

Ethno – Religious Crises and Climate Change

by
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ABSTRACT

This paper will argue that Ethno-Religious Crises is a smoke screen for socio-economic mismanagement in the world. Ethnicity, Race, Nationality and politics have always been bound to religious practices directly or indirectly. Even when religion appears to be the deriving force behind social upheaval in society, it is discovered that political motives fuel the upheaval.

Climate change on the other hand could be discussed within the orbit of the Earth sciences, like Geography, Geo-physics, Climatology, Political economy, and political philosophy. The paper is divided into two parts: Part One, discusses Ethno-Religious Crises; while Part Two discusses Climate Change.

PART ONE
ETHNO – RELIGIOUS CRISES

It is a known fact that every person living or dead is a product of the intimate relationship between a man and a woman. From this relationship we eventually have a nuclear family. An aggregation of families gives rise to kindred groups, with cultural traits and languages. Through complex processes, these human beings evolve into nationalities. The physical environment plays roles in the development of the people's culture. Culture in this regard will include Economic, Technological, Educational, Agricultural, Artistic, Religious Activities. Outstanding, laudable qualities of certain individuals in the family, ethnic group or clan will throw up what we know as community leaders. The leader could be a man or a woman. Further economic, technological, scientific, artistic, religious or political activities in hitherto classless societies, will bring about class division. Usually, the dominant class in the society produces the leadership that directs the affairs of the whole society. The nation – state emerges from these processes that are not always peaceful. Individuals and outstanding personalities in society have always speculated about the origin of the universe; and the behavior, nature of living and non-living things. This speculative enterprise gave rise to philosophy, mysticism, religion, science, arts and politics. What these boil down to is that our revered philosophies, sciences, religious practices with their accompanying political and economic ideas are human made. These concepts, entrenched cultural positions, including science and religion have been shifting their meanings.

A former Roman Catholic Nun, Karen Armstrong, in **Fields of Blood**, clearly stated that “there is no universal way to define religion” (Armstrong, 2014:2). Even the position that the West sees “religion” as a coherent system of obligatory beliefs, institutions and rituals, centering on a supernatural God, whose practice is essentially

private and hermetically sealed off from all “Secular” activities, makes room for the inclusion, and not displacement of African religious practice by that of the Europeans and Asians.

The obvious reason for the displacement of Africa’s different religious practices and belief system is also the same reason for reducing the Africans into Chattels, purchasable human cargoes. Given the history of established religious institutions, it could be stated that there is no sharp division between Religion and Social/Political issues. In a theocratic state, the Chief Priest or Theocratic leaders decide the political road to be followed. What is tagged as ethno – religious crises could also be reclassified as socio – political crises. People who are born, educated and live in Muslim society, or in Christian Society, or any other kind of society are very likely to become a prototype of the society that brings them up. The crises that exist in religious circles are products of socio-political crises. Religious institutions are, directly or indirectly, governed by the ruling class of that society. This position helps us understand the various changes and turbulence in religious institutions. An Agrarian or slave-owning ruling class will incorporate the ethnos of Agrarian society, or of slave owning society into the prevalent religion of the geo-political zone. This explains partly why agrarian or slave owning precepts or concepts exist in sacred or holy books of various religious institutions.

I intuitively believe that there is an Almighty force called God, Allah, Olodumare, Chineke, etc, who is responsible for my existence and that of the universe or multiverse. This belief of mine does not necessitate any crises. This belief of mine is personal. However, the ruling class in society manipulates this kind of belief for the purposes of achieving political or economic gain for themselves or for their community.

Some religious leaders who also doubled as political leaders encouraged the trans-Atlantic slave trade; the despoilation of Latin America; Africa; and parts of Asia. The war of the Roses in England; the 100years war between France and England; the war between England and Spain which gave rise to the Spanish Armada; the wars in Germany; the First and second world wars; the cold war; and many other wars were not the result of Ethno – religious conflicts. Religion is sometimes used as an ideological cover – up for the atrocities committed in God’s name.

Consider the heinous crimes against humanity during “the inquisition” in Europe; the European witch hunt; the devastation of Ireland; the genocide in Namibia; Congo; Kenya and Vietnam were not as a result of Religion or Ethnicity. These dastardly activities have direct bearing on climate change.

The Empire building processes of the United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Spain, China, with collateral damages to people and climate, are not motivated by religion and ethnicity. In Nigeria, there is an open Fulanisation policy that may look like an Ethnic and Religious venture. In truth, this venture is mounted by a political leader who is using Islam as a religious and political ideology; and the rampaging Fulanis from West Africa as the soldiers that will recolonise Nigeria and West Africa. Some of the Empire builders in the world today are aware of the plans of this Fulanisation plans of the Nigerian government, but are only secretly supplying the Fulani warriors with arms, logistics, and strategies for the actualization of the recolonisation agenda. Given the position by Boko Haram that Western Education is evil, implying that science and technology advancement are (HARM) Forbidden, it is obvious that the custodians of superior scientific and technological advancement will be the beneficiaries

of the Fulani misadventure in Nigeria. In all these development we should bear in mind that the U.S.A. had predicted that Nigeria will disintegrate before the year 2015. When this happens, there may be the need for another type of “Berlin Conference” like the one that took place in 1884/85. This must be the case because you have to consider the fact that China, Russia, and possibly Iran and North Korea can comfortably neutralize the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Forces. Ethno – Religious Crises do not feature in these calculations. The wars envisaged will have devastating consequences on the Environment and on the Climate generally. We should, in future, be considering the consequences of geopolitical crises on the Environment and Climate.

