

Analysis of American and Chinese Policies for Africa: Insider view focusing on scramble for natural resources and conflicts

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Abstract: This paper seeks to analyze the American and Chinese Policies for Africa from an insider perspective. The authors open dialogue into the undressed economic concerns pointing at some of the African development dilemmas caused by China and America in Africa. They argue that neither America nor China has friends or enemies but purely interests in realizing African economic growth or social progress but their policy is masking themselves to accelerate every possible chance of exploiting African natural resources. With the emergence of oligopolistic players in the global economy, America and China inclusive, all of which scramble for mineral wealth and African markets, they come with high price and costs of humanitarian crisis and immense human rights violations and degradation of the environment severely affecting majorly the African continent. With deliberate economic pressure exerted on the African people that denies their right to control or manage their natural resources propels the authors to think that some of the people who are sometimes called terrorists may not actually be terrorists but could be innocent divergent thinkers who are fighting for their natural and geographical rights to resources. ... Drawing from the findings of previous scholars that examined the structural operation of the American and Chinese policies for Africa, the authors argue that America and China do not have friends or enemies in Africa but interests. The authors recommend radical approaches to be employed by African governments to counter-balance the American hostile and Chinese-looting operations in order to contribute to a better Africa.

Keywords: American, policy, insider, scramble, natural resources and conflict.

1. INTRODUCTION

We were told that the world is round and it is like a circle at an early age, it can also be observed that the globe is portrayed in circular shape in schools, public and private offices both in Europe and Africa. However one might not have been to America or China but hopefully they too have the same understanding of the globe. Geography also tells us that if two people start a journey from a particular point on the globe, taking different directions at the same speed, they will soon meet somewhere even if one of the two is moving much faster than the other. Unlike this geographical concept, the American policy for Africa seems to operate in a shift away from this relationship. There is a sharp derogation of ideas and interests that I have analysed below.

2. OUR INSIDER VIEWS ON AMERICAN AND CHINESE POLICIES FOR AFRICA

Conceptualizing the American Policy for Africa, rise of China and Conflict in sub-Saharan

The American and Chinese business agenda seem prepared and ready to engulf the African economic prospects amoebically and swallow it up to remain the only players in the global economy.

Conceptualizing this view is based on the four priorities of the American policy for Africa to Africans. They include: "supporting Africa's economic growth and development", "supporting democracy", "strengthening democratic institutions" and "conflict prevention" (Manrique Gill, 2015 & White House, 2012). Of course these terms imply that

much as America is on the supporting side of these priorities, Africa is on the recipient side of the support. How can such policy initiative bring mutual support? It doesn't seem to. I would therefore concur with Adam Smith's view that human beings are naturally lazy and are not willing to work and that the only way to get them work is by introducing a system of rewards and incentivize them for the work they have done (Smith, 1776 in Schwartz, 2015). This would then raise the motivation, performance and competition as well as positive results. Supporting charity organizations is not a way of transforming their socio-economic life but a means of complete erosion of the right to self-determination. How then will African countries create self-help communities to control their own economies?

American needs to change its policy in its dealings and operations with the African affairs and in that way, self-help communities would emerge in Africa to meet all the priorities US is talking about, independently for themselves and others to make a positive difference.

We cannot talk about the American policy for Africa without talking about the emergence of China as one of the major players in the global economy. In our own view, we do not imagine a difference in the two countries' African foreign policies. They have different approaches but similar interests. America is one of the competitors of the African natural resources and so is, China. The former is feeling insecure in the way the latter prioritizes its position in Africa always going down to the earth claiming to cultivate her principle of mutual benefits to both Africa and itself as he invests in infrastructure and harvest natural resources in return (see, Sun & Thornton, 2013). One would argue that even if Africa had the necessary technology and the skilled human capital for extracting her natural resources, they would as well invest in infrastructure development to attain some higher level of social progress (measured by improved healthcare, reduced illiteracy, access to clean water and decent living) by turning wealth into well-being of its people and thus rescuing themselves from the deliberately created 'cloud' (a point in a process where every option/alternative/law/bill seem not to work at all).

