

CULTURE OF POLITICS IN AFRICA

The word on the street:
Africa's Local call rate to Hell
< rising march to Heaven



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Africa's turmoil
- ❖ Colonialism, Independence, Political euphemism of 1970-1990s, and lastly the wake up call to realism 2000 till date.
 - ❖ Consequences of the past mistake
 - ❖ The obvious question
- ❖ A bird at hand is worth more than plenty in the bush.
 - ❖ Conclusion

POLITICAL CULTURE

- ❖ **Political culture** is the traditional orientation of the citizens of a nation toward politics, affecting their perceptions of political legitimacy. (Mehran Kamrava, 1995)
- ❖ Political culture is a distinctive and patterned form of political philosophy that consists of beliefs on how governmental, political, and economic life should be carried out.
- ❖ Political cultures create a framework for political change and are unique to nations, state, and other groups.(www.wikipedia.com)

AFRICAN CONTINENT

- ❖ In terms of natural resources Africa is the world richest continent.
- ❖ The internal roots of Africa's economic and social development problems lies within- The ruling pol. Elites, The African leaders, The political organizations , lack of reform ownership, the descent into kleptocracy and finally public choice impediments while externally it all boils down to colonialism.

THE HOUSE IS WARM- COLONIALISM

- ❖ The Berlin conference of 1884-1885 gave rise to the creation of dominant minority societies
- ❖ One aspect of this struggle included what Terrence Ranger has termed the “the invention of tradition” meaning “traditional claims to power or ceremonies”
- ❖ The “shattered mystique of the invincible” unconsciously promoted the most malleable, collaborative and corrupt local chiefs enabling ambitious individuals and groups to achieve positions of status, dominance, and wealth that might otherwise have been unattainable.

THERE IS SMOKE: HEAVEN FORBID< THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

- ❖ African independence that started in late 1950s and continued through the 1960's was based on the understanding that colonial rule was mismanaging African economic resources (Claude Ake: 1993:3)
- ❖ The Elites that inherited such political largesse, moved quickly to consolidate it, attempting to marginalize economically and to naturalise politically those who might compete with them for the apparatus of government.

HOUSE ON FIRE < STONE FROM AFAR

- ❖ Roving bandits vs. stationary bandit
- ❖ With few exceptions, the autocratic leaders of post-independent African countries quickly discovered that they did not possess a durable monopoly in theft
 - ❖ They succumbed to rapid coups d'états
- ❖ The relative absence of wars between neighbouring African countries which weaken nationalistic incentives

FURY OF A BLAZING FIRE: THE RISE OF A TOOTHLESS BULL DOG

- ❖ The new African leaders typically were neither personally wealthy nor were they experienced in protecting the economic rights of others.
- ❖ The use of government power as the basis of wealth accumulation
- ❖ Diversion of resources meant for development
- ❖ Into personal numbered bank accounts abroad.

DEBRIS OF THE BURNING HOUSE

- ❖ Neo-patrimonial system of governance which refers to a system of governance in which formal rational-legal state infrastructure or bureaucracy co-exists and is supplanted by an informal patrimonial system of governance (Nawaz, 2008).
- ❖ Rent Seeking “ unearned income or profits reaped by those who did not sow” (Adam smith)
- ❖ Rent Extraction “ euphemism for blackmail or political extortion(oxford dictionary)

DEBRIS OF THE BURNING HOUSE (2)

❖ Cronyism

❖ Culture of corruption

❖ The descent into kleptocracy “ government by a ruling body of thieves; a nation ruled by thieves

❖ Weak sense of common nationhood

❖ Civil strives and the politics of religion in some part of African countries like Nigeria and Sudan.

A HOUSE TO REMODELLED: CASE STUDIES

- ❖ Nigeria- a castle in the air< the story of Niger Delta
 - ❖ Ghana- The African poster child
 - ❖ Liberia- A country without mother
 - ❖ Sudan- the twins from different parent