PART TWO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change is a multi-disciplinary phenomenon. It bestradles disciplines like the Earth Sciences, Meteorology, Climatology, Geophysical Chemistry, Geomorphology, Oceanography and ocean currents, Astrophysics, Astrobiology, History and Political Economy. In this section, we shall make brief comments concerning the generally accepted causes of climate change. Some vital causes of climate change, which advocates for the prevention of further deterioration of the world’s climate fail to highlight, will be brought forward for examination.

Climate is the atmospheric condition and weather patterns of an area over a long period, like Thirty years. The temperature, air mass, rainfall, sunshine, wind, cloud, including these conditions in the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere and exosphere

When climate change is being considered, the acceptable paradigm is focus on the following as the main cause of climate change:

1. The use of fossil fuel like – coal, oil and gas
2. Deforestation
3. Increase in Greenhouse gases that has increased the Earth’s temperature.
4. Intensive agriculture which emits methane and Nitrous oxide.

According to this paradigm, it is advocated that there is need to switch over to renewable, Sustainable Energy sources like SOLAR, WIND, GEOTHERMAL ENERGY, BIOFUELS. It also demanded that people should learn to use energy efficiently. These causes and recommended remedies are laudable. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015 confirmed all these, and added that emission of offending gases should be monitored to ensure that atmospheric temperature does not exceed 1.5° Celsius.

As laudable as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Climate Change Agreement are not much improvement should be expected to happen positively about Climate Change. This will be the case because the history of climate change is not accurate, the geotectonic, astrobiological, astrophysical, oceanographic aspects that grossly neglected. Furthermore, the political economy with the attendant ideology that fuels the incidence of climate change are rarely addressed. The history of climate change should be tied to our perceived history of the planet Earth: Creationism; Evolutionism; Big Bang Theory with the accompanying idea of “ No beginning and No End” championed by the likes of

Stephen Hawking and others. Irrespective of the History of the planet Earth chosen, we will observe that climate has been changing all along. Some of the expansive deserts in the world today were heavily forested zones in the past. This explains the presence of coal, oil and gas in those areas. The climate change then were gradual, or rather followed a cosmic rhythm. The formation of Fold mountains, Plateaus, Volcanoes, Tsunamis, impacted on the Earth's climate.

The appearance of Homosapiens, and the ability of human beings to be creative and destructive at the same time rapidly affected the world's climate. Cities and Empires were built and destroyed. Billions of human beings, or rather trillions of human and animal lives were extinguished by human beings. Forests, the outer space were disturbed by human beings. All these brought about the rapid climate change facing the world today. The narrative by C.F. Volney in the *RUINS OF EMPIRES*, has been complemented by Eduardo Galeano's *OPEN VEINS OF LATIN AMERICA*; Michael Parenti's *THE SWORD AND THE DOLLAR*; John Perkins's *THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE*; F. William Engdahl's *GODS OF MONEY*; Peter Maass's *CRUDE WORLD*; and John Ghazvinian's *UNTAPPED: THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA'S OIL*; Tom Zoellner's *URANIUM*, and many more works by concerned citizens of the world.

While the Paris Agreement of 2015 on climate change is still on the table, the technological advanced nations of the world are busy establishing military bases worldwide; distributing nuclear war sub-marines in the oceans and major seas of the world; testing nuclear war arsenals underground the Earth's surface; dispatching space aircrafts to outer-space; moon, and beyond with military intensions; supporting genocidal wars worldwide through chemical warfare, biological warfare, and economic warfare.

The implication of these technological advancement for climate change is scary. There is the need, it appears, to extend the meaning of environment to include outer-space and other planets. This refined definition of Environment is necessitated by the issues dictated by Quantum Non locality. According to Robert Nadeau and Menas Kafatos, "When particles originate under certain conditions, quantum theory predicts that a measurement of one particle will correlate with the state of another particle, even if the distance is millions of light years. And the theory also indicates that even though no signal can travel faster than light, the correlations will occur instantaneously, or in 'NO TIME'. If this prediction held in experiments testing Bell's Theorem, we would be forced to conclude that physical reality is non-local". (Nadeau & Kafatos, 1999, 2-3)

Bell's theorem which was published in 1964, was tested in 1982 in Paris, and in 1997 in Geneva which both confirmed the non-locality of reality. Many physicists hold on to this non-locality paradigm of reality. There are those who do not support this non-locality of reality. Some major physicists who oppose the non-locality world-view with its experiments include Heins Pagels, David Bohm, and Rupert Sheldrake. Indeed Rupert Sheldrake made room for biological space in the discussion of physical reality. Parapsychology was mentioned. These brings us to consider phenomena like: TELEPATHY; CLAIRVOANCE; Extrasensory Perception; Psychokinesis; Hypnotism; etc. what we are pointing out here is that even if physicists and those emersed in mechanistic mindset do not accept the non-locality theorem, parapsychology and related approaches indicate that non-locality is REAL. The point being stressed is that human disturbances in the various continents, outer-space, ocean floor, under-ground nuclear

tests; over-exploitation of the physical and human being's environment do, cumulatively impact climate change negatively.

The major remedies that will bring a speedy reduction of carbon dioxide emission and encourage development of technology for the capture and storage of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere; and encourage resort to sustainable, renewable Energy sources that will bring stoppage to unquenchable consumerism of goods and services that are nurtured by ruinous economic ideology of capitalism and neo-liberalism.

Democracy in the abstract sense as the equivalence of communism will be the rational approach or medicine for the stoppage of the looming climate change disaster. Ethnicity, Racism, Religion will naturally be taken care of when the appropriate ideology directs human affairs.

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