China's rapid visibility in African economy raises concerns from local merchants regarding whether it is rushing to Africa in the name of mega construction projects or fierce looting of natural endowments and conditional loaning. Critics paint China's activities in Africa as evil due to their selfish quest for natural resources gained through conditional mega funding projects (see, Sun, 2014). African majority poor are worried of Chinese engagement into indiscriminate small scale business that could be done by local people on top of their racist actions and stereotyping of Africans on the African soil. They compromise initiatives for good governance and national interest and thus lacking an African strategy.

The US political approach to involvement in African affairs is not friendly too, in her structural operations when it comes to the relationship between American and African business. Evidence shows that about 18% of US crude oil imports come from Africa and expected to grow to 25% by 2015 (Oyewole, 2009). It could have presently increased. Oil is of course not the only issue. There are many concerns on the long lasting armed conflicts in the Congo, CAR, Somalia, Sudan to name but a few. These countries host other highly demanded metallic natural resources such as uranium, gold, and diamonds among others which are highly traded in China, America and the West for running their mega industrialization to fetch the world market economy. On the other hand of course, natural resources are not the only contributions to armed struggle in most of these African countries. There could be high levels of corruption in most African governments that leads to the dis-functioning of the legal authority and create polarized intra-state groups. There is no doubt such corruption could be fuelled by these two selfishly cunning African resources competitors. On the other hand, we may argue that scramble for natural resources involving stiff competition among Chinese and American oligopolistic players in the global economy with strategic interests hugely contribute armed conflicts in the host regions. They compromise good governance for their selfish interests.

The economic and political strife in these regions is a great threat to human security illustrated by huge human mortality and displacements of local populations, heavy human rights abuses and environmental degradation which remain less addressed in the face of America or China and observations from other African men and women of good will across the board. The concerns go beyond expectations. America's great allies such as the European Union (EU) may not in any way be different in approaching socio-economic and political transformation in Africa. They all spread the gospel which they do not live.

The discovery of oil in Uganda comes with opportunities and heavy risks. Spearheaded by the EU, a European Tallow oil company has been cited to have played a central role in developing one of the most controversial petroleum bills ever in the Sub-Saharan continent that recommends tight ministerial control, absence of parliamentary oversight and lack

guarantees on contracts and financial transparency (Shepherd, 2013; Boden, 2012). These kinds of bills do not in any way match two of the priorities of strengthening democratic institutions or promoting security stipulated in both the EU and American Policies for Africa. Instead, their agenda is not only visibly clear but so hostile that they would like to weaken Uganda's political institutions to clear the way for their exploitation of oil and other valuable natural resources. As a matter of fact there must be a council of parliament in the management and decision-making on oil trade both locally and internationally. The idea of the bill giving exclusive powers to only one man, just an oil minister is a deliberate move by the EU and their oligopolistic allies to deny Ugandan state control rights of her natural resources. If the current Ugandan leaders would like to see a bright future of Ugandans free from poverty with high negotiation power, higher economic growth and social progress with Ugandans living a decent life; they should never opt to pass these unclear bills into laws. Signing these bills into law will most likely create unending armed conflicts and immense humanitarian crisis in Uganda. This background therefore propels the authors to think that some of the people they call terrorists may not actually be terrorists per se but could be in essence enlightened people who stand for their rights. People who are deliberately denied their socioeconomic and political rights are most likely to demand them by hostile means.

Following the 1994 Rwanda genocide and the current Burundi conflict which might degenerate into genocide raises questions on whether America is in for ending humanitarian crisis. These two poor countries are most likely to have lower possibilities or discoveries of valuable land-based natural resources like those in Libya where the US has implemented political and diplomatic interventions following armed struggle between warring parties just recently. If Burundi was drilling oil, America would be more visibly, presently and actively there to stop the armed violence or sweep the loot of oil to benefit the "great people" of the "great nation" as suggested by republican Presidential runner Donald Trump in 2015 or "burn" the oil as the ISIS case.

