

This presentation has Four Theoretical and Historical Analyses and Dimension of Cultural Predictions of Violence African-Post-Independence Leadership and Conflict Management and Resolution: A 21st Century Non-Violence Perspective - The Liberian Case Study.

ABSTRACT:

This presentation proposes to give four theoretical and historical analyses and dimensions of the failure and disparities of Post-Independence Black/African Leadership and African-American-Leadership from emancipation to the present with specific emphasis on the Americo-Liberian Leadership and its impact on Youth Leadership perspectives on Non Violence on Conflict Resolution, to avoid the historic emulation of early history of Liberia, as an adaptive leadership strategy. In essence, The Historic, Social, Political, and cultural analytical study of Post-Independence Black/African Leadership and African-American Leadership from emancipation to the present, failed because these leadership styles were adapted from imperialist colonial heritage of leadership through violence. A specific emphasis will be on The Liberian situation as a case study for future research. Therefore, the significance of conventional or African Tradition and Philosophical exercise of leadership must be the philosophy of 21st century African System of thought in the context of 21st century Youth perspective on Non-Violence. (Collective consciousness and ethos of the village elders.) The essence of this presentation is to objectively develop an interdisciplinary traditional Black African Culture of leadership that will enhance a Sustainable Democratization of Black/African-African-American Youth Political Leadership, Self-Empowerment, and Institution Building for the 21st century African System of thought and beyond.

The concept of Pre-African Cultural Predictions Towards Non-violence leadership, specifically Black-African-African -American Youth leadership has appealed to the imagination of many theorists and research, but attempts to categorize and integrate Black leadership knowledge geographically, geopolitical, and systematically in the "Pre-African Cultural Predictions Towards Non-Violence Realism, has proven disappointing. Therefore, the research questions, **"why contemporary Black Leadership and organizations in the context of Post-African-African-Americans-Cultural Predictions Towards Non-violence Realism has not succeeded or has failed in the absence of the United Nations"**?

Conflict is an increasing threat to international security and a major challenge to development. Civil conflict has impoverished countries in every major region, and wiped out the achievements of decades of economic and social development. In the case of Liberia, civil conflict not only wiped out the achievements of decades of economic and social development, but destroyed thousands of lives, the physical assets of the country, and disrupted trade links which devastated the fabrics of the Liberian society. The Liberian violent conflict leaves a legacy of militarized, divided societies, widespread displacement, and decimated institutional capacity. For Liberians, dealing with the devastation of the war is a bitter experience that will never be forgotten. There have been more conflicts in the last 25 years than at any time in the history of the twenty-century.

Nearly 50 countries have been engaged in serious intra-state conflict since 1980. In about 30 of these low and middle-income countries, conflicts are either in progress or have just ceased. Many other countries are threatened by internal conflict. It is estimated that nearly 35 million people have been displaced by conflict. Of 40 countries, 30 have more than 1% of their population displaced while 10 countries in conflict have more than 40% of their population displaced. Liberia is in the latter category. Economically, conflict is one of the most serious impediments to poverty alleviation or reduction. It has stopped whatever little progress there was and set countries backwards.

Liberia is a case in point and exemplifies the very serious economic and social situation of almost all-African countries emerging from conflict or (as in Sudan and Somalia) still in conflict. In Africa to day, almost every country has gone through serious conflict or shares borders with a country in conflict. For this reason, external development assistance for Africa is increasingly being devoted to emergency and humanitarian aid or to peacekeeping. In the case of Liberia, although the international community provided emergency humanitarian assistance and some United Nations observers, the entire conflict mediation and peacekeeping burden was shouldered by African mediators (OAU) Now (AU) and by ECOWAS respectively, thus making, for instance, the Liberian crisis a unique African conflict management and conflict resolution experience. The greatest challenge to Africa and the international development community and to the Liberian people, however, is the post-conflict reconstruction, Democracy Governance, and Reconciliation, and Recovery of Liberia and indeed of other countries emerging from prolonged violent conflict. Youth Leadership in the context of failed Post independence African Leadership in the absence of the United Nations requires a 21st century Youth perspective on non violence on conflict resolution.

