

Western imperialism international meddling, bane of violence, banditry, slavery, mass migration and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18291914>

Article History	Abstract
Original Research Article	<p><i>This paper takes a cursory look at how the activities of western imperialism, has led to proliferation of wars slavery and mass human migration in the annals of history through the ages. Before delving into the issue of slavery and human migration in modern times there is need to find, or mention some of the remote cause, or causes of human migration and slavery in society. Slavery and its associated menace of human migration is necessitated in modern times by wars, bad governance, despotism, which in turn leads to resistance and outright war as evidenced in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. The forceful overthrow of Farah Aided, in Somalia, Saddam Hussein, in Iraq, and Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, Hafez al-Assad in Syria which is ongoing by America and European nations is the precursor of modern migration to Europe. This is necessitated by western support for despotic governance, unprecedented corruption, capital flight African monies domiciled in collaboration with western banks laundered in European countries maladministration and dictatorship are some acts that lead to mass migration and slavery in modern human history. The research method applied in this study is the qualitative method and data is collated from printed and audio-visual sources from the internet. Thus the findings from this paper puts modern mass migration as a result of greed, despotism, ethnic cleansing, and maladministration coupled with megalomaniac corruption aided and abetted by European nations as what creates situations where men, women and children suffer in the midst of abundant resources thus generating mass migration and slavery leading to the current humanitarian crisis involving African migrants in European society.</i></p> <p>Keywords: migration, slavery, despotism.</p>
Received: 05-09-2025	
Accepted: 28-09-2025	
Published: 18-01-2026	
<p>Copyright © 2026 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.</p> <p>Citation: Dr. S. J. Ikiroma-Owiye. (2026). Western imperialism international meddling, bane of violence, banditry, slavery, mass migration and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. UKR Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (UKRJAHS), Volume 2(1), 143-148.</p>	

Introduction

Man's quest on earth has been self-centred even in a condition where nature has provided all things in abundance. From the onset man has always desired to dominate his fellow man and subject him to perpetual servitude and slavery because of recriminatory greed. For many years the sub-Saharan region of Africa has experienced oppressive governments, dictatorship, and ethnic cleansing from Somalia to Western Sahara. This has led to the formation of alliance upon alliance as evidenced from classical times in the prosecution of the Peloponnesian wars, the war of Troy, Punic wars, the European civil wars, to the First and Second world wars up to the Cold war, all fought in man's quest to control natural resources, trade routes and subject his fellow man to servitude and slavery.

This has resulted in a wave of migration and slavery from aeon of time in man's existence here on earth. The present wave of migration has resulted from European quest to control mineral resources and their trade routes across Africa and the Middle East which has necessitated their support for undemocratic and despotic governments in Africa and the Middle East: African trade routes to Europe in medieval times has now turned to the most prominent route of migrating to Europe from the Middle East, Asia and Africa to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea. The cause of this phenomenon is Western Europe's exploitation of the resources of countries in the Middle East and Africa through their support for authoritarian regimes in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa from the Somalia

crisis, invasion of Iraq, overthrow of Mubarak, Ben Ali of Tunisia Gaddafi of Libya and the current war in Syria. Coupled with George Bush's invasion and forceful overthrow of Saddam Hussein has brought about the current unprecedented wave of migration from the Middle East and Africa through the Mediterranean Sea to Europe.

Key words: Migration, slavery

Migration simple put is the movement of people either peacefully or forcefully from one place to the other in search of peace or greener pastures. Migration and human slavery has been necessitated by Western Europe support for tyrannical and despotic leaders in sub Saharan Africa. Which has made employment, job opportunities and basic social amenities a mirage in sub Saharan Africa and the Middle East, hence the desire for people from these areas to move to the source of their exploitation Europe and America. Slavery has its origins with the development of human society overtime.



