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Africa: the Impact and Challenges of Globalism
The case of the Sudan

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A) Prologue

Let us, at the outset, attempt a general definition of the term” Globalism”.
In the contemporary usage of the word, it is used as an idiom, i.e. as a technical term: it means the tendency of removing all types of barriers between nations, whether these barriers are of trade or culture or relating to international affairs between nations of the world. It is the tendency to create a global market, where individuals, capitals, goods, or services will more freely across the boundaries of national states, unhampered, as before, by laws relating to restrictions on monetary exchanges, for instance. The Would Trade Organization (W.T.O.) has laid down elaborate trade agreements to ensure the integration of national and regional economics into a universal ‘world economy, which will of course be dominated by the giant’s multinational and capitalistic companies of the world.

Another characteristic of Globalism, which is no less significant, is that relating to culture. The advocates of Globalism, most of them Americans, e.g. Fukuyama, and Samuel Huntington, and others, boldly state that, after the fall of the Soviet Union, Western Liberal Democracy and Capitalism have emerged as the ultimate victors, and
that this victory will never be revered. This is the end of history, according to Fukuyama(1)

The cultural dictum, that Western Liberal Democracy and the capitalistic free market economy, will be, and should be adopted universally, by all peoples of the world, be they western, or non western has been emphatically asserted by Fukuyama. Thus every body is urged to adopt the western way of life, especially the American way of life, so much so that many contemporary writers equate Globalism with Americanism. Not only should every body around the globe adopt western liberal democracy, but everybody is invited to adopt the American way of life, including the eating of the American hot meals of Mac Donald, the wearing of the blue jeans, and the watching of Western films of the cow-boys of the Wild West.

This is viewed by millions around the globe as threatening their cultural privacy, including the Latin European peoples of France. Italy and Spain, in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, people are very worried about thus cultural despotism of American Globalism.

Another aspect of American Globalism which is widely viewed as obnoxious is the economic philosophy tied with it, namely the philosophy of wild capitalism of Dafous Club, namely the advocacy of giving multi-national capitalistic companies free rein over world economy. This is called wild capitalism because it does not show any regard for the rights and interests of the working class, nor their legal rights and the financial privileges which they gained through a long civil struggle

(1) Francis Fukuyama. The end, History and the last. Man.
by their labor unions. The so-called wild capitalism refused to acknowledge these gained rights by the labor unions, in the western world, during the last five decades of the last century, A.D. This wild capitalism, widely viewed as allied with American Globalism, and championed by it, has given rise to one of the most violent, and widespread protest movements of the working-class masses, supported by the student and women unions, and by liberal leftist intellectuals in the United States of America, as well as, in Western Europe. This is the anti-globalism movement, sparked first at Seattle, U.S.A. Soon it spread across the major American cities, and also across Western Europe. Anti-Globalism demonstrations are now regularly organized every time there is a meeting of the Eight Industrial Countries, or whenever (W.T.O.) holds a meeting. Thousands of youth, workers, students and leftist intellectuals take part in these demonstrations, which are harshly dealt with by police forces.

The response of the multi-national companies to these anti-Globalism protests and demonstrations is indeed very disappointing. So far, they typically tend to undo and take to pieces their factories and industrial plants and reassemble them in countries of the third world, like India, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Jordan, etc., were labor force is cheap, and no laws exist to protect laborers against exploitation. Because of this phenomenon of transportation of this factories and industrial plants, Globalistic, multi-national capitalism to also called Jet Capitalism
B) The impact of Globalism on third world countries:

No less damaging is the tendency of globalistic economy to marginalize a the nation-states, by insisting on the free passage of capital goods and services provided for by these multinational giants. These nation-states are told:

i- not to place any restrictions on the imported goods, services or on the incoming individuals or capital.

ii- not to place any restrictions on the rights of these foreign investors to reside in any country, and enjoy the rights of purchasing land or property and the rights of establishing business of their own, without having to take as partners any of the local businessmen.

iii- not to place any restrictors the flow of foreign capital, inside or outside the country.

iv- not to levy any excessive duties, or taxes or any from of excessive fees on the imports, and not to bar any goods form entering the country.

v- Not to give the local agriculture produce, or industrial goods any kind of protectionism, the local products and produces must compete with their equivalent imports, totally on equal footing, and if the imports are cheaper or of better quality, then what is the point in insisting to produce locally these inferior goods or produces, because those can be
imported with better quality and cheaper prices from abroad.

C) The Impact and the Challenges posed by World Trade Organization (W.T.O):

The negative impact of (W.T.O.), on the African countries (and on the countries of third world, in general, for that matter) is huge! Any country which signs the charter of (W.T.O) has no right, either to prevent the import of any goods, from these developed counties, nor has the right o extend any form of protectionism over its national products, whatever they are! These products have to complete freely, in price as well as in quality, with the international market. Now, as the former Prime Minister of Malaysia Mr. Mahader Muhammad, had said, in a lecture delivered in the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, in 1999, after receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Khartoum.

“How can a lightweight boxer compete with a heavy-weight boxer? What chance does the light weight boxer have to win the boxing match?”

Presumably, by the heavy-weight boxer, Mr. Mahader Muhammad is referring to these wealthy industrial counties and their products, or to these giant multinational compares, with unlimited supply of capital, expertise, advanced technical know how, and mass-production by the lightweight boxer, he is referring to the poor undeveloped countries of the third world, especially the African countries, i.e. the Sudan.

