

The Future of the Atlantic and the Role of Africa in International Development

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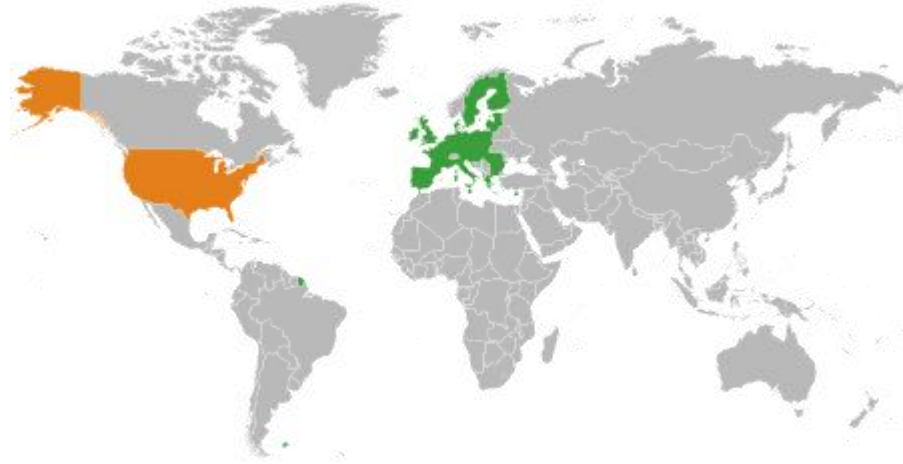
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1) Legal and Political Issues

a) The Development of Free Trade Agreements in the Atlantic Region

By Francesco Stipo, Ph.D.



From Wikipedia, TTIP, at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ttip>

Although the beginning of the third Millennium was characterized by the shift of the world's economic growth from the Atlantic to the Pacific region, the Atlantic is still the center of world's economic prosperity. In fact, as of 2012, the European Union and the United States had respectively the first and second highest GDP in the world, making up 40% of the world's economic output¹.

Strong international trade between America and Europe induced the countries in the Atlantic region to abate their economic borders and launch in 2013 negotiations for a comprehensive trade and investment agreement called TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership).

The European Commission estimates that the TTIP could boost the European economy by Euro 120 billion, the U.S. economy by 90 billion and the rest of the world by 100 billion².

¹ World Bank, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD>. Accessed on February 21st, 2014

² European Commission, <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ttip/> Accessed February 21, 2014

The agreement is covering several aspects of bilateral U.S.-EU trade such as “market access for agricultural and industrial goods, government procurement, investment, energy and raw materials, regulatory issues, sanitary measures, services, intellectual property rights, sustainable development, small- and medium-sized enterprises, dispute settlement, competition, customs/trade facilitation, and state-owned enterprises”³.

The mission of the TTIP is not just about lowering tariffs between the US and EU but also the alignment of regulations, liberalization of cross border investments and increased access to government procurement markets⁴.

The harmonization of regulations in the financial markets across the Atlantic has the primary scope of avoiding future economic downturns such as the global crisis of 2008⁵.

One of the main economy boosters is the liberalization of energy trade between Europe and the United States, in particular in the natural gas sector. The discovery of large quantities of oil and natural gas in the United States will increase energy exports from the United States to Europe and European dependence on Russia and the Middle East. The ultimate goal would be the creation of a free trade area of the Atlantic among countries that are already members of a mutual defense organization, NATO. Harmonization of trade regulations among these countries shall be relatively easy because they share democratic political systems and market economies⁶. However, the TTIP shall not be restricted to the North Atlantic region. It shall be extended to other countries in the South Atlantic. Some countries, such as Mexico, Morocco and the Dominican Republic, already have bilateral free trade agreements with the U.S., the European Union or both.

