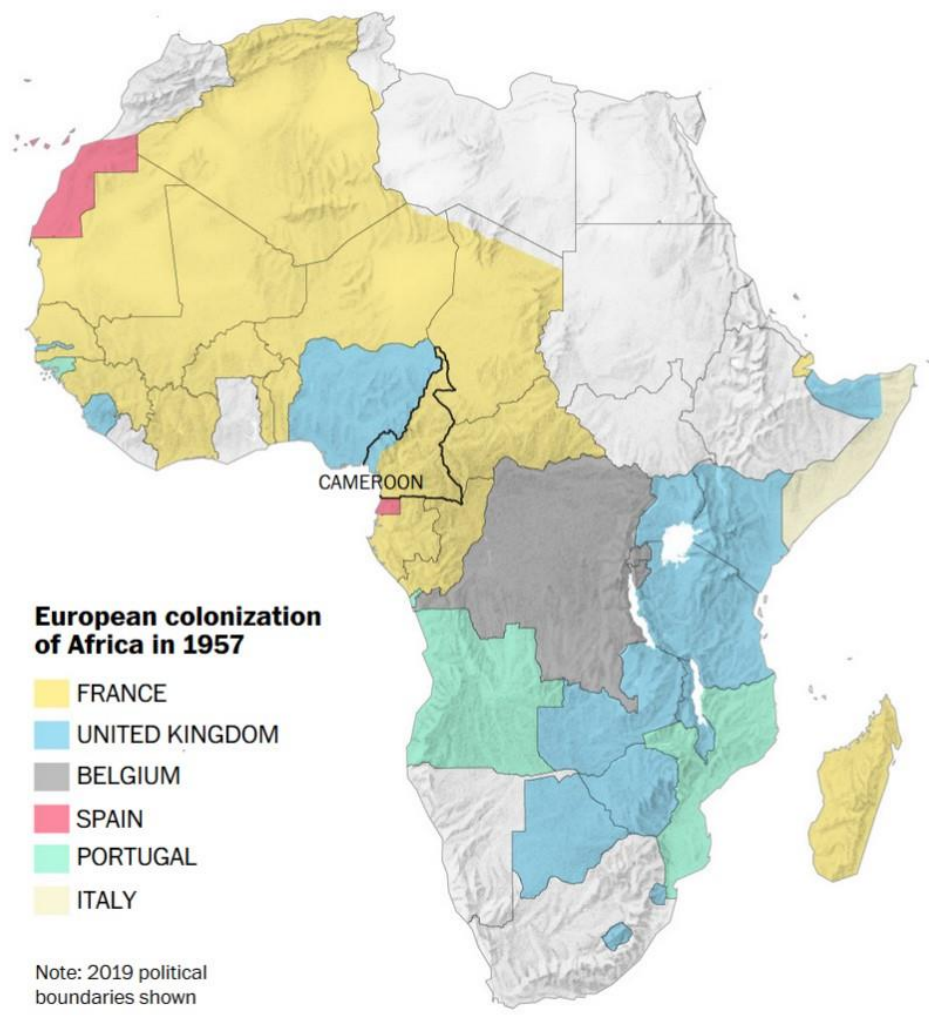


Francafrrique - A literature review and statistical analysis of historic and contemporary policies and practices perpetuating French neo-colonialism and neo-crusades in the Sahel region of Africa

ABSTRACT

Neo-Colonialism is a relatively well-known concept though most people don't really understand the specific details as to how it is implemented. This paper examines those details - the economic and military mechanisms of neo-colonialism in conjunction with another aspect of that combined process herein dubbed "Neo-Crusading," which thus far has effectively and conveniently "slipped under the radar" of the western mainstream press and even the alternative press. Statistical data is provided and analyzed to support the belief that "neo-crusading" is a significant part of the neo-colonial process in 14 participating CFA franc scheme nations in Western Africa as demonstrated by correlations between UNDP development data and relative percentages of Muslims and Christians in the participating nations. The four most developed of the 14 nations studied have high percentages of Christians in those nations, above 50% whereas four of the five least developed nations in the 14 participating CFA franc scheme countries have high percentages of Muslims in those nations, above 50% with three of those four Muslim countries being natural resource rich countries (Niger, Chad & Mali). Market fluctuations in oil prices alone cannot explain why Niger is according to UNDP figures the single least developed country in the world while simultaneously being one of the natural resource richest countries in the world. Niger provides almost half the uranium France needs for its energy consumption. That both African Christian and Muslim populations are disproportionately poor given their natural resources is certainly true, however strong correlations suggest African Catholic nations are being robbed less than African Protestants, who are robbed less than the most discriminated against people on earth, African Muslims. Numerous potential solutions are offered at the end of this analytic study and literature review.

Map identifying different European colonies in Africa in 1957 with 2019 national boundaries added



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“Africa shares with Asia a common background of colonialism, of exploitation, of discrimination, of oppression. At Bandung, African and Asian States dedicated themselves to the liberation of their two continents from foreign domination and affirmed the right of all nations to develop in their own way, free of any external interference.”¹

Haile Selassie

¹ “The Afro-Asian Conference, known generally as the Bandung Conference, was to that date the largest gathering of Asian and African nations. On April 18 to 24, 1955, twenty-nine representatives of nations from Africa and Asia came together in Bandung, Indonesia, to promote African and Asian economic coalitions and decolonization. The Conference expressly declared its opposition to both colonialism and neocolonialism not only by the European powers then in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, but also by the United States and the Soviet Union.” <https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/bandung-conference-1955/>)

Introduction and Background

In Africa today colonialization continues thinly disguised under a preposterous veneer of altruism. Worse still, significant correlates suggest powerful elements of anti-Muslim bias reminiscent of the crusader occupation of the holy lands are present in the distribution of their diminutive “largesse” within their impoverished underdeveloped “neo-colonies.” This paper focuses specifically on 17 “neo-colonies” of France clustered in West and Central Africa.

The CFA Franc Zones: Neocolonialism and Dependency

Neocolonialism and France

August 10, 2018 – “Kwame Nkrumah stated, “...imperialism... claims, that it is “giving” independence to its former subjects, to be followed by “aid” for their development. Under cover of such phrases, however, it devises innumerable ways to accomplish objectives formerly achieved by naked colonialism. It is this sum total of these modern attempts to perpetuate colonialism while at the same time talking about “freedom”, which has come to be known as neo-colonialism.”

“French geopolitics in Africa is interested in natural resources. Initially, the franc zone was set as a colonial monetary system by issuing currency in the colonies because France wanted to avoid transporting cash. After these countries gained their independence, the monetary system continued its operation and went on to include two other countries that were not former French colonies. At present, the CFA franc zones are made up of 14 countries. The fact that even today the currency of these regions is pegged to the euro (formerly French franc) and that reserves are deposited in France shows the subtle neocolonialism France has been pursuing unchecked. It is a currency union where France is the center and has veto power. This is supported by African governing elites who rely on the economic, political, technical, and sometimes military support provided by France. It is no wonder then that these former colonies are not growing to their full potential because they have exchanged development through sovereignty for dependency on France.

“In 2007, the former Senegalese President, Abdoulaye Wade had stated that the funds can be used to boost investment, economic growth and alleviate poverty in the member countries instead of sitting in France...

“The Central African Economic and Monetary Union (CEMAC) and the West African Economic and Monetary Community (WAEMU) are known as the two CFA franc zones. WAEMU has eight members: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau (a former Portuguese colony joined in 1997), Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. Their common currency is the “franc de la Communaute Financiere de l’Afrique (CFA franc), which is issued by the Central Bank of the West African States (BCEAO) located in Dakar, Senegal. CEMAC has six members: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea (a former Spanish colony which joined CEMAC in 1985) and Gabon. Their common

currency is “*franc de la Cooperation Financiere Africaine*”, which is issued by the Bank of the Central African States (BEAC) located in Yaounde, Cameroon. It is worth mentioning that the BCEAO and the BEAC were headquartered in Paris until the late 1970s...

“Since 1948, the two CFA francs were pegged at the rate of 50 CFA francs per French franc. In 1994, the CFA francs went through devaluation, 50 percent to be exact.

“France is carrying out neocolonialism by disguising this arrangement as a monetary union.”

<https://economicquestions.org/cfa-franc-neocolonialism/>

For a nation that loudly trumpets its great liberalism, historically and today French foreign policies display the exact opposite tendencies in its colonies in Africa, much the same as it did leading the Crusades some 900 years ago.

French Leadership in the Crusades

The French were in many ways the leaders of the Crusades.

“Pope Urban II preached the First Crusade (1096-1099) at Clermont in Auvergne (mod. Clermont-Ferrand) in November 1095, and, with rare exceptions, French pilgrims and warriors made up the largest contingents of all subsequent crusades until King Louis IX's ill-fated journey to Tunis in 1270.”

<https://erenow.net/postclassical/crusades/331.php>

The Crusades ended officially in 1291, so the above date of 1270 means the French were the largest contingents in the Crusades for nearly the entire duration of the Crusades.

One of the most notorious of the Crusaders was French Reynald de Chatillon who endlessly broke truces, hired a pirate fleet to terrorize and rob Muslims and Christians alike, and worked in every way possible to provoke particularly the Muslims.

“The unsavory character of these raids has led most historians and commentators to condemn them in the harshest terms. They are described as acts of perfidy and piracy, and usually depicted as the brainchild of the notoriously avaricious, unscrupulous and brutal Reynald de Chatillon, the lord of the crusader barony of Oultrejourdain. Chatillon was infamous for attacking and sacking the Christian island of Cyprus, for torturing the Patriarch of Antioch to extract treasure from him, and later for breaking truces to attack caravans. He would eventually meet his just end at Salah ad-Din's own hand following the Battle of Hattin, when the Sultan personally executed him.”

<http://www.crusaderkingdoms.com/red-sea-raids.html>

(Any similarities between Reynald de Chatillon and any American president past or present is purely coincidental.)

None-the-less anyone in the 21st century who tries to compare the crusades to colonialism, or other profit-driven western “interventions” into Muslim countries is invariably labeled as a terrorist sympathizer, much the same as anyone who expresses any approval of anything socialist is labeled a Communist sympathizer.

Demise of the Templar Knights

At dawn on Friday, 13 October 1307, French King Philip IV ordered the elderly Grand Master of the Templar Knights – the premier Catholic warriors during the Crusades - Jacques de Molay and hundreds of other French Templars to be simultaneously arrested and charged with numerous impious acts, including idolatry, homosexuality, corruption, fraud and secrecy.

Though figures vary, hundreds to thousands of Templar knights were subsequently arrested, tortured and burned alive. Most historians believe the reason for this was the Templars were exceedingly wealthy having introduced international banking to Europe during their long participation in the Crusades and the king wanted their treasure and to break a powerful force that might conceivably have competed for power.