Plate

1 migrants dehydrated in the open desert, Plate 2 migrants in a dinghy on the Mediterranean Sea

The first major human slavery was the necessitated by the Hyksos slavery in Egypt, thereafter the Jews in Egypt, the Greek conquest of North Africa, the Roman conquest of North Africa, the Arab conquest of North Africa coupled with the trans-Saharan and trans-Atlantic slave trades, generated their own wave of mass human migration and slavery which has now resurfaced in an unprecedented manner with the forceful overthrow of Gaddafi. Gaddafi's government once served as protector of the vast Libyan coastline and was even compensated by European countries to continue in that perspective, but with the recession that hit Europe there was recourse to their old ways of pillaging African governments hence the richest Gaddafi was singled out and demonized for destruction.

From aeon of time the other sense in which the word "slavery" seems always to be used with the connotation of the evil is the sense in which Augustine speaks of man's slavery to lust and a consequence of original sin; or in which Spinoza writes of human bondage – the condition of men enslaved by the tyranny of their passions- as compared with human freedom under the rule of reason.



Plate 3 migrants taking a rest in the desert route Plate 4 migrants captured by desert tribe's men

The slavery which results from tyranny of the passions is a disorder from which any man may suffer; it stems from a weakness in the human nature which is common to all (Adler et-al, 87). Furthermore it is observed that

The mark of economic slavery seems to be a kind of work human beings do and the conditions under which they labour, whereas political, slavery seems to depend upon the kind of lie human being's lead and the conditions under which they live in society. The economic slave serves the master by his work, the political slave lives under a tyrant (Adler, et-al, 612).

Slavery and all its consequences were necessitated by man's inhumanity to man greed and selfishness as experienced in excessive materialistic desire to control natural resources and their trade routes all over the world by multi corporatism fuelled by western imperialist fire



power.

Plate 5 leaders of the European Union attending a conference on human migration

But modern slavery is a result of the same historical antecedents of excessive materialism, quest for raw materials, control of trade routes and support for bad governance which has brought about poverty in rich Africa and mass human migration as a result of suppressing the opposition, which has resulted in ethnic cleansing and wars as in Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Somalia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali, Libya, South Sudan, Congo, and Somalia etc. these obnoxious authoritarian governments are supported by western multi-nationals to subject their people to inhuman conditions, orchestrated by western arms accompanied with money laundering as these ill-gotten loot find their way to American, European and Swiss banks, as with the case of Libya which has generated the most recent wave of mass migration across the world with NATO's collaborative bombardment of Gaddafi to orchestrate regime change as Gaddafi has consolidated the allocation and control of oil resources to himself for over 42 years, The African report

29, April 2011 in an article "Dancing with the dictators" Patrick Smith gives an overview of how

London has been an established centre of laundering money from third world countries 'London is an established center for laundering stolen state assets as well as reputation, thanks to a world-class public relations industry. Blair and Mandelson also dispatched London's pinstriped army of bankers, lawyers and spin doctors to Libya to sell arms and buy oil licenses. That same army has been rushing to move the ousted autocrats assets to safer domains as western governments belatedly announce freeze on stolen state funds.

Hannibal corporate striptease, in support of this notion Mo Ibrahim speaking at the extractive industries transparency initiative (EITI) conference on the 2-3 of March in Paris 2011. 'We are all naked! There are no secrets anymore! (At a gathering of executive's, politicians and lobbyists in Paris. (2011) This implies there is nothing to hide anymore the intentions of western imperialists to create abject poverty in Africa is known by all through multinational companies that exploit Africa's natural resources to the detriment of the people. Wherever these companies are there is government presence in terms of security, basic amenities in company sights but nothing where the people live. In the words of

John Dewey America's leading social philosopher, whose work focused largely on democracy ... argued that democratic forms have little substance when "the life of the country"- production, commerce, media- is ruled by private tyrannies in a system that he called industrial feudalism," in which working people are subordinated to managerial control, and politics becomes "the shadow cast by big business over society." (as cited in Chomsky, p. 208).