³ European Commission, <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=941> Accessed February 21, 2014

⁴ See also Bridging the Transatlantic Economy: TTIP in Historical Perspective, by Jordan Smith and Garrett Workman, December 2nd, 2013 at <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/publications/external/bridging-the-transatlantic-economy-ttip-in-historical-perspective>

⁵ Atlantic Council of the USA and Thomson Reuters, The Danger of Divergence, Transatlantic Cooperation on Financial Reform, October 6th 2013

⁶ Francesco Stipo, World Federalist Manifesto. Guide to Political Globalization, 2007, page 153-177

Other countries, such as Trinidad and Tobago, possess advanced facilities to liquefy natural gas. The development of a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement can boost the global economy and increase cooperation among countries with homogeneous political systems and economies. However, to develop sustainable economic growth, it is our recommendation that this agreement includes provisions for fair labor and antitrust laws to protect working and middle classes, common environmental regulations and multilateral mechanisms for dispute resolution. It is also our recommendation that the TTIP is not restricted to the North Atlantic region but it is also extended to countries in Latin America and Africa that share the same values as their North Atlantic counterparts.

b) Security Cooperation across the Atlantic

By Keith Butler

The major transatlantic political and security entities that currently exist include the North Atlantic Treaty Organizations (NATO), the European Union (EU), and the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA). While NATO is the only defense treaty organization among countries in the North Atlantic, there exists the potential for expansion of defense and trade organizations into the South Atlantic countries, both in Western Africa and South America. The Organization of American States (OAS) and the African Union (AU) are the two major political treaty organizations in the South Atlantic that are involved in transatlantic relations with NATO, the EU, and NAFTA.

There are a number of persistent security, political, and economic issues that have a direct impact upon transatlantic relations. Of particular note is the issue of food scarcity, which continues to be a major factor that has caused destabilization in North Africa, and could affect West Africa and South America in the future. Access to fresh water is another issue that affects almost all transatlantic nations, and may impact the future of agricultural production among both developed and developing countries among the transatlantic community. Economic growth has slowed down significantly among the developed countries in the region since 2008, and a general malaise in trade flows persists. The illicit trafficking in drugs, weapons, and people across

transatlantic borders continues despite efforts by various governments to reduce illegal activity. While there are bi-lateral trade relations among a number of countries (such as that between NAFTA and the European Free Trade Association, or EFTA), most of the trade mechanisms among the transatlantic community exist within the larger World Trade Organization (WTO).

In Central and South America, there has been a push over the past few decades for greater economic integration. In this region, the major trading organizations include the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR, which includes both Mercosur and the Andean Community of Nations), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC, which is a competing entity to the OAS). There also exists the Latin American Parliament, which is an organization similar to the European Parliament. While many transnational institutions exist within Latin American and the Caribbean, these same entities have not endeavored to focus more on transatlantic security and political cooperation.

In Africa, the AU acts to promote economic growth and political stability across the entire continent. As a successor to the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Union promotes a number of transnational initiatives among the member states. Security issues around terrorism and armed conflict in the Western Sahara, Southern Sudan, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and elsewhere have plagued the AU for a number of years. The AU has also set up eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) among its member states and observers, and it seeks to eventually create a continental free trade area, customs union, central bank, and common currency. However, whether the AU will be able to establish an African Economic Community by 2023 will remain to be seen.

Overall, there are significant (but not daunting) issues that affect the political, economic, and security relations of nations within the transatlantic region. While the North Atlantic countries have strong political, economic, and security treaty organizations, the South Atlantic countries have an opportunity to better integrate their regions with the larger Atlantic community. It is highly doubtful that the South Atlantic countries will integrate into, or promote the idea, of a transatlantic defense security and economic regime. However, as the regional

blocks in South America and Africa develop, then perhaps a more comprehensive transatlantic community will emerge.

c) Food Security and International Development in Africa

By Roberta Gibb Welch Esq.

Agriculture has been a major area of development in Africa.

The complex interlocking patterns of land acquisition and ownership that are fundamental to development are global in scope and mutual and multifaceted in nature at one end of the spectrum, and impoverished subsistence farmers operating at the other end. Africa possesses the largest reserve of undeveloped, agriculturally amenable, common lands in the world. Here, two theories on world food production clash. The first theory is that the way to feed the world is through modern, corporate, mechanized mega-farms that utilize massive amounts of fertilizer, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and water. The second theory is that privately owned small or midsized farms, family farms or cooperative farms, best provide food, not only for the local community, but also, if and when adequate transport is provided, to suburban and urban areas. If the small and midsized farms were adequately capitalized, the theory goes they would best feed the world, especially the two billion world's rural poor.