It is widely believed this horrific set of events led to Friday the 13th being an “unlucky” day number in US and Europe.

This history is cited to demonstrate several things. First, even Christians are not safe from Crusaders, as was demonstrated by Reynald de Chatillon, the sack of Constantinople, and the Reformation Wars, and today is demonstrated in UNDP records demonstrating even resource rich Christian countries in France’s neo-colonies in Western Africa are grotesquely underdeveloped, though not quite as discriminated against as Muslim countries.

The Catholic Church and the Legitimization of Slavery

“Since the sixth century and right up until the twentieth century it has been common Catholic teaching that the social, economic and legal institution of slavery is morally legitimate provided that the master's title of ownership is valid and provided that the slave is properly looked after and cared for, both materially and spiritually. This institution of genuine slavery, whereby one human being is legally owned by another, and is forced to work for the exclusive benefit of his owner in return for food, clothing and shelter, and may be bought, sold, donated or exchanged, was not merely tolerated but was commonly approved of in the Western Latin Church for over 1400 years. Since the early beginnings (in the eighteenth century) of the modern anti-slavery movement, a few Catholic historians have done their best to whitewash the past history of this common teaching of the Popes, Councils, Church Fathers, Bishops, canonists and moralists on slavery. They have done so with the well-intentioned motive of defending the good name of the Catholic Church. There have been a number of errors included in this common teaching - uncritical reliance on the legal titles of slave-ownership in Roman law as if they were principles of reason and justice; misunderstanding of the application of the natural moral law to slavery; neglect by recent moralists of a criterion of morality, namely the natural and necessary effects of actions or omissions; defective scholastic metaphysical analysis

of the nature of slave-ownership; neglect of the importance of changes in the circumstances of the institution of slavery since the time of the Apostles; and finally, fundamentalist misinterpretation of texts of Holy Scripture; and there was evidently some fear that publicizing these errors would do more harm than good.”

Slavery and the Catholic Church - The History of Catholic teaching Concerning the Moral Legitimacy of the Institutions of Slavery. By John Francis Maxwell, Barry Rose Publishers. Chichester and London in association with the Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights. 1975 Page 10

Special rules however governed the enslavement of Muslims and Turks.

“For Paul III did not contradict the common Catholic teaching that the enslavement of hostile non-Christian Indians by right of capture in just war is in conformity with natural law, the *jus gentium* and Christian customary law. However, it may be prohibited by Royal edict. But if the Indians behave as the enemies of Christendom, they may be treated like Moors and Turks.

“And even the putting down of a rebellion of the Indians provides a sufficient title for enslavement in just warfare. And so Avendano concludes that in such circumstances the Indians can still sometimes be reduced to slavery with a safe conscience.”

Slavery and the Catholic Church - The History of Catholic teaching Concerning the Moral Legitimacy of the Institutions of Slavery. By John Francis Maxwell, Barry Rose Publishers. Chichester and London in association with the Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights. 1975

Pages 70 & 71

Contemporary Neo-Crusades in the Sahel region of Africa – A Statistical Analysis

Reading the following analysis of published reports on the current French colonies in Africa, one might conclude the French remain at the forefront of the Crusades, however much the U.S. might try to usurp that title.

This isn't to say or suggest that French Foreign policies in Africa are so nice to their African Christian brethren either, they are not, however the worst of the worst appears to be reserved for predominantly Muslim countries.

Table 1 – UNDP development ranking, life expectancy, mean years of schooling, percentages of Muslim and Christian populations, and resource wealth in the 14 African Countries participating in the CFA franc scheme

	UNDP Dev. Rank of 189 Countries	Life expectancy at birth	Mean Years of Schooling	% Muslim Population	% Christian Population	Resource Wealth 1=Small 2=Undev. 3=Dev
Benin	163	61.2	3.6	28	49.0	1
Burkina Faso	183	60.8	1.5	89	8.3	1
Côte d'Ivoire	170	54.1	5.2	24.9	51.8	2
Guinea-Bissau	177	57.8	3.0	45	22.0	1
Mali	182	58.5	2.3	94.8	2.4	3
Niger	189	60.4	2.0	98	1.1	3
Senegal One of two headquarters of the CFA Franc Zones – and thus "deserving" to be a statistical anomaly	164	67	3.0	94	4.0	3
Togo	165	60.5	4.8	14	48.0	2
Cameroon	151	58.6	6.3	19	70.0	3
Central African Republic with Protestantism being the largest denomination. France of course is Catholic. (See Martin Luther and the Wars of the Reformation.)	188	52.9	4.3	15	65	3
Chad	186	53.2	2.3	58	34	3
Congo	137	60.0	6.3	1	90	3
Equatorial Guinea (Former Spanish colony, however now part of CFA franc zone CEMAC)	141	57.9	5.5	2	93	2
Gabon	110	66.5	8.2	9.8	82	2

In the following statistical analysis, two "anomalies," were withdrawn from the sample for methodological reasons, e.g. they are not anomalies at all but rather entirely predictable significant deviations resulting from political considerations (biasing intervening variables).

- The Protestant Central African Republic, given the history of enmity between Catholics and Protestants. The CAR may get the short end of the stick from France possibly because France is a Catholic country that fought many wars against Protestants.
- Senegal, home of the West African Economic and Monetary Community (WAEMU) as naturally the French government is highly motivated to maintain their economic well-

being (in spite of Senegal being a predominantly Muslim country).

Results

The results indicate that the four most developed nations of the 14 included in this analysis also have the highest percentages of Christians (see Table 2 below).

Table 2 The four most highly developed nations of the 14 studied according to the 2018 UNDP ranking system and percent of Christians in those nations.

The most developed of the 14 CFA franc scheme Nations studied	UNDP ranking among 189 countries	Percent of Christians in that nation's population	Resource Wealth 1=Small 2=Underdeveloped 3=Developed
1. Gabon	110	82	2
2. Congo	137	90	3
3. Equatorial Guinea	141	93	2
4. Cameroon	151	70	3

(Please keep in mind, the lower the score on the UNDP ranking system, the more developed that nation is. Thus, Gabon is the most developed of the 14 nations in the CFA Franc scheme.)

Table 3 (below) illustrates that of the five least developed countries participating the 14 nation CFA franc scheme, four are Muslim, and they are also the countries with the highest percentages of Muslims compared to Christians. The one Christian country among the least developed nations is the Central African Republic whose Christians are primarily Protestant, a Christian denomination with whom the Catholics warred for centuries.

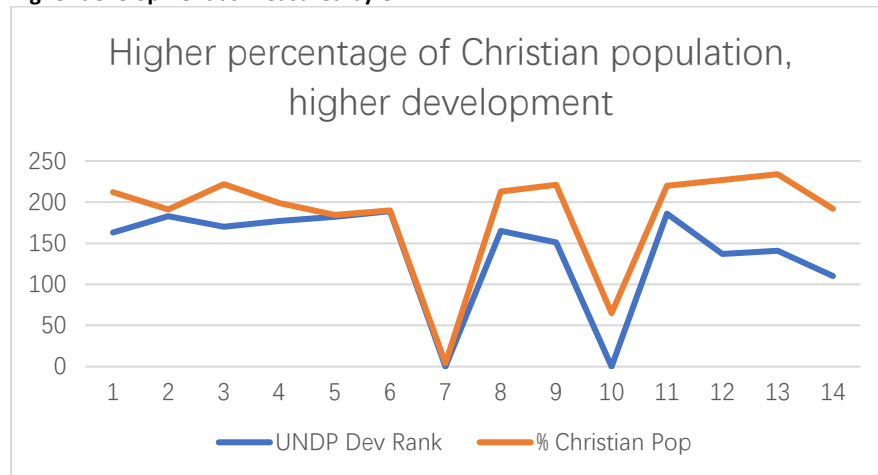
Table 3 The five least developed nations according to the 2018 UNDP ranking system and percent of Muslims in the populations.

The least developed of the 14 CFA franc scheme Nations studied	UNDP ranking among 189 countries	Percent of Muslims in that nation's population	Resource Wealth 1=Small 2=Underdeveloped 3=Developed
1. Niger	189	98	3
2. Central African Republic (A predominantly Protestant nation.)	188	15	3
3. Chad	186	58	3
4. Burkina Faso	183	89	1
5. Mali	182	95	3

Table 4 – Correlations between UNDP Rank, Years in School and Christian vs. Muslim percent of the populations within those nations.

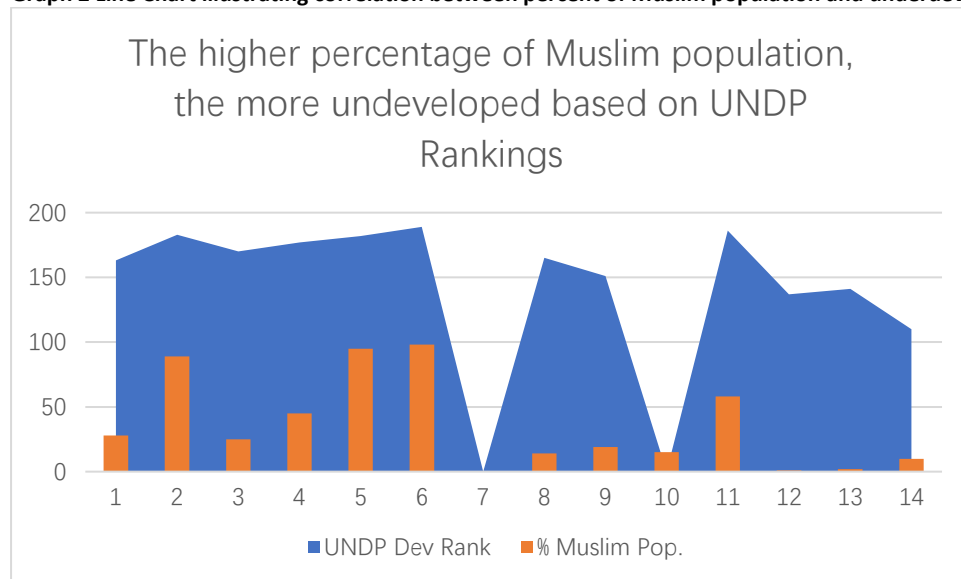
	Correlation
UNDP Rank & Percentage Christian	-.878 (strong)
UNDP Rank & Percentage Muslim	+.790 (strong)
Years in School and Percentage Muslim	-.844 (strong)
Years in School and Percentage Christian	+.783 (strong)
UNDP Rank & Natural Resource Wealth	+.017 (none)

Graph 1 – Line chart illustrating a strong correlation between the percentage of Christians in a population and higher development as measured by UNDP



Graph 1 above illustrates the strong inverse correlation (-.878) between lack of development and percent of Christians in the population. Simply put, the higher the Christian population percentage, the greater the development.

Graph 2 Line Chart illustrating correlation between percent of Muslim population and underdevelopment.



