

Globalization and International Relations: Whither Africa?

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Anybody with any degree of intellectual integrity would see that globalization of Africa or the integration of Africa into the global economy from the days of slavery to the contemporary period of capital-led integration has on balance of costs and benefits been a disaster for Africa both in human terms and in terms of the damage to the African environment. This is because its present form has been exaggerating the gap between Africa and the so- called developed world, Again, the structuring of globalization creates an increasing marginalization of Africa in the very process of integrating it into the global economy; for, there is a stark disparity between the rich and the poor in the global opportunities offered in trade, investment and technologies.

World Bank and IMF officials who may be even genuinely concerned about Africa, but see wrong only in the policies of African governments choose to forget that their fingers have written the various documents on which these policies from import substitution to now export orientation were based. It is a measure of their intellectual dishonesty or ideological brainwashing that they cannot see the connection between globalization and Africa's poverty.

The central thesis of this paper is that the asymmetry of power and interests of the member states of the global village, as well as the lopsidedness in the rules of the game there-in, cannot benefit Africa and her people. This is so and would continue to be so because globalization is a new order of marginalization and recolonization in a "neo-neo-colonial fashion", of the African continent.

The paper also aims at exploring how Africa has fared in the face of globalization. It employs the services of the historical-analytical method to demonstrate both the validity of the disadvantaged position of Africa and the urgency of the call to respond effectively with keen analysis, strong ethical evaluation and viable alternatives for Africa to benefit from globalization.