Therefore, The United Nations needs to be more relevant to its Member States but specially to their people, especially the Post Cold war Youth leadership in the context of Non Violence and support its objective. The purposes, principles, and mission of the United Nations after fifty (50) years, needs to be restructured and reinforced to aim at vigilance and objective enforcement. It is safe to articulate that the United Nations and its leadership must remain potentially and meaningfully relevant to all nations without hesitation of enforcement and rejection principals. Over the years, The UN has done and needs to continue to do good work for those most in need; African political, social, economic, and human rights through democratic Leadership victims of civil conflicts inflicted on women, children, old and sick people, minorities and disabled or physically challenged people. Other areas of grave concerns are The UN global conferences in addressing regional conflict. Many humans needs and individuals' every day concerns must be considered a priority and serious agenda on the UN program. The 21st Century Youth Leadership must I continue to articulate in UN conferences. National and international racism, on every fabric of human concerns like HIV/AIDS, and the situation of children, must be put forward at the disposal of the United Nations. The 21st century Youth must therefore must emphasize that "The Youths " are the World's Promises and key phenomena elements of the UN Charter and objective. The Youth must reinforce the UN so as to be considered significant in the maintenance of international peace and security.

INTRODUCTION:

This presentation is an adoption and in some respects an extension on "The State of Post-independence Africa Affairs and with respect to African Leadership Dimension ". This dimension has been incorporated to bring a post-Cold World scholastic perspectives on one of the most profound legacies of disparities and successes of African Post-Independence Leadership, from past to present. This is essential because Post-Independence African Cultural Predictions of Violence and non-violence Leadership from 1958 to the present, has not demonstrated the leverage of self-sustainable growth and development in Africa, specifically Sub-Saharan African Regions in the context of "Human Resources". For the Sub Saharan African people in particular, it appears that the "Pre-Cultural Predictions Toward Non-violence of the African people's struggle has transformed from Pre-colonial Euro-Cultural Conditioning to self-Actualization of Post-Cultural Predictions Towards violence.

1. Theoretical and research frame of reference which takes under consideration some of the previous works on leadership in general and black leadership, specifically African leadership in particular.
2. The Failure of Post-Independence African Leadership; (the power struggle within the formation of the OAU) now The (AU) The African Union.
3. The cultural consequences of Black Nationalism and Pan-Africanism.
4. Americo-Liberians Leadership and its impact on the Indigenous people; from past to present.

One of the peculiar ironies of Post Independence African Historic Leadership is that there are no limits to the misunderstanding and distortion of theories and practices concerning Black/Africa's Historic Leadership and its people. Even in an age of unlimited access to the 21st century information age, there is no more dramatic example of this distortion than what is happening today on the continent of Africa. This assuredly was due in part to the fact that Africa's post-independence era was masterminded by, among other occurrences, domestic coups, and their attendant political, economic and social disorganization. (Rupesinghe, Kumar, 1989, p. 1).

RESEARCH FACTORS:

There were many factors, which accounted for this, among them:

1. The desire of many African leaders after the so-called independence from imperialistic regime and hegemonies, to maintain their imperialistic colonial hegemonies. For instance, the pre and post-historic desires for the Anglophone-Francophone struggle for Post Independence Political domination.

2. The gradualists or functionalist struggle with the pro-Pan Africanists on the issues of African unity and solidarity.
3. The role of the military in African politics during the second half of the 20th century as it relates to the contextual analysis of this subject, is an empirical evidence and imperative to study, as history seems to repeat itself in contemporary African society of post-baby booming political, social, and culturally diversified generation of the 21st century. Because of the many coup d'etats throughout the African continent, the military, in many instances, has been perceived by many, as
 - (a) the source of the disorganization among many African nations, if not all.
 - (b) the process of Liberation
 - (c) the rise of revolutionary transformation,
 - (d) an emulation of social events, social relations, and social consciousness, and
 - (e) the only means by which some times vengeance of past wrong doing to the under privileged people can be restituted.

Based upon these analyses, it is significant to reflect your recollection of some important past and present historic events in Africa as evidence, validation, and substantiation of this presentation.

HISTOTIC ANALYSIS:

In 1952, the Egyptian monarch was overthrown by Colonel Gamel Abdul Nasser and his Free Officers. He himself died from stress emanated from several attempted assassinations in October 28, 1970. In 1965, Ben Bella of Algeria was also overthrown by Colonel Boumedienne. Several months later, the Government of Alhaji Abubakar Tafwa Balewa of Nigeria was ousted in a military coup. Seven months after the Algerian episode, Dr. Kwame N'krumah of Ghana, was overthrown on February 24, 1966, while on a peace mission to North Vietnam (Hanoi). (Mike Ouaye, 1980). In April 12, 1980, President William Richard Tolbert of Liberia, Chair of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and founding member of ECOWAS and the Mano River Union, was overthrown in a military coup by Samuel K. Doe. Doe himself was captured and killed by rebel leader, Prince Johnson, Johnson himself is in exile in Nigeria and Charles Taylor. Certainly, a political commentator needed no prophetic vision to predict that Africa, when granted so-called independence, would be subject to one tyranny of her military dictators and the violence aspirations of master sergeants, captains, colonels, and generals, Warlords to political offices, as well as, the often unchallenged supremacy of the Armed Forces. Such has been the 20th Century power struggle phenomenon, which continues to be reflected throughout Africa in general, and Liberia in particular. Indeed, this situation along with other political developments which are attributable to Africa's inability to create a democratic environment, require a study, one which this researcher has aspired to undertake.