The UNDP rank number correlates strongly (+.790) with the percent of Muslim population in the nations studied.

One might ask why some Christian countries do so poorly as well, however the answer is transparently clear, they are dominated by Protestants, not Catholics. Protestants and Catholics fought many wars against each other resulting in the deaths of millions.² France is a

² During the period of a century and a half Europe experienced a cycle of civil wars between Protestants and Catholics. These include but are not limited to the:

- Eighty Years' War in the Low Countries (1568-1648) 100,000 Dutch killed, 150,000 Spanish killed = 250,000 (estimates of Belgium's casualties not available)
- French Wars of religion (1562 and 1598) 3,000,000 killed
- Thirty Years' War in Germany (1618–1648) 8,000,000 killed

Catholic Country. Besides, having some low-ranking Christian groups on the UNDP Development scale reduces the probability of some clever Muslim claiming there is another Crusade happening, unless one – knowing the history of enmity between Catholics and Protestants, subtracts out the Protestant data.

Ultimately however the data in Table 1 above strongly suggests that France has neo-colonized all 14 countries on that list, Catholic or not, however African Catholics are robbed slightly less than African Protestants and of course African Muslims, who clearly lose the most from the French neo-crusader aspects of their neo-colonialism.

Origin of the Neo-Crusades

About 600 years after the fall of Acre in 1291 and official end of the crusades a highly romanticized version of the Crusades was used to promote colonialization.

“French historian Joseph Francois Michaud (1767-1839), in his *Histoire des Croisades*, affirmed that the Crusades had proven the superiority of Europeans over Muslims and showed the way to the conquest and civilization of Asia.

“Shortly thereafter, Louis Philippe, the King of France from 1830 to 1848, commissioned a *Salle des Croisades* at Versailles, replete with monumental romanticized paintings of scenes from the Crusades. It is perhaps no accident that at the same time the French were embarked upon the conquest of Algeria...

“When Napoleon III addressed the troops ready to set off for Lebanon in 1860, he exhorted them to be "the worthy children of those heroes who gloriously carried Christ's banner into those countries".

<https://www.aljazeera.com/focus/arabunity/2008/01/200852518345065887.html>

France was the colonial power enslaving most of West Africa from the 1800s on, and strong arguments can be made they still are.

Colonialism faked its own death in Africa

“In French-speaking Africa, France also developed such an extractive infrastructure. From Cote d’Ivoire to Niger, from Gabon to the Congo, France has deployed a geopolitical arsenal based on secret defense agreements and retrogressive interventionism. In fact, French colonialism faked its own death in "partnerships" that depoliticized postcolonial transactions.

“In reality, a (post)colonial pact continues to govern Franco-African transactions. This pact maintains African states’ dependence on France

-
- English Civil Wars (1642–1651) 84,000 combatants killed, 127,000 non-combat deaths (including some 40,000 civilians) = 211,000 killed

Total: 11,461,000 killed

Nearly 500 years later Europe is still divided with the north being predominantly Protestant and the south predominantly Catholic.

by enforcing a system in which the former provides natural resources exclusively for the benefit of metropolitan France and imports, almost exclusively, manufactured products from the latter.

“This configuration is sustained by economic, military and political mechanisms that are not subject to any democratic control. One of the most prominent symbols of enduring imperialism in French-speaking Africa is the CFA Franc cooperation, which is an arrangement that requires its West and Central African members to deposit fifty percent of their foreign exchange surpluses into a French operations account in exchange for currency stability.

“The maintenance of corrupt leaders was always a condition for continued business for colonial powers in Africa. To this day, France continues to do everything in its power, including deploying its military, to protect Africa's corrupt strongmen and the access they provide to the continent's resources. In the last few decades France took some unprecedented steps to protect its interests in Africa, including deploying Special Forces to protect a private French corporation's mining operations in Niger. Since 1960, the French military has intervened over 40 times in Africa. The most recent interventions such as Operations Serval and Barkhane in Mali and a rescue mission to save Chad's president from a coup are testimonies that France is still acting like a colonial power in Africa.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/colonial-roots-africa-corruption-problem-190806084604839.html>

American Military Support of French Neo-Colonialism and Neo-Crusading Via AFRICOM

- Nov 23, 2018 - Nigerian Islamists kill scores of soldiers in military base attack
- November 22nd - A contingent of about 50 armed militants kidnapped at least 15 girls in Niger, just outside a town in the Diffa region and that same day:
- Suspected Boko Haram militants killed seven employees of Foraco, a French well drilling and mining company.

AFRICOM - A Neocolonial Occupation Force?

“But perhaps the more salient questions should be posed, not to Nigeria's government, but to the US Government itself, and specifically its African Command (AFRICOM). For it is Washington, not Abuja, that has poured billions of dollars into counter-terrorism and surveillance in the Sahel and West Africa. Considering the laundry list of attacks and killings, one could naturally ask the question: What exactly is the US doing over there, if not counter-terrorism?

As the Washington Post reported back in 2013, the US has chosen Agadez, Niger as the site of a massive new drone facility that will act as a “strategic foothold” in West Africa, specifically with regard to the stated mission of

surveillance of terrorist networks. And the US has been flying drones from the facility for more than five years.

However, as The Intercept's Nick Turse has reported, what was originally intended to be a relatively small facility hosting a few US drones and military advisers has ballooned into a more than \$100 million investment that will be one of the US's most costly foreign military construction projects. And instead of simply housing a handful of Predator drones, the facility will be the base for MQ-9 Reaper drones before the end of next year. Naturally, it's unclear just how many drones are already flying out of the facility, though knowledgeable observers assume a significant number already are...

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/12/11/africom-a-neocolonial-occupation-force/>

Clearly and obviously what the U.S. foreign policy makers want is other "forever wars" in Africa, identical to the one their drone programs have created in Afghanistan.

Other American Special Operations in Africa

Exclusive: The U.S. has more military operations in Africa than the Middle East

"We are extremely lucky that there have not been more situations like Niger."

By Nick Turse December 13 2018

"In 2017, U.S. troops carried out an average of nearly 10 missions per day — 3,500 exercises, programs, and engagements for the year — across the African continent, according to Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, the AFRICOM commander.

"These efforts — carried out in at least 33 countries — range from capture-or-kill commando raids to more banal training missions. Americans are also gathering intelligence, involved in surveillance and reconnaissance missions carried out by drones, engaged in construction projects, and accompanying allies on tactical operations.

"There are also now 34 U.S. military outposts on the continent, concentrated in the north and west and the Horn of Africa, according to a recent report by The Intercept.

"Among the operations that provide "assistance" are the classified 127e programs. These secretive efforts are "aimed at assisting foreign forces who support U.S. counterterrorism operations," said Friend.

"Through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), AFRICOM provided VICE News with a list of 21 named operations conducted between January 1, 2016 and September 25, 2018. According to a separate March 2018 briefing, authored by Africa Command Science Advisor Peter Teil and also obtained via FOIA, eight current operations in North and West

Africa were aimed at countering the Islamic State and Boko Haram and assisting local allies and French counterterrorism efforts. Six operations in East Africa focused on defeating al Shabaab, assisting the African Union Mission in Somalia, and counter-piracy. “Two theater-wide efforts focused on crisis response in the event U.S. government personnel or facilities are threatened, while one operation — Echo Casemate — provides support to French and U.N. forces in the troubled Central African Republic.

“But these activities often consist of far more than assistance, said Bolduc. Classified 127e programs are “direct action” efforts, which are defined by the Pentagon as “short-duration strikes and other small-scale offensive actions conducted as a special operation in hostile, denied, or diplomatically sensitive environments.”

“Such direct-action missions were carried out in Cameroon, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Niger, Somalia, and Tunisia in recent years, as well as two nations where the 127e programs have now ended, Ethiopia and Mauritania, said Bolduc.”

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/a3my38/exclusive-the-us-has-more-military-operations-in-africa-than-the-middle-east

Thus, the American military is clearly operating in conjunction with French forces in suppressing popular resistance to puppet dictators maintaining neo-colonialism in their own countries. As per usual, popular revolts are mislabeled as terrorism in order to keep western appointed dictators in charge, American House Appropriations Committees in the U.S. happy and the American and French “Defense” Department budgets ever increasing.

Discussion and Recommendations

Market fluctuations in oil prices alone cannot explain why Niger is the single least developed country in the world while simultaneously being one of the natural resource richest countries in the world. Niger provides nearly half the uranium France needs for its energy consumption, yet remains the least developed country in the world according to UNDP statistics. France has the sixth largest economy in the world in 2018/2019.

“France is among the most powerful states in the world with an economy that is ranked 6th behind the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, China, and the United States. Trade and agriculture fuel much of its economy with the country having vast tracts of arable land that supports all kinds of agricultural activities that range from food crops to timber production.

“However, when it comes to natural resources, France surprisingly has a limited reserve. Much of the natural minerals that were abundant across the nation were depleted after they were heavily exploited during the industrial revolution that played a huge part in turning France into what it is today.

“Uranium deposits are located in the Massif Central which at one time had uranium ore reserves estimated at 50,000 tonnes. France, however,

has a very high demand for energy and the uranium deposits are unable to meet, in fact uranium mining in France came to an end in 2001 which forced the country to turn to the importation of uranium to cover for more than half of the annual energy consumption with Niger being one of its primary uranium sources. There were more than 59 active nuclear plants as of 2010 with all of them contributing around 94.6% of all the primary electricity used in homes and factories around the country.”

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-are-the-major-natural-resources-of-france.html>

French nuclear power fed by uranium from Niger

“Niger exports enough uranium to France to generate 50 per cent of the latter’s electricity supply, writes Khadija Sharife. But ordinary Nigeriens reap little benefit from France’s control of their country’s uranium resources, with over three-fifths of the population living below the poverty line and reports of radioactive contamination of water, air and soil by multinational mining operations.

“It is known as the ‘uranium highway,’ a network of major roads connecting the Niger’s primary urban mining centers such as Arlit, Agadez and Niamey. Developed in the 1970s and 1980s, the north-south highway acts as the primary vein facilitating carriage of liquidated uranium resources. The network itself forms part of the Trans-Sahara route, an ancient system used since time immemorial by inhabitants of the ‘Tinariwen’ – or Desert of Many, as the Sahara was known to its native sons and daughters, including the Hausa and Tuareg. Despite the nip and tuck of territories by former colonialists, conveniently stitching together concessional nation-states (the better to divide, conquer and exploit), the Trans-Sahara route continued to survive by innovatively moving around border closures. Central to this route is the landlocked Niger, the bridge between North and sub-Saharan Africa, a land bordered by seven countries.

