

# Tribalism as a Foiled Factor of Africa Nation-Building

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## Abstract

This paper tends to examine tribalism as a foiled factor on Africa nation-building and proffer useful tips to salvaging the Africa land from this deadly social problem. Africans in times past had suffered enormous attacks, injuries, losses, deaths, destruction of properties and human skills and ideas due to the presence of tribalistic views in governance of the Africa state. The tribalistic views of the Africa land had done more harm than good as Africa which ought to be one united entity is been divided into territories with the diverse aims of protecting their sovereignty and this has elicited a foiled progress of Africa nation-building. Tribalism is a bone on the neck of Africa as it has hindered several positive decisions that affect Africa positively, Africans are seen as murderers of fellow Africans, dehumanizing Africans, aiding and abetting against Africa, antagonizing Africa values and morals due to their self-acclaimed tribal supremacy. This is indeed a problem affecting Africa nation-building and this paper had elicited the concept of tribalism, its adverse effect on Africa nation-building and the possible recommendations that will act as catalyst to Africa nation-building.

## INTRODUCTION

Africa is one of the oldest inhabited territory on the earth surface with human species originated from the continent. During the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, anthropologists discovered many fossils and evidence of human occupation, as early as 7 million years ago. Fossil remains one of the several species of early ape-like humans thought to have evolved into modern man such as Australopithecus Aphaeresis (radiometrically dated to approximately 3.9-3.0 million years B.C. and Homo ergaster 1.9-600,000 years B.C.) as posited by Kimbel, William, Yoel and Donald, (2004); Tudje, (2002); Sayre, (1999).

Africa is a land that is blessed with many resources both in natural, human as well as mineral. The continent is immensely blessed with manpower, scientists and technocrats with business ideas and acquisition of knowledge and skills. The continent is immensely blessed with seasoned atmosphere amongst others that are self-existing. Africans possess these qualities that have attracted the western world to establish relationship with Africans in terms of economical purposes because of their rich natural and human resources that they possess. The rich resources attracted colonial rule with their resources and man-power as slaves to work for them in their plantations. They brain-washed African leaders into it and because African leaders were desperate for fame, wealth and power and they got involved into their sharp deceitfulness.

African colonialism evolved into the establishment of democratic African society that encompasses political systems that African governments adopted. It is paramount to note that today, most African governments practiced the political systems. The negative characteristics of the western political systems are influential characteristics of African political systems. The western world with their consensus aim of exploring Africans with diversified views as some western countries combat other western countries over phenomenon of values to them. The western world without cordial relationships seems to combat each other in various ways, that, led into the first and second world wars due to globally experienced grievances among them for supremacy purposes.

African continents are no different as most African countries indicated interest in abiding by the grievances amongst them. African continents are divided into independent countries with various diversified aims and objectives. There are various cases of unrest among African states and even within some states that have led to slow progress for their nation-building and the zeal of a united Africa continent. The slow nation-building of Africans are as a result of disunity in running their affairs, thus, encompasses various activities, events and efforts geared towards protecting and securing the existence of their separate entities instead of making evidence collaboration of efforts geared towards enhancing, protecting and securing the African continents as one unique and standard attraction. This act of separate African entities' protection and security emanated from tribal discrimination in the African terrain. The slow progress of Africa nations are due to the negative concept of tribalism, African states have in one or the other encourage their tribes, their family relations as well as friends and associates to possess the attainment of power, wealth and fame. These African states with the urge to acquire wealth, power and fame embark on tribal discrimination, bequeathing of power to their family allies as well as their close associates that led to a decline in the progress of African nation-building, thereby denying qualified Africa personnel and disintegrating their inability to contribute to the progress of

Africa nation-building.

### **CONCEPT OF TRIBALISM IN AFRICA**

Tribalism is the state of being organized and advocating for a tribe. In conformity, tribalism refers to a cultural term, a way of thinking or behaving in which people are more loyal to their tribes than to their friends, countries or social groups. Tribalism, as a theory is based on variables such as combinations of kingship-based, organizations, reciprocal exchange, manual production, oral communication and analogical enquiries. Tribalism is oriented around the valences of analogy, genealogy and mythology. This means that customary tribes have their social foundations in some variations of tribal orientations, which at the same time often taken as traditional practices (James, and James, (2006) Martin and Victoria, (2012).

Social structure of a tribe vary greatly from case to case but is relatively a small size of customary tribes, social life in these kinds of tribes are usually involved in a relatively differentiated role structure, with a few significant political or economic distinctions among individuals. Tribalism implies the possession of strong cultural or ethnic identity that separates one member of a group from the other group based on strong relations of proximity; members of a tribe tend to possess a strong feeling of identity. Objectively, a customary tribal society needs to be ongoing customary organizations characterized with enquiry and exchange. However, subjectively, intense feelings of common identity lead people to feel tribally connected. The two expression for tribalism (objective and subjective) are important because, while tribal societies are pushed to the edges of western world, tribalism by the second expression is arguably undiminished. A sources postulated that the human brain is hard-wired towards tribalism due to its evolutionary advantages, however, this claim is usually linked to equating original questions of sociality with tribalism. Many tribes refer to themselves with their languages word for people while referring to other neighboring tribes with various epithets (Max, 2007; Kanakasena, 1993 and Karen, 2003).

