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***The real U.S. agenda in Africa is hegemony.***



Sources: The Cradle [Photo: The Cradle]

Translated from English by Marwan Perez for Rebellion

*Forget development: Washington's main interest in Africa is to keep the Chinese and Russians away*

In a rational environment, the 77th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) would be discussing how to alleviate the problems and adversities of the Global South, and especially of Africa.

That is not the case. Like a fawn caught in geopolitical beacons, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres referred to the clichés of a "bleak winter of global discontent," even though imperial doomsayers criticized the UN's "crisis of faith" and the "unprovoked war" initiated by Russia.

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Of course, the slow-motion genocide of the Russian-speaking residents of Donbass for eight years would never be recognized as a provocation.

Guterres spoke of Afghanistan, "where the economy is in ruins and human rights are being trampled underfoot," but he did not dare to offer the context. In Libya "divisions continue to endanger the country" – again, without context. Not to mention Iraq, where "ongoing tensions threaten current stability."

Africa has 54 UN member nations. Any truly representative UNGA meeting must bring Africa's issues to the forefront. Again, that is not the case. It is therefore up to African leaders to provide that much-needed context outside the UN building in New York.

As the only African member of the G20, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa recently urged the United States not to "punish" the entire continent by forcing it to criminalize or sanction Russia. Washington has introduced legislation dubbed the "Fighting Evil Russian Activities in Africa Act," which will hurt Africa and marginalize the continent.

South Africa is a member of the BRICS, a concept that is anathema in circulation, and adopts a policy of non-alignment between world powers. An emerging twenty-first century version of the Non-Aligned Movement of the 1960s is going from strength to strength across the Global South, and especially in Africa, much to the chagrin of the United States and its minions.

Back at the United Nations General Assembly, Guterres invoked the global fertilizer crisis, again, without context. Russian diplomacy has repeatedly emphasized that Moscow is willing to export 30 million tons of grain and more than 20 million tons of fertilizer by the end of 2022. What is not said in the West is that the import of fertilizers is "allowed" only for the EU, while it is not for Africa.

Guterres said he was trying to persuade EU leaders to lift sanctions on Russian fertilizer exports, which directly affect cargo payments and shipping insurance. Russia's Uralchem, for example, even offered to supply fertilizer to Africa for free.

However, from the point of view of the United States, and their EU vassals, all that matters is countering Russia and China in Africa. Senegalese President Macky Sall said the policy is leaving "a bitter taste".

***'We forbid you to build your pipeline'***

It gets worse. The largely ineffective EU Parliament now wants to halt the construction of the 1,445km-long East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) from Uganda to Tanzania,

invoking vague human rights violations, environmental threats and "advising" member countries to simply abandon the project.

Uganda has more than 6 billion barrels of oil to sustain the employment boom and ultimately drive the nation to a middle income. It was up to the deputy speaker of Uganda's parliament, Thomas Tayebwa, to provide much-needed context:

"It is unwise to say that Uganda's oil projects will exacerbate climate change, but it is a fact that the EU bloc with only 10% of the world's population is responsible for 25% of global emissions, and Africa, with 20% of the world's population, is responsible for 3% of emissions. The EU and other Western countries are historically responsible for climate change. So who should stop or slow down the development of natural resources? Certainly not Africa or Uganda."

The EU Parliament, moreover, is a staunch puppet of the biofuels *lobby*. It has refused to amend a law that would have halted the use of food crops for fuel production, actually contributing to what the UN Food Programme has described as "a global emergency of unprecedented magnitude". No fewer than 350 million people are on the brink of starvation in Africa.

Instead, the G7's notion of "helping" Africa crystallizes into the US-led Build Back Better World (B3W), Washington's anemic attempt to counter Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which focuses on "climate, health and health security, digital technology, and gender equity and equality, "instead." according to the White House. The B3W simply ignores the practical issues of infrastructure and sustainable development, which are central to China's plan.

Initially, a U.S. delegation traveling to Senegal and Ghana identified some "promising" projects. Since then, Senegalese diplomatic sources have confirmed that these projects have nothing to do with infrastructure construction.

B3W, unsurprisingly, vanished. After all, the U.S.-led project was little more than a pr stunt to undermine the Chinese, with a negligible effect on reducing the infrastructure worth more than \$40 trillion that needs to be built across the Global South by 2035.

### ***You have YALI, you will travel***

Imperial initiatives in Africa – apart from the US military's Africa Command (AFRICOM), which amounts to the crude militarization of the continent – brings us to the curious case of YALI (Young African Leaders Initiative), widely touted on the Washington-New York axis as the "most innovative" policy of the Obama years.

