

Why not make Africa a new Europe?

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Why not make Africa a new Europe?

HARUN YAHYA



THE migrant flow from Africa into Europe has been a significant problem for a long time and the never-ending wars and poverty in parts of Africa only exacerbate the situation. These people, who have as much right to live dignified and high-quality lives as Europeans, risk dangerous journeys towards an unknown future, with the hope finding a better life. However, conflicts continue and as poverty spreads, the problem will probably grow and more downtrodden and impoverished people will look to Europe in the hope of finding a safe haven and a dignified life. Yet, it is clear the people of Africa or the Middle East cannot all be accommodated in Europe. Therefore, after providing temporary relief for urgent cases and especially for vulnerable people, the solution should focus on improving the living conditions of the lands in question.

Today we know that apart from the millions who wish to take refuge in other countries because of an imminent threat to their lives and dignity, there is also a significant group of people who want to do the same to achieve higher living standards. And they surely deserve to live high-quality lives, just like everyone else. Every person is born equal and a person's birthplace should not decide if they will be respected, valued and live a humane life. However, since it is impossible to fit the entire population of the world in certain areas only we should work to achieve the desired living standards everywhere.

In other words, the solution to the refugee and immigrant problem should focus on two main points:

- Providing immediate shelter and relief to people who urgently need protection and help.
- Improving sub-par living conditions in problematic regions so people do not feel the urge to leave their countries.

It should not be forgotten that the European colonial powers played an important role in the impoverished and strife-ridden state of Africa. While Europe developed, prospered and built a civilisation of rich culture, art and science, certain European leaders of the time, in pursuit of their colonial dreams, breached every human right and moral value and terribly exploited Africa. So much so that between 1881 and 1914, in what is now called the "scramble for Africa", 90% of the continent came under European control.

Over time, despite its natural resources, beautiful culture and art, the continent became impossibly impoverished. Today, despite its rich natural resources, 75% of the world's poorest countries are in Africa. In 2010, 41 million people were living on \$1.25 or less a day in sub-Saharan Africa, almost one in three people in sub-Saharan Africa are undernourished and 869 million people in the same area live without electricity. And traces of those days still linger in certain areas.

For instance, France still receives a so-called colonial tax from its former African colonies, which amounts to around \$600 billion a year. Many sources in Africa are still under the control of certain European countries. Furthermore, never-ending clashes, civil wars and conflicts continue to destroy the continent and force millions to look for shelter and help.

However, it is possible to make Africa a new centre of culture and civilisation. It is possible to make Lagos another Paris, Dar es Salaam another Rome or Addis Ababa another London. The continent has more than enough potential to make this happen. For instance, according to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, "Africa accounts for three-quarters of the world's platinum supply and half of its diamonds and chromium. It has up to one-fifth of the world's gold and uranium supplies and it is increasingly home to oil and gas production, with over 30 countries now in this category".

In addition, these wonderful lands were home to impressive civilisations in the past. For example, while Europe was struggling in the darkness of the Middle Ages, Timbuktu was home to the first university in the 12th century. In a city of 100,000 people, this school had 25,000 students who came from all around Africa to excel in knowledge and a variety of talents. Today, it is perfectly possible to make it again a centre of education and culture, a hub of art and music, a safe haven that promises a good, dignified life to both its residents and visitors.

Indeed, we have seen this transformation many times in the past. For example, until the 1960s and 1970s, the UK, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain and Portugal were primary sources of emigration and millions of people migrated to countries like the US, Australia and Belgium. However, as living standards rose in these countries, the trend reversed and the sources of emigration turned into magnets of immigration. There is no reason why Africa cannot achieve this, given its potential. Its natural resources, its cultural background and diversity coupled with the willingness of the world to help.

But first, the modern colonisation should stop immediately. After that, under the auspices of the UN, each country - proportional to its GDP - can contribute to a fund reserved for the development and improvement of living standards in Africa. When this happens, not only the inhabitants of this beautiful continent, but Europeans will benefit as well. They will finally be relieved of the social and economic challenges brought about by mass immigration and will have a new destination, almost a new version of Europe, where they can go and enjoy a high-quality life in a completely different setting amidst a different and exciting culture. However, until this is done, the immigration influx will clearly continue.

So let's take concrete steps to solve the root causes of the problem and make every place of human settlement in the world a desirable location.

Let's make every place in the world a desirable location to live in

The migrant flow from Africa into Europe has been a significant problem for a long time, and the never-ending wars and poverty in parts of Africa only exacerbate the situation. These people, who have as much as every right to live dignified and high quality lives as the Europeans, risk dangerous journeys towards an unknown future, with the hope finding a better life. However, conflicts continue and as poverty spreads, the problem will likely grow and more downtrodden and impoverished people will look to Europe in hopes of finding a safe haven and a dignified life.

