

Africa: A victim of agro-imperialism

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Hanan Yehya

ACCORDING to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), food prices will surge by 40 percent in the next 10 years and will result in an acute food crisis worldwide. The report says the food expenditure per household is expected to rise by 34 percent.

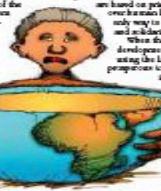
The main factor causing this is that in the rapid urbanization of developed countries, eating with hands and cooking with fire is being replaced by eating with spoons and cooking with gas. This is leading to the destruction of world's valuable natural resources at the hands of the former colonial powers as described in "agro-imperialism".

Africa is once again in the headlines. Despite having been blessed with huge natural resources, the Dark Continent is struggling with hunger and poverty due to a lack of infrastructure, education, rampant civil wars, continuous tug-of-war between establishments and the corporate sector. Ironically, 40 percent of the natural agricultural lands of the world are in Africa and the peoples of the continent, who cannot produce their own crops, are not able to benefit from their own land and resources of their lands, which can be used for high-temperature resistant quality agriculture. This situation has opened the doors to a world of exploitation.

When the dangers of food crisis became apparent, countries looking for quick fixes began buying or leasing agricultural lands in remote African countries. It is estimated that some 47-74 million hectares of cultivable land have already changed owners through this method. Congo has reportedly leased 1.8 million hectares, corresponding to 25 percent of the entire land. While the area is factually owned by those Britain in Africa is equal to the size of Denmark, US, China and India-owned overseas, purchased lands are being sold.

This practice might seem like a good idea for Africa, which needs some revenue from the proceeds. But given the historical context, most of these areas are for a few years but for much longer duration in the 50 years. They are being occupied from outside a long time and the policies are usually supported. The proceeds they are used for the domestic market cause a disadvantage to the competition for the African people who cannot carry out their agricultural land on having difficulty carrying their produce. In this domestic market, only the remote countries make their profit while the rest of the continent produces. For this reason, foreign companies are not taking the important power in Africa as the African government.

From African countries have laws to place the present exploitation of their resources, agricultural sector. The current policy of the African government should provide support to those farmers that cannot the largest amount of land and crop seeds. This entails the farmers despoiling most of their local produce, and



The US is working with international partners to investigate if the Syrian president's (Bashar Assad) government is dropping chemical bombs.

We (China and India) need work together to address mutual trade control our differences and problems to avoid those interfering with bilateral relations.

I stressed the need for China to reconsider its approach on some of the issues that held us back from realizing full potential of our partnership.

READERS' MAIL

Arab unity is a must

Due to the strong Arab response to the recent in Yemen, the situation in the Middle East has taken a new turn. Iran must have been taken off guard, as it had expected some reaction from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab countries since the beginning of the so-called Arab Spring. Iran had been confident of the Arab world by continuously financing a series of various Arab movements. It failed to understand the Iranian expansionist designs. Instead of working for the welfare of its own people, the Iranian regime appears to be more interested in doing a wedge between communication in other countries of course. Some advancement and economic flow of funds. The same funds could be used for the development of Iran and for the program of Iran.

The Arab world has been divided into camps of competing leadership. Unfortunately, this is the Arab world have been deep into believing that Iran is the sole possessor of their resources. There is a need for regional and economic cooperation and not reliance with anybody. They simply are people to practice their own religion. That is the Arab world should demand their policies toward Iran.

Dividing the region along sectarian lines will not be a good idea for any people. Trying to bring to program, Arab belonging to all sects or faiths should realize that their interests are intertwined. A non-sectarian Iraq will affect both Shiite and Sunnis. The same and interests of Iraq will not affect Iran. It is the same for Syria, Yemen and every other country in the region. Instead of fighting along sectarian lines, all Arabs should forge unity among their sects and try to build a common forum in their respective countries and work together for the development of their continent.

Farooq Khurshid

Houthis' true character

This is with reference to the report "Houthis' violent campaign in Yemen" (May 15). The actions of the Houthis clearly indicate that they are not sincere with the people of Yemen. As a matter of fact, it is a small militia which is not even representative of the wider Zaidi community. According to some reports, various credible news websites, most of the Houthis in the militia are heavily trained in Iran. On their return from Iran, they started practicing Shia ideology. Otherwise, the Zaidi Shia community of

Mohammad Ba Youmna Damman

Good service

Visiting government offices had always been my worst nightmare. However, sometimes it becomes an enjoyable like when one needs to get his passport or any other document renewed. My recent visit to the Pakistan Consulate in Jeddah turned out to be a pleasant surprise. I was impressed by the way the passport services system had been streamlined. The online appointment system for passport services is also a commendable step. The authorities should try to take the quality of their services to the next level by introducing an online process for renewal of passports. It is also a commendable step. The authorities should try to take the quality of their services to the next level by introducing an online process for renewal of passports. It is also a commendable step. The authorities should try to take the quality of their services to the next level by introducing an online process for renewal of passports. It is also a commendable step.

Abrar Al-Homid Jeddah

Filling the vacuum in ME

Anis Ishani

JUST over a few years ago, the US grand strategy, embracing global hegemony in the Middle East, reducing Islamic, economic and political leadership back to the Arab world in the context of a low-oil world.

This month, however, the US grand strategy that produced the Iraq majority Comprehensive agreement in two decades was almost repeated. There was also the return of the US grand strategy to the Middle East, reducing Islamic, economic and political leadership back to the Arab world in the context of a low-oil world.