“The Sahara, spanning 11 countries, composes 50 per cent of the Niger’s land mass – a country generally characterised by poverty, famine, droughts and dictatorships. Over 60 per cent of the population live on the poverty belt, deprived of access to food, water and waste sanitation, infrastructure and education. Life expectancy is pegged at 43 years, and most citizens, including 71 per cent of females, are illiterate – just three per cent of the state budget is redistributed toward education. Instead, at the turn of the millennium, over 50 per cent of development finance was used to service odious debt. Debt cancellation, following Niger’s qualification in 2000 for the IMF’s Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, required mass privatization of the Niger’s state- owned enterprises and provided partial relief. Nonetheless, in 2004, IMF directors would conclude that the country’s debt burden remained high in spite of ‘structural adjustment’ medicine.

“Uranium was initially discovered in Niger in 1957 by the Bureau Minier de la France d’Outre-Mer, one year prior to the creation of Republic of the Niger. This followed in the footsteps of extensive surveys conducted by France’s Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique (CEA), which started in 1956 and resulted in several discoveries on the eve of independence in 1960. France’s successful decolonization in Africa was realized through secretive military and resource agreements and special monetary zones. These agreements interlocked the interests of France with those of handpicked ‘native governors,’ such as Gabon and Togo’s Gnassingbé Eyadéma and Omar Bongo – both lifetime leaders from selective political liberation until death – and Cote d’Ivoire’s Felix Houphouët-Boigny. As a result, France was not only granted preferential priority access to strategic resources, but the presence of French military bases in former colonies was legitimized, simultaneously sustaining the rule of dictators while keeping them in line. From the 1960s onwards, 27 agreements were signed by former colonies, including the Niger.

“Uranium deposits, found in the Congo, Gabon and the Niger, have enabled France to circumvent flammable geopolitical landmines associated with uranium mined in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Canada and Australia, regions that were perceived as leaning towards, or managed by, the US – France’s rival in Africa and globally.

“French interests on the continent were realized through France’s postcolonial Africa policy, known as Françafrique, extending to the diplomatic and political echelons of the Elysée from the days of de Gaulle. The policy comprised corporate and intelligence lobbies, multinationals intimately connected to the State such as Elf and Areva, French-backed dictators, and shadow networks named in honor of its masterminds such as Jacques Foccart, de Gaulle’s chief Africa advisor who was called out of retirement at age 81 by French President Jacques Chirac to resume activities. Chirac himself would declare in the early 1990s that the continent ‘was not yet ready for democracy.’ When asked to describe the role of Françafrique’s Foccart, de Gaulle’s Deputy Prime Minister Louis Joxe declared, ‘Nurse-maiding presidents and making sure that African civil servants are paid at the end of the month.’”

<https://www.pambazuka.org/governance/french-nuclear-power-fed-uranium-niger>

Tragically this is the story of neocolonialism in Africa. The US and France may be opponents in geopolitical competition for natural resources, but when it comes to keeping Muslims “in their place” using covert military action, they are clearly on the same page.

How can Niger, which provides nearly half of France’s uranium energy requirements, has the world’s 10th largest proven oil reserves, and is Africa’s largest producer of crude oil be the least developed nation on earth according to UNDP statistics?

Niger should be rich, very rich. Instead it is the least developed nation on earth according to UNDP statistics?

There are those who argue poverty is slavery.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/08/poverty-and-slavery-often-go-hand-in-hand-for-africas-children/>

Perhaps the French loosen the chains of poverty slightly on some of its captive nations, principally Catholic nations, yet most still languish in hopeless servitude while in Niger at least many suffer the effects of radioactive contamination of water, air and soil left behind by multinational mining operations.

“Thousands of people in Niger’s Arlit are exposed to radiation coming from the uranium mines around the city. AREVA, 80% owned by France, has operated these mines for almost half a century. The rising number of deaths and illnesses traced to pollution coming from the mines point to an ongoing ecocide.”

<https://meta.eeb.org/2017/10/18/french-state-owned-company-creates-ecocide-in-niger-to-fuel-its-nuclear-plants/>

France destroys North Niger. Will the EU or UN act?

“Tens of thousands of people in Niger’s Arlit are exposed to often deadly radiation coming from the uranium mines around the city. AREVA, owned by the French State for over 80% and the main company on this environmental crime scene, has misinformed and lied to a population that is now waking up to the devastating consequences of this ecocide. AREVA’s lies were recently explained to a team from the European Commission, at a closed door meeting in Brussels.

“Hidden in a remote corner of the Sahara Desert, careless digging and dumping started back in 1968. But rather than building the promised ‘Little Paris’ next to it, there’s now a city called Arlit.

“A recent study from AREVA on only 120 houses showed that 16% of them are polluted with radioactive radiation far above the health norms. But Arlit is now home to over 200.000 people. People living in the area are exposed to radioactivity and death rates twice as much as in the rest of the country. This is where about a third of all uranium for France’s reactors comes from.”

<https://www.mo.be/en/opinie/france-destroys-north-niger-will-eu-or-un-act>

And thus we have it, foreign imposed poverty for most of the inhabitants of the most beautiful places on earth, the gardens of Eden, the birthplace of humanity. Are there solutions? Oh many, if and when people gather the will to make them happen.

Potential Solution 1 – Papal Mandate issued at a *Sanctificavit Pax Concilium*

A Most Unusual Choice

Unlike the luck associated with the demise of Templar Knights on October 13th, 1307, the number 13 came up again 706 years later possibly signaling an event with more positive outcomes. Indeed, quite a remarkable thing happened on March 13th, 2013 in Italy.

On March 13th, 2013 a man formerly known as Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected to be the Pope of the Catholic Church. Now known as Pope Francis he is the first Jesuit pope, the first from the Americas, the first from the Southern Hemisphere, the first to visit the Arabian Peninsula, and the first pope from outside Europe since Syrian Gregory III, in the 8th century. He is also the first pope to be from a nation that was formerly a slave state of the CIA specifically Argentina, which coincidentally or not was the destination of choice for most of the fleeing Nazis after WWII. <https://www.history.com/news/the-7-most-notorious-nazis-who-escaped-to-south-america>

Argentina was colonized by Spain in the 16th century, declared its independence in 1816 and emerged as a democratic republic in the mid-19th century. Argentina was also the center of an unusually brutal CIA coordinated program called Operation Condor.

“Operation Condor, or Plan Condor, was carried out by the military dictatorships in South America’s southern cone in the 1970s and ‘80s in a concerted violent effort to rid the region of anyone the militaries perceived as a threat to their power and neoliberal policies, mainly, real or supposed communists and socialist.

“An estimated 60,000 people were killed by the Latin American states in the clandestine operation, 30,000 in Argentina alone. Another 30,000 were disappeared and 400,000 imprisoned during the Plan. However, as more information is disclosed by the CIA and investigated independently these numbers are expected to grow.”

<https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/CIA-Declassified-Info-Europe-Wanted-Own-Operation-Condor-20190420-0015.html>

This was part of the CIA’s own plan to assert its hegemony in Latin America and coincidentally or not had all the earmarks of Nazi-driven fascism. Certainly, Catholic Pope Francis born in 1936 in Argentina remembers those days and nights of terror well. He, of all the Catholic popes in history should be empathetic to the absolute cruelty of colonialization.

Simultaneous to this, we have France, a Catholic country, continuing to impose one of the cruelest colonial regimes in history across most of western and central Africa even as these words are written.

Pope Francis - who has been marginalized himself by the calcified layers of bureaucracy, and necrocracy in Rome – is in a unique position to bring the Catholic Church and Christendom as a whole back to the teachings of the Prince of Peace, Jesus of Nazareth in a quite straightforward manner. France is a Catholic country, and Pope Francis, theoretically is the supreme pontiff of all the Catholics. There is little doubt French President Emmanuel Jean-Michel Frédéric Macron goes to church on Sundays while pillaging his African slave states seven days a week, including and especially the Muslim slave states.

Pope Francis could for example have a private chats Emmanuel Macron and President Trump, as a prelude to a precedent setting meeting of the leaders of all denominations of the different branches of Christianity, perhaps giving it some grand Latin name like: *Sanctificavit Pax Concilium*, (Sanctified Peace Assembly) or something like that.

He could announce the essentially socialist nature of Christianity as established in the Bible, and focus on the essentially identical natures of all major world philosophies and religions, culminating in a Papal Mandate to end neo-colonialism specifically, and all wars in general according to strict timetables such that this meeting doesn't become just another example of insubstantial glorified hot air.

He needs to emphatically affirm that Catholics that profit from wars in general, e.g. shareholders in the major weapons corporations that lobby for wars, and neo-colonialists should be warned sternly *ex cathedra* (literally, "from the chair"), in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority supported by the doctrine of papal infallibility, and reinforced by unambiguous promise of the pain of excommunication should (at least Catholic) church leaders fail to heed this mandate.

Indeed, ending the forever wars is going to require dramatic action by someone, and who better than a pope that lived through the brutal realities of colonialization himself?

Thusly might Pope Francis earn a place in the history books as the Pope above average, the Pope that brought Christendom back to Jesus and the real meaning of love.

He might even dub the whole process Vatican III, which obviously is long overdue anyways.

As it is, Catholicism is a shrinking religion desperately in need of dramatic reform.

Removing the chains from Africa after centuries of abuse also has a certain pragmatic appeal as well. The money that vastly reduced "defense departments" would save from a grand peace initiative could help to finance massive development projects world-wide, in line with Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, rather than trying to undermine it at every turn, the way things are now.

Thus, WWII can be prevented, and the earth return to a garden-like condition where people of all races and religions can live in peace and harmony.

Is this too much to ask?

Finally, a message for Dear Pope Francis: It is better to have tried and failed, than not to have tried, because all of our efforts are recorded not only in the annals of human history, but also the divine scrolls of the Master of Judgment Day.

Potential Solution 2 – Redirecting "defense" department spending of the most advanced countries to education, medical care and infrastructure development in the least developed countries

"Estimated U.S. military spending is \$989 billion. It covers the period October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020. Military spending is the second largest item in the federal budget after Social Security. The United States spends more on defense than the next nine countries combined.

"This estimate is more than the \$750 billion announced by President

Donald Trump. The United States has many departments that support its defense. All these departments must be included to get an accurate picture of how much America spends on its military operations.”

<https://www.thebalance.com/u-s-military-budget-components-challenges-growth-3306320>

If eighty percent of the 2018/2019 military spending of the USA, \$989 billion were spent on infrastructure building in the world’s 20 least developed countries, the world would be a much better place. If the US were to stop instigating wars there would be no need for the remaining other 20% either, as neither Mexico nor Canada are likely to attack the U.S. in the foreseeable future. The public relations benefits alone of a policy shift like this would ensure American national security for the indefinite future. Newly unemployed former American military service personnel could easily find employment in reconstruction projects in the world’s least developed countries. The U.S. would also need some major changes in its Department of Education also, for example placing more emphasis on teaching foreign languages such that Americans working overseas could communicate with their new friends.

Ditto for France:

PARIS — “France plans to boost the 2019 defense budget by €1.7 billion to €35.9 billion (by U.S. \$2 billion to \$42.2 billion), up 5 percent from the present year, the Armed Forces Ministry said.

