

## **Africa - large and secret. Problems with the past and the present time**

**Mohammad Zafari**

Faculty of Management, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

E-mail address: [m.zafari@ut.ac.ir](mailto:m.zafari@ut.ac.ir)

### **ABSTRACT**

Studying the history of Africa is very difficult, also and therefore none of known African tribes knew the letter, or no writing signs. Moreover Africans didn't create the own calendar, of system of digits, didn't use the plough (outside Ethiopia), with wheel, didn't use also the force of the wind or water; didn't use the draught work of animals, neither knew no mechanical tools. This short list is only an incomplete so visible registration of gaps in comparison with Europe whether Asia. So Africa is second all over Asia continent and is having a c 30.4 m km<sup>2</sup>. She consists of 53 states and c 900 m residents are inhabiting it, but is settling accounts, that in 2020 can count the m already above 1 200, even though it is only continent, on which the average of the human life is falling (mainly as a result of many illnesses, including AIDS). Over the 50% of the population he is fewer than 18 years old, and fewest people are after 65 of year of age. Population density it 29 persons on km<sup>2</sup>, least all over Australia, with the weakest indicator reaching the urbanization scarcely c 40%. The birth rate is settling accounts to over 30 permilles. According to the Human Development UN-ego Contango from 2003 almost the half of countries from Black Africa is taking the last places on the list of the poorest countries of world (places from 151 to 175).

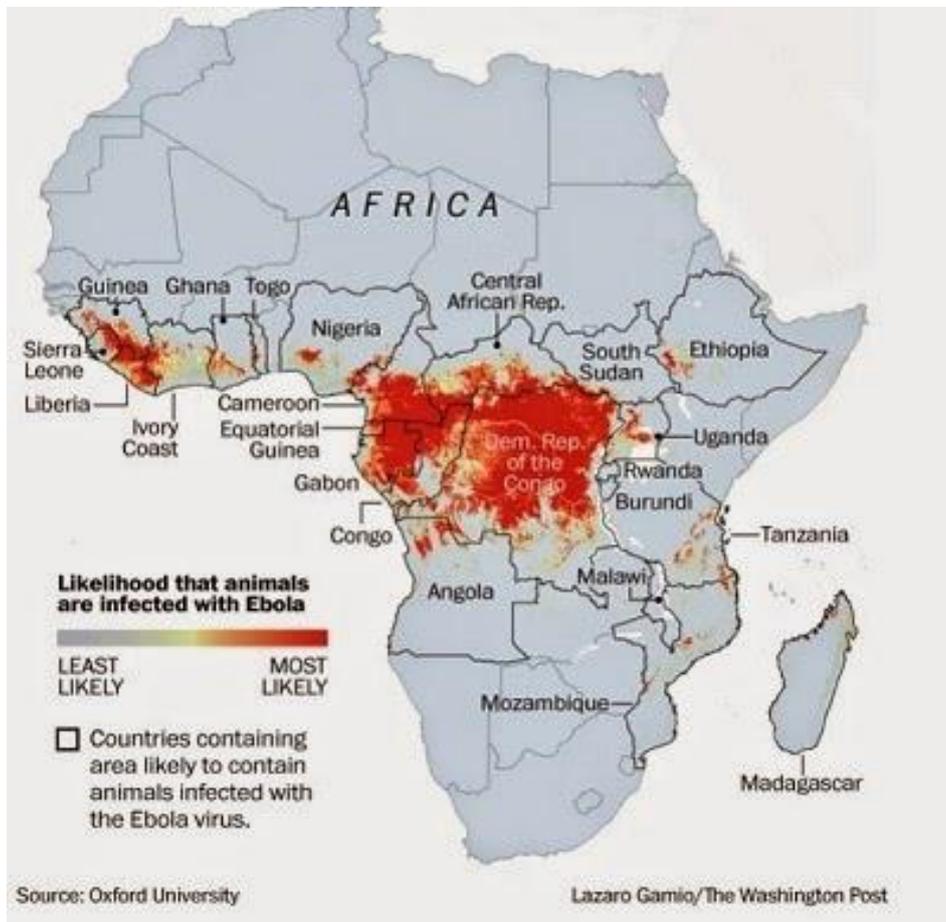
**Keywords:** Africa; colonialism; help Africa

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Europe had problems with getting to know Africa from always. Even though this continent was well-known already for the distant antiquity, this judgement correctly only concerns his north, Arabic part but Africa to the south of the Sahara, started being recognised along with geographical discoveries in XV and the 16th century however which focussed mainly on inshore areas and a slave trade, while for her the interior actually started being known only in the 19th century, in relation to being formed there of European colonial empires.

