



Fixing Africa

Once and for all

From 53 struggling countries to 4 Super States by 2030

NIGERIA (Casablanca)	World Rank
GDP	18 th
Size	6 th
Population	4 th

EGYPT (Alexandria)	World Rank
GDP	11 th
Size	2 nd
Population	5 th

KONGO (Cape Town)	World Rank
GDP	17 th
Size	5 th
Population	6 th

KENYA (Zanzibar)	World Rank
GDP	44 th
Size	8 th
Population	11 th

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Once and For All

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"The open source model of operation and decision making allows concurrent input of different agendas, approaches and priorities, and differs from the more closed, centralized models of development. The principles and practices are commonly applied to the peer production development of source code for software that is made available for public collaboration. The result of this peer-based collaboration is usually released as open-source software, however open source methods are increasingly being applied in other fields of endeavor, such as Biotechnology." (from Wikipedia)

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Dedication

To all my fellow Africans who have refused, at great personal sacrifice, to take part in the corrupt and immoral systems that have taken an entire continent hostage. You have been called crazy, loser, bitter and dreamer.

Today I salute you.

About the Author



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Data Accuracy

The goal of this book is to help spread its ideas virally. That requires sticking to the main topics and keeping it easy to read. In particular, macro-economic data should be viewed as accurate only in terms of orders of magnitude. Depending on the source, GDP data for a given country can vary by 5 or 10 billion USD. The analysis is based on sound logic but exact data accuracy was not part of the mission.

Numerous books and research papers, written with scholarly minutia, are published each year and have value in their own right. Fixing Africa is not one of them.

Preface: Giving Lessons From Afar

If you want to make enemies, try to change something.

Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States

I wish to pre-empt a possible accusation of giving lessons from a place of comfort instead of contributing "on the ground" in Africa.

Upon completing my studies in France in 1994, I was selected along with nine other high potential graduates across Europe to join the Analyst programme at Morgan Stanley in London. This program is a breeding ground for future leaders of the Financial Services giant. It opens the door to a potential multi-million dollar annual income within a span of 10 years.

Yet I resigned after eighteen months to move to Mali and start a trucking business. Needless to say my family and colleagues were quite shocked. Looking back, I can't believe how naive I was.

After a three year struggle and taking enough hits for a lifetime, the system ejected me like a body rejects an organ transplant. I landed in New York with a suitcase and an idea for my next business.

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Imagine...

*To accept passively an unjust system is to cooperate with that system;
thereby the oppressed become as evil as the oppressor.*

Martin Luther King, Jr., American spiritual leader, 1929-1968

With close to a billion people as of 2009, Africa is the world's second most populous continent (after Asia). Delineated as 53 nations and island territories, Africa has suffered many bitter and persistent crises.

In the late 19th century, European imperial powers engaged in a major territorial scramble and occupied most of the continent, creating many colonial nation states. Colonial rule by Europeans continued until after World War II, when independence movements gained momentum throughout Africa. People fought long and hard for the withdrawal of European powers as their administrators.

By the early 1960s, decolonization of most African nations had been won. Thus began an era of independence which, sadly, was marked by inner conflict. What was hoped to have been a time of triumph was flawed by a series of messy wars, with various factions and leaders struggling to gain control once the colonial powers had retreated. Africa was left a hodgepodge of nation-states with borders drawn in European capitals by colonialists.

Today, Africa's 53 independent and sovereign countries still have the borders drawn during the era of European colonialism. And still today, African states frequently are hampered by instability, corruption, violence, and authoritarian rule.

- ✘ Thirty-five armed conflicts have taken place in Sub-Saharan Africa over the last four decades, taking the lives of over ten million people.
- ✘ For 10 months that began in the spring of 1994, genocidal strife and a series of epidemics that ensued among refugees killed nearly a million citizens of the small country of Rwanda alone.
- ✘ Plagued by warfare, drought and disease, the continent's refugee population is likely to be as high as 26 million people.

Sweeping conflicts and atrocities aside, poor social and economic conditions across so much of Africa likely are the underpinnings of its current unrest. In fact, most experts agree that Africa's very economic structure is the primary cause of its persistent crisis.

Simply put, Africa is structured for dependency, rather than self-reliance. It's a structure that obliges Africa to keep producing commodities it does not need. Its people consume few of the commodities it produces while depending on others to produce what it needs. It's a structure that's more import-export oriented rather than production-oriented. In fact, Africa:

- ✘ Has declined in economic production per person since the eighties.
- ✘ Is agriculturally dependent on primitive technology and rainfall.
- ✘ Is overly dependent on imports of capital, skilled labor, technology and spare parts.
- ✘ Is a land where entrepreneurial and management skills are either scarce or driven away by lack of opportunity.
- ✘ Has many small States with very small populations.

- ✘ Has the largest number of poor countries on the planet.
- ✘ Typically absorbs about half of the world's emergency food aid.

But a Lot Can Change In 21 Years ...



You may view the ideas that will be presented here with intense scepticism. But please imagine that we are having a conversation in 1988 and I'm making the predictions below for 2009. Wouldn't you think I was a dreamer who'd lost touch with reality?

- ✘ Libya is an ally of the United States and the president of Liberia is a woman.
- ✘ Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Albania are members of the NATO military alliance.
- ✘ Thousands of African men and women meet their spouse, who happens to be on another continent, every year through a computer – generally while sitting in a place called a *cyber cafe*.
- ✘ Some of the largest banks and insurance companies in the U.S. and U.K. are majority owned by the government.
- ✘ The president of the United States is named Barack Hussein Obama. His father was a black man from Kenyan and his mother was a white woman from Kansas.

So, unthinkable changes can happen in the span of two decades – including the shocking but 100% viable vision for vastly improving conditions in Africa presented here...

The Vision: Africa 2030

The one thing that can solve most of our problems is dancing.

James Brown, Godfather of Soul

And we must dance *fast*. . . Africa urgently must integrate its economies. The go-it-alone approach that's characterized Africa's development efforts since independence has proved a total failure. Africa's countries and those on whom they heavily rely must realize that only by combining into viable political entities will they survive and develop.

Our objective is to achieve developed world standards for the citizens of every African country by 2030. To accomplish this, Africa and the world must take strategic steps to move beyond being 53 struggling countries to reconstitute as 4 Super States.

The 2030 Vision for Africa:

4 Super States called EGYPT, KONGO, NIGERIA & KENYA

If these Super States were in existence today:

EGYPT would be the world's 11th largest economy

KONGO would be the world's 17th largest economy

NIGERIA would be the world's 18th largest economy

KENYA would be the world's 44th largest economy

Africa must – and can – move from poverty to economic recovery. It also can move beyond recovery to economic prosperity. Now is the time for the old guard to be relieved of their dysfunctional duties. Now is the time for the new breed – the Obamas, if you will – to take the reigns and lead Africa to a more globally contributing and less dependent existence.

“Yes We Can”



The same way that Barack Obama’s historic campaign rally cry, “Yes We Can!” helped energize Americans who were desperate for a new national direction, people in Africa and around the world must believe that dramatic change can be achieved in Africa.

The benefits of adopting the “Yes We Can” attitude concerning Africa?

- ✘ Poverty can be eradicated, raising the welfare of the poor and vulnerable.
- ✘ Access to essential goods and services for peoples’ survival and well-being.
- ✘ Services such as education, healthcare and transportation can become more available and affordable.
- ✘ Less dependency on foreign goods and services.

The proposed Super States can provide the basic guarantees and security that any real state should offer its citizens. Instead, many so-called sovereign countries today cannot even protect their population from rag-tag bands of rebels. Some of them even act as predators toward their own population.

Africa Has Only Its Eyes to Cry With

*It is important to nurture any new ideas and initiatives
which can make a difference for Africa.*

Wangari Maathai, Activist and Nobel Prize winner

A popular expression in Africa conveys the sentiment that most Africans “have only their eyes to cry with.” Meaning too many feel they have too few resources and opportunities for growth... no hope.



So while it's easy to assume that national pride and ages old local conflicts would render the notion of 4 Super States undesired by the people, you might think again:

- ✦ Where it is currently, only the elite and warlords of the land are prospering. As more Africans are exposed to the possibility of overturning how things work now, the world might be surprised to find them embracing drastic change.
- ✦ If, after all, Americans from all walks of life could so desire the change promised by then-candidate Barack Obama, who's to say that Africans won't harness the power presented in the Super States idea?

The ultimate next stage of Africa's evolution is the formation of Super States, a coming together to cope with these situations and act decisively in the best interest of this small planet we call home.

Why Bold & Radical Change is Necessary

The scale and scope of challenges facing humanity will increase exponentially during the 21st century. They will be climate-related, medical, demographic imbalances, massive human migrations, dwindling natural resources, and beyond. 20th century issues like dealing with 10% unemployment, droughts, rebel movements, drug traffickers, AIDS and dictatorships will all seem like a walk in the park compared to the futures challenges that we must all face.

The world in general – and Africans in particular – owe a great debt of gratitude to the leaders of China and India. All things being equal, if those two countries had the same level of man-made disasters per capita as Africa, the humanitarian resources available to African countries would be divided by nearly four. For every four doctors, life saving drugs and child food rations currently available to Africans in times of crisis, three would have to be diverted to China and India.

Poor large countries do a better job in times of crisis than poor small countries. Indeed they have the scale to deal with emergencies and maintain public order. They also act as deterrent to opportunistic neighbours who can take advantage of a period of weakness to attack or undermine a small or vulnerable country (which neighbour would dare attack China even in a period of weakness).