“That spending increase excluded pensions and will represent 1.82 percent of gross domestic product, part of a French bid to hit a target of 2 percent of GDP by 2025, the ministry said Sept. 25. Next year will be the first year of the 2019-2025 military budget law.

“This is a major financial effort desired by the president, being adopted in the first year of the military budget law,” the ministry said.

“The increased spending was expected, as the government has formally adopted the multiyear budget law, which seeks to meet the NATO target for military spending.”

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2018/09/26/france-to-bolster-defense-spending-by-2-billion-heres-the-military-equipment-already-on-order/>

And the UK, which is equally culpable with France and the U.S. in attempting to enslave the so-called “developing” world.

UN calls out US, UK & France for complicity in Yemen war crimes (GRAPHIC)

4 Sep, 2019

“The UN Human Rights Council slammed the US, UK and France for their complicity in alleged war crimes in Yemen by the Saudi-led coalition, warning that abetting such crimes by selling arms or other aid is also illegal.

“States that knowingly aid or assist parties to the conflict in Yemen in the

commission of violations would be responsible for complicity in the relevant international humanitarian law violations,' the UNHRC's Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen declared in a lengthy report published on Tuesday."

<https://www.rt.com/news/467920-un-human-rights-war-crimes/>

NATO's 2018 combined defense expenditure is 987,508 "million national currency units."

https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2019_03/190314-pr2018-34-eng.pdf

For all of its pretentiousness NATO appears to be just a cat's paw of American foreign policy which can be summed up as: Divide and conquer (the world) (while simultaneously killing or at least enslaving as many Muslims as possible while simultaneously economically isolating and provoking Russia, China and any nation identified as socialist as much as possible). Logically 100% of that budget can safely be transferred to nation building of the world's least developed countries.

Potential Solution 3 – Political campaign finance reform in the U.S.

Without political campaign finance reform weapons corporations in the U.S. will continue to rule the world in perpetuity. The Supreme Court needs to put extreme caps on all political campaign finance "donations" – and make the entire system entirely transparent. No more Super-PACs. The current system is driving overt and covert wars around the world to provide for vastly inflated "defense" department spending for centuries to come. This is suicide for the USA and the world economy and murderous for the unfortunate many who are innocent victims.

Potential Solution 4 – Critical need for oversight on the proliferation and operations of private intelligence agencies in the U.S. and worldwide

Some US\$56 billion or 70% of the US\$80 billion national intelligence budget of the United States was in 2013 earmarked for the private sector according to the New York Times' Tim Shorrock.

Also see: <http://www.businessinsider.com/25-cutting-edge-companies-funded-by-the-central-intelligence-agency-2012-8?op=1&IR=T/#r-is-a-video-surveillance-company-that-is-changing-the-game-1>

And: U.S., British intelligence mining data from nine U.S. Internet companies in broad secret program

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/us-intelligence-mining-data-from-nine-us-internet-companies-in-broad-secret-program/2013/06/06.html>

Now-a-days anyone with deep pockets can go into the business of funding revolutions and other civil and international wars very effectively. There must be some sort of oversight for this vast jungle of new profit-driven troublemakers which includes a substantial percentage of the world's warmongers.

Potential Solution 5 – The wealthy elite of the Muslim Ummah needs to start to take responsibility to help the neediest in that Ummah

An investigation into the spending habits of the world's 1,000 richest Muslims would prove to be interesting. It appears an extraordinary percentage of the wealth of the Muslim Ummah is squandered on weapons used to kill other Muslims extending from ancient tribal feuds, fleets of cars they never drive, mistresses, gambling, drugs and so on. Certainly, a substantial portion of blame for the crushing poverty of much of the Muslim world needs to be laid upon the wealthy elite in the Muslim world who squander their wealth in very haram ways. Names need to be named, and all this data posted on publicly accessible internet sites to ensure change happens quickly.

Potential Solution 6 – The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court need to be replaced with organizations that actually do what their Mission Statements prescribe

Potential Solution 7 – Housekeeping at the United Nations

The leadership of the United Nations needs to do some housekeeping. At least half of their bureaucracies (autocracies) work to the detriment of those organizations representing nothing less than self-satisfied poverty pimps at best, and CIA officers or agents at worst.

Potential Solution 8 – A vast army of honest accountants and financial investigators

A vast army of accountants is needed to ferret out exactly who has been stealing how much for how long in each of the neo-colonial nations. In addition, another army of investigators needs to find out where that money is hidden. Finally, the money (trillions of dollars) must be recovered, and the thieves apologize for their dreadful crimes.

Suggestions for Further Research

Given French and American military support of the enslavement of the Sahel region of Africa, and forceable efforts to keep it entrenched in poverty in perpetuity while its resources are extracted for pennies on the dollar, it would be very interesting to find if there is a correlation between Chinese Belt and Road Initiative infrastructure building projects, and French and/or American special forces covert operations designed to provoke "inter-tribal," and/or inter-religious and/or international conflicts and/or "terrorist" incidents designed to derail those development projects. Efforts to liberate colonies from their European masters have always been followed by extremely violent reactions by those colonial powers who almost invariably win (not always however, as in the case of Cuba). Efforts to deny any one slave (nation) any measure of autonomy reminds this author of the story of Randall, as narrated by escaped slave Willian W. Brown.

CHAPTER II

"My master being a political demagogue, soon found those who were ready to put him into office, for the favors he could render them; and a few years after his arrival in Missouri, he was elected to a seat in the Legislature. In his absence from home, everything was left in charge of Mr. Cook, the overseer, and he soon became more tyrannical and cruel. Among the slaves on the plantation, was one by the name of Randall. He was a man about six feet high, and well-proportioned, and known as a

man of great strength and power. He was considered the most valuable and able-bodied slave on the plantation; but no matter how good or useful a slave may be, he seldom escapes the lash. But it was not so with Randall. He had been on the plantation since my earliest recollection, and I had never known of his being flogged. No thanks were due to the master or overseer for this. I have often heard him declare, that no white man should ever whip him--that he would die first.

"Cook, from the time that he came upon the plantation, had frequently declared, that he could and would flog any nigger that was put into the field to work under him. My master had repeatedly told him not to attempt to whip Randall, but he was determined to try it. As soon as he was left sole dictator, he thought the time had come to put his threats into execution. He soon began to find fault with Randall, and threatened to whip him, if he did not do better. One day he gave him a very hard task, more than he could possibly do; and at night, the task not being performed, he told Randall that he should remember him the next morning.

"On the following morning, after the hands had taken breakfast, Cook called out to Randall, and told him that he intended to whip him, and ordered him to cross his hands and be tied. Randall asked why he wished to whip him. He answered, because he had not finished his task the day before. Randall said that the task was too great, or he should have done it. Cook said it made no difference, he should whip him. Randall stood silent for a moment, and then said, "Mr. Cook, I have always tried to please you since you have been on the plantation, and I find you are determined not to be satisfied with my work, let me do as well as I may.

"No man has laid hands on me, to whip me, for the last ten years, and I have long since come to the conclusion not to be whipped by any man living.' Cook, finding by Randall's determined look and gestures, that he would resist, called three of the hands from their work, and commanded them to seize Randall, and tie him. The hands stood still; they knew Randall--and they also knew him to be a powerful man, and were afraid to grapple with him. As soon as Cook had ordered the men to seize him, Randall turned to them, and said--'Boys, you all know me; you know that I can handle any three of you, and the man that lays hands on me shall die. This white man can't whip me himself, and therefore he has called you to help him.' The overseer was unable to prevail upon them to seize and secure Randall, and finally ordered them all to go to their work together.

"Nothing was said to Randall by the overseer, for more than a week. One morning, however, while the hands were at work in the field, he came into it, accompanied by three friends of his, Thompson, Woodbridge and Jones. They came up to where Randall was at work, and Cook ordered him to leave his work, and go with them to the barn. He refused to go; whereupon he was attacked by the overseer and his companions, when

he turned upon them, and laid them, one after another, prostrate on the ground. Woodbridge drew out his pistol, and fired at him, and brought him to the ground by a pistol ball. The others rushed upon him with their clubs, and beat him over the head and face, until they succeeded in tying him. He was then taken to the barn, and tied to a beam. Cook gave him over one hundred lashes with a heavy cowhide, had him washed with salt and water, and left him tied during the day. The next day he was untied, and taken to a blacksmith's shop, and had a ball and chain attached to his leg. He was compelled to labor in the field, and perform the same amount of work that the other hands did. When his master returned home, he was much pleased to find that Randall had been subdued in his absence."

The Narrative of William W. Brown a Fugitive Slave, by William Wells Brown, 1847

The entire text can be downloaded from Project Gutenberg books.

Simply put, efforts to permit any African (nation) freedom from absolute subjugation will be met with extreme resistance, one way or another, sooner or later by the entrenched Euro-American powers currently holding leadership in the USA, France and the UK via a vast matrix of government intelligence agencies, private intelligence agencies, corporations, think tanks, councils, institutes and foundations supported by media corporations that blithely fragment and daily distort the news, which collectively can be called the "invisible government."

Conclusions

No single strategy is going to solve all the problems in the world's least developed countries. It will take a coordinated multi-pronged strategy developed fairly quickly because all current trends suggest WWII may have already started as judged by the very rapid increase in "displaced" people (refugees) around the world with the vast majority being Muslim. This combined with the increasing world-wide economic polarization (except perhaps in China) sets the stage for a very unstable world. A "landslide effect" is not inconceivable and a global economic meltdown can and will immediately follow. Then, as many as half the world's population could starve to death in the ensuing chaos. Fortunately, the Belt and Road Initiative does offer an alternative structure to the current grotesquely unbalanced global economic milieu.

Indeed, the sins of omission may outweigh the sins of commission regardless as to what some well-fed pundits have written in past centuries.

Death Toll from French/American Enslavement of the Sahel Region of Africa

This is impossible to calculate precisely, however 100 million might be a good guess. Causes of death?

1. Starvation
2. Medical neglect
3. Suicide
4. Military casualties
5. Torture including rape
6. Uranium poisoning

It was always and only the communist countries that helped European colonies around the world break their chains and experience freedom for – in many cases – the first time in 500 years. Invariably the USA then swooped in, slaughtered millions of people to overthrow the new indigenous socialist governments and then installed obedient but disposable “Randalls.”

“What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy — a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices, more shocking and bloody, than are the people of these United States, at this very hour.”

By Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass: Selected Speeches and Writings (1845), ed. Philip S. Foner (Chicago: Lawrence Hill, 1999), 188-206.

For the speech in its entirety see:

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/What_to_the_Slave_is_the_Fourth_of_July%3F

The above speech by former African American slave Frederick Douglass could well have a contemporary parallel:

"What is the 4th of July to any person of color or Muslim, anywhere in the world today?"