North Africa's revolutions and the search for stolen assets, combined with the scramble for Africa's mineral wealth, was fuelled by manufacturing needs of the America, Europe, and now China and India who have concentrated their minds on using international corporation edicts and international rules of engaging and demonizing Africans leaders by subtly stealing their wealth in the name of regime change and democracy. This phenomenon was evidenced in the dismembering of Lumumba in the 60's and the recent bombardment of Gaddafi which "the Iranian president at the time Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ... openly condemned what he saw as neo-imperialist aggression by the national coalition in Libya? BUT strong words of caution from

defence secretary Robert gates, a holder from George W. Bush administration, typify Washington's dilemma: Gates argued that proponents of the no fly zone over Libya grossly underestimated its risks and complexity, and that advocates of military intervention in the region needed psychiatric help (Africa Report, 2011, p. 17)

Washington, Brussels or the other capitals concerned 'do not' want prolonged involvement. What they would prefer is a Libyan state which will ensure the needs of the population curb migration into Europe and restore the oil industry as quickly as possible. This should happen while constructing the lineaments of a democracy to guarantee an equitable and prosperous future for a population recovering from four decades of tyranny. To this end they have promised aid- \$500 million from Italy, \$20 million from Britain, \$200 million from Turkey. This is all part of the ploy to classify the immediate need of the Libyan people estimated \$5 billion to satisfy the essential demands of the population and reconstruction. "This can't be compared to the \$100b Gaddafi has saved in western banks at the time." Of course the oil companies want to return and the NTC (National Transitional Council) has promised them that they can; even the Chinese who opposed NATO intervention but renewed occupation is not on Europe's horizon or on that of the US. (Joffre, p. 23).

Harper reporting

On a spring afternoon in May President Barack Obama stood before a joint sitting of what he called 'the mother of all parliaments' in London ... The United States will back the mass reform movements sweeping across North Africa." The economist "Africa has yet to hear much from America's first black president "(Africa report, 2014, p. 20).

Barack Obama's visit to Egypt gave in retrospect a clear 'impression' to African nations "that bad governance and capital flight, lack of basic infrastructural projects will be a thing of the past but Africans were mistaken by the high regards for Obama as he supported western leaders with America's Obama at the helm as they bombarded Gaddafi, supported the war in Syria and created the highest mass migration experienced in the annals of human history in contemporary times. Gaddafi in defiance to the posturing of the west was determined to give the Libyan people the best that life could offer for when they were asked on why regime change they did not complain of infrastructure but that Gaddafi has been too long in power. He was in full control of oil contracts and ensured that monies were saved for infrastructural and developmental reasons. Chomsky (2000, p. 121), has postured that "for some reasons the business world has sought to ensure that "civilizing" people perceive their needs in terms of consumption of goods

rather than quality of life and work, and to abandon any thought of a “share in the discussions which often profoundly modify their way of life.”

This clearly corroborates Micklethwait's view of Africa still waiting to hear from the first black president, “Obama” as he was made to support plundering Africa and ‘introducing and propagating gay rights as a prerequisite to getting the presidency of America.’ They would not have succeeded if not that the Nigerian president at the time taught he had struck a deal with Obama, but was himself disappointed in the 2015 Nigerian elections where Obama supported the opposition and used propaganda to intimidate him out of power. Rather it is Donald Trump who is questioning the stewardship of African leaders in terms of infrastructural, provision for the ordinary people. In recent times you really need to look hard to find a war that isn’t motivated by executive power that really conforms to humanitarian or constitutional principles, which require that NATO or the European Union to declare a no fly zone over Libya and finally bombardment. In the face of this human posturing pretensions of western nations The Catholic pontiff, Pope Francis sensing the negative impact of western civilization on the African continent has noted that

European countries are exploiting Nigeria and other African nations, calling on Europe to invest in ways that benefit the continent more, including sharing mineral resources more equitably. We must invest in Africa, but invest in an orderly way to create employment, not go there to exploit it explaining how European countries are exploiting Africa, he said, “when a country grants independence to an African country it is from the ground up- but the subsoil is not independent. And then people (outside Africa) complain about hungry Africans coming here. There are injustices there ... Touching on the reasons for hunger in Africa, the Pope said that, “in our collective unconscious there is something inside us that says Africa must be exploited.” (www.nigerianeye.com).