Yet, it is clear that the entire population of Africa or the Middle East cannot be accommodated in Europe. Therefore, after providing temporary relief for urgent cases and especially for vulnerable people, the solution should focus on improving the living conditions of the lands in question.

Today we know that apart from the millions who wish to take refuge in other countries due to an imminent threat to their lives and dignity, there is also a significant group of people that want to do the same to achieve higher living standards. And they surely deserve to live high quality lives just like everyone else; every person is born equal and a person's birthplace should not decide if they will be respected, valued and live a humane life. However, since it is impossible to fit the entire population of the world in certain areas only, we should work to achieve the desired living standards everywhere.

In other words, the solution to the refugee and immigrant problem should focus on two main points:

- Providing immediate shelter and relief to people that urgently need protection and help,
- Improving subpar living conditions in problematic regions so that people do not feel the urge to leave their countries and seek a better life elsewhere.

It should not be forgotten that the European colonial powers played an important role in the current impoverished and strife-ridden state of Africa. While Europe developed, prospered, and built a civilization of rich culture, art and science, certain European leaders of the time, in pursuit of their colonial dreams, breached every human right and moral value and terribly exploited Africa. So much so that between 1881 and 1914, in now what is called the 'scramble for Africa,' ninety percent of the continent came under European control. Over time, despite its natural resources, beauties, culture and art, the continent became impossibly impoverished. Today, despite its rich natural resources, 75% of the world's poorest countries are to be found in Africa. In 2010, 414 million people were living on \$1.25 or less a day in sub-Saharan Africa and almost one in three people in sub-Saharan Africa are undernourished and 589 million people in the same area live without electricity.[i] And traces of those days still linger in certain areas: For instance, France still receives a so-called colonial tax from its former African colonies, which amounts to around 500 billion dollars a year.[ii] Many sources in Africa are still under the control of certain European countries. Furthermore, never-ending clashes, civil wars and conflicts continue to destroy the continent and force millions to rightly look for shelter and help.

However, it is possible to make Africa a new center of culture and civilization. It is possible to make Lagos another Paris, Dar es Salaam another Rome or Addis Ababa another London. The continent has more than enough potential and culture to make this happen. For instance, according to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, 'Africa accounts for three-quarters of the world's platinum supply, and half of its diamonds and chromium. It has up to one-fifth of the world's gold and uranium supplies and it is increasingly home to oil and gas production, with over thirty countries now in this category.'[iii]

In addition, these wonderful lands were home to impressive civilizations in the past. For example, while Europe was struggling in the darkness of the Middle Ages, Timbuktu was home to world's first university. In the 12th Century, in a city of 100,000 people, this school had 25,000 students who came from all around Africa to excel in knowledge and a variety of talents.[iv] Today, it is perfectly possible to make it again a center of education and culture, a hub of art and music, a safe haven that promises a good, dignified life to both its residents and visitors.

Indeed, we have seen this transformation many times in the past. For example, until the 1960's and 1970's, the UK, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain and Portugal were primary sources of emigration and millions of people migrated to countries like the USA, Australia and Belgium. However, as living standards rose in these countries, the trend reversed and the sources of emigration turned into magnets of immigration.[v] There is no reason why Africa cannot achieve this, given its potential, its natural resources, its cultural background and diversity, coupled with the willingness of the world to help. But first, the modern colonization should stop immediately. After that, under the auspices of the UN, each country –proportional to their GDP– can contribute to a fund reserved for the development and improvement of living standards in Africa. When this happens, not only the inhabitants of this beautiful continent, but Europeans will benefit as well. They will finally be relieved of the social and economic challenges brought about by mass immigration and will have a new destination, almost a new version of Europe, where they can go and enjoy a high quality life in a completely different setting amidst a different and exciting culture. However, until this is done, the immigration influx will clearly continue.

So let's take concrete steps to solve the root causes of the problem and make every place of human settlement in the world a desirable location, where people live high quality lives befitting their human dignity.

[i] <http://borgenproject.org/10-quick-facts-about-poverty-in-africa/>

[ii] <http://www.globalresearch.ca/frances-colonial-tax-still-enforced-for-africa-bleeding-africa-and-feeding-france/5547512>

[iii] <https://www.uneca.org/es-blog/africa-must-benefit-its-mineral-resources>

[iv] <http://www.africanecho.co.uk/africanechonews4-mar24.html>

[v] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_to_Europe

Adnan Oktar's piece in The Star & Cape Times & Cape Argus:

<http://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/opinion/africa-has-everything-it-needs-to-become-newer-exciting-version-of-europe-10373827>

<http://www.iol.co.za/capeargus/opinion/africa-has-the-potential-to-be-the-new-europe-10400425>

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Africa has everything it needs to become a newer, exciting version of Europe

Harun Yahya 

THE migrant flow from Africa into Europe has been a significant problem for a long time and the never-ending wars and poverty in parts of Africa only exacerbate the situation.