Epilogue

The strange and almost paradoxical thing is most French, American and British people are really quite nice. None-the-less most are guilty of closing their eyes to the cruel machinations of their own governments. When that sleeping majority wakes up, change will happen. The only question is: “What is required to wake the moral conscience of the people of the western nations? Will it take WWII? It is in the spirit of preventing more violence including WWII, and awakening the moral conscious and righteous indignation of the people world-side that this article was written.

Appendix 1: Additional News and Energy Reports on Past and Current French Colonies and Neo-Colonies in Africa

Algeria

(Beirut, April 19, 2019) - Algerian authorities have resumed forcibly dispersing peaceful demonstrations and arbitrarily detaining protesters in the capital, Algiers, Human Rights Watch said today. The government crackdown is an apparent attempt to curb the massive pro-democracy marches that have taken place weekly since February 2019 and forced the resignation of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika on April 2.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/19/algeria-police-renew-crackdown-mass-protests>

Also see:

<https://www.voltairenet.org/article205683.html>

<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2019/08/algeria-revolution-abdelkader-bensalah-uprising>

U.S. engagement in Algeria has three primary objectives: expanding our security and military partnership, growing economic and commercial links, and building educational and cultural ties between Algerians and Americans.

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-algeria/>

Algeria Natural Resources

“Algeria is the largest country in both Africa and the Arab world with a total landmass of 2.38 million sq. km. and is an OPEC member. Algeria has the tenth-largest proven reserves of natural gas in the world, is the sixth-largest gas exporter and has the third largest proven reserves of shale gas. It also ranks sixteenth in proven oil reserves. Thanks to hydrocarbon revenues, Algeria has a cushion of approximately \$90 billion in foreign currency reserves. Algeria's external debt is extremely low at about two percent of GDP. Algeria is still largely underexplored (fewer than 20 wells per 10,000 sqm) and there are opportunities for foreign firms to invest in joint ventures to find new deposits.”

<https://www.export.gov/article?id=Algeria-Oil-and-Gas-Hydrocarbons>

Benin

“**Benin is a stable democracy.** All presidential, legislative, and local elections held since the end of the Marxist-Leninist regime in 1989 have been conducted peacefully. The most recent presidential elections held in March 2016 were won by the multi-millionaire cotton tycoon, Patrice Talon. In the World Bank's Doing Business indicators, Benin has ranked poorly (153 out of 190 countries in 2019), but has recently made progress in “starting a business” and “getting electricity.” Benin must, however, do more in the areas of “getting credit” and “paying taxes.” Lastly, despite strides made, Benin continues to grapple with major corruption-related

challenges, ranking 85th out of 185 countries on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index for 2018.”

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/benin/overview>

Benin is primarily a Catholic nation with few natural resources, thus predictably it appears peaceful.

Benin Natural Resources

“Benin’s natural resources are limited and include small offshore oil reserves, marble, and limestone. The mining industry is largely underdeveloped, as the economy is dependent on agriculture and the country has to address issues relating to basic necessities such as water, electricity, transport, and other infrastructure needs.”

<https://www.azomining.com/Article.aspx?ArticleID=131>

Burkina Faso

2018 – “Atrocities by armed Islamist groups active in Burkina Faso and by the Burkinabè security forces in the course of counterterrorism operations have significantly increased since mid-2018, according to recent studies and other sources, leaving scores dead, and forcing tens of thousands of villagers to flee their homes. While the violence and insecurity have spread throughout the country, the epicenter of abuse and insecurity remains the northern Sahel region, which borders Mali and Niger.

“Burkina Faso has been grappling with armed Islamist insurgent groups since the emergence in 2016 of Ansaroul Islam, a homegrown group with roots in the country’s Sahel region. Ansaroul Islam and a patchwork of groups linked to both Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) have attacked army bases, police, and gendarme posts, and civilian targets including in the capital, Ouagadougou, leaving several hundred dead, including security force members and civilians.”

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/03/22/we-found-their-bodies-later-day/atrocities-armed-islamists-and-security-forces>

Burkina Faso Natural Resources

The Gold Digger and the Machine: Evidence on the Distributive Effect of the Artisanal and Industrial Gold Rushes in Burkina Faso

<https://www.afd.fr/en/gold-digger-and-machine-evidence-distributive-effect-artisanal-and-industrial-gold-rushes-burkina-faso>

The ‘natural resource curse’ and artisanal mines: the case of Burkina Faso

“In five years, this West African country has become the fourth largest gold exporter in Africa. The surge in gold production was triggered by

the strong growth of the gold price during the 2000s, which resulted in the creation of eight industrial mines between 2007 and 2014. The number of artisanal mines increased from 200 in 2003 to more than 700 in 2014. Despite this, 43% of the population was living below the poverty line in 2014.”

<http://theconversation.com/the-natural-resource-curse-and-artisanal-mines-the-case-of-burkina-faso-103475>

Pancontinental Uranium Corporation (“Pancon”) of Canada is exploring in Burkina Faso.

<https://www.azominig.com/Suppliers.aspx?SupplierID=741>

Cameroon

“2016-2019 1,850 killed, 530,000 internally displaced, 600,000 children out of school, and hundreds of protesters detained. This includes opposition leader Maurice Kamto.

“From December 1884 until today Cameroon has been the location of proxy wars between European powers. From 1916 until today France has been the dominant European power in Cameroon. Cameroon has had two “presidents” since 1960. Ahmadou Ahidjo, originally appointed by the French colonizers was “president” of Cameroon from 1960 until his death in 1982 and “President” Paul Biya has been in power ever since. Massive accusations of fraud accompanied the last election and the opposition leader Maurice Kamto believes he won the election. Kamto and dozens of political allies and supporters are in prison facing charges of insurrection, hostility to the motherland and rebellion, crimes which could carry the death penalty.”

<http://www.cameroonintelligencereport.com/french-cameroun-opposition-leader-goes-on-trial-in-military-court/>

The image of Cameroon as an island of peace amidst regional turmoil ended in 2013, when Boko Haram’s violence first crossed the Nigerian border.

<https://africanarguments.org/2015/09/08/cameroons-rising-religious-tensions/>

Cameroon’s three deepening divides all have one thing in common

- 1) The deadly Anglophone crisis
- 2) Renewed ethnic rivalries
- 3) A religious coup in waiting

So far, the common goal of removing Biya has not been sufficient to unite these various different groups or force change. But as Cameroon’s divides continue to deepen, the question remains of how much longer the 86-year-old president hold it all together.

<https://africanarguments.org/2019/08/13/cameroon-crisis-three-deepening-divides/>

The arrival of Boko Haram does open the gates to ever more repressive measures at least against Muslims - by the government and their foreign “allies.”

Cameroon Natural Resources

Cameroon has about 200 million barrels of proven oil reserves and one of the largest gas reserves in Africa estimated at over 4.77 trillion cubic feet.

<https://fortuneofafrica.com/cameroon/2014/01/31/proven-oil-and-gas-reserves-in-cameroon/>

Central African Republic

Violence has increased throughout the Central African Republic, particularly between Seleka factions in the central regions and between rebels and anti-balaka militias in the northwest. Civilians are caught in the middle, and sometimes targeted, despite UN peacekeepers’ presence. The government struggles to maintain control of the capital, relying on peacekeepers for support. An estimated 461,000 people, mostly Muslims, are refugees in neighboring countries; 421,700 more are internally displaced.”

<https://www.hrw.org/africa/central-african-republic> (Implying this is an unpopular foreign supported government.)

“Christianity is largest religion in Central African Republic, with Protestantism being the largest denomination and Catholicism coming in second. Islam is practiced by 9 percent of the population.

“The violence in the Central African Republic is not a religious conflict” according to a report by the Swiss Peace Foundation and published on Relief Web. <https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/central-african-republic-not-religious-conflict>

Incidentally Switzerland is a Christian country. Around two-thirds of the population are either Roman Catholic or Protestant.

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/aboutswitzerland/en/home/gesellschaft/religionen/religionen--fakten-und-zahlen.html>

“On 5 December 2013, while “Operation Sangaris” was still in its infancy, “Anti-Balaka” elements armed with machetes, launched attacks and massacred many Muslims whom they accused of supporting the Seleka from the north, predominantly Muslim too – divide and rule, the legacy of French colonialism is taking its toll. According to the weekly Jeune Afrique, it was not just retaliation, but a professional military attack coordinated by the son of former President Bozizé. More than 600 people were killed in the capital Bangui. Since then, the image of the conflict became greatly blurred.”

<https://www.blackagendareport.com/content/french-complicity-crisis-central-african-republic>

And coincidentally (or not), **Central African Republic, ranks 188th of 189 nations on UNDP's ranking system, with only Niger ranking as less developed.**

Also see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update>

Thus, to say the issue is not one of religion is at least partly true, it's mostly about robbing an African nation of its natural resources, with religion a convenient fissure wherein conflict can be covertly inserted requiring heavy-handed foreign military to "stabilize" the (contrived) situation.

Central African Republic Natural Resources

Natural resources in CAR include gold, diamonds, uranium, and oil.

Gold

<http://darwin.bio.uci.edu/sustain/h90/CentAfRep.htm>

<https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/central-african-republic/gold-production>

Diamonds

The Central African Republic Diamond Database—A geodatabase of archival diamond occurrences and areas of recent artisanal and small-scale diamond mining

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20181088>

Chad

Between February 3 & 6th, 2019 French airstrikes decimated 20 rebel trucks – with human beings inside them – in a moving convoy in the far north of Chad, thus helping to hold up the dictatorship of French puppet dictator Mr. Déby, who allegedly invited the French to assist with the "rebel problem."

Simultaneously France condemns jihadist movements while acknowledging they come from bad governments, corruption and human rights violations, exactly what they are promoting in Chad. Paraphrased from:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/14/world/africa/france-airstrikes-chad.html>

"Considering the long history of French involvement in its former African colonies, there is nothing exceptional about these strikes. In fact, **Chad has experienced more French military interventions since independence than any other African country.**

<https://africanarguments.org/2019/02/14/airstrikes-stability-what-french-army-doing-chad/>

France today has 7,000 soldiers in Africa and, in addition to Djibouti, maintains bases on the Atlantic coast, with an important presence in Senegal, Gabon, Ivory Coast and a decisive role between Mali, Chad and Central Africa. <https://global.ilmanifesto.it/france-and-italy-face-off->

[in-neo-colonial-clash-in-niger/](#)

Chad ranks as the tenth-largest oil reserve holder among African countries, with 1.5 billion barrels of proven reserves as of January 1, 2013. Petroleum is Chad's primary source of public revenue, contributing approximately 60 percent of the national budget. Chad's petroleum exports are produced primarily by the Esso Exploration & Production Chad Inc. (EEPCI) consortium (Esso is Exxon Mobile USA) and the China National Petroleum Company in Chad (CNPCIC). EEPCI signed a new agreement with the GOC to extend its operations until 2050. There are small oil companies doing exploration projects on new blocs. The Esso consortium began extracting oil from southern Chad in 2003. The 1,100 km Chad-Cameroon pipeline carries Chadian oil exports through Cameroon to the port of Douala. Canadian, British, Taiwanese, Russian, and Nigerian companies are currently working towards exporting oil from their respective fields via the consortium's Chad-Cameroon pipeline.