America inside Africa could threaten Human security

The outside picture regarding American involvement in Africa is political basing on promoting US national security. However, the structural operations of US in Africa are more of economic than political. The political perspective could only be an undercover to exploit every opportunity of increasing their economic share in the global market. Anyone would also argue that America has neither friends nor enemies in Africa but huge interests that is likely to create permanent enemies due to her interference in the African Sovereignty which also contradicts international law. Scholarly work in international relations also illustrates the need that "states must be regarded as independent in all matters of internal politics and should in principle be free to determine their own fate" (Held, 2003). The interests of Americans and Africans are hugely incompatible and in order for them to realize their economic benefits and later on attain a decent living, they must be free from external economic and political pressure.

Many Africans have come to realize, America is too preoccupied with military engagements and security issues on the continent but is also using her superiority and economic power to manipulate African economies as argued above. With the explosion of the competing oligopolists over the African valuable natural resources, high risks of terrorism resulting from such competition, heavy influence of international organizations and multinational organizations in African economy and politics, Africa's economic growth rates, growing young populations who are also the leaders of tomorrow, most Africans would want to hear policy discussions focusing on investments, provision of employment and education opportunities and infrastructure because with such developments the local and national security mayhems can be minimized greatly.

A dialogue of this nature is lacking in most academic and government institutions of Africa the Horn of Africa inclusive and this is the reason why this article is very important. As Africans and lecturers at a University in the natural resource-rich Horn of Africa, we are glad to open this dialogue and call upon all the African younger academics and politicians to come together in the way of the Chinese concept of "solidarity among Third World Countries" to attain mutual benefits (Jintao, 2007 in Sun and Thornton, 2013) and design and implement practical solutions to the associated conflicts and "stagflation" a Caldwell's concept referring to high levels of inflation, unemployment and low growth (2014). On recurring occasions, most Somalis in the North-West of the Horn of Africa express consciousness over continuous explorations, mapping of the natural resources locations and regions by the Westerners as well as Americans and seem uncomfortable with them. It would be realistic in such a situation argue that the Horn of Africa is in the same boat as Sub-Saharan Africa and thus calling upon them to take this matter with agency, immediate but strategic action and seriousness. The question we need to ask ourselves is: Are the American activities a zero sum game to both America and African

countries? ... Well, let us focus on trade and investments. America is a strong supporter of the neoliberal agenda which is based on the vision of free markets and open borders. But does this really apply to Africa? The answer for this question proceeds in the next paragraph. America and the West use their superiority to penetrate and influence the African natural resources management, markets and politics (visible in the French, British or Dutch former colonies) which Manrique Gill calls "post-colonial hang-ups" (2015) but they are also increasingly speaking and building both invisible and visible walls of migration. As if this is not enough, their hostile interference in the political affairs of African states could mirror America and EU as the worst violators of not only sovereign rights but stakeholder rights in the management and control of their land-based natural resources as is the case of Western Uganda where the stakeholders know nothing about how oil business will transform their lives as illustrated later on. But they could also be mirrored as spoilers of sustainable peace and development in the African countries. Bilateral or multilateral corporation influenced by America or EU with their policy priorities such as those stated in the American policy for Africa evoke a win-lose game in favour of US or EU and will most likely explode into hostile fault lines between both continents if they have no intentions of rethinking and redesigning the policy to address mutual benefits between African states and themselves.

The Killing of innovation in African Mind and Practice

The drive to kill innovation of African education restricting vocationalization by the West has not started with the 21st century, it began with colonial administration. The latter continuously stressed an industrial education that was essentially meant for village industries attached to very less value. There may be no European or American policy paper that advocates for practicalization of African education where African students can be equipped with automated skilling technology. Several decades have passed since the beginning of formal education interaction between Europeans and Africans but you may not hear that the latter have manufactured for example a car, an electronic device, sewing machine, a hand watch, a memory card to mention but a few. In line with this view, King and McGrath expressed concern that the policy community has put little attention to vocational educational training (VET) given the strong support for basic education since the world conference on Education for All in 1990 (2002) in developing countries. However, their basic education policy excluded vocational training in primary and secondary school curricula until these academic levels are completed. This issue of support for basic education has been discussed in some details in the next section. The proposal of providing vocational education after secondary education could have been intended to deny all African children and youths the opportunity of any basic vocational skills (see also, Nherera, 1994). It may not have been in the interest of the Westerners to equip African population with new or sophisticated technological skills that could enable African graduates to invent and innovate for any possible socioeconomic transformation of African countries. With the guidance of the recommendations made in 1911 by the European commission of inquiry by the names of H.S. Keigwin, the colonial administration advocated for basket making, pottery, chair-making, tile-work and other basic crafts which would not compete with European skills and products (Nherera, 1994) in the south. One could argue that the deliberate move to push Africans into embracing village industries like the ones mentioned above was meant to weaken African skilling capacity as well as future African economies that would largely likely to outcompete the western ones in the future. With the influence of neoliberal economists and proponents, African education was commercialized in which their policies emphasized student bank lending in favour of the former. They claimed it would strengthen the quality of, and access to, academic secondary education rather than prevocational courses and criticized the diversification of curricula that comprised of additional vocational courses ordering they should be avoided (World Bank, 1991).