Tribalism in Africa evolved as a group was with unique cultural values, beliefs and attitudes that guide their living in the society. They act on ethics among the tribal groups, it is their way of existence as they see their members as relations and blood ties, ready to sacrifice whatever it takes to cater and protect them. In Africa, tribal groups are highly respected by their members as they regard their groups as priority in crossing their daily activities.

In Africa, there are over three thousand tribal groups and they are found among nations of the continents. For instance, the Afar group are found in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia. The Ashanti group are found in Ghana and Ivory coast; the Berber group are the indigenous inhabitants of north Africa and have existed in Africa since 3000 B.C. they also scattered across Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. The Zulu groups are the largest tribal group in south Africa; the Hausa group are found in Nigeria, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Chad, Togo, Ghana and Sudan.

### **EFFECTS OF TRIBALISM ON AFRICA NATION BUILDING**

Africa is a land that is highly blessed both in natural and human resources that posses a stable and peaceful political terrain and a group of inhabitants that are culturally minded, patriotic and nationalistic in their endeavours. The Africa land is occupied by people who love and cherish the land and as well regard Africa as their most priority. Therefore illegality in African terrain should be guided and curbed to avoid up-heard. In idea situation, lives in Africa should be peaceful and for long span of years.

Contemporary, Africa as a continent is depreciating in values and orientations towards meeting up with the required standard of living. The advent of colonial rule ruined the stable peace, and flourishing terrain experienced by ancient African. The colonial adventure initiated and inculcated in Africans diverse views about the Africa land as most Africans posses little or nothing about their history. They have been brain-washed, thus, most of these Africans antagonize the cultural values norms and knowledge that existed years before they were born. Africans were made to acquire western education and western religion at the expense of their own African education and religion and it is sad to note that they dwell in a lost world as they become novices about their own existence. They act and execute western plans and dwell in western ideas and concepts which gravely affected the growth of Africa. Today, the western world is seen globally as the supreme authority as they are in possession of high technology, scientific experiences and even creation of technocrats. Therefore, the impressions that most Africans posses that Africa is inexperience in handling her affairs aid Africans to ignorant of the benefits and uses of our unique natural and mineral resources and as a result contact the western countries for technological innovations, scientific inventions and technocratic expertise. Africans are at the climax of knowledge but they fail to acknowledge this fact, thus, they take the positions of been inferior to the western world and as such Africa resources are utilized by the western countries.

Africa land has long agitated for nation-building so as to aid Africans posses her lost glory and abilities, but the progress of this Africa nation-building have been foiled by some negative concepts that aided the mental slavery of Africans. These negative concepts include tribalism, and a host of other negative concepts. Tribal

groups in the Africa terrain have different cultures that are different in ideologies. These groups partake in tribal discrimination that evolved series of wars, and terrorism. For example, the tribal frictions that occurred in Rwanda, Sierra-Leone, South Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan among others. These tribal groups have in various ways secured mediums to ascertain the supremacy of their tribal groups in the African society. The process of ascertaining their supremacy lead to disagreements in different forms as some tribal leaders for their own sake betray their country for the external intervention of the western countries to destroy their own land as evidenced in Libya that led to the death of Gaddarfi; in Sudan; Nigeria as in the case of Biafra civil war where the Eastern Nigerians sought for western aids. These act of tribalism had gravely affected Africa as a society as there are little or no benefits to enjoy and many adverse consequences to suffer, thus, the foiled progress of Africa nation-building.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

This study examined the effects of tribalism on Africa nation-building. This is because, tribalism is a negative concept that is foiling the progress agitated by Africans towards the nation-building of Africa. African leaders are known to be tribally discriminative in addition to possess attitudes due to their urge for wealth, power and fame that have made them to neglect personnel's of great qualities that would have contributed immensely to the growth and progress of Africa nations and as a such install their tribal members, family allies and close-associates or long-term pals whom are mostly not qualified personnel's, because of easy access to infinite wealth power and fame despising the adverse consequences that may arise, thereby foiling the progress of Africa nation-building.

Based on this premise, the following recommendations were made:

- \* African leaders should be patriotic in dealing with African affairs.
- \* African leaders should establish standing policies that will detest tribalism for active governance.
- \* Africans in general should map out strategies and measures such as protests, campaign, conferences seminars and workshops to sensitize both African leaders and the followers of the adverse effects of tribalism which have long foiled the pace of Africa nation-building.

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