<https://www.export.gov/article?id=Chad-Mining-Quarrying-and-Oil-and-Gas-Exploration>

Republic of Congo

A quarter century of experimentation with Marxism was abandoned in 1990 and a democratically elected government installed in 1992. A brief civil war in 1997 restored former Marxist President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The capital is Brazzaville.

<https://www.sahistory.org.za/place/republic-congo>

Republic of Congo Natural Resources

The economy in the Republic of Congo is extremely dependent on the petroleum sector. Rising oil prices during the 1980s brought an influx of revenue and allowed the country to invest in itself. Oil prices have dropped substantially since then and the economy isn't flourishing the way it once was. The Republic of Congo is focusing efforts on moving away from petroleum and in recent years they have begun converting natural gas to electricity instead of burning it.

<http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/republic-of-the-congo-population/>

The Republic of Congo is one of Africa's oil rich states, however its economic potential is hampered by the current ongoing civil war.

<https://www.sahistory.org.za/place/republic-congo>

The mining sector in the Republic of Congo is still in its infancy. There are currently no large-scale mining operations, only small-scale domestic operations. However, the country is believed to have significant reserves of iron ore, copper, diamonds, phosphate, potash, and gold, among other possibilities.

<https://www.export.gov/article?id=Republic-of-Congo-Mining-Sector>

Diamonds, copper, and gold. The Congolese government set up the Department of Mines and Geology to manage the country's mineral resources. Congo's mineral resources are yet to be adequately exploited.

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-are-the-major-natural-resources-of-the-republic-of-the-congo.html>

Gabon

As its ruling dynasty withers, Gabon — a guardian of French influence in Africa — ponders its future

“The Bongo family has run this stable central African nation for 52 years.”

April 6, 2019 Gyldas A. Ofoulhast-Othamot

“The fragility of one of the world’s longest-lasting political dynasties was exposed when the military attempted a coup in Gabon in January.

“The coup, orchestrated by junior members of Gabon’s military, failed to unseat Ali Bongo Ondimba, whose family has run the central African country since the late 1960s. And Gabon’s next presidential election isn’t until the summer of 2023.

“Bongo’s time in office may run out sooner.

“The 60-year-old strongman has been effectively unable to rule since suffering an apparent stroke in October 2018, during Saudi Arabia’s Future Investment Initiative — often called “Davos in the desert.”

“His evident frailty in recent TV appearances, coupled with the failed coup and lack of an obvious heir, has created a strong national sentiment that Gabon’s five-decade Bongo dynasty is on its last legs.

“Omar Bongo ensured that Gabon remained a “neocolonial enclave,” as anthropologist Michael Reed wrote in 1987 in the *Journal of Modern African Studies*.

“Oil wealth and the Bongo dynasty’s French backing has contributed to Gabon’s security, and in recent years Bongo has used this stability to turn Gabon into a key U.S. ally in the region. But stability is not the same as democracy. The 2016 presidential election was damaging for the Bongo dynasty. It was the first time that the opposition to the Bongo family coalesced around a single, credible candidacy. Ever since then, once peaceful Gabon has experienced political crises. Ping’s party boycotted last year’s municipal elections, and his half of the electorate considers Bongo an illegitimate president.

“Gabon has also been in an economic and fiscal crisis since 2014.

“Between 2014 and 2016, government revenues decreased substantially due to the fall of global oil prices. Last year, the

International Monetary Fund agreed to bail out Gabon's government in exchange for structural reforms, including a three-year hiring freeze in the public sector. Inequality is also very high in Gabon. Historically, its oil wealth has not financially benefited most of its people, who remain quite poor."

<https://www.salon.com/2019/04/05/as-its-ruling-dynasty-withers-gabon-a-guardian-of-french-influence-in-africa-ponders-its-future-partner/>

"France today has 7,000 soldiers in Africa and, in addition to Djibouti, maintains bases on the Atlantic coast, with an important presence in Senegal, Gabon, Ivory Coast and a decisive role between Mali, Chad and Central Africa." <https://global.ilmanifesto.it/france-and-italy-face-off-in-neo-colonial-clash-in-niger/>

Gabon Natural Resources

"Dwindling (oil) production due to maturing fields and a lack of major new finds have led to a significant decrease in production. In 2016, Gabon produced 227,000 bopd, according to the BP Statistical Review 2017.

"Given that the oil industry accounts for more than 50% of Gabon's GDP and 80% of the country's export earnings, diminishing production and the oil price downturn have hurt the nation's economy. Many operations have been cancelled. Gabon is aware of the challenges and is looking to improve its business climate by drastically improving the country's infrastructure and facilities. Improving the road network is one target: The government aims to have 700 kilometers of additional paved roads in Gabon by 2020."

<https://www.theoilandgasyear.com/market/gabon/>

Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)

"ABIDJAN, February 21, 2019 — For the seventh consecutive year, economic growth in Côte d'Ivoire was projected to exceed 7% and reach 7.4% in 2018, despite the country's vulnerability to external shocks and political uncertainty in the run up to the presidential elections in 2020."

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/02/21/cote-divoire-economic-outlook-the-economy-is-still-dynamic-but-not-inclusive>

"That is what is really at stake in France's interventions both in Mali, Central African Republic and Ivory Coast in 2011 where Sarkozy removed Laurent Gbagbo by force and installed Alassane Ouattara. It is well known that both Ivory Coast's Gbagbo and former president François Bozize of CAR got into trouble with the master – meaning France – because they turned to China for win-win cooperation. They were swiftly removed from power."

<https://www.blackagendareport.com/content/french-complicity-crisis->

[central-african-republic](#)

2011: Title: Indications of U.S. Security Assistance to Ivory Coast teaser: STRATFOR believes two private jets used by Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara are registered to CIA front companies, which could indicate the U.S. is providing security assistance to the new president.

https://wikileaks.org/gifiles/docs/50/5069468_re-for-comment-you-cant-spell-ivory-coast-without-cia-.html

Ivory coast life expectancy: 54.1 Years

Mean years of schooling: 5.2

Also see:

<https://global.ilmanifesto.it/france-and-italy-face-off-in-neo-colonial-clash-in-niger/>

Ivory Coast Natural Resources

Natural Resources of Ivory Coast: petroleum, natural gas, diamonds, manganese, iron, cobalt, bauxite, copper, gold, nickel, tantalum

This is among the best prospects industry sector for this country.

Overview: Côte d'Ivoire has proven oil reserves estimated at 100 million barrels and gas reserves of 1 trillion cubic feet. Côte d'Ivoire has the potential to become a medium-sized offshore oil producer through development of the upstream industry. The country is a net exporter of petroleum, though it imports crude oil to be refined in local refineries that are configured for the heavier oil produced elsewhere. The Ivorian government reports that oil production was approximately 34,000 barrels per day in 2017 and that gas production reached approximately 216 million cubic feet per day. Côte d'Ivoire is a net regional energy exporter.

<https://www.export.gov/article?id=Cote-d-Ivoire-Oil-Gas-Field-Equipment>

Madagascar

1500s - Portuguese, French, Dutch, and English attempt to establish trading settlements which fail due to hostile conditions and fierce local Malagasy.

Late 1600s through the early 1700s - pirates ruled the eastern coast of the island

1894 Madagascar was colonized by the French after they invaded in December 1894. In 1896 France officially annexes Madagascar as a colony and later unifies the country under a single government. On June 26, 1960 Madagascar gained independence.

<https://www.wildmadagascar.org/history/>

During 1992-93, free presidential and National Assembly elections were held ending 17 years of single-party rule. In 1997, in the second presidential race, Didier RATSIRAKA, the leader during the 1970s and

1980s, returned to the presidency. The 2001 presidential election was contested between the followers of Didier RATSIRAKA and Marc RAVALOMANANA, nearly causing secession of half of the country. In 2002, the High Constitutional Court announced RAVALOMANANA the winner. RAVALOMANANA won a second term in 2006 but, following protests in 2009, handed over power to the military, which then conferred the presidency on the mayor of Antananarivo, Andry RAJOELINA, in what amounted to a coup d'etat. Following a lengthy mediation process led by the Southern African Development Community, Madagascar held UN-supported presidential and parliamentary elections in 2013. Former de facto finance minister Hery RAJAONARIMAMPINANINA won a runoff election in December 2013 and was inaugurated in January 2014. In January 2019, RAJOELINA was declared the winner of a runoff election against RAVALOMANANA; both RATSIRAKA and RAJAONARIMAMPINANINA also ran in the first round of the election, which took place in November 2018.

https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/print_ma.html

Madagascar is well known for its vanilla and precious redwood, yet is one of the world's poorest nations, according to World Bank data, with 76 percent of people living in extreme poverty.

The island, which is also famed for its unique wildlife, is dependent on foreign aid and burdened by a long history of coups and unrest.

<https://www.france24.com/en/20181220-both-candidates-rajoelina-avalomanana-claim-victory-madagascar-presidential-election-0>

Madagascar Natural Resources

Madagascar has a number of natural resources, including graphite, chromite, coal, bauxite, rare Earth elements, salt, quartz, tar sands, precious and semi-precious stones and mica.

Mali

“Mali has been experiencing instability and conflict since the military coup of 2012 and the occupation of the northern regions by armed groups. These events were followed by the deployment of French-led military forces in January 2013, which handed over to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in July 2014.”

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mali/overview>

The War on Mali. What you Should Know: An Eldorado of Uranium, Gold, Petroleum, Strategic Minerals, By R. Teichmann, Global Research, January 15, 2013

“The French government has stated that: “it would send 2,500 troops to support Malian government soldiers in the conflict against Islamist rebels.

“France has already deployed around 750 troops to Mali, and French carriers arrived in Bamako on Tuesday morning... We will continue the deployment of forces on the ground and in the air...

“We have one goal. To ensure that when we leave, when we end our intervention, Mali is safe, has legitimate authorities, an electoral process and there are no more terrorists threatening its territory.”

“So, this is the official narrative of France and those who support it. And of course, this is what is widely reported by the mainstream media.