So Africa is second all over Asia continent and is having a c 30.4 m km<sup>2</sup>. She consists of 53 states and c 900 m residents are inhabiting it, but is settling accounts, that in 2020 can count the m already above 1 200, even though it is only continent, on which the average of the human life is falling (mainly as a result of many illnesses, including AIDS). Over the 50% of the population he is fewer than 18 years old, and fewest people are after 65 of year of age. Population density it 29 persons on km<sup>2</sup>, least all over Australia, with the weakest indicator reaching the urbanization scarcely c 40%. The birth rate is settling accounts to over 30 permilles. According to the Human Development UN-ego Contango from 2003 almost the half of countries from Black Africa is taking the last places on the list of the poorest countries of world (places from 151 to 175).

Moreover Africa - what is universally known - is divided into 2 distinct parts: north Africa, mainly Arabic has problems moved close to countries of the Middle East, but Africa to the south of the Sahara, Black Africa, even though he is sharing many of difficult problems of the north part, however also has one's own, which the poverty needs to emphasize the scale out of. Because she is the largest in the most world what is visible in the fact that almost the half of the living there population lives in so-called of "extreme poverty" which manifests itself in the fact that many of them are staying too fewer than 1 dollar per day. Admittedly, in years 1999 -2004 the zone of the total poverty reduced almost about the 5%, to the 41% in 2004, but the population numbers which lives in it even a bit expanded, up to the over 300 m. The most populous countries are Nigeria of the c 130 m and Ethiopia (c 70 m). Poorest whereas it is Ethiopia (130), Burundi (140), Sierra Leone (150), Malawi (190), and two richest it is Botswana (3 500) and RSA (3 300).



On average fewer than 500 each. Other data worth the reflection it: the 57% of girls is attending the primary education, of boys by the 10% more (best it is looking out in Benin, of Guinea, on Madagascar, Rwanda and Niger but most badly in Malawi, Mauritania and Namibia); a 15% of members of parliament is women; the infant mortality dropped to the thousand of the birthday around 101 in 1990 to 92 in 1999, but next grew clearly in such countries as Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Lesotho, but already e.g. in Eritrea - where the per capita income only amounts 190 - in 1990-2005 years fell around 147 to 78 to the thousand of the birthday.

They are giving approximately, that in the end 2006 yr lived in the world 39.5 m of carriers HIV, from what in Black Africa of the 64% of all ill adults, amongst which a 60% is women, and a 90% of children. Even though the pace of falling ill is dropping (mainly in Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe), however it in 2006 fell ill there 2.8 m of people. And apart from that everything what good it is in Black Africa smallest, and it is whatever worst biggest. Where from so such a situation? Of course, a developmental point of departure was lowest! But in such situations as a rule at least an initial pace is high. And in Africa it seems that everything is moving back. Some researchers, in relation to such a situation they claim that Africa before a Caucasian arriving doesn't have even an own history, since one can't see signs of intentional happening there oneself of events.

Of course it is extreme view, similarly to B. Davidsona which in the book *Old anew* discovered Africa is beautifying past of Africa. And the truth contains probably somewhere in the middle itself.

All the same a fact that on the continent which was a cradle of the man, people at one time ages ago learnt to build cottages must puzzle, to do the weapon and simple tools of iron as well as to breed a few kinds of animals, to plant the certain agricultural produce in order still in the interior to do it alone almost to this day, and so that the intellectual life revolves there. Moreover how is accounting, that while other known civilizations - and the ones in China, India, Japan, Pre-Columbian America, in the Middle East, and of course in Europe - created new inventions, philosophical systems, they have developed new sciences every now and then, new more and more wonderful large buildings, a new tool, a wonderful works of art, great religions constructed,, it and the like after all in Africa - except for ancient Egypt, of building Zimbabwe, sculptures from Benin - almost everything stayed as of old.

Trade in "coal" - because yes oneself he was being named - there is no doubt that he supported the depopulation. But discussions last, as for his numerical sizes. Africans are trying to enlarge this data, other to reduce, but not there is a problem in it. What's interesting, that Africans accusing Europe of practising this disgusting practice, they are trying to forget .., that he existed in very Africa from always, as well as and what's more in this work Arabs were also active and they took c 20 m black slaves out of the eastern Africa. African historiography for the sake of the brotherhood from other pressed down by Europe as a rule about it doesn't remember. Today he is judging himself, that an Atlantic slave trade led by Europeans included. in years 1600 - 1900 c 11.5 m; 1.8 m in the 17th century, 6.1 m in the 18th century, 3.3 m in the 19th century.

The Arabic, Saharian trade included the c 4 m; 900 thousand before 1600, 700 thousand in the 17th century, 700 thousand in the 18th century 1.8 m in the 19th century Researchers are assessing, that was it is loss of the row of the 1% annually which could not after all decide on the pace and direction of the development of Black Africa.

Other think, that contact with Europe, including importing the maize and the cassava to Africa from America contributed for better feeding Africans and to fast give the increase in the population numbers.