These people, who have as much right to live dignified and high-quality lives as Europeans, risk dangerous journeys towards an unknown future, with the hope of finding a better life. However, conflicts continue and as poverty spreads, the problem will probably grow and more downtrodden and impoverished people will look to Europe in the hope of finding a safe haven and a dignified life.

Yet, it is clear the people of Africa or the Middle East cannot all be accommodated in Europe. Therefore, after providing temporary relief for urgent cases and vulnerable people, the solution should focus on improving the living conditions of the lands in question.

Today we know that apart from the millions who wish to take refuge in other countries because of an imminent threat to their lives and dignity there is also a significant group of people who want to do the same to achieve higher living standards. And they surely deserve to live high-quality lives, just like everyone else.

Every person is born equal and a person's birthplace should not decide if they will be respected and valued. However, since it is impossible to fit the entire population of the world in certain areas only we should work to achieve the desired living standards everywhere.

In other words, the solution to the refugee and immigrant problem should focus on two main points: Providing immediate shelter and relief to people who urgently need protection and help.

Improving sub-par living conditions in problematic regions so people do not feel the urge to leave their countries.

It should not be forgotten that the European colonial powers played an important role in the impoverished and strife-ridden state of Africa. While Europe developed, prospered and built a civilisation of rich culture, art and sciences, certain European leaders of the time, in pursuit of their colonial dreams, breached every human right and moral value and terribly exploited Africa. So much so that between 1881 and 1914, in what is now called the "scramble for Africa", 90% of the continent came under European control.

Over time, despite its natural resources, beauty, culture and art, the continent became impossibly impoverished. Today despite its rich natural resources, 75% of the world's poorest countries are in Africa. In 2009, 414 million people were living on \$1.25 or less a day in sub-Saharan Africa, almost one in three people in sub-Saharan Africa is undernourished and 589 million people in the same area live without electricity. And traces of those days still linger in certain areas.

For instance, France still receives a so-called colonial tax from its former African colonies, which amounts to around \$500 billion (R6.4 trillion) a year. Many sources in Africa are still under the control of certain European countries. Furthermore, never-ending clashes, civil wars and conflicts continue to destroy the continent and force millions to look for shelter and help.

However, it is possible to make Africa a new centre of culture and civilisation. It is possible to make Lagos another Paris, Dar es Salaam another Rome or Addis Ababa another London. The continent has more than enough potential to make this happen. For instance, according to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, "Africa accounts for three-quarters of the world's platinum supply and half of its diamonds and chromium. It has up to one-fifth of the world's gold and uranium supplies and it is increasingly home to oil and gas production, with over 30 countries now in this category".

In addition, these wonderful lands were home to impressive civilisations in the past. For example, while Europe was struggling in the darkness of the Middle Ages, Timbuktu was home to the first university in the 12th century. In a city of 100,000 people, this school had 25,000 students who came from all around Africa to excel in knowledge and a variety of talents. Today, it is perfectly possible to make it again a centre of education and culture, a hub of art and music, a safe haven that promises a good, dignified life to both its residents and visitors.

Indeed, we have seen this transformation many times in the past. For example, until the 1950s and 1970s, the UK, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain and Portugal were primary sources of emigration and millions of people migrated to countries such as the US and Australia. However, as living standards rose in these countries, the trend reversed and the sources of emigration turned into magnets of immigration. There is no reason why Africa cannot achieve this, given its potential, its natural resources, its cultural background and diversity.

But first, the modern colonisation should stop immediately. After that, under the auspices of the UN, each country - proportional to its GDP - can contribute to a fund reserved for the development and improvement of living standards in Africa. When this happens, not only the inhabitants of this beautiful continent, but Europeans will benefit as well. They will finally be relieved of the social and economic challenges brought about by mass immigration and will have a new destination, almost a new version of Europe, where they can go and enjoy a high-quality life in a completely different setting and a different and exciting culture. However, until this is done, the immigration influx will clearly continue.

So, let's take concrete steps to solve the root causes of the problem and make every place of human settlement in the world a desirable location.

● Harun Yahya is the pen name of Adnan Oktar, born in Ankara in 1956. As a preacher, author and a leading scientist of Turkish origin, he is upholding morality and devoted his life to preach the religion to society.