In furtherance of this view Chomsky (2000, p. 84), opines

This hysteria and fanaticism is indeed unusual and interesting, and it deserves inquiry and thought. .. the new thesis in intellectual discourse ... which was proclaimed by Clinton and Blair ... when the two enlightened countries, as they call themselves, were freed from the shackles of the Cold War and were therefore able to eradicate themselves with full vigor to their historic mission of bringing justice and freedom to the suffering people of the world

and protecting human rights everywhere, by force if necessary.

Babu A. M. in his postscript of Rodney says that had we asked the fundamental questions which Dr. Rodney raises in this work we would not have exposed our economies to the ruthless plunder brought about ‘foreign investment’ which the exponents of the vicious circle theory urged us to do. For, it is clear, foreign investment is the cause, and not a solution, to our economic backwardness.”(Rodney, 2000, p. 349)

The Judaic implication of the bombardment of Gaddafi

Sarkozy it had been alleged was sponsored to the tune of 27 million dollars by Gaddafi, and by proxy Gaddafi had invested 1 billion dollars in Goldman sachets to cover up these monies Sarkozy was the first to sign the bombardment of Gaddafi. Political analyst and Libya expert Ali Shundub has told *Sputnik* that “the supporters of the late Muammar Gaddafi, all of his former military are happy to hear the news from France. Although Sarkozy flatly denies receiving funds from Libya, there are many proofs of the opposite.” Ali Shundub was the last journalist to meet and talk to Muammar Gaddafi. “He told me that he led Nicolas Sarkozy into the Elysee Palace. Nicolas Sarkozy visited Colonel Gaddafi while he was interior minister and asked to provide sponsorship for him to become the country’s president Muammar Gaddafi backed Nicolas Sarkozy’s pre-election campaign , as he was striving for greater leverage on the world political arena. He wanted to be able to influence decision –making in the European Union. That was the strategic step for the future, “the Libyan expert said. it was earlier reported that Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, son of the murdered Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi , was ready to unveil proof of Nicolas Sarkozy’s campaign having been financed by a number of illegal Libyan funds, as well having been backed personally by Libya’s former leader. “.”(*Spunik*, Friday March 23, 2018).



Gaddafi and Sarkozy, when the going was good

Levine (2004), sees it that

Judaism is at the bottom a religion of practical need, selfishness and egotism. It had enabled Jews to gain power of money, vast political influence, and dominance in the competitiveness of civil society... Marx “money is the jealous one god of Israel, beside

which no other god may stand. Money destroys all the hoods of man and turns them into commodity. Money is the universal, independently constituted value of all things (276).

Before the bombardment Tony Blair the British prime minister had sent in British oil merchants and business men to Libya to mop up all available cash in anticipation of the aftermath of the bombings, which is what the current pope of western mother church is advising that when you support tyrants, sell armaments to people to kill themselves so you can exploit them that is inhuman. From the above discussion we have seen the desire of western civilization and their source of stability as the exploitation of African countries. Africa was divided into colonies for five European countries Britain France, Portugal, Spain Holland and Belgium. These countries have exploited Africa from pre-colonial times and the only means of continuity is through multinationals that wherever they operate there is heavy security and government interest; in the Niger-delta Congo south Sudan even there is war they are still functional. The killing and dismemberment of Patrice Lumumba was as a result of the control of mineral resources as Noam Chomsky opines “western democracies are not comfortable with any leader who wants to develop his people.’ especially from recent developments in Nigeria where ethnic cleansing is at an unprecedented level.