The well-known D. Livingstone traveller stated next, that only 1 to 5 Africans of slaves reached his destination, that is to America. What isn't a truth, since was these are "goods" very much valuable which it was possible to earn on 3-6 - krotne both merchants respected him and appreciated his value. So in the young, healthy 17th century 1 the Black cost c 10 pounds, i.e. c 100 braid of the nasty rum on the coast of Africa, however in America the value already took him out from 30 up to 70 pounds.



However African historians are paying attention not to numbers, but to results of this phenomenon. And so let us try - by virtue of the lack of place and time - to enumerate them;

1. young, strong, that is gifted people were being taken to the procreation, and at the same time most efficient in the work and innovative;
2. backstops depopulated completely certain surroundings, not to say the ones which weren't being taken with themselves were murdered - it conducted coming into existence of emptinesses and fallow lands, and for them more people all the bigger between them rivalry and a rapid progress should be;
3. to the coast very Africans have most often provided Europeans with slaves, and therefore some tribes having coastline specialized in this practice and wars against slaves were bloodier than earlier wars;
4. it caused the tribal disintegration and as a result weakened the moral strength and military of Africans, it weakened the tribal solidarity as well as broke traditional bonds, but still not enough in order to adopt better solutions of one's persecutors;
5. fear of hunts caused the temporariness and the lack of the stability what peculiarly negatively affected the development of the craft and coming into existence of cities, what requires the stability, moreover negatively influenced this state more and more keen competition of European goods;

6. it took effect of course also with decline in the farming;
7. so that the slave trade is profitable it was necessary to pay some Africans; so leaders and the elders grew rich through it which received luxury goods for kept trade relations - most often of poor quality - and defend.

It picked simple Africans up rapidly their prestige, but the weapon facilitated the conquest of neighbours and it being going down with slaves next. Essentially this process led them to the corruption of Africans, for escaping deep into of interior what then again led to another wars, sustaining the state of the lack of the stability in the process and concentrating the attention of Africans on the need to survive, rather than on the daydream about the development and progress. Very Europeans arrived at their area not like for you, of which one could imitate, but as the ones which murdered adults and kidnapped their children. Barely a slave trade and a slavery ended (let us remind: a slave trade was forbidden the yr in 1807, slavery in British colonies in 1833, in French 1848 in the USA in 1865, in Brazil in 1888, but in Saudi Arabia they were abolished only in 1962 with the yr, and in Mauritania in 1980), when a colonialism came.

One of known researchers of these problems wrote in 2006 that the future of Africa of 50 years by the independence was showing more grimly than at any time earlier. Even the change of leaders won't influence decisively, since negligence so much grew, that Africa unaided from the outside - and what's more large - isn't simply able to make of expected progress. She understood it UN which still in the end of the last century passed the resolution ordering member states to allocate the 0.7% of one's income for poor countries what as a matter of fact through the large portion of rich countries isn't carried out, except for Sweden, of Denmark, Norway and Netherlands (the USA is allocating the 0.1%) the USA, the European Union and G8 are taking the also sure initiatives, but at the moment one can't see their effects, similarly many taken earlier.

Africa got the help essentially from times of the independence of the amount - as no other continent - over 500 bn, which tracks are worse than poor after. Still in years 90. the international government help amounted annually on average to 28.6 bn, in order to at the beginning the 21st century to fall under 17 bn. Donors are discouraged to ways of issuing gifts by governments and aren't thinking of increasing them.

Moreover Africa is behind with debts, of which the value is difficult to establish, since still somewhere banks agree on next reductions, but is settling accounts, that an over 200 m USD reaches very Africa in the thing it isn't possible to leave also alone, since a majority of her states is simply bankrupts which cannot afford even providing the work for the normal for offices and the public service. I will add in this place - in order not to be baseless - that in the end of years 90 more than a half established countries of Africa budget which depended in over the 50% from the foreign aid, however public investments as far as in over the 70%. And for the majority of countries are these are budgets each of resident still smaller than in 1960.

Hence nothing strange over the half of the population of Black Africa lives for fewer than a dollar per day. The entire economic output of Africa amounts to no more than 420 bn what the 1.3% of the world production, i.e. fewer than a contribution of Mexico constitute. Participation in the world trade which in years 80 took out. just over the 3% reduced up to the 1.6%, however Africa attracts fewer than a 1% of global investments.

By it the illiteracy is superbly: 4 to 10 Africans and 5 to 10 Africans cannot read and write. What educated Africans are thinking about their future in parent countries let a fact proves, from almost a 50% finishing studies abroad to Africa isn't coming back.