The main factor causing this is that in the rapid urbanization of developed countries, eating with hands and cooking with fire is being replaced by eating with spoons and cooking with gas. This is leading to the destruction of world's valuable natural resources at the hands of the former colonial powers as described in "agro-imperialism".

Africa is once again in the headlines. Despite having been blessed with huge natural resources, the Dark Continent is struggling with hunger and poverty due to a lack of infrastructure, education, rampant civil wars, continuous tug-of-war between establishments and the corporate sector. Ironically, 40 percent of the natural agricultural lands of the world are in Africa and the peoples of the continent, who cannot produce their own crops, are not able to benefit from their own land and resources of their lands, which can be used for high-temperature resistant quality agriculture. This situation has opened the doors to a world of exploitation.

When the dangers of food crisis became apparent, countries looking for quick fixes began buying or leasing agricultural lands in remote African countries. It is estimated that some 47-74 million hectares of cultivable land have already changed owners through this method. Congo has reportedly leased 1.8 million hectares, corresponding to 25 percent of the entire land. While the area is factually owned by those Britain in Africa is equal to the size of Denmark, US, China and India-owned overseas, purchased lands are being sold.

This practice might seem like a good idea for Africa, which needs some revenue from the proceeds. But given the historical context, most of these areas are for a few years but for much longer duration in the 50 years. They are being occupied from outside a long time and the policies are usually supported. The proceeds they are used for the domestic market cause a disadvantage to the competition for the African people who cannot carry out their agricultural land on having difficulty carrying their produce. In this domestic market, only the remote countries make their profit while the rest of the continent produces. For this reason, foreign companies are not taking the important power in Africa as the African government.

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According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), food prices will surge by 40 percent in the next 10 years and will result in an acute food crisis worldwide. The report says the food expenditure per household is expected to rise by 30 percent.

The main factor contributing to this situation is the rapid urbanization of developed countries replacing arable lands with industrial zones. Developing countries appear to be oblivious of this fact and are destroying farmable lands. Such practices that lead to the devastation of world's valuable natural resources at the hands of the former colonial powers are described as "agro-imperialism."

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resources or their lands, which can be used for high-temperature resistant quality agriculture. This situation has opened the doors to a world of exploitation.

When the dangers of food crisis became apparent, countries looking for quick fixes began buying or renting agricultural lands in various African countries. It is estimated that some 47-56 million hectares of cultivable land have already changed owners through this method. Congo has reportedly rented 8.1 million hectares, corresponding to one-fourth of its entire lands. While the area of farmable lands rented by Great Britain in Africa is equal to the size of Denmark; US, China and Switzerland combined, purchased lands as big as Moldova.

This practice might at first look like a good idea for Africa, which needs new revenue sources. But in practice, things are different. Investor countries rent those areas not for a few years but for much longer duration like 90 years. They are being exempted from taxes for a long time and the produce is mostly exported. The portion they set aside for the domestic market causes a disadvantage in the competition for the African people who cannot carry out real agriculture and are having difficulty marketing their produce. In the domestic market, only the investor countries make money while the value of domestic products dips. For this reason, this practice does nothing but make the imperialist powers richer, as the Africans get poorer.

Some African countries have laws in place that protect exploitation of their respective agricultural sectors. For example in Ghana, the national parliament provides full support to those laws that restrict the farmers' abilities to stock and swap seeds. This entails the farmers destroying seeds of their local products, and being forced to purchase the genetically-modified seeds provided by western suppliers. It is a known fact that countries that do not follow this path are pressured to accept it by western governments through various means. Actually, it is difficult to say that exploited Africa is the only victim in all of this. At the moment, this imperialist seed market has taken hold of the entire world. All developing countries, including Turkey, feel forced to accept this dangerous and exploitative system.

Mercia Andrews, of the Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE) in South Africa, sees this as "another phase of colonialism" and adds "what we need is ... People to people solidarity, not corporate takeover."

Dr. Kanayo Nwanze, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), stated that: "If we set our sights only on improving productivity, there is a very real danger that we will grow more food in Africa without feeding more people."

The only reason why the world's resources are not sufficient although there are enough to feed twice the world population today is selfishness. If the future policies are based on principles of selfishness and egoism, and if profit is favored over human life, global disasters will continue to strike mankind. The only way to avoid such disasters is to ensure that the spirit of love and solidarity prevails.

When that happens, the developed countries will work to ensure development both for themselves and for the countries they are using the lands of. They will choose to create opportunities to get prosperous together, instead of trying to further exploit an already impoverished country. They will teach industry, technology and agriculture to them, use the resources together and improve the existing conditions through cooperation. The spirit of love and solidarity that God wants can exist only through conscience. Such hearts with a strong conscience cannot bear the thought of getting rich at the expense of others. Such hearts cannot stand the thought of seeing themselves superior to others as the conscience always shows the right way.

In order for conscientious societies, governments and leaders to emerge, people with good hearts need to make their voices stronger. It is evident that selfish practices brought only poverty and hate to the world. The way to achieve wealth and happiness is conscientious and loving policies, which are things that governments probably never tried before. Let's remind one more time something we have mentioned so many times before: Civilizations will get stronger not through fights, exploitation and oppression but through bonding, sharing, helping and loving each other. Those who find it hard to believe should put it to test once to see how true it is.

Adnan Oktar's piece on Arab News & The Hans India:

<http://www.arabnews.com/columns/news/747416>

<http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/2015-06-15/Africa-A-sufferer-of-agro-imperialism---157276>

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Africa: A sufferer of agro-imperialism

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<https://www.harunyahya.info/en/articles/africa-a-victim-of-agro-imperialism>