Climate Change

Of all the continents, Africa contributes the least to global warming. So it seems unfair that Africans will most likely be hit the hardest by climate change. The reason for this is that certain areas already get a lot of rainfall, such as the equatorial rain belt. Rainfall in these areas will increase and those that get little rain, like the Sahel region, will get even less.

This is crucial to note because climate change already can be seen as responsible for an increase in health problems such as malaria, meningitis and dengue fever.

Specifically, Africa's challenge with climate change is the way that its many stressors such as the spread of HIV/AIDS, conflict and privatization of resources tend to converge with the impacts of global warming. Some examples:

- ✠ The 2002 drought-triggered famine affecting millions in southern Africa was exacerbated because so much of population's coping capacity already had been weakened by HIV/AIDS.
- ✠ Another recent case in point is Rwanda in the 1990s, where a domino of disasters became a recipe for one of the most tragic humanitarian crises of our times. In Rwanda, the ever-present political and economic pressures turned its ugliest when the region's resources had depleted while the population exploded.



According to Anthony Nyong, a professor of environmental studies at the University of Jos in Nigeria, "Climate change could undo even the little progress most African countries have achieved so far in terms of development."

U.N. programs in Africa such as the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative are pursuing environmental efforts designed to save tens of thousands of lives, prevent armed

conflict, and avert the need for costly international intervention. They hope to address the root causes of environmental problems that can turn droughts into famines, and famines into civil wars.

Dealing with the AIDS crisis puts further economic hardship on African nations. This crisis drains the economic resources that African nations so desperately need to build stable governments and a brighter economic future.

Worse, the AIDS crisis alone is decimating an entire generation of young Africans.

Africa's Youth Crisis

At the time of this writing (May 2009) much of the international press and world's attention is trained on incidences of commercial ship pirating that continues to make headline news off the coast of Somalia. Conducted by armed, opportunistic Somali youth, the pirating is done expressly to take western ship crews as hostages – work that pays handsomely, about a million dollars a pop.

While such high-profile, crimes at sea have occurred for a few years, activities much more troubling among African and other underserved youth deserve attention, too. Because thousands of children and young adults were trapped the last two decades in civil wars in Liberia, Angola, Chad, Burundi, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia, many are experiencing what is called the "stolen childhood."

With no chance of benefiting from social progress and skills development, an alarming number of marginalized youth live this way:

- ✘ In Kenya, the shadowy Mungiki youth movement has thrust into the international spotlight the fragility of Africa's emerging democracies. The Mungiki are estimated at about 2 million strong and primarily young people under 30. About 400,000 of them are women. Their continued flare-ups of lawlessness and violence have no understandable goal of change.

- ✘ Liberia's former warlord and President, Charles Taylor, recruited a cadre of Liberian and Sierra Leonean child soldiers into his National Patriotic Front, organizing them into the notorious Small Boys Unit (SBU).
- ✘ Similarly, after 1989 Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), an extremist Christian group joined forces with Sudan's Islamic militants who bankrolled its bush war against the Government of Yoweri Museveni.

Warlords are a fairly universal problem. They've terrorized and killed civilians in the former Soviet Union, Colombia, Central Asia and the Far East. However, in Africa warlordism appears to have become systemic on fully another level. Disillusioned by the forces of economic globalisation:

- ✘ Many African youth feed on a fusion of radical ideas from those espoused by Che Guevara and Malcom X to Karl Marx.
- ✘ Others draw inspiration from such religio-political movements like Dini ya Kibangu in Congo or Dini ya Msambwa and Legio Maria in Kenya.
- ✘ More recently, African youths have adopted the tactics and images of globalized violence, taking names like Baghdad Boys or Talibans. The Mungiki in Kenya have even abducted and beheaded its enemies in the manner of their heroes in Iraq.

Social theorists surmise that not only did colonialism create a disconnect in African politics that prevented the emergence of fully realized, indigenous African states, it also magnified aspects of the pre-colonial 'traditional' structures of decentralized despotism – including patrimonialism.

Over time, these insidious movements give way to young soldiers who harken the devastating leadership of examples of national leaders like

Mobutu Sese Seko of the Congo, Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, and Samuel Doe of Liberia – each of whom legendarily led their countries down a path of chaos and total anarchy.

Depth and Complexity of Africa's Youth Crisis



In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, "terrorism" rapidly began to frame the thinking of policy responses to Africa's youth militancy. The continent's Muslim youth are increasingly at risk of being recruited as agents for terrorist groups like al-Qaeda.

A number of scenarios for resolving these activities have been put forth by African governments as well as outsiders who are concerned. But in keeping with our vision for fixing Africa, we are joining those who call on developing countries to invest in the young people who otherwise seem to feel they have no other options for empowerment and well-being.

Investments in improved education, healthcare, and skills training for African youth will stem the tide of poverty and the havoc it creates in all other areas of African life. Only once there is a surge in economic growth, poverty alleviation, job creation and reduced risk of social tensions and instability will warlordism cease to be such an attractive option... Indeed, the only option for many.

Africa has the lion's share of the world's 1.5 billion people aged 12 to 24 - the largest ever youth group in history - with nearly 90 per cent (1.3 billion) residing in developing or "Third World" countries.

Insuring the Future

Let's use an insurance analogy to understand this critical mass issue. Imagine an insurance company whose portfolio of clients is concentrated in Afghanistan at a time of war. They would never collect enough premiums to cover the risks associated with their activity and pay for the damages that occur on a regular basis. If that same insurance company had a portfolio that was spread out across all Asian countries, the profits from peaceful regions would more than make up for the payouts in troubled regions.

The four Super States that we propose would be better able to deal with natural and man-made crises than any of the current states on the continent on a stand-alone basis. This would remove a shameful fact of life that Africans have had to contend with for generations: In times of crises, you generally don't see Africans coming to the rescue, you see westerners.

Most African countries depend on foreign assistance to stay afloat. These aids are injurious to a country's psyche.

Why Pan-Africanist Movements Failed

There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come.

Victor Hugo, French poet and novelist, 1802-1885

Two notable Pan-African movements have sought to foster radical change in the colonial structure of Africa's economy. Both called for inward-looking production and development strategies and the creation of unified financial markets. Indeed, it would draw a new political map for Africa.

Pan-Africanism demands that the riches of Africa be used for the benefit, upliftment, development and enjoyment of the African people. Its goal is to create a system for equitably disbursing food, education, healthcare, wealth, land, work, and security.

If you do not offer a globally compelling vision for such an undertaking and promote it with clear benefits to all stakeholders, the status quo will always win. Things will stay the same. Failure to reach out globally for buy in support and negligence to present on a grassroots level the impact of coming together keep undermining these honorable goals. This helps to explain why two historic Pan-Africanists who had visions of Africa as one country never gained much traction.



Marcus Garvey

Founder of the mighty Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), Marcus Garvey came to Harlem, New York from Jamaica in 1916. He was eager to promote commerce and industry among African Americans and urged them to be proud of their race – even notoriously pushing a return to Africa movement. Garvey travelled across America and was a huge success, attracting thousands of supporters.

To facilitate the return to Africa, Garvey founded the Black Star Line in 1919, to provide transportation to Africa. Through this shipping line, Garvey planned to unite the world's black populations through trade between the United States, Africa and the Caribbean. It failed, chiefly due to Garvey's weak, idealistic business policies and poor choice of associates.

Garvey was arrested for mail fraud in 1922 in connection with the sale of stock in the Black Star Line, which had by then failed. Although there were irregularities in the business, the prosecution was politically motivated, as Garvey's activities attracted considerable government attention.

Muammar Gaddafi

More recently, in April 2009, Libyan leader and current African Union chairman Muammar Gaddafi spelled out his vision to create a United States of Africa. He called on the continent to speed up the integration process.

At a meeting in Tripoli attended by more than 60 African Union (AU) ministers and delegates, Gaddafi outlined how his plan would work. He proposes:

- ✘ An African Union Authority to replace all other regional governing bodies.
- ✘ New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad), the AU's economic development program, would oversee all foreign trade.

- ✘ The current AU Executive Council appoint a head secretary to be in charge of the continent's foreign affairs.
- ✘ The head of the AU's Peace and Security Council would run the continent's defense matters, and
- ✘ A single African currency, a single African military force, and a single passport for Africans on the continent.

But Gaddafi's vision is the basis of great dispute among AU leaders. Many, in fact, have expressed deep concern over issues such as state sovereignty. Meanwhile others sense the divisions across the continent over Gaddafi's plan are too serious to surmount.

Charting a Viable Course

Both visions are noble, but the advocates of those goals committed the cardinal sin of marketing: They never clearly articulated the resulting benefits. As a result, both Garvey and Gaddafi evoked emotion-based responses. What was missing from both visions was a more "global economic" approach and appeal.

As is often expressed in the marketing world, what continues to be missing is the WIIFM factor – What's In It for Me... In the case of Africa, the "me's" would be the African populations and leadership as well as the many stakeholders around the world who are neither appealed to as to how these plans will positively impact their economies, and those who need assuaging that a united Africa will not be a security or other threat. African populations simply have not seen enough potential benefits for them to push their reluctant leaders in this direction.

Still, Africa's vast difficulties are rooted in its very inability to unite territorially.

Barriers Requiring Breakthroughs

*Things which matter most must never be at the mercy
of things that matter least.*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German Poet and Diplomat, 1749-1832

Change is hard, particularly such massive change as establishing something similar to four United States of Africa. But experts all agree that the very structure of the African economy is the primary underlying cause of its persistent crisis. A bold and innovative approach must be taken to resolve Africa's plethora of huge problems because:

- ✘ Africa is structured to keep producing commodities it does not need, goods its people consume very little of,
- ✘ The goods Africa needs, it must depend on other peoples to produce, keeping its nations in deep debt, and
- ✘ Simply, this is a vicious structure of dependency rather than self-reliance.