Those who favor large scale, industrial farms, rightly point to the extreme efficiency that results from mechanization, where efficiency is measured in terms of the per person output, per acre. However, industrial agriculture leads to depletion of the soils and because they are so efficient in terms of mechanization, they contribute to the unemployment problem. Never the less agribusiness has had the salutary effect of providing the organizational structure to keep daily food flowing into markets that feed billions of people worldwide.

Once again we confront the question of indigenous rights vs. corporate development. Where a few tribes roamed freely or local farms are scattered over thousands of acres of potentially arable agricultural land that could provide food for millions of people world-wide how does one balance the equities in displacing the few, so that the many may live better? Where land is set aside for wildlife preservation is the detrimental impact on indigenous peoples whose

hunting grounds are usurped, justified? Where indigenous peoples hunt and cut forests for firewood, thus impacting the environment in potentially detrimental ways, to what degree is government intervention justified in designating wildlife preserves? To the degree that these preserves serve as elite hunting destinations for wealthy foreigners and to the degree that demand from foreign countries drives the market for poached exotic animals, to what extent is international intervention justified? These questions swirl around the issue of development in Africa.

Worldwide, land is at a premium. As the price of food escalates, driven by demand and by commodities speculators, the contest for land intensifies. Both Africa and South America are relatively land rich, while China, India and Europe are relatively densely populated, so there is a north-south asymmetry as well as an east-west asymmetry. North American-based multinational corporations are buying up and leasing agricultural and forestlands in Africa and South America. European corporations, Chinese corporations, both private and state owned, oil-rich Middle Eastern countries and South East Asian corporations are also scrambling to buy land in Africa, South America and to a lesser extent in the Middle East.

What happens in China fundamentally affects what happens in Africa, particularly in terms of development and exploitation of resources, most importantly agricultural products to feed the one billion three hundred million Chinese. Since China has grossly overpopulated its own resource base, it is now scouring the world buying up resources as fast as it can, especially in Africa and South America. An important factor in development in Africa is the Chinese policy of exporting Chinese workers to Africa, rather than relying on African workers, which creates friction between the Africans and the imported Chinese.

An additional demand for land results from the shift to biofuels, which has led biofuel companies to purchase large tracts of land for growing fuel rather than food, this component of demand affects food availability and food prices worldwide. Since biofuels release carbon products into the atmosphere and are not truly sustainable in terms of the demands on water resources and the deterioration of the soil that results from large scale biofuel crops, the mandates for biofuels should be dropped and tax supported mandates for truly clean energy be enacted.

Water is the rate-controlling factor in present day agricultural production. Water is the essential resource of agriculture, and therefore it is imperative to expand our means of conserving water, developing drought resistant crops and funding desalinization plants if we are to provide our farms and cities of the future with water.

The cultivation of microorganisms as a source of fuel and food will serve to expand our food and energy resource technology and to provide a foundation for food production in the future. Bacteria and algae are potent sources of food for humans and for livestock. Genetically engineered photosynthesizing bacteria can also double as a means of producing electricity. Many types of algae and bacteria can flourish in salt water, thus conserving fresh water for saline-adverse crops. Moreover, advances in protein research have made it possible to grow animal protein in vats. This is a technology that can lend itself to development in Africa and will also attenuate the need for huge tracts of grazing land for livestock and grain production.

The future of food production and development in Africa will no doubt involve a mixture of large agribusinesses, small and medium sized farms, urban and suburban gardens, fishponds, fish farms, microorganism crops and vat protein production. The development of all of these technologies in Africa is a road to the future that will help Africa and Africans to flourish and also provide resources for the world.

Perhaps the biggest threat to African development comes from Africa itself; first in the form of terrorists and terrorist organizations that disrupt governments and wreak havoc on civil societies; second in terms of tribal, religious and ethnic hatreds that burn out of control as over-population, poverty and the extremism born of fear, false beliefs, hunger, and mental, emotional and physical illness drives massive acts of genocide; and third, in the untrammelled power of brutal dictatorships and corruption that are an anathema to democratic civil and human rights.

