."

The main problem with Africa is not corrupt leaders, nor tribalism, it isn't even poverty. The main problem with Africa is that Western people think they are helping, and Western governments and multinationals pretend they are helping. When we give all our aid, what are we building, a strong continent or a dependant one? Africa has over a third of the world's natural resources, so it certainly is not money these people need.

Africa has corrupt leaders, who preside over dictatorships. Sounds very much like Europe a few centuries back, and if Europe has become the perfect continent it so obviously is, shouldn't Africa be given the chance?

I am not condoning the dictators, but I am saying that Africa is a

product of the landscape that was raped and pillaged by the West. That landscape, as barren as it is now, can develop, if given the opportunity, but not with the patronising help (gifts) of the hand that brought it to its knees.

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In another lifetime the West supported Mugabe. In this lifetime they don't. He is a truly evil man, I agree, but let me tell you the other side. Here is a man who on coming to power, saw a country in debt to the West, who saw a country that though independent was also subservient. Here is a man who saw a country of 99% blacks, yet it was estimated that 80% of the wealth was with the minority whites. Here is a desperate man.

Then look at Nigeria where all the Western multinationals hire foreigners to do work, and it is not due to a lack of skills. Find a head

of the African arm of a multinational company that is black, and I will find you twenty that are white.

Then you have the aid charities who do such a brilliant job of creating a dependence culture. They feed the hungry today, and then feed them again tomorrow. Why don't we all just sponsor an African child for LIFE? Governments will never take responsibility for their people while they have do gooders to do it for them.

Then we have the EU's protectionist laws on farmed goods. The EU will happily sell to Africa, but if it is not oil or diamonds, it becomes pedantic in terms of buying, impoverishing many African farmers, who have turned to dealing with the Chinese, who offer missiles and guns in return for food out of their abundant kindness.

This sums up for me the West's dealings in Africa. It is neither fair, and rarely is it trade. It is more like highway robbery, then giving the victim some of the money back as a gift. If many African nations had not become so dependant on the west, they would reply as Obasanjo replied, and they too would spurn such an offer. So as someone told me a few months ago, and I say now, let Africa be Africa.

The young person who wrote this article wishes to remain anonymous