Social Structures

Social structures also fundamentally contribute to Africa's persistent crisis. First, Africa has very distinct and deeply rooted systems of social differentiation. These relate to linguistic affinities, gender, ancestral origins or blood relations such as those resulting in ethnic groups, nationalities, or clans. This has many implications.

Power and privilege are often determined by ethnicity, although there have been some strides in the elimination of race- and ethnicity-based educational disparities in

primary education in Zimbabwe and Tanzania for example. Still, disparities along ethnic lines exist in many other African countries.



Many scholars have examined how ethnicity and power issues play out in Ghana's education system. Research shows a substantial difference in educational opportunity and resources among students who come from the provinces where the ruling elite originate versus students who do not. Individuals and groups are rewarded and punished, with significant consequences for national unity and development.

Another example: In Ghana, gender is central to schooling. Analysts have found that that the gendered dimension of schooling cannot be underestimated, and neither can economics. Both play a role in the educational aspirations of students.

In the developing countries of Africa, economic factors may determine whether one can or cannot become a student in the first place. After that, poverty determines one's access to textbooks, transportation and basic nutrition.

Political Environment

The political environment is also a major cause of Africa's problems. Basic rights, individual freedom and democratic participation are often lacking in African countries. Given these circumstances, people don't work hard or produce optimally. And of course, if people don't work hard, the pace of development is slow.



Political Africa is a tragic game of egos. The #1 priority of leaders from North to South and East to West is self preservation. Off the record, most leaders in Africa will admit that they don't believe real change is possible or even advisable. Why do they hold onto power then? They are convinced, primarily through the advice of their cronies and entourage, that any alternative to their rule would plunge the country into untold disasters. There are a few notable exceptions but sadly, this is the norm.

Meanwhile poverty, malnutrition and illiteracy, inadequate water supply and sanitation continue to affect a disproportionate number of people who reside on the African continent.

The Paradigm Shift: Empowering People

I dream of an Africa which is in peace with itself.

Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa

A new generation of leadership is needed in Africa. Forward thinkers are essential, those outside the traditional spheres of influence. Africa needs leaders who'll work collaboratively to combat its widespread instabilities.

It needs leaders who are enthusiastic about uniting Africans through economic and cultural cooperation and education exchange, and not those who'll continue to divide Africans through the self-interest of wars.

Only with the ascension of a new breed of leaders might Africa's people be delivered out of poverty, diseases, wars, famine, economic meltdown, political paralysis, and 360-degree insecurity. These cancers will not desist without drastic changes.

No More Status Quo

The continent of Africa is rich with natural resources including gold, diamond, coltan, timber, and other valuable minerals. There also are great human resources: industrialists, engineers of all kinds, medical doctors, architects, planners, technicians, scientists, bankers and investors with the qualifications, expertise and rich experience to help transform Africa.

So why haven't Africa's many natural and human assets been better leveraged to benefit itself and the world? The answer lies in the often futile and corrupt leadership found on the continent.

Most African leaders are completely out of touch with every day life for ordinary Africans. Worse, they've run out of ideas for solutions to the pervasive economic and social problems. It is this oft questionable brand of leadership that has kept poverty ingrained in almost all African societies.

Lead, Follow or Stop Blocking the Way

All through history, a society's leaders have determined its success. During times of economic crisis, poverty and war, a nation's leaders are charged with making tough economic and military decisions to keep the society safe and prosperous.

This is not to say that ineptitude and corruption don't exist among the leadership of other nations. But on a continent of dozens of nations where poverty and sickness are so pervasive – are, indeed, the norm for most – Africa can ill afford to continue its current course. It is time to retool the continent. Most of those who've gained power since independence in the 1960s sadly have perpetuated the cycles of:

- ✘ More interest in getting votes than carrying out the responsibilities that come along with the votes.
- ✘ No accountability and little acceptance of opposing views.
- ✘ Corruption rewarded and rarely a sincere effort to stamp it out.
- ✘ Over reliance on tribal alliances, not on economic and social track record of success.

As a result, Africa remains the world's most underdeveloped continent. Across huge swaths of the continent, Africa is in desperate need of good roads, schools and hospitals. Reliable water services and electricity grids should be in place. Also other infrastructure necessities such as information and communications technologies simply must be a part of Africa's future.

These are the building blocks for job creation; they'll also give Africa the ability to compete globally and decrease its dependency. And undertaken now, wouldn't this be an optimal time for the continent to "go green" by tapping the solar, geothermal and other renewable energy sources made possible in the Sahara and Great Rift Valley.

Speaking on this very topic in February 2009, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said, "There is great benefit to be derived from the economies of scale that cross-border cooperation brings." Mr. Ban also stressed that such efforts "should be complemented by public-private partnerships, the building of indigenous scientific and technological capacities and tangible investments in education."

Yet, these magnanimous undertakings may never happen due to obstructive, status quo forces across Africa that include:

- ✘ Corrupt governments with a reputation for serious human rights violations,
- ✘ The impact of deadly diseases and viruses, most notably malaria and HIV/AIDS,
- ✘ High illiteracy levels,
- ✘ Little access to foreign capital, and
- ✘ Frequent tribal and military conflicts ranging from guerrilla warfare to genocide.

Using Oil for Development

Interestingly from 1995 to 2005, Africa's economic growth rate actually increased, averaging 5% in 2005. Some countries experienced still higher growth rates, notably



Angola, Sudan and Equatorial Guinea. Here's why: **They recently began extracting their petroleum reserves or expanded their oil extraction capacity.**

The U.S. State Department declared Africa of "strategic national interest." West Africa, in particular, is of great interest and significance. Supporting this is the National Intelligence Council, a U.S.-government think tank, which predicts that the Gulf of Guinea will supply 20-25% of total U.S. oil imports by 2020.

However, Americans aren't the only people increasingly dependent on West Africa for such sustenance. Angola is now China's top oil supplier and Gabon is a key supplier of oil to France. What's more, oilmen from Russia, Japan and India are showing up in places like Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It is estimated that the Gulf of Guinea will earn \$1 trillion from oil by 2020 if the price per barrel stays above \$50. That's about double all the post-colonial aid that's been given to Africa since its nations claimed independence in the 1960s.

According to British Petroleum's Statistical Energy Survey, Africa had proven oil reserves equating to 9.49 % of the world's reserves in 2007. Four countries dominate Africa's upstream oil production, and together account for about 80% of the continent's oil production: Nigeria, Libya, Algeria, and Angola. In fact, Angola began out-producing Nigeria in 2008 and has joined OPEC.

Other oil producing countries are Gabon, Congo, Cameroon, Soudan, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

Exploration in a number of other countries currently is taking place, aimed at increasing their oil output or becoming first-time producers. Included in this list are Mauritania, Ghana, Namibia, South Africa and Madagascar with Mozambique and Tanzania showing potential as gas producers.

Borders That Bind

Everybody has a plan, until you get punched in the face.

Mike Tyson, former boxing champion

Beside all the other hardships, borders are trouble. They create inefficiencies and provide opportunities and a safe haven for all kinds of evil doers.

Instead of diverting state resources, borders need to be eliminated as much as possible. They create opportunities for criminal gangs to amass wealth that puts them on par with the states that are trying to defeat them. If the criminal organizations operating in Mexico and Latin America came together their “GDP” would easily win them a seat at the G20 meeting of the twenty largest economies in the world. Let me take this opportunity to remind the reader that only 1 African country, out of 53, is currently seated at the G20 meetings (South Africa).

From a peace and security perspective, 80%percent of the problems facing the United States of America today come from two border areas: Afghanistan vs. Pakistan and Mexico vs. U.S.A. In Africa the vast majority of conflicts are created or sustained by border issues, for example Sudan vs. Chad, Ethiopia vs. Eritrea and Uganda vs. Congo vs. Rwanda.

The Illusion of Permanency

From the perspective of historical time, most political borders have been around for only a matter of minutes. Furthermore, these borders are generally perceived as a burden by the local populations, who often ignore them as much as possible in their daily activities.

For rebel movements on the other hand, borders are a blessing. They can carve out a territory for themselves in border areas and live off the resources of the zone for the next fifty years. International law and sensitivity to sovereignty issues prevent coordinated and decisive action against them and thus serve as their best protection.

Because the bad guys always benefit the most from borders, they are always one step ahead of everyone else. They have borderless incorporated into their very beings and methods of operation.

The removal of borders is the number 1 goal of the movement for the emergence of African Super States that can compete globally and provide the basic guarantees that citizens should be able to expect from their state.



The borders drawn by Africa's former administrators in Europe have never served the continent well... Once you realize a mistake has been made, how much hardship do you endure before cutting your losses?

New Social Constructs: It's The Way of the World

When was the last time you heard about a fight between two towns or even villages? Yet, before the emergence of nation-states in the modern era, this was the norm on all continents.

Once villages and fiefdoms were absorbed into larger entities, formerly feuding villages and clans suddenly were drawn closer in relative terms. A former enemy became a close neighbour, kin and ally.