And for the end even gloomier presentation: to the south of the equator he lives in Africa over the 70% of sick persons in the world to AIDS, while this region is counting only a 10% the world populations. Because of this terrible illness to 2004 an over 20 m died, 30 m is carriers HIV/AIDS and this number are increasing annually about the c 3 m, however being aware that it is only a beginning of the peak of epidemic. Two countries in the southern Africa in the economy are standing out positively, this RSA is - the same number industrial production as the rest of Africa to the south of the Sahara - and Botswana, but it by virtue of democratic governments, of the rich of such ore like diamonds or gold. But there is the greatest incidence as if for the horrible counterbalance, in these countries to HIV/AIDS: in the RSA it is above the 10% of the society, i.e. c 5 m people, in Botswana of the 37% of the population counting 1.6 m, in it in the group of the highest risk, which means that in the period of age 15 to 49 interest is taking out over the 40%. How the life expectancy is passing recalled already M.Meredith to 2010 in this country he will fall up to 27 years, the half of children will be orphans then. Little better he is in neighbouring countries: in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland. In her consequence of such a situation social bonds are breaking down and old hands are missing. Nurses and teachers are dying more quickly than their successors are studying.



Situation on better she could change, if the world opinion, i.e. rich countries established the practicable plan and directly conscripted him into force, moving local elites away from having money at their disposal, since their part is considerable by them robbed and taken away abroad the World Bank is estimating, that the 40% of private African capital is this way stored. Whereas it is propagating the culture of the corruption in the society.

Next the special report of the African Union of 2002 is announcing, that the corruption costs Africa 148 bn dollars, i.e. more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the gross salary to the south of the Sahara annually.

Developed countries don't want - what could constitute the first step of the economic recovery and social - to change the own agricultural policy and commercial which would allow to markets of countries of the rich African raw materials without the customs. And this fact, rather than something else are a real touchstone of intention of abounding world. Let us emphasize that the USA, Japan and the European Union dug in with systems of subsidies and customs tariffs which as a result are destroying African producers. And then again let us give a few - not too much - of examples.

The general value of subsidies for the farming in the world per day reaches 1 bn of the USD, i.e. 365 bn for the year what is legislating so much, how many a production of entire Africa is worth to the south of the Sahara. The European Union is paying extra annually for every cow c 900 dol, and Japan is disbursing c 2 700 to the cow (let us remind, that per capita income in Africa it is a c 500 USD).

USA for one's to the sum 4 bn is granting 25 000 of farmers producing cotton subsidies what is more worth than the entire American production of this raw material, and the European Union and China for 1 bn are giving for one's. Consequences of the ones imprisoned person commercial the practitioner is it, that American produced cotton of 3 times become more expensive, is being sold more cheap than African what he causes, that prices of cotton on world marts are far lower than they would be without extra charges and only farmers zachodnioafrykańscy from this title are losing the c 250 m USD annually they increased even - according to data of the World Bank - productions of this raw material in 1998-2004 years by the 14%, but at the same time in the same time their income as a result of such practice fell by the 31%. For entire Africa the thing is even worse, since Africa is the third producer of cotton in the world. The similar situation is regarding also other raw materials.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

What can help Africa is a decisive reduction in debts, bigger financial assistance, mainly for direct investments, and commercial reforms. Also humane actions are of help in these intentions, so as the ones organised by the famous Irish singer, Bob Geldofa and his companions, of Aidas' type Live - on the occasion of hunger in Ethiopia from 1985, which again before the G8 peak in Gleneagles, in Scotland in July 2005, they organised the world titled Live 8 concert which was broadcast to 140 countries and gathered together over 2 bn listeners.

This great event was not only educational and propaganda (as well as cultural), as thanks to him many people in the world for the first time learnt the truth about the situation in Africa, but had also measurable practical consequences. So, however G8 leaders arrived at - can unenthusiastically - decisions to reduce debts, 2-krotnym for increasing the sum of the help within 5 nearest years and promised to think over deep reforms in the global trade in the near future.

## **References**

- [1] M. E. Chamberlain, Decolonization. The Fall of the European Empires, London 1985, p. 1.

- [2] A. Adu Boahen, *Conclusions. The Colonial Era: Conquest to independence*, w: *Colonialism in Africa*, vol. II, *The History and Politics of Colonialism, 1914-1960*, Cambridge 1970, p. 521-522.
- [3] R. Holland, *European Decolonization, 1918-1981. An Introductory Survey*, London 1985, pp. 1-2.
- [4] T. Hodgkin, *Nationalism in Colonial Africa*, New York 1971;
- [5] D. Fieldhouse, *Colonialism, 1870-1945. An Introduction*, New York 1981, p. 105
- [6] R. von Albertini, *Decolonization*, New York 1971, p. 514.
- [7] A. Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World, 1870-1914*, London 2004.
- [8] P. Kennedy, *Strategy and Diplomacy, 1870-1945*, pp. 201-203.

( Received 02 April 2014; accepted 16 April 2013 )