“France is supported by other NATO members. US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta confirmed that the US was providing intelligence to French forces in Mali. [2] Canada, Belgium, Denmark and Germany have also publicly backed the French incursion, pledging logistical support in the crackdown on the rebels. [3]”

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-war-on-mali-what-you-should-know/5319093>

More currently see <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/french-colonial-designs-mali-190820111338087.html>

2018 - Mean years of schooling is 2.3. Life expectancy at birth: 58.5 years. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update>

Also see:

France today has 7,000 soldiers in Africa and, in addition to Djibouti, maintains bases on the Atlantic coast, with an important presence in Senegal, Gabon, Ivory Coast and a decisive role between Mali, Chad and Central Africa. <https://global.ilmanifesto.it/france-and-italy-face-off-in-neo-colonial-clash-in-niger/>

Niger

The Official Story:

2018 - Niger has a democratically elected government. It is a young democracy, but a vibrant one. It is an ethnically diverse but cohesive nation, yet there seems to be strong collaboration and understanding across divides. There is an active political opposition.

<https://eiti.org/blog/niger-governing-its-natural-resources-what-it-has-to-say-about-eiti-in-2018>

2013 - Famine-Stricken Niger Feeds French Development and Wealth

It is the world’s fifth top producer of uranium ore – after Kazakhstan, Canada, Australia and Russia. Niger has also other mineral riches, including gold, iron ore, molybdenum, tin, salt, gypsum and phosphates – and what are reckoned to be huge untapped oil and gas reserves.

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2013/11/14/famine-stricken-niger-feeds-french-development-and-wealth/>

“2018 - Real GDP growth was an estimated 5.2% in 2018, up from 4.9% in 2017, reflecting stronger performance of the agricultural sector. On the demand side, final consumption grew by 4.5% in 2018, and investment, by 11.7% (compared with 2.4% in 2017). The GDP structure remains relatively stable, with agriculture dominating (43.4% of GDP in 2018), followed by services (35%), and industry (14.9%). Despite public finance consolidation, the fiscal deficit stood at an estimated 5.9% of GDP in 2018. Consumer price index inflation was an estimated 4.2% in 2018, reflecting an expansion in credit and money supply in the context of a contraction in net foreign assets.”

<https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/west-africa/niger/niger-economic-outlook>

The above smugly rosy report concludes: “Niger leads the group on climate change issues and chairs the Sahel Climate Commission.”

– In per capita income Niger ranks 138th of 211 countries with per capita annual income of \$460.

<http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/countries-by-gdp/>

In 2018 UNDP ranked Niger 189th in the world of the 189 nations studied with the mean years of schooling being two, and gross national income per capita at \$906.

Also see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update>

In other words, Niger is the least developed country in the world in spite of or because of having some of the world’s largest natural resources deposits.

Also see:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244017698529>

Niger Natural Resources

Niger has the world’s 10th largest proven oil reserves, and is Africa’s largest producer of crude, yet the people are getting poorer.

A smaller version of the same thing happened when oil prices crashed in 2014 and 2015. Because oil is Niger’s primary export, the price of oil strongly affects the economy.

Oil accounts for more than half of the government’s revenue, and the vast majority of the country’s foreign-exchange earnings. Thus, when oil prices fell, the pain filtered through to Nigeria’s other industries, and it wasn’t long before the whole economy began to suffer leading to recession. The recession, in turn, led to a decline in employment.

Paraphrased from:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2018-10-16/how-nigeria-can-escape-the-natural-resource-curse>

The real story?

According to somewhat terrified unnamed sources, cronies of the foreign imposed corrupt

dictator are deeply in bed with the foreign neo-colonialists, steal everything and leave the common people to starve in hopeless desperation.

Senegal

“France today has 7,000 soldiers in Africa and, in addition to Djibouti, maintains bases on the Atlantic coast, with an important presence in Senegal, Gabon, Ivory Coast and a decisive role between Mali, Chad and Central Africa.”

<https://global.ilmanifesto.it/france-and-italy-face-off-in-neo-colonial-clash-in-niger/>

Senegal Natural Resources

“Senegal is rich in minerals especially phosphates and iron ore. There are also other resources as detailed below;

“Phosphates - Senegal has been one of the world’s leading phosphate producers, with major deposits at Taiba, Thiès and Matam. 1.5 Mt of phosphate is produced each year. Its mining potential is estimated at 500-1,000 million tonnes.

“Zircon - Heavy minerals – in the sands of Senegal there are rich resources of zirconium, titanium, metals and precious stones.

“Iron ore - Iron ore deposits are located in four separate areas equal to 750 million tonnes.

“Marble - Large deposits of good quality marble, estimated to several million cubic meters, are to be found in east Senegal.

“Gold - The country may soon become the leading producer of gold in Africa, which is confirmed by the presence of the world’s largest producers of gold. Gold mining is ongoing in Senegal.”

<https://fortuneofafrica.com/senegal/2014/02/22/natural-resources-of-senegal/>

Tunisia

“Initially, Italy was the country that demonstrated the most desire to have Tunisia as a colony having investment, citizens and geographic proximity as motivation. However, this was rebuffed when Britain and France co-operated to prevent this during the years 1871 – 1878 ending in Britain supporting French influence in Tunisia in exchange for dominion over Cyprus. France still had the issue of Italian influence (related to the huge colony of Tunisian Italians emigrated to Tunisia) and thus decided to find an excuse for a pre-emptive strike. Using the pretext of a Tunisian incursion into Algeria, France invaded with an army of about 36,000 which quickly advanced to Tunis and forced the Bey to make terms in the form of the 1881 Treaty of Bardo (Al Qasr as Sa'id), which gave France control of Tunisian governance and making it a de facto French protectorate.

“France's colonial empire at the time of French rule in Tunisia.

“In the spring of 1881, the French army occupied Tunisia, claiming that Tunisian troops had crossed the border to Algeria, France’s primary colony in Northern Africa. Italy, also interested in Tunisia, protested, but did not risk a war with France. On May 12 of that year, Tunisia was officially made a French protectorate with the signature of the treaty of Bardo by Muhammad III as-Sadiq.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Tunisia#Modernity_and_the_French_Protectorate

American use Bizerte-Sidi Ahmed Air Base in Tunisia - history going back to WWII

September 18, 2018

America Is Quietly Expanding Its War in Tunisia

The first documented U.S. direct military engagement in Tunisia since World War II has largely passed unnoticed.

The United States has maintained a military presence in Tunisia for at least four-and-a-half years, rendering it unlikely that the events of Mount Semmama were an isolated incident limited to a mere advisory role, as the AFRICOM spokesperson claimed.

Tunisia now receives more U.S. defense aid than any other country in North Africa and the Sahel region, except for Egypt.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/america-quietly-expanding-its-war-tunisia-31492>

Tunisia Natural Resources

Metals

In 2010, Australia’s Celamin Holdings NL and Tunisian Mining Services S.A. collaborated to produce zinc and lead from four of Tunisia’s old mines. Through this project, the country aimed at producing zinc and lead between 2.5 million Mt and 3.0 Mt.

Iron ore in Tunisia was produced by El-Fouladh from the Tamera-Douaria and Jerissa mines.

Fossil Fuels

Natural gas and petroleum in Tunisia was explored and produced by 57 local and international companies that had 54 licenses to carry out exploration activities in Tunisia. In 2010, most of the country’s crude oil was obtained from the Oued Zar, the Adam, the Cheroug, the Baraka and the Ashtart oilfields.

Towards the close of 2010, Tunisia had 65 billion m³ of natural gas and 430 million barrels of crude oil. As far as new discoveries were concerned the country had one crude oil discovery and four natural gas discoveries

in 2010.

In 2010, UK's BG Group plc was a leading natural gas producer in Tunisia. This company controlled the Miskar field and increased the output of natural gas and condensates in 2010.

<https://www.azomining.com/Article.aspx?ArticleID=197>

Appendix 2: Similarities between individual and collective experiences

Has the reader ever been beaten unconscious by a gang of bullies before? The experience is quite indescribable in many ways, but perhaps relevant in attempting to explain French foreign colonial policies in West, North and Central Africa and any and all colonial "exploits."

Some bully gangs start off with a "delicious" prelude, perhaps a charming conversation. "Where are you from?" "Oh, that's very nice."

Then maybe you'll get hit from behind in the head with brass knuckles or a bat which bends you forward and your upper body bends down a bit. Like clockwork another bully will show off his incredible uppercut smashing you in the face.

Has the reader ever been punched very hard in the face? It's something like this. First is not pain, but blackness because your brain has been concussed, bounded off the inside of your skull. Then there are bright lights like stars. After that waves of intense pain roll in, accompanied by shock and feelings of betrayal. Why feelings of betrayal? Most people trust their environments and your environment came from nowhere and betrayed you for no reason your concussed brain can fathom. You are off balance, alone and then other blows come raining in. Kidney punches, other punches in the face and ribs. Your nose is already broken – bleeding badly and bent to one side, but you don't know that yet. Some of your ribs are cracked, but again you don't know. You don't have any idea what the damage is really. Only an asynchronous symphony of agony down an infinitely long road. Your breathing is very rapid with sharp pain with every breath from the cracked ribs sticking you like a knife in the side. You can try to run, but one of the bullies trips you and you fall down. Then they start kicking you. You can try to cover your head, but there are so many of them, hitting you from every direction and eventually your consciousness fades away, carried off on a tide of thunderous pain and betrayal into peaceful oblivion.

Waking up happens slowly as your mind doesn't want to come back to the reality of your broken body on a sidewalk or an alley somewhere. The pain is everywhere, your body and mind are receptacles of pain. The memories only slowly return unraveling backwards from the fading of the light in your mind when you passed out. Your breathing speeds up as the memories return. You can't even think of getting up. That takes some time and cognition of who and where you are.

And yet, as horrific as this may seem to someone who never experienced it or anything like it, it's only a tiny speck of sand drifting aimlessly in the oceans of agony inflicted upon colonized people, tribes, nations, continents, races and religions; for these beatings occur every minute of every day of every week of every month of every year over centuries and are vastly crueler, more "clever," and deadlier.

Worse yet is when they do these things or worse to people you love. There are many things worse than death in this world, and the colonialists know all about them, for they are masters

of slavery, tortures of the mind and body and death and are the propagators of true industrial-scale terrorism.

And yet, hope survives, communicating a message of peace and love such that these infinite evils can one day be relegated to the history books, instead of boastfully adorning the front and back pages of newspapers, or as in most cases, blithely ignored.

“Don’t worship Europe in its totality. There is good as well as evil everywhere. There are angels and devils everywhere. There are devils with the faces of angels, and angels with the faces of devils everywhere. And there is one thing that stays the same, Child, that is eternal: The colonialist is always a devil.

“You live in a colonial world; you can’t get away from that. But it doesn’t matter, as long as you understand: He is a devil until the end of the world. He is Satan.

“I heard the bitterness in her words. I recognized that she was confronting an enemy who could be neither opposed nor threatened, a devil immune to insults, blows, tears or pain...”

Child of All Nations, by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, 1925, 1979, 1991 1993, Penguin Books 1996, softcover, P. 82

References

All available references are cited in-text. All linked references were downloaded during the week of September 6, 2019 to September 12, 2019.

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