Because under the sheep's skin of religious beliefs the worldly wolves of political power fight for control of the resource base of any given economy, the prospects of developing inclusive democratic structures will depend on a change of belief systems from the winner-take-all, winner-kill-the-opposition, orientation, to an enlightened self-interest in which it is perceived that to include all groups and all people in the economic and political power structures of a nation ensures that the nation will flourish and that extremist terror will be minimized. Basic to

democratic governance is the mandate that the law will be equally enforced on every individual, no matter what his or her ethnic background, religious beliefs or economic status.

The key to making a strong democracy is not to have a weak central government, which only leads to anarchy, violence and lawlessness, but is rather to establish a strong, inclusive central government that is controlled by all the citizens working together to ensure that the government acts to protect individual liberties, and guarantees human and civil rights for all. Democracy increases the odds that the inevitable attempts at corruption will be attenuated by the vigilance of citizens and by the separation and balance of multiple levels and sources of power within the system.

2) Energy and Environment

a) The Underlying Natural Resources and their Function within the South Atlantic

By Anitra Thorhaug, Ph.D.



From Wikipedia, Atlantic Ocean, at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean

The South Atlantic is one of the world's largest water bodies containing the second largest global ecosystem. The total Atlantic Ocean (104.6million km²) covers 20% of the earth's surface and is second in size to the Pacific, but its terrestrial drainage is 4 times greater, creating a much greater effect of terrestrial activities (pollutants and soil loss) on Atlantic estuaries. The South Atlantic's deep waters and surface equatorial waters both effect the circulation and heat of the North Atlantic and its nations. The South Atlantic is the second youngest ocean existing since 130 million years ago when Africa's tectonic plate pulled away from South America's plate. The South Atlantic's surface circulation includes water moving westward from the Bight of Africa toward the South American coast where one portion circulates northwestward through the Caribbean Sea while a second portion flows westward to the Guyana/Brazilian coasts turning southward toward Argentina. At the far south (below 60 degrees South), this water meets the Surface Antarctic current, circulating around the Antarctic continent. A deep water current of far

greater volume circulates from the North Atlantic Ocean sinking from surface waters near Iceland and Norway flows to the South Atlantic, taking multiple centuries to pass from north to south Atlantic. The net surface heat transport northward replaces this sinking water from the northern Atlantic Ocean which heat keeps Europe temperate along with heat from the Gulf Stream current passing from mid-Atlantic through the Caribbean to Europe (Broecker ,2010) .

The oceans contain some 50 times more carbon dioxide than the atmosphere and 18 times more than terrestrial ecosystems, being the primary reservoir of readily available global carbon (40,000 GtC in dissolved, particulate, and living forms of carbon). The total terrestrial ecosystems contain 2,200 GtC, with atmospheric CO₂ being merely 750 GtC. The Atlantic Ocean containing 25% of this (10000 Gt Carbon). The amount of new carbon put into the atmosphere since the industrial revolution is 150 GtC, which Miller (2011) states can be seen to be less than the amount of carbon cycled through the marine ecosystem in five years.* The obvious conclusion from this fact is to stop degrading the marine environment and restore the marine habitats already degraded. For instance, the seagrass habitat has been degraded by 51,000km² (Waycott et al. 2011) in the last hundred years. Which is a loss of 1 GTCarbon by this habitat loss (Thorhaug et al. 2009).

There are major differences in precipitation of the central western South Atlantic coastal plains which are derived from equatorial and south Atlantic metrological patterns for a portion of the year and then Caribbean Sea air circulation patterns (Nicholson et al, 2011). This rain chiefly occurs in the western South Atlantic creating fertile agriculture and biodiversity conditions, although some rain travels northward to North America. The Eastern Central South Atlantic, an area of heavy precipitation, is framed by desert conditions occur at the north and South ends of the continental coasts. The Caribbean Antilles form the lowest precipitation region of the Western hemisphere (Aquastat,2014).

