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The Impacts of European Colonial Terrorism on Africans

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EUROPEAN COLONIAL TERRORISM AND THE INCORPORATION OF AFRICA INTO THE CAPITALIST WORLD SYSTEM

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INTRODUCTION

❖ 1) Explaining how the slave system and colonial orders were established in Africa through state-sponsored terrorism

❖ 2) Conceptualizing and theorizing terrorism

❖ 3) Identifying two waves of terrorism: racial slavery and colonialism

❖ 4) Consequences of European terrorism on Africa

Toward Defining and Theorizing Terrorism- 1

❖**The need for providing a more comprehensive and broader definition of terrorism**

❖**I define terrorism as** *a systematic governmental or organizational policy through which lethal violence is practiced openly or covertly to impose terror on a give population group and their institutions or symbols or their representative members to change their behavior of political resistance to domination or their behavior of domination for political and economic gains or other reasons.*

Toward Defining and Theorizing Terrorism- 2

❖ Terrorism can be practiced by state or non-state actors; however, the former is capable of engaging in higher levels of terrorism

❖ Most scholars from right and left have avoided to deal with the issues of state-sponsored terrorism

❖ The emergence of the nation-state with the development of capitalism had increased the organizational and technological capacity of the state to engage in terrorism

Toward Defining and Theorizing Terrorism- 3

❖ As capitalism developed, the need for free or cheap labor, raw materials, minerals increased to reduce the cost of production and maximize the profit margin

❖ Terrorism was mainly employed to obtain free labor via racial slavery and to separate the owners of the means of production from their resources through systematic coercion – colonialism

❖ The terrorist attack on indigenous peoples and their institutions increased

The First Wave of Terror: Merchandising Africans - 1

❖ The practice of attacking, raiding, capturing, and owing human beings, as well as the dispossessing of the lands of African peoples involved colonial terrorism

❖ Between 13 and 15 million Africans were merchandised by European and Arab slave traders and their African collaborators. These slaves worked on plantations, farms, and mining freely

❖ Mercantilism and technological knowledge to build ships and making cannons enabled countries like Portugal, Spain, England, France, the Netherlands to engage in colonial terrorism

The First Wave of Terror: Merchandising Africans - 2

- ❖ While merchandising through terror, the slavers were claiming that they were promoting Christianity, civilization, and modernity
- ❖ Realizing the inhumanity and barbarism of the slavers, Africans were even terrorized by seeing Europeans: "All slaves trembled in terror at meeting white cannibals …. They feared the whites' intention of converting African brains' into cheese or rendering the fat of African bodies into cooking oil, as well as burning their bones into gunpowder."
- ❖ Millions Africans were destroyed through war, diseases, and destruction of institutions

The Second Wave of Colonial Terrorism - 1

❖ This colonial wave started in the first half of the 19th century; initiated by Portugal and France; Portugal terrorized and conquered African costal areas, including Angola

❖ Between 1830 and 1845, the French Army engaged in terrorism, setting fires, "smoking … men, women and children to death" in Algeria; France massacred between 500,000 to 1 million from approximately 3 million

The Second Wave of Colonial Terrorism - 2

❖ The Dutch, Spain, England, Italy, Germany, and Belgium also terrorized and colonized different parts of the African continent; they destroyed African institutions, cultures, worldviews, and committed genocide

❖ Examples, the Germans exterminated the Herero and Nama peoples; the Belgium colonial terrorism caused "one of the great mass killings of recent history;" it was also "the vilest scramble for loot that ever disfigured the history of human conscience."

The Second Wave of Colonial Terrorism - 3

❖ The Europeans used African collaborators in their colonial projects; for example, Abyssinia/Ethiopia was formed as a neo-colonial state with the help of European powers; Ethiopia colonized Oromia

❖ Oromia "was ploughed by the iron and fire; flooded with blood and the orgy of pillage;" The colonization of Oromia involved "the theatre of a great massacre." (Martial De Salviac); The Oromo population was reduced from ten to five million during the second half of the 19th century

CONCLUSION - 1

❖ Through the practice of terrorism and genocide some European countries dominated the African political economies, enriched their countries and companies, and brought Africa under the domination of the European-dominated racialized capitalist world system

❖ Since slavery and colonization, the entire Africans have been exposed to various forms of violence, lost their independent leadership and institutions, and exposed to severe oppression and exploitation

CONCLUSION - 2

❖ Consequently, today the majority of Africans are suffering from absolute poverty, diseases, social and cultural crises, powerlessness, and underdevelopment

❖ Today, most African countries are ruled by military terror under the patronage of the West as well as China

❖ Almost all of the African leaders of neocolonial states have followed the footsteps of their Western mentors and led the continent into darkness