THE GENERAL NATURE OF BLACK/AFRICAN LEADERSHIP ROLE:

There are three basic sub-concepts which provide a framework for describing the dynamics of the Pre-Colonial Cultural Predictions Towards Non-Violence Black leadership role, which of course, is a part of the explanatory frame work for the four theoretical and historical analyses of Black Leadership.

Influence is one sub-concept, and it can include virtually any psychological or behavioral effect or impact by one party on another in the process of interpersonal interaction. This impact may take the following forms: (a) emulation, (b) suggestion, (c) persuasion, and (d) coercion.

Emulation denotes one's modeling of another's behavior, while suggestion refers to any attempt to influence another's behavior by advocating a particular course of action. Persuasion involves the use of some inducement in an attempt to evoke a desired response, while coercion involves the use of forcible constraints to achieve a desired response. The second sub-concept is power, defined as the ability to influence behavior. "Power denotes the ability of a person or a group of persons to solicit prescribed behavior from others by means of superior formal or informal position. Therefore, power can be understood as the capacity to affect behavior in a predetermined manner.

Based upon the aforementioned analysis in reference to Pre-Colonial Cultural Predictions Towards Non-Violence Black/African Leadership as it relates to Post-Independence Cultural Predictions Towards Violence Black/African Leadership policy, administration, and its concept of political modernization and development, it is important and save to address Black leadership in the context of Americo-Liberian Leadership and its indigenous relations as an adaptive strategy. Which is applicable to Post independence African Leadership.

For instance, the pre-Charles Taylor's Culture of adaptable violence and genocide against the Liberian people, The Samuel K. Doe violence cultural phenomenon against the Liberia people, The Idi-Amain's doctrine of genocide against the people of Uganda, Momodu Sesesaku of Zaire, Joseph Bokasa of Central Africa, The Fordy Sanko of Sierra Leone, and many adaptable violence African Leaderships can be traced from Euro-Centric Paradigm of power. The Question is, what can we do about it as Black/ African people in general and Liberian people in particular?

POST CONFLICT REBUILDING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF LIBERIA: SIGNIFICANT PARTICIPATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP:

Post Conflict Peace Building and Reconstruction of Liberia with Significance participation of African-American in this development in one of the first steps:

Because, We are now on the thread hole of post conflict development that could become a major sea change in Liberia since the departure of warlord leader Charles Taylor to exile in Nigeria. There is tab in the affairs of man, which, taken, in the flood, leads to fortune; omitted, in all the voyage of their life, is bounds to shallows and miseries...therefore this is a great opportunity for The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), The African Union (AU), HBCU, African-Americans, and the international community in general, and Liberians in particular to use the present peace by virtue of the U.S. and the international attention on the Liberian situation, for the first time since the Reagan Administration support to the Military regime of Samuel K. Doe Military in 1980.

Liberians and African-Americans Leadership must make every effort to address constructively, the political, economic, and social stabilization in the first place, and develop a consensus through a national and conference involving Liberians of all economic groups, ethnic groups, cultural groups, women movement, and religious groups on keys elements of meaningful post conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction, reconciliation and peace building programs.

It must be pointed out that the study of the Liberian wars, however, cannot be complete without reference to post-conflict peace building and reconstruction. This is because the post-conflict peace building and reconstruction provides opportunities measures to be taken to consolidate the peace and to ensure that the root causes of the conflict are properly addressed in order to prevent a recurrence. African-American and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) will be significant key players in the Post-Conflict Peace Building, Reconstruction, and Capacity Building process.

As articulated in the Washington AFRO-American newspaper Volume 112 No. 4 in the September 6-12- 2003, "Africare: Stepping up to help Liberians". Mr. Julius Coles, Africare President is asking African-Americans to offer financial assistance to the people of Liberia. I enthusiastically join Mr. Coles to cry on the shoulders of Howard University, Morehouse, Tuskege, and Prairie View A&M University in particular to encourage other HBCU to assist Liberia in its dying needs of reincarnation of Liberia political, social, educational institutions, health care facilities, and its human resources to modern nation-state development.

The four HBCH mentioned above had strong historic academic relations with Liberia from 1920-1980. Many civilians and Americo-Liberian political leaders graduated from these institutions. Based upon this background, I wish to draw African-Americans and HBCU to the following significant and first phase Liberian concerns:

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF POST CONFLICT PEACE BUILDING AND RECONSTRUCTION:

- (a) Basis Characteristics of post-conflict Peace Building and Reconstruction
- (b) Basic Proactive Approaches to the management of post-conflict issues and problems with specific reference to Disarmament and Demobilization of boys and girls rebel soldiers.