The South Atlantic ecology of coastal areas on east and west side is alike with ecosystem cogenators having similar coastal forests, and estuaries. High biodiversity and relatively low environmental management levels are found around the South Atlantic (with several exceptions). Note the tectonic plates of South American and Africa were originally joined (accounting for the biodiversity similarity) and South America's plate was disjunctive from North America's plate

with the land bridge of Central America occurring by uplift (after separation from Africa). In Central Africa, massive uplifted central mountain ranges flow into the sea through moderately small coastal plain areas whereas in eastern South America there is a very large coastal plain with estuaries both heavily developed and degraded southward from the Amazon. In Africa, specific developed points centered at urbanized and industrialized rivers mouths occur. Resultant pollution impact of urbanization has decreased the estuarine and coastal productivity of both Atlantic estuaries. Decimation of vast mangrove forests, upland Neotropical moist subtropical and tropical Atlantic forests have created large temperature, water flow, and filtration changes of eroding soils at the coast on both sides of the Atlantic. The forests of central Africa contain 44-66 billion tons of carbon most above ground not in soil, storing 25% of the global terrestrial tropical carbon. The forests of South America contain 87-132 tons/ha. Carbon relations of the American forests which have recently been found to contain tens of times the carbon that African forests contain should be noted (Saatchi et al., 2013). On the West African Coastal areas a massive amount of blue carbon (mangroves, marshes, seagrass, algae) has been lost which is not calculated. Poor natural biological resource management practices appear throughout the region. Little habitat restoration occurs regionally.

The remaining sustainable fisheries in the world lie at the far South western Atlantic near Uruguay/ Argentina (along with the conjunctive Chilean/Peruvian fisheries) (FAO, 2001, Garcia and Grainger, 2005). Artisanal fisheries in Africa and the Caribbean Antilles have also declined enormously due both to overfishing (Pauley et al, 2005), and fisheries habitat destruction (Thorhaug, et al 2011), including terrestrial soil runoff from agriculture and other forest removal.

b) The South and Central Atlantic mineral resources.

Petroleum and natural Gas are resources in the South Atlantic Ocean and its seas and at terrestrial margins in nations from Trinidad south to Brazil and Liberia through Democratic Republic of the Congo. Newest technologies find deeper petroleum layers accessible. The extraction creates global transport needs. 132 billion barrels of oil and nearly 513 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas are assessed to be held in all Africa, 7% of the world's reserves. Other important resources are diamonds, gold, iron, cobalt, uranium, copper, bauxite, silver, and gemstones.

c) Poverty and its Alleviation Through Microenterprise/Microfinance

The whole area bordering the South Atlantic has high poverty levels: the eastern portion couples high population growth rates and low income. Brazil has overcome much poverty by improved health plus education allowances. The Partnership for Productivity Oerke methodology of creating microenterprise as the sole recipient of microfinance, which motivates a return on interest as well as cooperative village production ventures ongoing successfully since 1966 in Kakamega Kenya has had large positive effects in Liberia, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Camerouns, Malawi, and other African, Latin, and Asian nations. The key factor was creating an excess of profit from microenterprise then shared with wider groups (Oerke and Shiller, 2011, and Oerke 2012). The poverty factor creates a critical interaction between human needs and natural resources resulting in potential degradation of forests, savannahs, estuaries and fisheries in both Africa and South America as well as soil loss. Sufficient production of forest-oriented products must be found for the forest areas. The major forests of Cameroon and Congo Basin as well as Brazil, Guyanas, Venezuela, and Central American forests are rapidly being degraded. Due to the extremely high population growth (98% in next 50 years) creating a demand for increased farmland. Expanding populations of farmers view forests as potential agricultural space. Also populations are doubling in a series of African Central Atlantic nations. More soil education needs to be transmitted to farmers on both sides of the Atlantic, to solve the joint problems of erosion of critical soil with its attendant loss of water retention and estuarine turbidity problems decimating fisheries habitat.

Enormous migrations of Human populations are well-documented to presently be occurring on the East Atlantic side from Central Africa northward to Morocco and Europe and also southward toward South Africa postulated due to degrading natural resources, previously sustaining these populations. The intense extraction of resources and industrial development in the African Atlantic nations does not appear to be adequately solving needs of those in extreme poverty, despite overall GDP increases due to extractive resources. Critical parts of the solution are microenterprise efforts and extensive medical outreach programs from North Atlantic nations.

d) Recommendations.