Africa has the potential to be the new Europe



RELIEF: Conflicts and poverty in Africa continue and this leads to more people looking to Europe as a safe haven, the writer says. PICTURE: AP

Africa has the potential to be the new Europe

Modern colonisation needs to end so the continent can prosper

Haruny Yahya

THE migration flow from Africa into Europe has been a significant phenomenon for a long time, and the ever-widening scars and poverty in parts of Africa only exacerbate the situation.

People who have an equally right-to-life dignified and high-quality life in Europe, the Americas, Australia, New Zealand, etc. However, conflicts continue and as poverty spreads, the problems will likely grow and more desperate, then and impoverished people will look to Europe in the hopes of finding a safe haven and a dignified life.

Yet it is clear that the entire population of Africa or the Middle East cannot be accommodated in Europe. Therefore, after providing temporary relief for urgent cases and especially for vulnerable people, the solution should focus on improving the living conditions of the land in its own right.

Today we know that apart from the millions who wish to take refuge in other countries, there is an estimated 1 billion in their own and dignity. There is also a significant group of people that want to do the same to achieve higher living standards. And they surely deserve to live high-quality lives just like everyone else. Every person is born equal and a person's birthplace should not decide if they will be respected, valued and live a dignified life. However, it is impossible to fit the entire population of the world in certain areas only, we should work to solve the chronic living standards everywhere.

In other words, the solution to the refugee and immigrant problem should focus on two main points:

• Providing immediate shelter and relief to people that urgently need protection and help.

• Improving on-par living conditions in problematic regions so that people do not feel the urge to leave their countries and seek a better life elsewhere.

It should not be forgotten that the Europeans colonial powers played an important role in the current impoverishment and strife-ridden state of Africa. While Europe developed, prospered and built a civilisation of rich culture, art and science, certain European leaders of the time, in pursuit

of their colonial dreams, breached every human right and moral value and brutally exploited Africa, to such an extent between 1884 and 1914, to now what is called the "scramble for Africa".

One of the main reasons under European control. Over time, despite its natural resources, beauty, culture and art, the continent became increasingly impoverished. Today, despite its rich natural resources, 75% of the world's poorest countries are to be found in Africa. In 2010, 400 million people were living on \$1.25 or less a day in sub-Saharan Africa and almost one billion people in sub-Saharan Africa are undernourished and 1.2 billion people in the same area live without electricity. And traces of these days still linger in certain areas. For instance, France still imposes a so-called colonial tax from its former African colonies, which means to account to every billion \$1.5 a year, in your hand, so that Africa can still under the control of certain European countries. Furthermore, never-ending clashes, civil wars and conflicts continue to destroy the continent and force millions to look for shelter and help.

However, it is possible to make Africa a new centre of culture and education. It is possible to make Lagos another Paris, like in 18th century Rome or Addis Ababa another London. The continent has more than enough potential and culture to make this happen. For instance, according to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, "Africa accounts for three-quarters of the world's platinum supply, and half of its diamonds and

diamonds. It has up to one-fifth of the world's gold and uranium reserves and it is the country to produce more iron ore than any other country in the world".

Also, there is a significant role to be played by the impressive civilisation in the past. For example, while Europe was struggling in the darkness of the Middle Ages, Timbuktu was home to world's first university. In the 14th century, in a city of 100,000 people, the scholar Ibn Khaldun wrote the first book on the science of Africa, known as *Muqaddimah*, a study of human history. It is possible to make it again a centre of education and culture, a hub of art and music, a safe haven that provides a good, dignified life to both its residents and visitors.

We have seen this transformation many times in the past. For example, until the 15th and 16th centuries, the U.S., Canada, India, Mexico, Spain and Portugal were primary sources of migration and millions of people migrated to countries like the US and Australia. However, as living standards rose in these countries, the trend reversed and the sources of migration turned into magnets of immigration.

There is no doubt why Africa cannot achieve this, given its potential, its natural resources, its cultural background and diversity, coupled with the willingness of the world to help. But first, the modern colonisation should stop immediately.

After that, under the auspices of the UN, each country, regardless of its size, can contribute to a rapid process of the development and improvement of living standards in Africa. When this happens, not only the inhabitants of this beautiful continent, but Europeans will benefit as well. They will finally be addressed of the social and economic challenges brought about by mass immigration and will have a new destination, a new source of life, where they can enjoy a good life and a different and exciting culture. Until this is done, the immigration influx will likely continue.

So, let's take concrete steps to solve the most serious of the problems and make every place of human settlement in the world a dignified human town, where people in quality lives benefiting their human dignity.

Haruny Yahya is a freelance international and the author of *2017 books on science and faith topics*.

“**WHILE EUROPE WAS STRUGGLING IN THE DARKNESS OF THE MIDDLE AGES, TIMBUKTU WAS HOME TO THE WORLD'S FIRST UNIVERSITY**”