- (c). Basic general outline of priority plan of actions and policies that are imperative for the rehabilitation, reconstruction, peace building, and recovery of Liberia political, social, education, health care, and resettled Liberian communities.

Therefore, the significance of reexamining priorities in Liberia's economic and social rehabilitation in light of current international development policies and strategies which have been formulated by multinational/multilateral development institutions like the World Bank, UNDP, and by regional development banks like the African Development Bank (ADB), as well as by major bilateral donors like (USAID) must be asked through African-American political, religious, businesses, and HBCU leadership and Liberians home and abroad to assist countries emerging from protracted and often very violent genocidal civil conflict like Liberia from 1980-1997, and from 1997-2003, to help lay the foundations not only for Liberia's economic reconstruction and recovery, but also for the restoration of civil society and democratic rule.

This, of course, is a proactive and strategic and workable technique that is intended to motivate Liberians and friends of Liberia to bring some mutually beneficial awareness to Liberia's official position or strategy on post-conflict management at the political, military, economic, and social levels. This is important in our consideration of the necessary conditions for the restoration of peace building, stability, security, development, and democracy in Liberia, which are essential conditions for the prevention of further new civil conflict.

The author considers this approach to be more pro-active and relevant to conflict management in Africa in general and Liberia in particular, since it attacks the roots of the problem and has the potential to unite both combatants (boys and girls rebel soldiers) in Liberia and friends of Liberia and the donor community, under an agreed priority program of resettlement, disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation, reconstruction, reconciliation, peace building and recovery.

The mistakes and, or the reluctance of the ECOWAS/ECOMOG through the United Nations and the international community, to structurally and logistically analyze causes and effects of proliferation of weapons in Liberia from 1989-2003 must not be repeated in post Charles Taylor Peace Building and Reconstruction of Liberia. Because the demobilization of combatants, following their encampment at assembly points designated by ECOMOG prior to and after the so-called Charles Taylor's 1997 elections, was never initiated nor completed or even started according to my personal visitation to Liberia as a Liberian and my personal observation of the situation. As the final analysis, the impacts of proliferation of weapons in the hands of our baby boys and girls rebel soldiers have been one of the most marketable commodities and employment of baby rebel fighters during the Charles Taylor regime.

Post Conflict Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Reconciliation, Peace building, and Recovery must go hand in hand with the demobilization of combatants as an essential prerequisite to the improvement of Liberia's security environment. This must be one of the major areas of concerns that African-American and HBCU must support and enforced with the overall humanitarian assistance of the international community.

REFERENCES:

Arnold, Africa in the 90s. Former Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C.

See The Liberian Diaspora Newspaper, The Liberian Conflict & Regional Realities, Vol. iii, No. 11, Published January 1993.

Ajulo, S.B. (1989) The Economic Community of West African States and International Law. The Journal of Modern African Structure. PP. 233-250.

See Statement of ECOWAS Mandates made by The Executive Secretary of ECOWAS in a Statement to the Sub-Committee on Africa of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on June 9, 1993.

Swing, J.T. (1991). Right V. Might International Law and the use of force, Council on Foreign Relations Press New York. P. 38.

Ajomo, M.A. (1976). Regional Economic Organizations, African Experience. The International and Comparative Law Quarterly, London, P. 100.

See African Confidential, Vol. 32, No. 10, May 1991. The Surrounding of all arms and ammunition to the custody of ECOWAS\ECOMOG.

See Cassese, A. International Law In Divided World p.207.

See Brown Foreign Affairs Journal, Vol. iii, No. 2. 1991.

Schraeder, P.J. (1992). Intervention into the 1990s, U.S.Foreign Policy In The Third World. Published in the United States by Lynne Reinner Publishers, Inc.

See The Liberian Diaspora Newspaper, Vol.ii, January 1991.

African Confidential, Vol.31, No.19 September 28, 1990.

Available Video: Presentation:The Assassination of Liberian Government Officials;1980-1990, President Tolbert and his 13 cabinet ministers, November 5, 1985 failed coup, and its leader, Thomas G. Quawonkpa was publicly killed by Samuel K. Doe's Krahn Soldiers; The April 12, 1980 military coup; November 5, 1995, failed coup, and the December 24, 1989-1995 Civil Conflict and subsequent follow ups of other video taping on CNN, by the Researcher. This Video was also shown in the African Studies and Research Department on a special Graduate Seminar, May 22, 1990; Amos M. "Deluxe" Sirleaf, Howard University, Washington D.C.