Humanity has gone through different stages of social organisation:

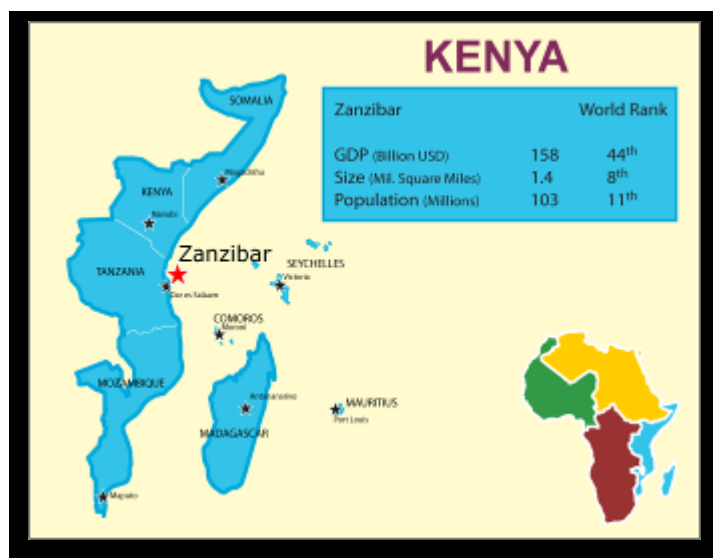
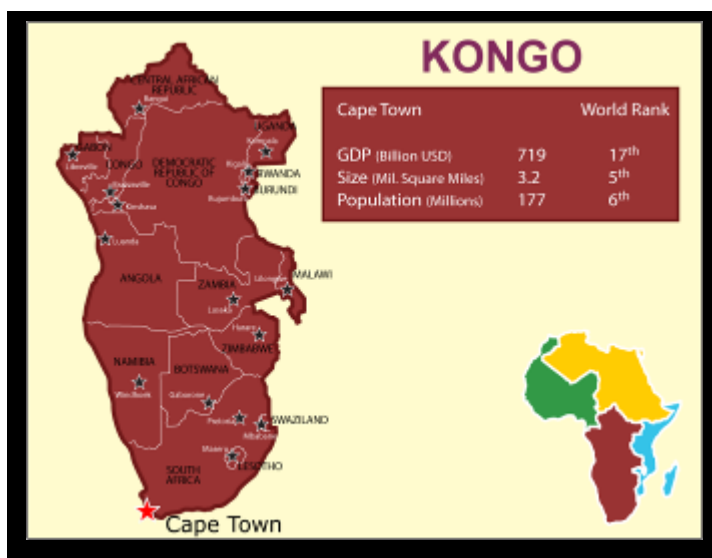


- ✠ Family
- ✠ Group of families
- ✠ Village
- ✠ Tribe
- ✠ Region
- ✠ Country
- ✠ Unions of countries

This is sociocultural evolution, a term implying that evolution can be used to understand the social endurance of a nation or country. Sociocultural evolutionists agree that the evolution-like process leads to social progress.

Sortir Par le Haut (Fixing a Problem by Going Big)

The emergence of Super States is a profound and long term trend whose time has come for Africa. The concept of 4 Super States is, indeed, a vision for large-scale societal planning. And it proposes a way of social engineering that Africa and its over-taxed partners cannot continue to ignore.



United Arab Emirates: A Success Model

Be realistic, do the impossible.

Che Guevara

I am currently living in the United Arab Emirates. The UAE is a federation of seven emirates, including Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah. The UAE offers many lessons when it comes to bringing together several entities. It was a bold experiment which many sceptics predicted would fail when the federation was born in 1971.

The rulers of the emirates and their successors, first under the leadership of the first president of the UAE the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and currently under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, have defied the odds. The UAE has brought peace and prosperity to its citizens. It has also attracted talented and industrious people from over 150 countries to help build the country and benefit from security, a high standard of living and an open society.

The main lesson that Africa and its leaders can learn from the UAE is
that **several levels of sovereignty are possible.**

The ruler of each individual emirate has great latitude to manage the affairs of his emirate. Dubai in particular has reached worldwide recognition for the speed of its development and the boldness of its ruler, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

At the same time, the rulers of the emirates agree to manage certain governance aspects at the Federal level. The ruler of Abu Dhabi, the largest emirate, is the President of the federation.



The success of the UAE proves that the federal model can work even when its constituent entities have vastly different levels of development and wealth. In a relatively short period of time, the UAE has created a strong sense of national identity among its citizens. It has also reached a stature in international relations that would have been difficult to reach by any of the emirates on an individual basis.

The UAE like every other nation has had to face and continues to face important challenges. But the way they deal with these challenges, through dialogue and a sense of shared destiny, can serve as a blueprint for the emerging federal entities that we propose for the African continent.

Africa & The Immutable Laws

I love Africa in general; South Africa and West Africa, they are both great countries.

Paris Hilton, American celebrity

Battles are won with strategy, not tactics. There's no way Africa can find its way into a healthier, more productive existence by simply doing more of the same. Bold strokes – radically new strategies – are needed across the continent, and here's why...

Marketing professionals the world over espouse the breakthrough principles in “The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing.” Authored by Al Ries and Jack Trout in 1994, it has become something akin to a business “bible.”

If you can appreciate the attributes and image-shaping that's gone into making places like New York, Paris or Jerusalem beloved and worthy of protection at all costs, allow me to extrapolate just two of the “immutable marketing laws” to a set of key issues that plague Africa – and how the 4 Super States concept can resolve them.

You see – even from a marketing perspective – Africa is not viable in its current format. If this sounds to you like frivolous thinking, think again. One of the world's largest public relations conglomerates, Burson-Marsteller, has long had a presence throughout Africa. In many cases, their efforts are trained on helping make certain African nations more attractive for the investment community.

So, if a marketing perspective has led western interests to invest multiple millions in studying and planning against investment-related issues in Africa, a look through a marketing lens certainly is worthy in the context of fixing Africa, once and for all.

For a going-in assumption, consider this: The vast majority of the global population views Africa as one country. With the possible exception of Egypt, no other state in Africa has enough brand recognition and value to compete globally.

Law of Leadership

There's huge benefit to being number 1 in a category -- even if you must invent a whole new category. The leading brand in any category is almost always the first brand into the prospect's mind when he/she has a need.

Being number 1 in your category pays massive dividends from a business and strategic perspective. The four Super States will hold number 1 spots globally in several categories:



Tourism: The Super State KENYA will include such paradise-like places and legendary destinations as Kenya, Mount Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Seychelles and the raw beauty of Mozambique. These assets will position KENYA as the number one exotic travel destination in the world.



Oil Production: With mature and declining oil fields in Saudi Arabia, the Super State EGYPT has the potential to be the number one oil and gas producer in the world thanks to the powerhouses Algeria and Libya, as well as emerging players like Sudan and Chad. A lot of economic and geopolitical clout comes from being number one in this category.

Minerals: KONGO, by re-grouping South Africa, Botswana, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Tanzania and the Central African Republic, will become the dominant player in almost all key minerals (from Gold and Diamonds, to Coltan and Uranium) with a market share exceeding 50% in most cases. That's power.





Culture: The Super State of NIGERIA can



become a serious contender for taking the title of dominant cultural influence in the world away from the US and Hollywood. Artists from Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Guinea already dominate World Music, which is the most vibrant alternative to US pop music. Nigeria and Liberia have dynamic film industries

(Nollywood) which rival Hollywood and Bollywood by bypassing traditional distribution channels and developing a clever business model around low cost but high quality movies. This part of the world has also made important contributions to world literature. NIGERIA has a fighting chance to emerge as the number one cultural force on the planet.

Law of Perception

Current reality: 53 sovereign countries **Current perception: 1 country called Africa (and perhaps another called Egypt)**

During the American presidential election of 2008, one rumour about Republican Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin spread like wildfire. It stated that Mrs Palin thought that Africa was one country. Mrs Palin and her advisers later denied this claim. But the important fact is that the rumour was on fertile ground because many people in the US and elsewhere share this perception that Africa is one country.

The Law of Perception says that in the battle between products, perception is more important than reality. People tend to think that the best product will win. However, as Ries and Trout say, "Marketing is not a battle of products, it's a battle of perceptions."

This concept seems unfair, but it's fundamental and true. Most marketing mistakes stem from the assumption that you're fighting a battle rooted in reality. But changing people's minds is quite difficult. Even with little to no expertise, information or experience on a subject, people assume their views are valid.

People are Rarely, If Ever, Wrong

At least they're never wrong in their own minds... There is no objective reality. There are no facts. All that exists in the world of marketing are perceptions in the mind of the customer or prospect. The perception is the reality. Everything else is illusion.

Even if one country was to do everything perfectly, they could not stand out: Perception would keep them mired in the concept of Africa. There is no way out on a stand-alone basis.

The Winds of Change Are Blowing

An army of sheep led by a lion would defeat an army of lions led by a sheep.

Arab Proverb

The current global aid structures such as the United Nations, World Bank, IMF, African Union, African Development Bank and various national organisations such as US AID will not solve the problem.

When you meet people who work in these organisations, the feeling you get is that you are meeting medical staff in a geriatric ward. Their thoughts are geared towards making the pain bearable. They have stopped believing that real change is possible in Africa. As they go through their careers, mortgages and university fees for their children gain in prominence, and they have less appetite for “rocking the boat.”

Activists offered some hope initially. Unfortunately the generation of idealists who founded the large Non Governmental Organisations in the 1960s and 70s, have been replaced by bureaucrats who joined the NGOs as a career plan, often because they did not make the cut to join the international organisations previously mentioned. Some of the founders themselves fell victim to the lure of power and money, and went from Hero to Zero.

The French foreign minister Bernard Kouchner is the poster child of this “evolution.” After co-founding Medecins Sans Frontieres and for years acting as the Che Guevara of the global NGO movement, Mr. Kouchner now stands accused of profiting from lucrative “consulting” deals paid by governments that the young Mr. Kouchner would not have accepted a dinner invitation from.

Perhaps it is a sad lesson of human nature that you can truly remain a Che Guevara only if you die young. To be fair to Mr. Kouchner, he has demonstrably risked his life to save other human beings. The greatest risk his critics have taken is being hit by a bicycle on the streets of Paris.