NIGERIA: A CASTLE IN THE AIR < THE CASE OF NIGER DELTA

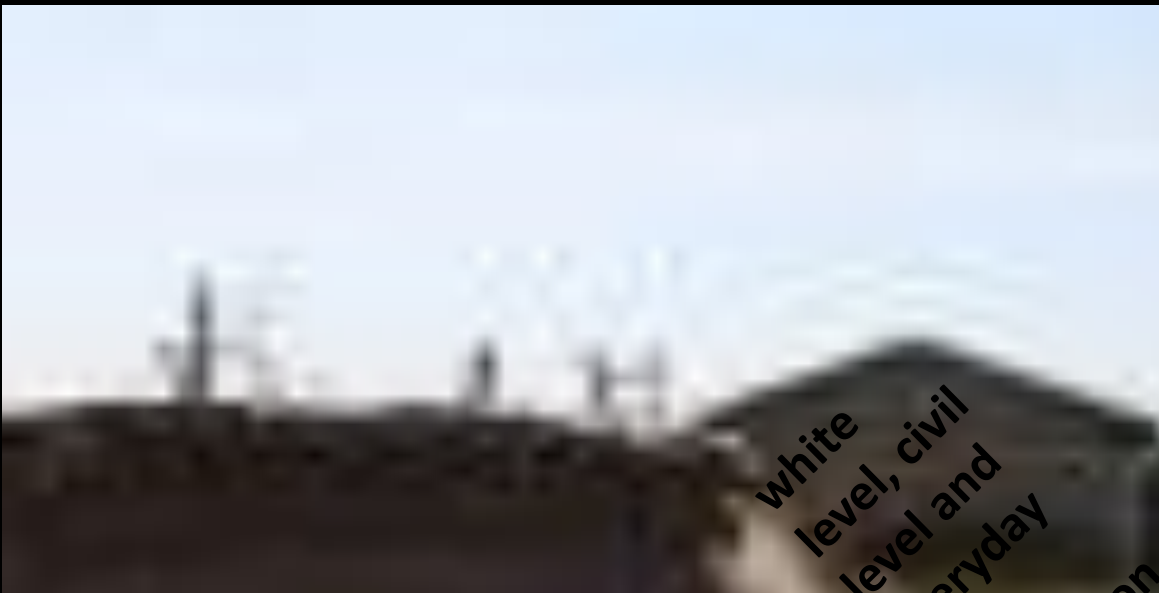
organization that "portrays
itself as a political organisation
that wants a greater share of
Nigeria's oil revenues to go to
the impoverished region that
sits atop the oil