- 1.) No factory fishing either inside or outside the territorial limits waters of the Central and Southern Atlantic region.
- 2.) Forests must be sustained throughout the South Atlantic and Caribbean region and reforestation must occur with marginal areas decimated previously. Plant ground cover must be placed on degraded areas (especially along river and creek edges where forests have been removed) to stem soil erosion and turbidity entering the estuaries from upland. A variety of soil enhancement techniques must be used to enrich and retain soil.
- 3.) Substantial national and local work on cleansing effluents of all types so that only clean water enters rivers and coasts. This is critical in regaining sustainability of marine fisheries and biodiversity of estuarine and marine ecosystems.
- 4.) Nationally excellent planning and assessments for sustainability with detailed calculations for both fisheries catch and fish-breeding habitat must be created for allotting fisheries catch limits to national local fish industry and artisanal fisheries industries or if selling fishing rights to non-national corporations.
- 5.) Industries and infrastructure developing shorelines and rivers for petroleum and other extractive products must respect the habitat vegetation and fisheries.
- 6.) Poverty, pervasive on east and west south Atlantic, needs microenterprise rather than simple microfinance, major efforts to train villagers should occur throughout these regions (excellent success example in Burkina Faso). Microenterprise poverty alleviation must work toward self-sufficiency and excess profit spread to assist others in poverty, rather than the present donor- dependency. Forest industries must be facilitated by producing sustainable forest products not removing forests for agricultural land.
- 7.) Fresh water security is required for agricultural and human consumption, especially in Eastern South Atlantic.

Footnotes:

*(1 GtC = 1 gigaton of carbon = 10^{12} kilograms of carbon.).

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3) Health and Religion

a) Religious Trends in the Atlantic Region

By Marian Gh. Simion, Ph.D

In determining the particular role that Africa plays in the future of the region of the Atlantic, religion ought to be viewed in close relationship with socio-economic indicators such as: human development, income, corruption, education, literacy, and access to the Internet. While all these socio-economic indicators demonstrate that North America and Western Europe rank the highest, while the African continent ranks the lowest (Johnson, Ross: 2010, 3), it is mandatory that sustainable development in the South should be regarded by the North as an investment opportunity, particularly as North-South relations have become part of the everyday life of the globalized world.

The current gap of wealth between North and South is a consequence of imperialism and colonial history. Capital investment in the South was usually concentrated in sectors that exported raw materials to the North (oil, mines, tropical agriculture)—a subject strongly debated in the context of theories of accumulation (e.g., Economic Accumulation, The World-System, and Dependency Theory.) During the second half of the twentieth century well into the twenty-first, as the African continent began its de-colonizing process, the continent became plagued by dysfunctional managerial systems in the public sector, as well as by corruption, inter-ethnic strife, civil wars and genocides. This was in part because the new independent states had been established on defective colonial borders. Today, nearly one billion people in the global South—most of them in Africa—live in abject poverty, facing the lack of basic needs such as safe water, housing, and food. Production in the global South uses smaller capital and much labor at low wages, with agriculture, energy, earth minerals, and textiles as the classic export products. (Goldstein, Pevehouse: 2010: 423-454)

On the religious arena, economic prosperity is viewed as a divine blessing. Wealth accumulation depends on the meeting of basic needs such as food, water, education, shelter, health care, and political stability. When such needs are not met, religion often intervenes as an ideological support for various forms of conflict; including confessional conflict, economic conflict, political conflict, and ideological conflict. For example, starting in late nineteenth century, Muslim responses to European colonial domination were often infused with apocalyptic mythologies of Mahdism, while in the post-independence period, Muslim responses targeted the secular states through Islamist, Shiite and Salafi jihadi movements (Ruthven: 2004, 194-195). In South Africa, the Christian response to the Apartheid—carefully crafted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and President Nelson Mandela—tapped into the indigenous spiritual concept of *Ubuntu* (coexistence on shared humanity), and successfully transitioned to racial pluralism.

Today, on the African continent, religion is present in various forms, ranging from primitive forms of religious life such as animism, totemism, fetishism and ancestors' cult, to religious syncretism, agnosticism and atheism, with a significant presence of transplanted Hinduism. Nevertheless, the dominant religions are Christianity and Islam. According to the on-line version of *Encyclopedia Britannica*, in 2010 the African continent registered a total population of 1,033,043,000, with a religious distribution which included: Christians: 488,880,000; Muslims: 421,938,820; Hindus: 2,945,000; Nonreligious (agnostics): 5,995,000; Buddhists: 258,000; Chinese folk-religionists: 133,000; Ethnoreligionists: 109,592,000; Atheists: 594,000; New religionists: 117,000; Sikhs: 74,000; Jews: 134,000; Spiritists: 2,900; Baha'is: 2,178,000; Confucianists: 20,200; Jains: 95,100; Zoroastrians: 980; Other religionists: 85,000.