African people valued vocational technology since history and they still do which is reflected in the increasing numbers of technical schools. However, international influence continues to play a distractive role of keeping African vocational education within the boundaries of village industries that are currently limited by environmental degradation. Evidence reveals that technical colleges in Malawi were transformed into entrepreneurship development institutes and influenced the redesigning of the college curricula including the requirement to write a business plan as an extra examination subject (King and McGrath, 2002). Today most education institutions in Africa continuously incorporate an entrepreneurship course in the curriculum to train for business development. Much as this course may increase employability of the graduates, it may not lead the students or graduates to any innovational technology. Instead, African students are equipped with an education of practical nature that is related to agriculture and industry only fitting them as labourers but not the extent where they could compete with Europeans or even Americans (see also, Dorsey & Atkinson, 1972 in Nherera, 1994). On other grounds these schools have been constructed to rehabilitate victims of war some of whom have never gone to school. This could be huge challenge to all other developing countries where armed conflicts existed for more

than a decade or two affecting young girls, boys, women and children (see, Ainebyona, 2011). There is no doubt having vocational education attended to by the 'out of secondary school' men and women or people without any school background would largely likely affect the quality of skills they attain as in the case of Uganda. Lower or poor vocational skills among African elites gives an implication that African countries will continuously depend on highly skilled foreign goods and manpower whose aims would largely likely to protect the interests of their home countries. In order to change this Westernized design of African vocational education, there is strong need to diversify education curriculum to enable a shift from village industries to more advanced technologies.

America's worries on China in Africa

America is not only worried about China's high speed of economic growth and advancement in technology but the likelihood of Africa emerging as one of the oligopolistic players in the global economy. Focusing on higher education of African students, as planned by World Bank pressured the withdrawal and reduction of higher education funding from 40% to 30% in favour of basic education funding to increase from 11% to 27% (Brock-Utine, 2000a) to achieve the neoliberal agenda of forcing higher institutions to secure high interest loans in World Bank (see also, the World Declaration on Education for All, 1993). Such evidence could imply that such policy redesign could have been deliberately intended to erode innovative traits and thoughts among the African people and basically to kill any likely possibilities of technological advancement not only in things but also constructive ideas. It is a very hostile deal for Africa to trust American and Western business than embracing China's friendly ties. The question is, why should World Bank and its immediate allies deliberately deny the poor Africans the treasure of higher education in favour of basic education? Of course they know that education could transform Africa into high level skills and technologically advanced window through which African states may not only outcompete in the global business but limit African elites chances of getting out of the deepest trap that has been dug by those external forces mentioned above instead of continuous forced dependency on them. American Policy for Africa which is also pushing the neoliberal interests will most likely suffocate the African progress well knowing that China, her immediate competitor in the global economy was once as poor as Africa twenty five years ago. With the availability of valuable land-based natural resources and emergency of frugal innovations in most African countries, Americans could fear that Africa could one day give them headache emerging as one of the biggest players in the global economy.

