

# Circle: Africa - past, present & future

## Current Reality

- The **recent problems in Congo** give a snapshot of the current reality of the once rich Africa and the third world in general. The problems in Africa are innumerable, e.g. Sierra Leone, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, etc.
  - Cruel dictatorships in Libya, famine in Somalia, military and ethnic conflict in Sudan , poverty and illiteracy in Ethiopia

## Historic Sketch

- The colonialism of the West has transformed Africa and created the political, economic and social decline.
  - Rush for Africa took place by the Colonialists
  - 19<sup>th</sup> Century King of Belgium Leopold II: *“I do not want to miss the chance of getting us a slice of this magnificent African cake”* in a letter to one of his ambassadors.
  - The decline of the previous Muslim power spelled the rise of the Colonial power and with it the political, social and economic exploitation of the native population.
  - Lord Dartmouth, Colonial Secretary in 1775, remarked in Parliament concerning the Slave Trade: *“We cannot allow the colonies to check or discourage in any degree a traffic so beneficial to the nation”*.
- The conflicts are over resources, power and benefit. Give some Examples.
  - Congo, rich in natural resources, particularly diamonds, also rubber, timber , copper and gold
  - In 1999, Congolese govt unofficially earn \$500million from diamonds alone. Unofficial reports state higher figures.
  - In Nigeria, the US has another one of its “special relationships”. Of the 2million barrels of oil pumped daily, most go to the US. Texaco, Chevron and Exxon-Mobil, along with Shell being the main companies.
- When the Khilafah ruled over North Africa it transformed the societies and ruled them with justice.
  - Islam entered Africa via Egypt when the conquering armies of Amr ibn al-Aas RA under the Khilafah of Umar RA arrived. At the time Egypt ruled by Muqawqis who paid tax and tribute to the Romans. Offered little resistance to the Muslims and ended up assisting them to oust the Romans. From then on Islam spread rapidly.

- Ibn Battuta visiting Mali, a state in West Africa now hardly mentioned, stated: “ *the Black Africans are seldom unjust, and have a greater abhorance of injustice than any other people... There is complete security in their country. Neither traveller nor inhabitant in it has anything to fear from robbers or men of violence.*”
- Yahya ibn Sa'd, special envoy of Khalifa 'Umar ibn 'Abdul Aziz (717-720) said: "*The Khalifa sent me to collect the sadaqa from the Muslims of Africa. When I collected it, I inquired if there were any poor on whom the money could be spent, but I could not find one poor person.*"

## **Why do Capitalism and Islam produce different effects?**

- Islam is different to Capitalism. The torch bearers of Capitalism, the Western nations colonise other nations whether physically as in the past or more so today – economically, politically, culturally, etc.
- Whereas in Islam, the Khilafah moulds all people into one nation.
- Modern imperialism represented by Britain, France, and America created enclaves in the lands they occupied. These are the form of small compounds within the cities/villages where you find only foreigners live their. This can be seen today in Muslim countries. This reinforced the segregation mentality between occupier and the natives. This can clearly be sensed by the emotions that third world countries including the Muslims hold toward America, France, and Britain.
- On the contrary to this, when Islamic state sent its armies to open new lands the army was involved in inviting people to Islam. Some even settled in the new opened lands. If we look at Spain we find the resemblance of early the Arabs who opened it during the Umayyid Khilafah. If we look at the east coast of Africa, Zanzibar and Kenya we find a lot of Omanis. If we look at Egypt we find families of Arab and Turkish descent populating the area from north and east of Sudan upto the Mediterranean sea who worked in farming and trade. Also new villages/towns started to emerge as a result of the arrival of the armies of Jihad. Example to that is the city of Cairo built by Jaohar Al-Seqily in 358H. The city of Marakish in Morocco. There is a quote by the Seljuk Sultan Alab Arsalan, who loved buildings and architecture:

*“ Our remains are the evidence of our high esteem, and plentiful of our given gifts”*

## Future

Indeed when the Khilafah returns it will bring Africa under its shade and bring it out of the misery that it has fallen into.

- Political – A system to unite the people who will undertake the responsibility to look after the affairs of the people
- Economic – A system which will collect the most just taxation and distribute it back to the Ummah. Which will ascribe rights of ownership to the individual and the state.
- A Vision – to revive it from the depths of the darkness, into the bright future with Islam

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّؤُوفِ الرَّحِيمِ  
الرَّكْتَبُ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ  
إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ ﴿١﴾

Alif, Laam, Raa: (This is) a book which we have revealed to you in order that you might lead mankind out of the darkness into the light, by the will of your Rabb, to the path of the All Mighty, the owner of all praise. [Ibrahim:1]

مُرْتَابٍ ﴿٢٤﴾ الَّذِينَ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي آيَاتِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ سُلْطَانٍ  
أَتَتْهُمْ كُفْرًا مَقْتًا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَعِنْدَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كَذَلِكَ  
يُطَبَعُ اللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ قَلْبٍ مُتَكَبِّرٍ جَبَّارٍ ﴿٢٥﴾ وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ  
يَهْمَنُ ابْنُ لِي صِرْحًا لَعَلِّي أَبْلُغُ الْأَسْبَابَ ﴿٢٦﴾ أَسْبَابَ  
السَّمَوَاتِ فَأَطَّلِعَ إِلَى إِلَهِ مُوسَى وَإِنِّي لِأَظُنُّهُ كَذِبًا  
وَكَذَلِكَ زُيِّنَ لِفِرْعَوْنَ سُوءُ عَمَلِهِ وَصُدَّ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ  
وَمَا كَيْدُ فِرْعَوْنَ إِلَّا فِي تَبَابٍ ﴿٣٧﴾ وَقَالَ الَّذِي

Those who dispute about the ayat (signs) of Allah (swt), without any authority that has come to them, it is greatly hateful and disgusting to Allah (swt) and to those who believe. Thus does Allah (swt) seal up the heart of every arrogant, Tyrant  
And Fir'aun said: O Haman. Build me a tower that I may arrive at the ways –

The ways of the heavens, and I may look upon the Ilah (god) of Musa, but verily, I think him to be a liar. Thus it was made fair-seeming in Firaun's eyes, the evil of his deeds, and he was hindered from the right path, and the plot of Firaun led to nothing but loss and destruction. [Ghaafir: 35-37]