

# Failed Globalisation Policies Effects on African Faiths

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Globalisation with respect to Africa seems to have exacerbated an already bad situation. When the song of liberalisation was sang across the globe during the Reagan and George H Bush years, many ordinary Africans saw hope in globalisation...that friendly animal which magically produces the milk of freedom of speech and opulence, at the same time building mansions along bougainvillea-lined private boulevards and leaving no one behind. Among the above dreams, only the song of free speech became a reality with some melody. It was a song many Africans with their traditional gift of singing were prepared to sing, having rehearsed it in private already. The 'Messiah' had at last arrived in the very predominantly religious continent. The Africans were not shocked that the Messiah had arrived in form of a former third rate Hollywood actor in a cowboy hat. Did the bible not promise that the sun will rise from the west? Jolly good! California happens to be most the west of the west: geographically, politically, morally and economically. Prophecy fulfilled!

Prior to this, Africa had within a short period tasted hard earned liberty from colonialist with hope for a better life. It was a short lived dream that soon turned hope into despair as poor governance, greed, corruption and in some instances anarchy set in. The state of the economies led to a series of heartless military coups the breadth of Africa...that heart shaped continent...with a promise to improve people's lives. Healthy economies to many African states must have been ghosts, which never see the light of the day. So when good governance and accountability was preached, it was a sweet gospel to many. And who can ever argue with that unless you are the perpetrator!

The existing governments were told to liberalise politically, industrially and commercially. Some of those governments if not all were not endeared to Washington and they complied fearing the almighty firepower, which America had demonstrated against Granada and Panama without anyone raising a finger. If there was any darling of the west among the African leaders, he was just a gregarious minion with a taste of good life, large Mercedes, huge libido and a large bank account, which the prying eyes in Washington possibly had turned a blind eye to so long as the minions towed the IMF policies.

In Africa, liberalisation was chaotic. The Africans broke down all trade barriers. Anyone could bring anything, anyhow, anytime (AAA)...Double AA, the super economic breakdown vehicle on the economic road perdition. It was like as if they had never heard of protectionist policies called tariffs. Probably they were eager to just toe the line. Any semblance of a trade ramparts were torn down. Control was being lost and some people became filthy rich and most became terribly poor. It was an economic disaster, which only ended making a bad situation worse. The leaders had been told to liberalise so that they could remain in power.

With regard to state wealth, looting is an understatement as demonstrated even in Russia. Some greedy lot within the systems teamed up with moneyed people in the west to buy state properties at a value next to nothing...a value fixed by the interested

parties...only for the same properties to pop up in the market a few weeks later at tens of times its value a few weeks before. The common wealth had turned into private wealth with a price tug. The poor who now had nothing, had to pay high prices, for what they used to buy with a token literally. Without money, they became beggars and criminals. It would not take long before the religious Africans saw globalisation as the dragon with seven head and ten horns.

If the Africans are starting to ask questions on the globalisation, the western God has not been spared. Some form of renaissance among the Kikuyu tribe in Kenya is starting to kick in. They are starting to turn to their own God, whom they feel they deserted with the ingress of the missionaries. The nascent believe is growing by the day that their God, who resides on Mt Kenya, created the first couple, Gikuyu and Mumbi, blessing them with nine daughters who in turn married, springing the nine Kikuyu clan. From those nine clans, the world was born. I would be interested to know which daughter brought forth the Bush family! But the faith, which had been dormant for nearly a hundred years, is taking root with the rank and file. People are visiting the Kikuyu version of 'Garden of Aden' known as *Mukurwe wa Gathanga*. At least they can pin point the tree where God dropped the couple unlike the Garden of Aden who no one can say where Aden is let alone the garden. So much for the renaissance but this illustrates that the Africans are starting to long for something more fundamental which they can call their own. They are yearning for nothing less than their own religion and a God who can walk closer to their needs. They are seeking Him first, believing that liberty from poverty, health and all things good will be added unto them! What other philosophy their in lies?

Another point to note is that Africans like the Europeans in the middle ages have developed very 'quirky' faiths believing in anything that will offer hope. After all, anything is better than globalisation (read nothing) which like nuclear energy promised such cheap energy that it would not be worthwhile to meter. But the outcome was different!

If in Washington, globalisation sounds like the relics wealth and power, its echoes in Africa thud like the discordant tones of diseases, hunger and starvation. Apparently, 'globalisers' are using the Archimedes principal of: '*Give me a fixed point, a long lever, and a place to rest and I will lift the whole world,*' having found a fixed place in Washington, while resting on the IMF policies, using the long lever of the financial muscle of the World Bank and oh boy oh girl...aren't they toppling the whole world!

It may be that the scales are starting to tip back to the socialist economies...the hour hand in the clock is slow and steady...not just from the effect of 'globalisers' alone but any small yawn from nature, due to large world population will increasingly create larger catastrophic situations which will seem to spell the apocalypse. In that case, standing shoulder to shoulder in a threatened situation is the only natural process unless we want to aid the demise of the civilisation, as we know it.

These events, human or natural will raise moral issues, which inevitably will become social issues of stratification and order. *Which system(s) is best suitable for the survival of mankind?* No one has the answer but the answer lies with both time and the people. But one thing is certain, the question is more morally based and it is likely to give a moral answer, something more appealing and caring. Dangerous

competition of capitalism with no regard to our environment will become a principal theme as threats become more and more. It could be that nature, in his eternal predestination can define, albeit through catastrophic means, the political and social paths that man follows at any one time.

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