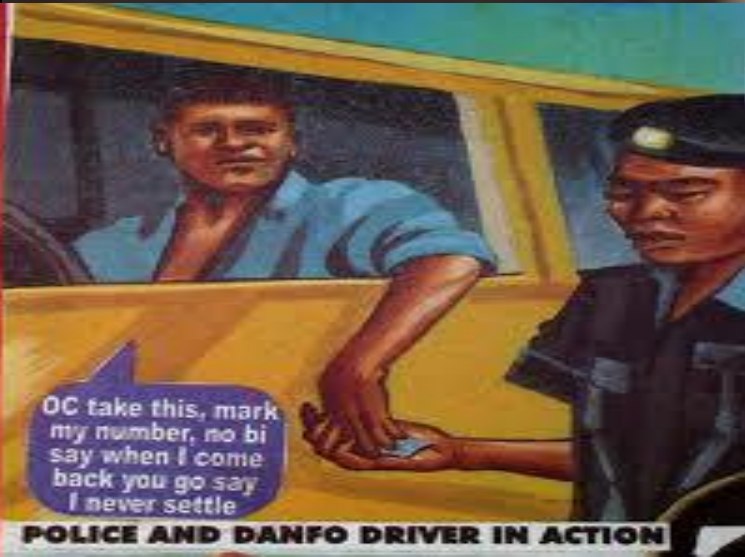
Plate 2.0: Flood in Benin City

Photos: Etiosa Uyigwa
and Claire Taylor

GHANA: THE AFRICAN POSTER CHILD: CORRUPTION AT ITS PEAK



white
level, civil
level and
everyday
level
corruption



LIBERIA: THE BASTARD CHILD OF AMERICA

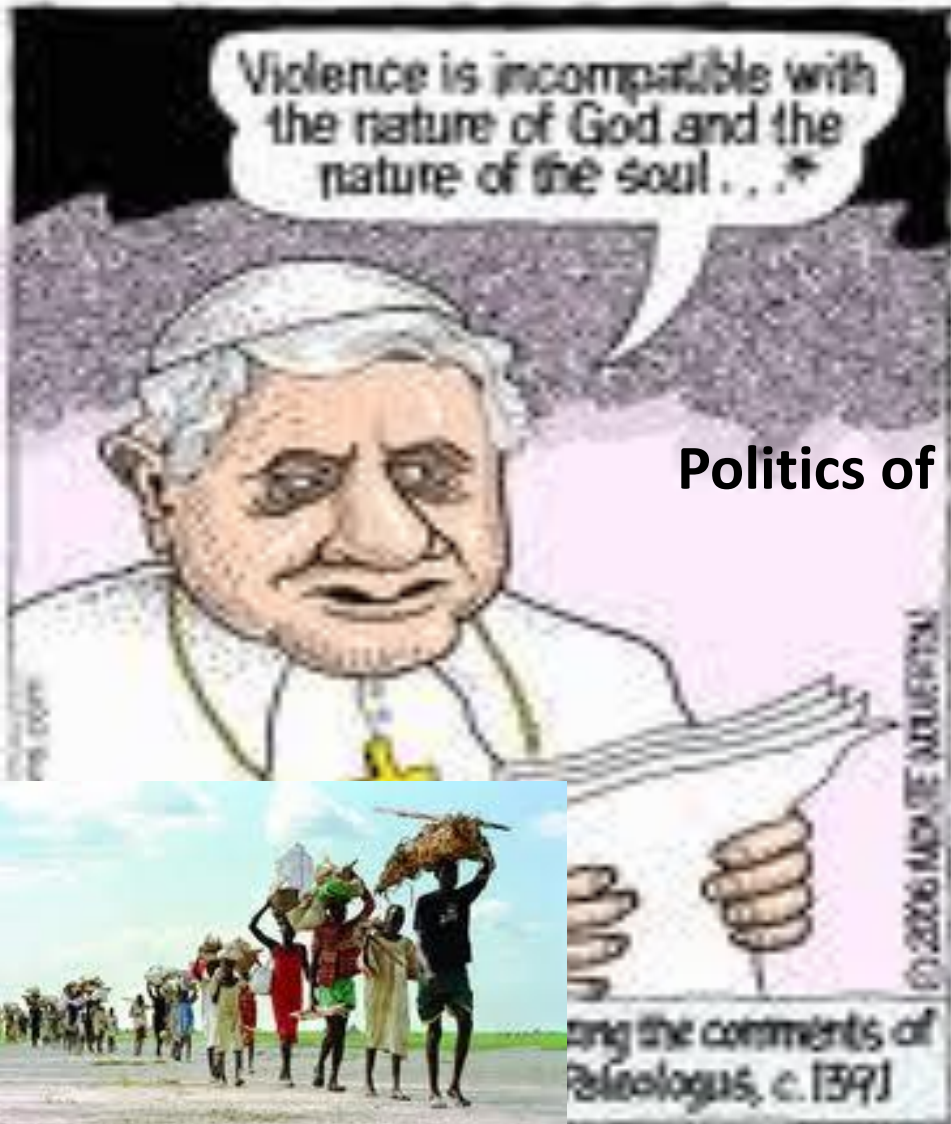


Africare's first maternity waiting home in Liberia's Bong County.
Credit: Laura O'Hara



Liberia,
"land of
the free,"
Indeed

SUDAN THE TWINS WITH DIFFERENT PARENTS



Politics of religion



THE OBVIOUS QUESTION: DOES AFRICA HAS
WHAT IS REQUIRED

- ❖ Natural resources < yet contains a growing share of the world's absolute poor, who have little power to influence the allocation of resources (world bank)
- ❖ Man power: yet lack of investment in human capital persist (intellectual flight)
 - ❖ Increasing political participation yet hybrid regimes dominates
 - ❖ Dominance of party politics
 - ❖ More Aid yet “ business as usual” capital flight
 - ❖ Globalisation and information but largely a consumer

YES

- ❖ Increase in political participation in the past decade paving the way for little accountability
- ❖ Rising awareness of democratic principles and the creation of political reforms
- ❖ New partnership with people's republic of china to develop infrastructures like bridge, roads and industrial developments
- ❖ For the first time Africa economic growth rise by 5.7%
- ❖ Diversification into other sectors and away from Aid

REALITY @ HAND



Living large when there don't produce enough

Borrow- what you have not produce

Depend on the charity of others (foreign aid)

Steal- what you have not produce (corruption)

Look for challenges in every opportunity

WAY FORWARD

- ❖ effective governance
- ❖ Sound reform policy
- ❖ Conflict prevention
- ❖ Economic diversification
- ❖ Democratic governance in context of African Reality.
 - ❖ Creation of more infrastructures

CONCLUSIONS

The present condition of the continent can be described as enrichment without development.

Africa's countries are diverse in many ways, including history and culture, incomes, natural endowments, and human resources. And in considering Africa's potential, it is worth remembering that the region contains Botswana, one of the world's fastest-growing economies in recent decades.

The only conclusion I have drawn from the readings so far is that African continent is responsible for its own woes due to the kind of political culture they have chosen to adopt and the citizens non challant for their predicament.

The need to take new steps in addressing our divergent political culture is now, we have got what it takes, I am ready for the leap, are you?.