Economic intervention in terms of alleviating poverty, speaking of freedom and human rights, we must be conscious that human beings are involved and need to have a say on how they are governed and not imposing governments on them. Thus when taking a look at the cost of the overthrow of Gaddafi and its cost on the Libyan people. There is believed to be around 100 billion –worth of frozen Libyan assets around the world and unlocking it would dynamite reconstruction efforts underway. More importantly it would relieve the hard-pressed west from having to divvy up cash it does not want to have spent, given its own financial difficulties (Joffe, p.22). A century ago, during the early stages of corporatization of the United States, discussion about these matters was quite frank. Conservatives ... denounced the procedure, describing corporatization as a “return to feudalism” and “a form of communism” which is not entirely inappropriate analogy” (Chomsky, 208). Chomsky furthermore explains multinational corporations inceptive shenanigans thus ” Global issues have been framed in terms of the notion of sovereignty, that is, the right of political entities to follow their own course- which may be benign or may be ugly- and to do so free from external interference.”(Chomsky, p. 199).

Thus when we discuss issue of socio-economic exploitation

of African nations and modern day slavery and migration these figures below speaks for itself about the need for reparation and restitution of stolen assets for African to be free from western imposed poverty. ‘Pining it down’ Focus on Africa magazine considers estimated numbers associated with NATO’s military intervention in Libya

Cost of NATO operation	\$2billion
Cost of a single NATO cruise missile	\$795,000
Aid committed by US to Libya since February	\$135 million
Fuels costs of a single NATO Tornado sortie, or military operation	\$48,000
Sorties flown by NATO	\$26.000
Strike sorties flown by NATO	9,658
Targets destroyed by NATO	5900
Tanks or armored vehicles destroyed by NATO	600
Artillery or rocket launchers destroyed by NATO	400
Number of rounds fired by British Army Apache ground attack helicopters	4000
Countries providing air assets	16
Personnel in NATO mission	12909
Countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) opposed to NATO military intervention	
People displaced by the conflict	150,000
Lives lost in the conflict	2000-30,000
People wounded in the conflict	50,000
Years Muammar Gaddafi was in power	42 years
Vehicles in convoy with Gaddafi as he attempted to flee his home town Sirte	75
Days Gaddafi’s body was on display	5
Year set for domestic elections by the National Transitional Council	2013

now the effects of mass migration is felt by Italy , Greece and Spain whose responsibility now is accepting most of the migrants and have felt abandoned by their EU partners. “Europe runs the risk of turning black from illegal migration.” Gaddafi warned. It could turn into Africa.” (msnbc.com).

Conclusion

From the foregoing we have seen mass migration and modern day slavery as the spoils of extreme materialism dogged by corporatism and blind imperialism orchestrated militarist state wars in a state of warless world. The blind

intervention in Libya is for the interest of multinational corporations. corporatism does not want people to have a say in their life affairs hence it has supported and imposed tyrannically despotic governments which it brings and removes at will hence creating the twin social vices of mass migration and modern slavery in order to promote and propagate lesbianism and homosexuality. As most African countries have bluntly refused to accept same sex marriage it behoves on them to create wars to dislodge stable societies so people can be vulnerable to queer practices. In modern society no government or set of people should be above the law; I mean universal law of equity and justice, hence the perpetrators of the forceful removal of Saddam Hussien, Maummar Gaddafi, and the present upsurge in Syria should be brought before the international criminal court of justice for crimes against humanity. By this we mean George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Tony Blair, Nicolas Sarkozy etc. It is only when state sponsors of international terrorism, I mean those supporting multinational corporations in exploiting mineral rich countries in the Middle East and Africa, when their sponsors and representatives are brought before the international criminal court of justice to defend themselves against humanitarian crimes that the world will know peace and development.

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