It is not only this author who is worried about the future of African resource rich countries. White also acknowledges hostile structural operations of US and the West under Obama administration in their claim of transforming trade and investment through Trade and African Growth and Opportunity Act-AGOA which allows African countries to export their goods in America with stringent conditions where eligibility for approval depends on only African countries that support and implement the neoliberal framework of open markets (2000) as if US and Western markets are really holistically open to African entrepreneurs and producers. During Gorge Bush's time as president of US, a related aggressive experience was in 2006 bilateral meeting cited in one of the resource rich countries of West Africa (Equatorial Guinea) where a US secretary of state *Rice* delivered the congress message that oil interests were more important than pressurizing the incumbent president Teodoro Obiang Nguema on charges of flawed human rights and corruption (White, 2010) as the country's citizens would have desired. It is very easy to notice that America and some other Western allies have got a repeated history of influencing most of the immense tragedies we see taking shape in the African continent. They have learnt to use the power of media to condemn the human rights violations that are common in the resource rich African countries, they have condemned some African leaders over violation of constitution legislations and longer-term service in presidency but they (American leaders) continuously make less or no effort or stick to the priorities stipulated in their unchanging foreign policies for Africa. We would argue that America masks itself in political security initiative but uses it as an underground trick to savage most of the African good ideas and swallow the African resources in a short or long-run. In fact, what America calls her priority of boosting trade and investment to eradicate poverty in Africa is highly doubtful.

Is America likely to change her Africa strategy 20 years from now?

According to many observations and available literature regarding the political and economic interaction between the America and the West in the African continent, there seem to be a continuous manipulation of both individual and universal recognition of group rights and exclusion of indigenous as well as communities in political, economic and social participation in locations where natural resources have been discovered usually wanting to take the lead in the control and

management of natural resources as in the case of oil in Western Uganda. The duties of citizens whose interactions are grounded at multiple levels such as the host state, indigenous groups and individual members as noted by (Holder and Corntassel, 2002) are neglected in favour of foreign economic interests. It is not clear whether America is yet or planning to change her strategy in Africa to strengthen win-win cooperation. Maybe this will be possible only if their space program discovers life on the moon and other planets. But even at the moon, they will most likely clash with Indians and Chinese or Russians with their incompatible ideologies as they are doing in the scramble for natural resources in the African continent. Tendencies to ignore redress of human rights abuses, high levels of corruption, life presidency in resource rich countries of Africa by the world powers like America or EU in the name of cooperative partner could be a deliberate move to annex control of social lives in Africa to maximize America's or EU's individual selfish underlying interest potentials.

Does Africa really benefit from the American Structural operation and neoliberal reforms in Africa?

The answer is slightly yes but hugely no. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank language of unregulated open markets, free from government intervention in the African continent that America speaks (Saadatmand & Choquette, 2012) may improve service delivery and distribute improved quality goods to the immediate beneficiaries. However, the implication is that the regulated African trade in goods and services and taxed home made products that may be of less quality unsupported by advancement of technology will continuously be outcompeted by the foreign ones and may result into business failures among most African entrepreneurs dealing especially in small scale businesses. Empowerment of African entrepreneurs and the younger generation into scientific production of better quality products and services remains a secret in the American policy agenda.

Both the American policy and the neoliberal operations in Africa are a means of exploiting African resources by the US and EU. The American policy sounds polite in theory but equally hostile as the neoliberal policies. However, the fact that America is behind the pushing of the neoliberal agenda through World Bank or International Monetary Fund (IMF), it makes no difference between them. We must mention that government help even if it is well intended, plays a big role in weakening society. In structure, the neoliberal policies are like metallic chains meant to tie African legs and arms in the economic race or revolution and command them to run and compete for the economic international trophy. Will this really be possible for African states to be able to bit the record vision of the global goals by 2030? (Agenda, 2030). The worst of all, America set ground for her economic markets through charity organizations and other organizations to create a vulnerable position for Africans to compete. For example if it was in the interest of America to prioritize promotion of strengthening democratic institutions and conflict prevention, would America have stood at a distance and watched over the 1994 Rwanda genocide and the current Burundi crisis characterized by ethnic bloodshed, gang rape and political exterminations? Would the US really stay silent or invisible in the genuine fight against dictatorship without unnecessary regrets as in the case of Libya or would US really stay rhetoric as in some African cases of what looks like life presidency? Would US keep on standing at a distance watching the EU playing monkey tricks in the Ugandan oil business if these two big fish are not playing the tricks together? Even though Schneidman stated that many Americans and Africans were disappointed about Obama's little attention on Africa during his first four years in office (2015), It could have been a wise decision for the Black American president, who would have been blamed by majority of the controversial and opponent Republican Americans as well as the treachery neoliberal proponents and those big American allies who thought America had bigger political and economic challenges in the middle east than responding to the needs of his mother continent. He would probably have been blamed of revenge and racism by some American people like Donald Trump and others who almost failed his approval of the so called 'great nation' presidency.

3. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

As African leaders, politicians and scholars, please let us take the courage to reconstruct the broken Africa and dissociate the kind of stereotyping and polarized associations that have been created against us. This can be possible if we walk the talk both in the design and implementation of appropriate policy to get our people out of the 'cloud' for them to be able to trust but also respect government systems and structures and eventually realize progressive and sustainable development. We need to do a number of things which we have outlined below.

a) **Africans need Transparent and competent governments** that cannot be manipulated and build competent voters who understand the international relations. This will mean that we have to advocate for electro reforms that involve sensitization of the local people not only about their rights to fair and voluntary elections but also about the external

dynamics that influence undesirable nature of economic and political life of African states. Religious leaders in African countries with their divine following could spare some time every Sundays or Fridays or Saturdays and equip their followers with constructive skills of building an ideal Africa. Religious leaders have the ability to influence positive change in the world should they take an extra mile in their preaching.

b) Need to **create a legal system which cannot be overlooked by either internal or external hostile intentions**. This could be grounded in such a way that individual and universal recognition of group rights and inclusion of indigenous groups in political, economic and social participation is respected and treated as a moral responsibility. This could enable the rescue of millions of African poorest people who are continuously drowning in lawless chaos of everyday natural resources violence and living outside the rule of law enforcement in whatever horrific circumstances. Their human rights need to be observed and respected by valuing their inclusion inside the protection of law and give them a chance to be safe. This requires leaders who have the political will, determination, commitment and compassion to realize a window of positive difference. African countries have laws but these laws largely favour the rich than the poor who do not have negotiation power. Broken law enforcement is not uncommon in most African resource-rich countries sometimes influenced by external or big players in the global economy. Compassion has the power that can move people out of conflict, poverty and their associated negative consequences.

c) African leaders and citizens need to **sabotage or reject all the malicious and selfish Washington Consensus policies as well as the hugely Looting-focused Chinese Policy in Africa** that disadvantage African people. This is not to imply that we should rule out cooperation with America, China and the West or any other big player in the global economy although we need them less than they need not only our natural resources for their industrial boost but also African markets for their manufactured goods. But, there should be win-win not win-lose between us and them. The gravest danger of either the American policy for Africa or the neoliberal policies is that they open doors for double or multiple standards in the name of paying slip service to liberty and security (see also; Costi, 2005). Pressuring African governments to privatize public parastatals implies that the capitalists would corporatize these parastatals at the expense of African citizens. In fact, allowing the invisible hand of neoliberal proponents in Africa to grab public property such as wetlands and forests in favour of deregulation of environment for foreign or indigenous investments, we stand high risks of both natural and man-made environmental disasters that are hugely devastating to human existence, fauna and flora as well as economic activities. Let us acknowledge and embrace Hayek's idea that "our freedom of choice in a competitive society rests on the fact that, if one person refuses to satisfy our wishes, we can turn to another" (1944). We could replace the word person with an international ally like (anonymous) that we Africans feel comfortable with.