Evidence of Safety in Numbers

There is a growing realisation among the political elites that small countries are not equipped to deal with the challenges of globalization. Various regional groupings are emerging and doing their best to coordinate national policies and act as policy-initiating bodies for their constituent states.

However, these regional groupings do not have the political or financial muscle to enable real change and fix enduring problems. They were also setup with artificial constraints of geography, languages, religion and other somewhat irrelevant criteria. A few examples are showcased below:



- ✘ Founded in 1975, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional group of sixteen countries. ECOWAS was created to achieve collective self-sufficiency for its member states. It's an economic and political union to create a large trading bloc. However, the subsequent violence and displacement of millions of people across this sub-region that began in the 1990s has been associated with ECOWAS.
- ✘ Established in 1994, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) is an organization of West African states formed to increase the economic and financial competitiveness of its member states. Each using the CFA franc as its currency, the eight countries in UEMOA are Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire,

Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. Former colonial power France is the ultimate decision maker.

- ✦ With 18 member states, the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD) has a goal of working with other regional economic communities and the African Union to strengthen peace, security and stability. CENSAD also is focused on helping achieve economic and social development for its members. However, the Free Trade Area envisioned for CENSAD is difficult to implement; it overlaps with other, more advanced trade blocs. There also are conflicts between neighboring members Chad and Sudan over the Darfur conflict.
- ✦ The Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa's (CEMAC) objective is to improve financial integration and in its region, toward increasing economic activity and reducing poverty. CEMAC countries share a common legal, financial, and regulatory structure. In theory, tariffs have been eliminated on trade within CEMAC, but full implementation of this has been delayed. Here too, the ultimate decision maker is France.
- ✦ The Southern African Development and Economic Community (SADC) has a goal of furthering socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among its 15 member states. But SADC is weak. It's under-resourced and its member states are unhappy about giving over to the organization the powers they agreed to. So, SADC was overhauled in 2001, with one significant challenge being that member states could also participate in other regional economic organizations. This undermines the very goals of SADC.
- ✦ The most disappointing among these organizations has been NEPAD. Started in 2001 with the promising title of New Partnership for Africa's Development, NEPAD quickly degenerated into rivalry among its main Heads of State sponsors. Don't expect any bold initiatives from them. Today it survives as a remote and mostly irrelevant division of the African Union.



These regional organizations work in more or less close cooperation with the African Union. The AU commission, based in Ethiopia, represents all African countries except Morocco (due to the ongoing dispute over the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara). Think of the AU as the equivalent of the European Union for African countries, although less empowered to make decisions.

The problem: These organizations are the result of a compromise between the need to deal with transnational issues and offer a workable counterpart in international negotiations on one hand, and the imperative of the ruling elites to keep real control over their countries in their own hands.

The Deciders: African Youth

Until lions learn to write, hunters will tell their story for them.

Kenyan Proverb

At some point the masses will decide that they don't want to be the last in line on the planet, so that a few elites in their countries can be first financially. When this critical mass of discontent is reached, solutions will be sought by thinking outside the box and beyond the current socio-economic-political entities and groupings.

The modest contribution of this initiative (Fixing Africa) is to encourage the elites and youth in Africa to start the bold thinking today without waiting for a full scale social explosion. The youth of Africa need a vision that can channel their enthusiasm. The current options available to them all lead to doom and destruction.



The most desperate embark on a journey across deserts, oceans and mountains in the hope of reaching Europe where a better life awaits. Few make it and those who do risk sexual and labor exploitation when they reach their destination.

Another current option for African youth is to join an armed movement to gain control over a territory or overthrow the government. The modern day warlord is a role model

for many impoverished youth who have suffered humiliation and disappointment at the hands of the few wealthy families in their country. With a Kalashnikov you overcome lack of education or being born in the wrong ethnic group and put an end to years of frustration. It is the high speed track from being pushed around to making the rules. Clearly this “career path” is not sustainable and does not benefit the greater good.

A subset of the above is the rise in militant Islamic groups. Religion can be used to create a strong sense of identity and offer a compelling vision, even for those living under the most dire circumstances. In Algeria, Somalia and elsewhere, disaffected youth are being lured to a violent form of Islam under the pretext of restoring their dignity and a romanticized former glory. You can’t compete with that by offering these young people the advice of “play by the rules, work hard and maybe you’ll get a job someday.” Particularly in countries where those at the top of the pyramid broke all the rules of human decency to get there.

African youth need bold vision and ideas for the future. Something that can inspire them. Something they can believe in. Something that gives them a chance of joining the ranks of developed nations in their lifetime without leaving their country of origin.

12

The True Believers

"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants."

Sir Isaac Newton, British physicist and mathematician, 1643-1727

The people who really believe that change is possible are those who have lived it and created it. It is with a mindset of massive value creation that one can invent and execute truly ground breaking solutions for Africa.

Salif Keita - The Malian singer, went from being an impoverished outcast (due to the skin condition of being an albino) in one of the poorest countries on earth, to becoming an award winning artist on a global scale and among the most popular and most successful in the World Music genre. He knows and really believes in the change that can happen in one lifetime.

Mo Ibrahim - The Sudanese telecoms billionaire went from being an unassuming engineer to a telecom mogul in less than 15 years. He founded several mobile communications companies throughout Africa, before large corporations saw the potential and started competing with him for licenses. In the process he contributed to putting a mobile phone, once the preserve of high flying CEOs and bankers, into the hands of laborers and farmers. He knows and really believes in the change that can happen in a couple of decades.

Many Africans, through big thinking and bold action, have achieved success on the global stage in their chosen field. These leaders are living proof that Africa and Africans are not condemned to eternal mediocrity. We consider them MVPs (Massive Value Players), and they include:

NIGERIA Super State MVPs

Aliaune 'Akon' Thiam, singer and producer with multiple Billboard #1 hits, Senegal

Aliko Dangote, richest African businessman, Nigeria

Alpha Blondy, reggae superstar, Côte d'Ivoire

Alpha Oumar Konaré, former president of Mali and former chairman of the African Union commission

Alphadi, fashion designer and FIMA fashion festival founder, Niger

Aminata Traoré, activist for a more just world economic system, Mali

Assiatou Bah Diallo, AMINA magazine publisher, Guinea

Cheikh Modibo Diarra, Astrophysicist and Chairman of Microsoft Africa, Mali

Chinua Achebe, author of "Things Fall Apart" the most widely read novel in modern African literature, Nigeria

Djimon Hounsou, Hollywood actor, Benin

Issa Hayatou, president of the Confederation of African Football, Cameroon

Jamel Debbouze, actor and producer, Morocco

John Jerry Rawlings, former president of Ghana

Kandeh Yumkella, director general of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Sierra Leone

Lamine 'Xuly Bet' Kouyaté, fashion designer, Mali

Malamine Koné, founder of sports brand Airness, Mali

Manu Dibango, World Music legend, Cameroon

Marie-Roger Biloa, Africa International magazine publisher, Cameroon

Nawal El Moutawakel, Olympic gold winner in the 400-meter hurdles, Morocco

Pierre Goudiaby, architect, Senegal

Said Aouita, Olympic gold winner in athletics, Morocco

Sam Jonah, former chief executive of Ashanti Goldfields, Ghana

Samuel Eto'o, multiple African Footballer of the Year winner, Cameroon

Tahar Ben Jelloun, Goncourt Prize winning author, Morocco

Tidjane Thiam, first black chief executive of a top 100 UK company when he takes over Prudential later this year, Côte d'Ivoire

Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize winning author and activist, Nigeria

Yambo Ouologuem, Renaudot Prize winning author and mystic, Mali

Yannick Noah, musician and former tennis champion, Cameroon

Youssou N'dour, World Music legend and entrepreneur, Senegal

EGYPT Super State MVPs

Béchir Ben Yamed, *Jeune Afrique* magazine founder, Tunisia

Boutros Boutros Ghali, former UN secretary general, Egypt

Haile Gebreselassie, Olympic gold medal winner and multiple world record holder in athletics, Ethiopia

Hassan al-Turabi, scholar and political leader, Sudan

Mohamed El Baradei, Nobel Prize winner and head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Egypt

Mohamed El Erian, CEO of PIMCO the world's largest bond investor with nearly 700 billion dollars under management, Egypt

Mohamed Al Amoudi, businessman among the 100 richest people in the world, Ethiopia

Omar Sharif, legendary actor, Egypt

Rabah Madjer, coach and former football great, Algeria

Zinedine Zidane, football legend, Algeria

KENYA Super State MVPs

Iman, fashion entrepreneur and former supermodel, Somalia

Malangatana, award-winning painter and poet, Mozambique

Michèle Rakotoson, writer and film maker, Madagascar

Mohamed Said Dualeh, chairman of Dahabshiil, the largest money transfer company in East Africa, Somalia

Ngugi Wa Thion'go, writer and professor, Kenya

Paul Tergat, long distance runner, Kenya

Paulina Chiziane, writer, Mozambique

Richard Leaky, environmentalist and politician, Kenya

Wangari Maathai, Nobel Prize winning environmental activist, Kenya

Waris Dirie, woman's rights activist and former model, Somalia

KONGO Super State MVPs

Alain Mabanckou, Renaudot Prize winning writer and professor, Congo (Brazzaville)

Alison Botha, woman's rights activist and rape survivor, South Africa

Bonga, singer and songwriter, Angola

Charlize Theron, Oscar winning actress, South Africa

Cyril Ramaphosa, entrepreneur and former secretary general of the African National Congress, South Africa

Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace prize winner and activist for social justice, South Africa

Dikembe Mutombo, humanitarian activist and former professional basketball player, Congo (Kinshasa)

Elikia M'Bokolo, historian and professor, Congo (Kinshasa)

Gary Player, golf legend, South Africa

Hugh Masekela, jazz musician, South Africa



Koffi Olomidé, singer and producer, Congo (Kinshasa)

Nadine Gordimer, Nobel Prize winning writer, South Africa

Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa

Paul Kagame, president of Rwanda

Tokyo Sexwale, entrepreneur and politician, South Africa

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, activist and politician, South Africa

Yoweri Museveni, president of Uganda

Zackie Achmat, founder of Treatment Action Campaign (HIV/AIDS), South Africa

What Makes Africa's Massive Change Possible?