Considering the protracted ideological attrition between Islam and Christianity, religion and religious identity becomes a strong factor for discrimination and conflict. The strongest clashes between Muslims and Christians took place in the Republic of the Sudan, which led to the 2011 independence of the Christian-dominated Republic of South Sudan, from the Muslim North. Nevertheless, these regional clashes in Sudan predate the arrival of Christianity and Islam, as North African Arabs have maintained close ties with Saharan and Sub-Saharan Africans through religion, trade, war and diplomacy. While the expansion of Islam in West Africa was

largely peaceful (Ruthven: 2004, 72), it was only later that Sudan became a theater for “scramble for souls” between the indigenous religionists, colonizing Christian missionaries, and the hegemonic Muslims (Deng: 1999, 191-227).

As the current projections of religious demographics indicate, over the next 40 years Muslims are expected to increase significantly, while Christians will see a slight increase as well (Johnson, Ross: 2009, 44). Therefore, fear of poverty and destitution can only lead to further competition for resources, where, in addition to ethnic identity, religious identity can become a source for further discrimination and human rights abuses. As North Africa is strongly subjected to the unpredictable results of the Arab Spring, in combination with a series of jihad movements and rebellions of nomadic tribesmen in West Africa (Ruthven: 2004, 74), it becomes vital for the Global North to increase its involvement in Africa through sustainable development, both for humanitarian reasons, as well as for reasons of security.

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b) Health Issues in Africa

By Jack Allison, M.D. and Ryan Jackson M.D.

Ignorance, poverty and disease are intertwined in keeping Africa from emerging more rapidly as a third world continent. Poor health prevents one from working to capacity and from receiving an adequate education; furthermore, improved education is associated with enhanced income *and* bolstered health status, so the vicious cycle in Africa is indeed ominous.

According to WHO in 2006, Africa's health problems are actually getting worse: "Although Africa has 11% of the global population it has 60% of the world's HIV/AIDS cases and 90% of the world malaria cases, mainly in children under 5." 1

A major issue is that African governments do not deem health care expenditures a priority in terms of annual GDP. Another distressing concern is that malaria, HIV/AIDS, and many other health problems in Africa are preventable!

Two other pervasive public health issues are clean drinking water and proper sanitation. Unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation kill more people annually than all forms of violence, including war. 2 Worldwide, 800 million people do not have access to clean water, the majority of whom are impoverished..., 3 and 84% of water-deprived Africans live in rural areas. 4

UNICEF reports that 20% of children in sub-Saharan Africa die before the age of five years due to water-borne illnesses, which they contract from polluted drinking water. 5 And obviously, washing hands in contaminated water is not part of the solution to improving health. Another issue with procuring water in many African villages is that daily people walk for miles in search of it, accounting for

lost labor for women and wasted school days for children. 6

Sanitation is a tougher problem because universally it is discussed far less than access to clean water – it tends to be a taboo subject although all of us are naturally required to go to the toilet. It is estimated that 40% of the world’s population (~3 billion people) do not have access to toilets. 7 And although both concerns of water and sanitation are approached separately, they are actually one enmeshed global issue – it is difficult to have one *sans* the other for optimal health. Unfortunately, funding for improving access to clean drinking water is easier to acquire than that for sanitation-related initiatives.

In summary, Allison et al., provide cogent suggestions for improving health of Africans throughout the continent:

“Perhaps the awarding the first ever Nobel Prize in Global Health awaits the prescient researcher who succeeds in bringing both camps [Western medicine and African traditional medicine] together to foster meaningful, focused, validated health education, i.e., the best EDUCATIONAL VACCINE, for the prevention of HIV/AIDS [and other preventable diseases], through utilizing music, dance, drama, poetry, painting, videos, and/or storytelling in combination with a titrated tincture of medicinal magic. Until that august time, hope does indeed continue to spring eternal.8

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