d) **Need for political pressure on getting people to work...** Our local communities need to work on their own rather than depending largely on charity organizations. Rwanda is a good example of an African country that pressure local people to create self-help projects. However, it does not mean that there are no charity organizations and their associated dangers in Rwanda because this poor country is also influenced by the American policy for Africa as well as the neoliberal agenda. President Paul Kagame works with the communities every Saturday to create a secure environment. Currently, Rwanda is taking-off to enjoy some high level of social progress despite lower GDP per capita. Clean-up of solid waste and communal tree planting for regenerating the degraded environment in a project called Umuganda has put Rwanda on the world map as hosting the cleanest city in the whole of Africa as per (United Nations 2015). Other African countries could take lessons from Rwanda and move on. **Introduce the subject of international relations and human rights in primary and secondary education** so that African children grow knowing what to do when economic catastrophes come for them or their way in any invisible or visible form of any nature since they are the future leaders of African countries. The structural dilemmas that we see taking shape in the African continent and other developing countries are not natural but they are created out of savaging African idea technology by the dominant players in the global economy and foreign policy domination in the African socioeconomic and political affairs. There is currently no tragedy that cannot be fixed if African countries have their largest populations of citizens are empowered with skills and rights to natural resources control and management as well as accountable and transparent leaders willing to implement appropriate policies.

e) We need to **empower and vocationalize primary, secondary and higher education with science and creative as well as innovative skills rather than relying entirely on agriculture** because war will always destroy the agriculture from which we depend but it will never destroy science. Effecting this strategy could require doubling or constructing various technical schools where they are none-existent in each African country to increase skills production and ability to

access practical or tangible employment. In his presidential campaign manifesto, Dr. Abed Bwanika also advocates for a revamping or changing African Education system to a "why system" (2016) as this would set Africa's most productive age (18-50) years for critical thinking, invention and innovation. Trust me we can only get there by valuing higher education in Africa. By the way for your information, U.S and EU as well as their allies who are advocating for basic primary education at the expense of 'higher education' in Africa attach a higher value to higher education than basic education in their states out there because it is the highly educated people that can design better strategies and policies for economic development and sustainable peace in the global business. It is/will be the highly skilled Africans that will compete for internationally high paying jobs and opportunities. Therefore, it is high time that African governments or developing countries got prepared with practical or scientific education in order to enjoy an equal opportunity as US or EU in the global village that has been compressed by time and space. This could be achieved by supporting higher education with student loans by governments or intergovernmental institutions so that these moneys are paid back when they start working. Agreements could be signed between the students and the funders on deducting the debts from the employees' salaries in reasonable monthly instalments until the whole loan is cleared back. This kind of development will most likely improve technical skills that most African unemployed people do not have. This would increasingly multiply job creators than job seekers as well as decent living. There is need for **collaborative research between academicians and various African Think Tanks** to design working strategies for soil conservation and natural resources management and save ecosystem and more lives from natural resources conflicts. African and individual countries need to **bring together their most brilliant minds in solidarity to think and design alternative solutions** to natural resources conflict management to challenge the values and policies of those countries that manipulate us. It would be meaningful to argue that the risk and cost of terrorism, guerrilla wars or any other armed conflicts emanating from scramble for natural resources will never be measured by immense human rights violations, humanitarian crisis, destruction of social and economic infrastructures or the biggest budgets of millions of dollars spent in intra-and interstate conflicts but they will be measured by the cost of our distraction from critical issues and our inability to get together as social and natural scientists as well as the ruling governments to come up with right remedies or right questions where our development has been stuck in the 'cloud' for years and years. We would like to sell this very idea to individual African countries well knowing that U.S, the West and allies use the same strategy in the former in order to explore and enable their home governments to exploit economic havens in Africa.

Africans need to **open their brains to innovation before they open boarders ... take lessons from US & EU ...** These have forced Africans to open boarders in the vision of neoliberal agenda **but** have but have closed theirs and not opened their science to us. We do not need to open boarders before we understand the risks and opportunities involved in opening our boarders. Oyewole also recognizes that "... business cannot continue as usual if we are to see the 'change we can believe in' in US-Africa relations" (2009).

f) Africans need to **define their values, document and promote them and later introduce and implement democratic governments based on African values** but not US or EU values. It may take us longer than a decade but one day we shall be there because it doesn't matter how slow we may be so long as we do not stop.

g) **Protect journalists and their rights** to receive information and disseminate it—promote good governance, accountability and transparency of great and international significance. Curse all those journalists who misreport or misrepresent the citizens they are supposed to protect. There is no point in journalism that strengthens the criminals whether they are from the West or America or China or from African governments or non-state actors in the name of impunity. We need to protect the rights of journalists who demonstrate genuine spirit of patriotism.

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