When spider webs unite they can entangle a lion.

Ethiopian Proverb

Fixing Africa aims to build a grassroots movement that'll contribute to development efforts with a bottom-up approach. Nobody is as smart as everybody. If we're successful, we'll do for development what Google did for information...

Before Google, knowledge was in the domain of the few (a few experts and a few physical locations like libraries). Today any literate person can go online and access the combined knowledge stored in all libraries within a matter of minutes. This gives new meaning to the notion of "self-taught." Google's role is to aggregate and filter through millions of web pages created by millions of individuals.

The online encyclopaedia Wikipedia is another wonderful illustration of the power and wisdom of crowds. Citizen journalism is also an example of people using technology to be heard and to shape events because they are fed up with the top down, easy-to-control way of operating favoured by elites in Africa and elsewhere.

Collective intelligence makes reaching the 4 Super States goal feasible, where it wasn't possible before. The main enabling factor is the widespread availability of communication through the Internet and mobile telephony.

If I had to sum up in one sentence Fixing Africa as a movement, it would be Citizen Development through Technology.

What Can YOU Do to Help?

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.

Leo Tolstoy, Russian novelist, 1828-1910

Many notable world citizens already have made important contributions to helping lift Africa. Be inspired by and moved to action by those that we consider as Honorary Africans such as:

Oprah Winfrey – The first black billionaire, Oprah is the most philanthropic African American, donating time and money to issues impacting many Africans. Her Angel Network charity accepts contributions to assist African children stricken by poverty and AIDS. Oprah recently invested \$40 million in a school for young girls in South Africa to help them overcome economic disadvantages.

Bill and Melinda Gates – Bill and Melinda Gates initiated The Gates Foundation in partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation to improve agricultural productivity in Africa. Focusing on green technology, the foundation hopes to reduce poverty and hunger. The Gates Foundation has already donated over \$100 million dollars in contributions to this effort.

Barack Obama – The first black president of the US, Obama has focused on alleviating the problems faced by African nations. After visiting his father's Kenyan village, Obama urged Kenya to eliminate government corruption. During his African tour, Obama also spoke about developing a more effective response to the AIDS epidemic in Africa.



Bono – A major proponent of eradicating the AIDS pandemic, Bono launched several concerts with proceeds benefiting AIDS awareness and research. Bono also supports improving trade with Africa as a means of helping the struggling countries. In 2007, Bono received the Liberty Medal for his activism.

Mia Farrow – A UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Farrow focuses on bringing attention to the crisis in Darfur. Since 2007, Farrow has been active with the Dream for Darfur campaign, which has emphasized China's support of the Sudanese government. During the 2008 Olympics, Farrow went so far as to broadcast from a Sudanese refugee camp.

Peter Gabriel – Appalled by human rights violations, Gabriel co-founded WITNESS, which provides equipment and training to local organizations worldwide so they can document human rights abuses. Along with Nelson Mandela, Gabriel is a member of Global Elders, which works objectively to solve international conflicts. In 2007, Gabriel launched a "YouTube" for human rights.

Paul Simon – A singer and songwriter, Paul Simon contributed to the "We are the World" single to raise relief for famine in Africa. Shortly after the single's success, Simon won a Grammy for his album, Graceland. In Graceland, Simon brought African music and performers, including Ladysmith Black Mambazo, to an American audience.

Danny Glover – In 1999, Danny Glover donated \$1 million to the TransAfrica Forum, which lobbies for reconstructive policies towards Africa. As the group's chairman, Glover actively creates awareness for the problems facing many African nations, including the national debts and tribal rivalries. Glover also energetically speaks out about the African AIDS epidemic.

Muhammad Ali – After discarding his slave name, Cassius Clay, Muhammad Ali became a powerful example of defeating the dehumanization of racism. A retired

boxing champion, Ali served as an international ambassador for Jubilee 2000 in hopes of eliminating Third World debt. Throughout his life, Ali has remained committed to aiding African people.

Michael Jackson – In 1985, Michael Jackson helped release the charity single “We Are the World.” One of the best selling singles of all time, it raised millions for African famine and poverty relief. Recently, he has turned his attention to aiding Rwanda, in particular contributing to children’s education and healthcare.

Toni Morrison – The first black woman to win a Nobel Prize in literature, Morrison brought black literature to the mainstream. Focusing on the lives of African American women, Morrison’s characters defy traditional stereotypes of the black experience. Her Pulitzer-Prize winning novel *Beloved* is often cited as the best American novel of the last 25 years.

Sidney Poitier – To support the Red Cross and the Measles Initiative, Poitier travelled to Benin to raise awareness for the program. A talented actor, Poitier consciously bucked black labels and gave countless youths a positive role model in cinema. Former South African president Nelson Mandela hand-picked Poitier to portray him in a made-for-TV biopic.

Fidel Castro – Awarded the South African Order of the Companions in 2009, Castro made huge strides in ending racism and apartheid through his friendship with South Africa. Castro’s radical political ideas appealed to the rebel leaders in Africa fighting against imperialist forces. Castro fosters a sense of pride and goodwill towards Africa among his people.

Michael Jordan – One of the greatest professional basketball players of all time, Jordan is an icon for today’s generation. Jordan is dedicated to humanitarianism and is actively involved with the Boys and Girls Club of America. He hosts his own charity golf tournament and recently opened a community centre in Chicago.

Prince – Appalled by the shocking statistic that one third of the people living with AIDS reside in Africa, Prince donates concert proceeds to help combat the AIDS epidemic. Prince also contributes to famine relief for impoverished Africans. In 1985, Prince participated in the “We Are the World” telecast to raise money for Africa.

Naomi Campbell - Supermodel and all-around *glamazon* Naomi Campbell supports numerous African charities and initiatives. Her involvement in the “THISDAY” Africa Rising Festival included visits to children’s hospitals in Nigeria. Additionally, she champions US Doctors for Africa, which aims to improve access to medical provisions in Africa, and the “First Ladies of Africa.”

Emmanuelle Béart – An ambassador for UNICEF, Béart is an active opponent of France’s immigration policies. Outraged at the deportation of African refugees, Béart chained herself to a railing at a demonstration. Ultimately, her show of support for the refugees resulted in her arrest and the subsequent loss of her modelling contract with Dior.

Jacques Attali – Born in Algeria, French economist Attali founded the non-profit organization PlaNet Finance. Attali’s goal with PlaNet Finance is to lessen poverty through improving microfinance in developing countries. Attali strives to give poor populations access to financial services, like banking, to help them achieve prosperity.

Henry Louis Gates – A well-known literary critic, Gates campaigns for the inclusion of black culture in academia. Gates also preserves historical texts as a part of the Black Periodical Literature Project. Because of his reputation, Gates testified for 2 Live Crew during their obscenity trial and argued for protecting the alleged profanity due to its African-American cultural origins.

Mohamed Yunus – A Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2006, Dr. Yunus chairs the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh. Moved by those affected by poverty throughout the Third World, Dr. Yunus’s bank provides impoverished people with short-term loans without requiring any collateral. These loans give the recipients the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

Jim Brown – An American football star, Jim Brown has inspired many youths through his dedication and drive. Using his fame, Brown founded the Amer-I-Can program. He provides life management skills to kids dealing with gang violence in various US cities and prisons.

Harry Belafonte – An organizer of the African charity song, “We are the World,” Belafonte is an ambassador for UNICEF. Since his appointment, he has travelled throughout Africa creating awareness for various issues. In 2001, Belafonte brought attention to the South African AIDS epidemic, and in 2004, he campaigned for better education in Kenya.

Spike Lee – Controversial filmmaker Spike Lee endeavours to depict the varied experience of life for African-Americans. An advocate for racial equality, Lee often aims a critical eye at racism in the public sphere. Honest and opinionated, Lee never hesitates to discuss poverty, crime, and the role of the media in race relations.

Randall Robinson – Founded the research and activism organization TransAfrica Forum and became famous for his impassioned opposition to the Apartheid regime in South Africa. He is also the author of “The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks”.

Hugo Chavez – Look beyond the shock comments and macho bravado, and you will see a man who has reshaped Latin America through his (peaceful) Bolivarian revolution. He did this by bypassing the elites and speaking directly to the masses. The Venezuelan president can be viewed as Fidel Castro with oil wealth.

George W. Bush – This choice might come as a surprise but the former US president was very successful when it comes to his Africa policy and actions. His Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief benefits millions. He also pushed through debt cancellations on an unprecedented scale. And he did it quietly.

His Highness Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal Al Saud - A strong believer in Africa's economic potential, the prince has multi-million dollar investments in several African countries. He recently setup an Africa-focused private equity fund with over 500 million USD under management.

His Highness the Aga Khan, Prince Karim Al Hussaini – Having spent his childhood in Kenya, the Aga Khan has numerous economic and social initiatives in East and West Africa. The Ismaili community which he leads, has long standing ties to several countries in East Africa.

Graham Hancock - British writer who first exposed corruption in the global aid system with his groundbreaking book, Lords of Poverty. His main area of interest is Ancient Mysteries. His books, including The Sign and The Seal, have sold over five million copies worldwide.