Launched in 2010, YALI was framed on how to "empower the new generation of African leaders," a euphemism for educating (or brainwashing) them American-style. The mechanism is simple: invest in and bring hundreds of potential young African leaders to American universities for a short six-week "training" on "business, civil leadership, entrepreneurship and governance." Then, four days in Washington to meet with "administration leaders" and a photo shoot with Obama.

El proyecto fue coordinado por las embajadas de Estados Unidos en África y se dirigió a hombres y mujeres jóvenes de las 49 naciones del África subsahariana, incluidas las que están bajo sanciones de Estados Unidos. Se dirigió a jóvenes de las 49 naciones del África subsahariana con buen nivel de inglés, -incluidas las que están bajo sanciones de Estados Unidos como Sudan, Eritrea y Zimbabue- y con el compromiso de volver a África. Aproximadamente el 80% nunca había estado en Estados Unidos y más del 50% creció fuera de grandes ciudades.

Luego, en un discurso en 2013 en Sudáfrica, Obama anunció el establecimiento de la Beca Washington, más tarde rebautizada como Beca Mandela-Washington (MWF). Todavía está en curso. En 2022 MWF debería otorgarse a 700 «líderes jóvenes destacados del África subsahariana», que siguen «Institutos de liderazgo» en casi 40 universidades estadounidenses, antes de su breve paso por Washington. Después de lo cual, están preparados para un "compromiso a largo plazo entre Estados Unidos y África".

And all that for literally a handful of peanuts, as the Democratic establishment enthusiastically called MWF profitable: \$24,000 per scholar, paid for by participating American universities, as well as Coca-Cola, IBM, MasterCard Foundation, Microsoft, Intel, McKinsey, GE and Procter & Gamble.

And it didn't stop with MWF. USAID went a step further and invested more than \$38 million, plus \$10 million from the MasterCard Foundation, to establish four Regional Leadership Centers (RLCs) in South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and Senegal. These were trainings, remote and face-to-face, of at least 3,500 'future leaders' a year.

No wonder the Brookings Institution was drooling over so much "profitability" when it comes to investing "in the future of Africa" and that the United States "remains competitive" in Africa. YALI certainly looks prettier than AFRICOM.

However, some success stories do not seem to rival the steady stream of African footballers who cause a sensation in Europe and then reinvest most of their profits at home. The Trump years saw a reduction in YALI funding: from \$19 million in 2017 to about \$5 million.

### *So many leaders to 'train'*

Unsurprisingly, Joe Biden's White House has yALI-elated again with a bit of revenge. Take the American press linked to Nigeria and you will clearly see that "media and information literacy" is now being insisted on, much needed to address the "spread of disinformation", even "in the months leading up to the national presidential elections".

That is, under the umbrella of YALI, "the United States has trained 1,000 young Nigerians to recognize the signs of misinformation and misinformation online and in the media." And now they are followed up in the "Training of Trainers" workshops, "teaching 40 journalists, content creators and activists (half of whom will be women) from Yobe, Borno, Adamawa, Zamfara and Katsina on "how to identify, investigate and report misinformation". Facebook, which was ordered by the FBI to censor "inconvenient" facts that could alter the election, is not part of the curriculum.

YALI is the soft, *instagrammed* face of AFRICOM. The United States has participated in the overthrow of several African governments over the past two decades, with troops trained under the total secrecy of AFRICOM. There has been no serious Pentagon audit of the weaponry of local AFRICOM "partners." As far as we know, as in Syria and Libya, the U.S. military could be arming even more terrorists.

And unsurprisingly, it's all bipartisan. John Bolton, the rabid neocon and former Trump national security adviser, in December 2018 at the Heritage Foundation, made it very clear: U.S. support for Africa has nothing to do with democracy or sustainable development. It is about countering Russia and China.

When it learned that Beijing was considering building an oil-rich naval base in Equatorial Guinea, the Biden White House sent power envoys to the capital, Malabo, to convince the government to cease and desist. In vain.

Instead, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was greeted as a superstar on his recent extensive tour of Africa, where global food prices and fertilizer drama are widely perceived to be a direct consequence of Western sanctions on Russia. Uganda's leader, Yoweri Museveni, went straight-ahead and said, "How can we be against someone who has never hurt us?"

From December 13 to 15, the White House plans to hold a major Summit of U.S. and African Leaders in Washington to discuss all about food security and climate change, along with perennial conferences on democracy and human rights. Most leaders won't exactly be impressed with this new display of America's "enduring commitment to

Africa." Well, there's always YALI. So many young leaders to indoctrinate, in such a short time.

Source: <https://thecradle.co/Article/Columns/15975>

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