Legacy of Greatness

We also honor these late, great Africans whose contributions and leadership made us proud during their time on this planet:

Miriam Makeba – A South African singer and civil rights activist, Makeba is often known as Mama Africa. Born in Johannesburg, Makeba testified against South Africa's apartheid policy in 1963 before the UN only to have her South African citizenship revoked. However, in 1990, Nelson Mandela convinced her to return home.

Stephen Biko – An active opponent of apartheid in South Africa during the 1960s and 1970s, Biko strove to empower black urbanites through the Black Consciousness Movement. He coined the famous saying “black is beautiful,” which still holds resonance today. After dying in police custody, Biko became a martyr for the anti-apartheid movement.

Julius Nyerere – The first president of Tanzania, Nyerere was a teacher prior to entering politics. Called “Father of the nation,” Nyerere travelled the country to raise support from local tribal chiefs for independence. Because of his honesty and charisma, Nyerere was able to attain freedom for his country without war or violence.

Houari Boumedienne – In 1965, just three years after Algeria declared independence from French rule, Boumedienne seized power in a non-violent coup. Boumedienne industrialized Algeria and used oil production to fuel economic growth. Pursuing a neutral foreign policy, Boumedienne maintained good relationships with both the communist and capitalist nations and promoted global cooperation. He was renowned for his integrity.

Leopold Sedar Senghor – A poet and intellectual, Senghor served as the first president of Senegal for twenty years. He was also the first African to serve as a member of the Academie Française. As founder of the Senegalese Democratic Bloc, Senghor is regarded as one of the most significant African thinkers of the twentieth century.

Thomas Sankara – A coup in 1983 made Sankara president of Burkina Faso at only 33. During his presidency, Sankara improved women’s status by making them an active part of his government. A revolutionary, Sankara sold the entire government fleet of Mercedes vehicles and made the Renault 5 the official service car.

Patrice Lumumba – An African anti-colonial leader, Lumumba aided his country in fighting for independence from Belgium in 1960. He was the first elected Prime

Minister of the Republic of the Congo. Unfortunately, he only served 10 weeks in this position before a military coup resulted in his imprisonment and subsequent controversial murder.

Habib Bourguiba – The founder and first president of Tunisia, Bourguiba enacted several modernist policies during his term. Improving education was paramount for Bourguiba, but he also implemented several policies to expand women’s rights.

Gamal Abdel Nasser – The second President of Egypt, Nasser directed the Egyptian Revolution in 1952 and industrialized Egypt. Famous for his nationalist policies and anti-colonial sentiments, Nasser inspired countless revolutions in other African countries. The Arab populations of Africa view Nasser as an icon of Arab nobility and independence.

Ahmadou Ahidjo – After Cameroon gained independence in 1960, Ahidjo became the nation’s first president. Despite dictatorial leanings, Ahidjo’s unitary rule gave Cameroon purpose and strength. Slightly more conservative than fellow African leaders, Ahidjo established Cameroon as one of Africa’s most stable and prosperous countries.

S. B. J. Oshoffa – Born in Benin, Oshoffa was led by a traumatic experience to form the Celestial Church of Christ. Called the Prophet, Reverend, Pastor, and Founder, Oshoffa was the supreme head of the church and possessed unchallengeable religious authority. However, his death in 1985 created succession of power conflicts in the church.

Hassan al-Banna – An Egyptian reformer, al-Banna founded the hugely successful Muslim Brotherhood. Based in Islam, the brotherhood confronts issues of colonialism, healthcare, education, nationalism, and even natural resource allocation. The broad appeal of the grassroots movement and issues enabled al-Banna to develop a large and loyal membership base for the brotherhood.

4 Super States: A Snapshot

Super State #1: **NIGERIA**

Proposed capital: **Casablanca**

Head of State Profile: **Ellen Sirleaf Johnson** (President of Liberia)

Prime Minister Profile: **Othmane Benjelloun** (Moroccan businessman)

Tagline: **Full of Life**

Member States

Nigeria – Occupied by humans since 9000BC, Nigeria has over 150 million people and is the most populated country in Africa. Home to post-colonial author Chinua Achebe, Nigeria has a rich cultural history. In 2008, Nigeria's music received international recognition when MTV broadcasted the first African Music Awards program from Abuja.

Morocco – The only African country not a member of the African Union, Morocco is home to the famous city of Casablanca. Rich in biodiversity, Morocco contains over 456 different bird species. Moroccan cuisine is considered one of the most diversified in the world, with the ever-popular couscous being a very prevalent recipe.

Mauritania – Covered in desert, Mauritania is the newest oil-producing African country although extracting it may prove expensive. Straddling both the Arab and African worlds, Mauritanian culture reflects these duelling influences. Beauty in

Mauritania is closely linked to obesity with many young girls being “force fed” to reach an unhealthy size.

Mali – Due to poverty, Mali struggles to provide sanitation for its people, many of which lack access to safe drinking water. Religion is important to Malians, and many practice their faith daily. Malian music has gained global attention recently through the blind singing couple Amadou and Mariam, who combine traditional Malian songs with modern influences.

Senegal – In Senegal, marabouts—Muslim religious leaders—exercise great influence over the political process. However, Senegal is often cited as one of the best examples of political post-colonial transition. Because of the fame of the mblax, a percussion instrument, Senegalese music is one of the most recognized in Africa.

Gambia – Since winning independence from the UK in 1965, Gambia has benefited from relative political stability. Because of access to the Gambia River, Gambia was originally established as a slave trading colony by the Portuguese. The smallest country on the African continent, Gambia is less than 48 km at the widest point.

Cape Verde – All of Cape Verde’s islands are volcanic in origin, some of which are still active. After experiencing economic growth, Cape Verde was promoted to a “developing” country in 2007. Cape Verde music incorporates various cultural influences with the most popular style being the “morna,” which is a sad and lyrical song.

Guinea Bissau – After an arduous war destroyed its infrastructure, Guinea Bissau achieved independence from Portugal in 1974. At risk of becoming a “narco state” due to drug trafficking, Guinea Bissau is struggling to implement economic

and structural reforms. Interestingly, songs in Guinea Bissau tend to be humorous and reflect current events and controversies.

Guinea – Often labelled Guinea-Conakry, Guinea has over 24 ethnic groups. Rich in minerals, Guinea possesses a quarter of the world’s bauxite reserves in addition to iron, diamonds, and gold. Despite the popularity of football and swimming, table tennis is Guinea’s national sport.

Liberia – Founded by freed US slaves, Liberia has one of Africa’s most unique histories. The inhabitants brought their love of needle art to Liberia, and Martha Ricks even presented a quilt to Queen Victoria in 1892. After experiencing a military coup in 1980, Liberia’s economy was devastated but is slowly recovering.

Sierra Leone – Home to the third largest harbour in the world, Sierra Leone is best known for the “blood diamonds” sold during its civil war. Sierra Leone protects religious freedom, and unlike other countries in Africa, religious differences rarely lead to problems. Football is by far the most popular sport in Sierra Leone.

Côte d’Ivoire – Originally called by its English translation “Ivory Coast”, Côte d’Ivoire requested to be known by its French name. The most common language is Dyula, which is used for conversation and trade. As one of the most successful African nations, Côte d’Ivoire is home to many migrant workers from neighbouring countries.

Burkina Faso – Renamed “the land of upright people,” Burkina Faso has one of the world’s lowest GDPs with agriculture occupying 80% of the workforce. Because only 25% of the population is literate, the government implemented a series of educational incentives to increase rates. Due to illiteracy, literature in Burkina Faso is still preserved orally.

Ghana – Geographically the closest country to the centre of the world, Ghana is rich in natural resources. With one of the most free media environments in Africa, Ghana guarantees protection of the press's independence. Although more than 250 different languages are spoken in Ghana, English dominates for business, government, and education.

Togo – A rural nation, Togo has no recorded history before the arrival of the Portuguese in the 1400s. Despite Christian and Muslim influences, over half the Togolese follow traditional animist practices. In 2008, Benjamin Boukpeti won the first Olympic medal for Togo in the K1 Kayak Slalom.

Benin – Hot and humid, Benin relies on agriculture but hopes to attract foreign investors and tourists. Recently, Benin introduced an initiative to reform healthcare. After gaining independence, Benin's music scene exploded with big stars like Angelique Kidjo creating energetic and ground-breaking sounds.

Niger – While 80% is currently covered by the Sahara Desert, Niger was once fertile grasslands 5,000 years ago. Abundant in natural uranium deposits, Niger also exports crafts and animal hides. Niger has the highest infant mortality rate but also the highest fertility rate in women.

Cameroon – Settled in the Neolithic period, Cameroon was home to a hunter/gatherer culture for several centuries. To combat corruption in the modern government, its officials have created several anti-corruption organizations. With over 200 ethnic groups, Cameroon is known for its native music, *makossa* and *bikutsi*.

Sao Tome – An island nation named for Saint Thomas, Sao Tome has the second lowest population in Africa. Uninhabited prior to its discovery by the Portuguese, Sao Tome was originally intended to be an island for sugar production. *Tchiloli*—a dramatic, story-telling dance—is a very popular pastime in Sao Tome.

Equatorial Guinea - comprises two parts: a continental region and an insular region where the capital Malabo is situated. Among the largest oil producers in Africa.

Super State #2: EGYPT Proposed capital: Alexandria Head of State Profile: Seif el Islam (Libyan political leader) Prime Minister Profile: Naguib Sawiris (Egyptian telecoms billionaire) Tagline: Birthplace of Civilization

Member States

Egypt – Land of the pharaohs and home to the enigmatic sphinx, Egypt has captivated the hearts of nations across the globe. A predominantly Muslim nation, religion is an important element of Egyptian culture. Due to Egypt's arid climate, 99% percent of the population uses only 5.5% of the country's total area.

Algeria – Exporting fossil fuels is the backbone of the Algerian economy, accounting for 60% of budget revenues. Algeria has the strongest military force in North Africa. Interestingly, the most popular sport is football (soccer) with the 1982 victory over West Germany being a great source of national pride.

Tunisia – Despite declaring Islam the national religion, Tunisia promotes religious tolerance and protects religious freedom in its constitution. A peaceful nation, Tunisia devotes more funding to national education than to military spending. However,

during WWII, Tunisia was the site of the first operations by Allied forces against the Axis powers.

Libya – Libya’s national flag symbolizes a green field, making it the only country in the world whose flag is a single colour. Covered in 90% desert, Libya has one of the highest GDPs in Africa due to its petroleum reserves and low population. Folk dancing and music are important aspects of Libyan culture.

Chad – Called “the dead heart of Africa,” Chad is a desert nation with 80% of its population living in poverty. With more than 200 distinct ethnic groups, Chad is a culturally and religiously diverse country. In 1964, the Chari Jazz jumpstarted Chad’s music revival by combining contemporary and traditional musical styles.

Sudan – Criticized for the crisis in its Darfur region, Sudan had strong ties to Ancient Egypt but has been plagued recently by civil wars. Even with domestic conflicts, Sudan’s economy has flourished due to improved oil production. Despite being an Islamic country, many Sudanese still follow indigenous and tribal religious practices.

Eritrea – Formerly the site of a healthy elephant population, Eritrea has taken a proactive environmental stance and has extended government protection to the entire coastline. Culturally heterogeneous, there’s no official language or religion in Eritrea. The “Tour of Eritrea,” a cross-country bicycle race, is its most popular sport.

Djibouti – A small country with 500,000 people, Djibouti has strong nomadic roots, and many of its stories and songs are conserved orally. With an unemployment rate of 40 to 50%, Djibouti is fighting to repay national debt. Two thirds of its citizens live in the capital city; the rest are pastoral herders.

Ethiopia – One of the oldest countries in the world, Ethiopia was the home of Lucy, the oldest and best-preserved human fossil. Despite years of war, Ethiopia has one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Running is a favourite sport with many Ethiopian athletes receiving Olympic gold medals.

Super State #3: **KENYA**

Proposed capital: Zanzibar

Head of State Profile: **Jakaya Kikwete** (President of Tanzania)

Prime Minister Profile: **Graça Machel** (Mozambican activist)

Tagline: **Nature's Paradise**

Member States

Kenya – Named after Mount Kenya, the second highest mountain peak in Africa, Kenya is ethnically diverse with many Kenyans speaking both English and Swahili. Due to the country's tribal history, most Kenyans also speak the dialect of their mother tribe. Researchers have excavated crocodile fossils from Kenya that are over 200 million years old.

Somalia – With the longest coastline in Africa, Somalia is one of the few African nations composed of a single racial group—the Somali. Because of clan allegiances, political strife and war plague Somalia. After the collapse of central government in 1991, Somalia privatized education, and enrolment increased 28% in three years.

Tanzania – In 1964, Zanzibar and Tanganyika united to form Tanzania. Home to the famous Mount Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti, Tanzania has varied wildlife, including bovids which participate in a massive migration during the dry season. Although there is no official language, Swahili is most commonly used for official matters.

Mozambique – Explored by Vasco Da Gama and colonized by Portugal, Mozambique was hailed as the new route to the east. Gaining independence from Portugal in 1975, Mozambique experienced one of the largest repatriations in 1995 when 1.7 million Mozambican refugees returned. To thwart poverty, Mozambique's minimum salary is \$60 per month.

Madagascar – The world's fourth largest island, Madagascar contains 5% of the world's plant and animal species. Created by a split from Africa 160 million years ago, Madagascar was settled by humans between 200 and 500 AD. Many Malagasy incorporate beliefs emphasizing the connection between the living and dead into their religious practices.

Comoros – With a very small national army and police force, Comoros relies on a defence treaty with France for protection and military training. An agricultural country, over a third of Comorians work in fishing, hunting, or forestry. French, Arabic, and Comorian—a relative of Swahili—are the official languages of the Comoros.

Mauritius – The only known home of the extinct dodo, Mauritius is an example of the fragility of island ecosystems. With sugar cane occupying 90% of fertile land, over 25% of Mauritius's export revenues derive from its sale. Recently, the government focused on attracting foreign investors, resulting in a billion dollar banking industry.

Seychelles - Sighted by Vasco Da Gama, Seychelles was originally an uninhabited island used for trading between Africa and Asia. The richest country in Africa, Seychelles thrives on tourism with 30% of its workforce employed in this sector. Seychelles is a matriarchic society with mothers being the leading influence in the household.

Super State #4

KONGO

Proposed capital: **Cape Town**

Head of State Profile: **Ian Khama (President of Botswana)**

Prime Minister Profile: **Helen Zille (Mayor of Cape Town)**

Tagline: **Heart of Africa**

Member States

Central African Republic – The people of the Central African Republic (CAR) were not exposed to the outside world until the 1800s when peaceful Muslim traders arrived. After declaring independence in 1960, CAR has seen several violent coups. Due to heavy foreign aid dependence, CAR has been described as a country hooked to an intravenous machine.

Gabon – The first inhabitants of Gabon were Pygmies who were later taken in by the Bantu tribes. Because of its rich folklore, Gabon has mostly oral traditions and mythologies. Gabon recently announced an ambitious forest preservation project.

Congo (Brazzaville) – Because of the enslavement of the Pygmies by the Bantu, the Congo attracted the attention of human rights activists and UNICEF. The Congo is home to an estimated 125,000 gorillas whose population has been preserved by isolation from humans. The two dominant religions of the Congo are Catholicism and Animism.

Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa) – Receiving up to 80 inches of rain per year, the Democratic Republic of Congo, known as DRC, is home to the second largest rain forest in the world. In 2002, Mount Nyiragongo erupted and remains an active volcano today.

Uganda – With forty regularly used languages, Uganda has no dominant ethnic groups. A predominantly Christian nation, Roman Catholicism enjoys the largest following. After the end of the civil war in 1986, Uganda implemented policies to decrease the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, effectively reducing the number of infected people from 18.5% to 5%.

Rwanda – Entitled “Land of a Thousand Hills,” Rwanda is a lush country perfect for agriculture. Since the genocide of 1994, Rwanda rebounded and in 2008 became the first country in the world to elect a predominantly female legislative body. Tourism is booming with many people visiting to see the mountain gorillas.

Burundi – One of the ten poorest countries in the world, Burundi has low GDP due to civil wars, corruption, and HIV/AIDS. To assist Burundians displaced by civil war, the US accepted 10,000 refugees in 2006. Both drumming and basket weaving are important aspects of Burundian culture.

Angola – Despite the national motto “Virtue is stronger when united,” Angola suffered from civil wars and guerrilla conflicts after winning independence from Portugal in 1975. Recently, Angola’s economy has experienced a period of growth because of its two main exports: oil and diamonds. Portuguese language and religion pervade Angolan culture.

Namibia – The second least densely populated country in the world, Namibia contains both the Kalahari Desert and the Succulent Karoo. Because of its varied ecology, Namibia attracts eco-tourists with many people travelling to experience the

parks and zoos. AIDS is a problem in Namibia with roughly 200,000 people living with the disease.

Zambia – Zambia is home to the spectacular waterfalls of the Zambezi River. The official language for business and education is English although indigenous languages are widely spoken. Because its independence was declared on the closing day of the 1964 Olympics, Zambia became the first nation to leave the games as a different country.

Malawi – An agricultural country, Malawi's economy has been dependent on aid from both the World Bank and donations from individual nations. An underdeveloped nation, Malawi struggles with HIV/AIDS with 250 people becoming infected with the disease each day. Dance is an important part of Malawi culture as is poetry and song.

Zimbabwe – Zimbabwe, whose name derives from a Shona phrase meaning “great houses of stone,” has the lowest life expectancy in the world. However, the adult literacy rate is at 90%, which is one of the highest in Africa. Zimbabwe athletes have won eight Olympic medals, mostly in swimming.

Botswana – Despite having 70% of its area covered by the Kalahari Desert, Botswana has varied wildlife environments. After gaining independence, Botswana converted itself from one of the poorest countries in the world to a middle-income country on par with Mexico or Turkey. The card game bridge is incredibly popular in Botswana.

Lesotho – The only nation in the world to sit above 3,300 feet, Lesotho's primary natural resource is water. Through the High Land Water Project, water is transported from the Orange River system into South Africa. Suffering from an HIV epidemic, statistics estimate that life expectancy is only 37 in Lesotho.

Swaziland – With artifacts dating back to the Stone Age and prehistoric rock art from 25,000 BC, Swaziland has a rich human history. Traditionally, the king of Swaziland rules with his mother or a ritual substitute, who provides spiritual and national counterbalance to the king. The annual 8-day Reed Dance is Swaziland's most renowned ethnic event.

South Africa – After suffering for years under apartheid, South Africa finally realized racial equality when formerly imprisoned social activist Nelson Mandela led South Africa to its first multi-racial presidential election. Considered mega-diverse, South Africa contains 10% of the world's plant species. South Africa is the site of the first human heart transplant.

Conclusion: A Call to Action

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.

Robert F. Kennedy, American Statesman, 1925-1968



If you agree with the diagnosis and see some merit in the Super States approach, please visit the companion website at www.FixingAfrica.com to add your input to the debate and join our global movement for real change in Africa.