D) The Impact and Challenges of the Stockbrokers and the Speculators
As amply demonstrated by the collapse of the money-markets of South-East Asia, in June-July of 1997, these stockbrokers and speculators pose a serious threat to the monetary and economic stability of the third world countries. Led by financial barons like Sauraus, these stockbrokers played havoc with the money markets of the Asian Tigers, especially Indonesia, which Mahader, said, in the lecture referred to above, had lost more than six hundred fifty billions dollars in a few weeks.

E) The Impact and Challenges of Globalism on Africa:

With the exception, maybe, of South Africa, the economy of other African countries is not typically a high-finance economy. The economy of African countries typically depends on production and exports of raw materials, minerals and oil (Nigeria, Algeria, the Sudan, etc.). For this reason,, and because of the nature of non-monetary economy of the majority of African countries the impact and challenges of Globalism take a different shape. The rich industrial countries have the following sinister objectives in dealing with these poor and underdeveloped countries.

1- they typically promote a policy which render the economy of these countries tied with and largely dependent on the economy of the rich, industrial countries, United States of America, European countries, Canada, Australia and Japan.

2- These poor countries are encouraged to borrow money from international money agencies, e.g World Bank, and the World Monetary Fund, on the basis of compound
interest, and usury. These poor countries, typically fail to repay their debts and thus fall easy prey to the indebtedors, which would use this failure to control, dominate and further exploit the poor African countries.

In order to be able to repay some of their debts, these poor and helpless countries are advised by the experts of the World Bank, and the World Monetary Fund, to borrow more money from them. The new loans (or at least a substantial part of it) will be paid to the indebtedors, straight away, and thus will have no relief effect on the worsening economic conditions of these countries. Thus the economic conditions of these poor African countries will be caught in a vicious circle borrow new loans, and struggle to repay some of the old installments out of an already exhausted economy in order to be allowed to borrow new loans. The end result is the total collapse of the African nation states, or be in a state of utter destabilization, and thus be coup d’état from time to time.

iii- thus, it would seem that the rich industrial countries have a permanent strategy to keep these African countries in a perpetual state of destabilization why? Because they want them to continue
- economically dependant on the West
- unable to develop local industries of their huge natural resources, so that they will continue to provide the Western companies and factories with cheap raw materials.
- will continue to be dependant on industrial nations food stuffs and provision suitable
markets for the capital goods, produced by these rich western industrial nations and food stuffs and Japan.

- Will continue to be dependent on stuffs and provisions from United States (especially wheat), Canada, Australia etc. It is indeed tragic that Africa, immensely rich in natural resource especially rain and rivers, should depend on the West for their food requirements, and be compelled to import wheat and other food stuffs from the west (e.g. the Sudan imports most of its need from wheat flour from USA, Canada and Australia, although it has been nicknamed the Grain Basket of the food of the world.

iv- these countries must remain weak and unindustrialized so that they will also continue to sell their oil to the western countries as they are oil-producing countries, like Nigeria and the Sudan. IF they go industrial, they will consume a substantial portion of their oil, or convert it into petro-chemical products, which will be of considerable higher prices, than crude oil. So, the oil producing countries must not go industrial, and continue to export their oil and gas in a crude from with cheap, affordable prices.

The French writer, Dr. Barnal Funa Tshiyiwa, Director of the African Bureau in the third World Research Forum, (France), has the following to say about the dependency of African countries on the West.

"The European / African relations have been characterized, since the beginning of Globalization, and even before that by the submission of Africa to the will
and decisions of European countries, and to the United States of America, in political, economic and cultural matters. The European and American hegemony over Africa has the major objective to keep it as mainly producer of agricultural and mining products and as dependent on the West for its food provisions\(^1\)

Thus Africa is destined to be a hind garden for the west (Europe and the United States of America and Japan producing cheap raw materials, and as a supplier of cheap energy. The West, in order to ensure these supplies, pushes very hard the efforts to westernize these African countries. But what hind of westernization do the West give to Africa countries, south of the Sahara. This is the kind of westernization, called by prof. Ali Al-Mazrui, Soft westernization.

Prof. Ali AL-Mazrui on Soft and Hard westernization:
Prof. Ali Al-Mazrui, of the University of Kenya, distinguishes between what he call Soft and Hard Westernization. By Soft Westernization, he means that kind of social and cultural developments, where African countries are persuaded to emulate the social and cultural habits and life – styles of the western countries.

- wearing Western costumes of suits, shirts, neckties, et,
- Eating park, hot and quick meals, like those of MacDonald.

\(^1\) Fakhri Labeeb: Clash of Civilizations or Dialogue of Cultures (Sidam AL-Hadarat or Hiwar Al Thaqafat) page 547. - published by Tadamon Press Cairo 1997.
• Drinking wine and enjoying western music and disco dances.
• Adopting western style of government, of democratic rule, but only in form and not in essence, consuming of western goods and commodities.
• Living in lavish and luxurious homes typically inherited from former colonial masters, according to Prof. Al-Mazrui, all these aspects of life are manifestations of Soft Westernization by Hard Westernization, Prof. Al-Mazrui means the introduction of advanced technology and industrialization, western administration and hard scientific knowledge, and scientific methodology.

Hard Westernization also means commitment the rationality and the scientific methodology. It also means accepting and applying the means, among other things, total committed to modern living, which means, among other things, the employment of the fruits of scientific endeavors, and discoveries, establishing a strong economy and a modern democratic state, which will establish the rule of law, and treat all citizens with respect, equity and justice.

Prof. Mazrui says that the west was keener to push and apply soft. Westernize and was not at all interested in working towards hard endeavors. Prof. Ali Mazrui says that in 1965 Ghana and South Korea were rough same level of social and economic development. But south Korea adopted
Hard- Westernization of building a strong hose of science and technology and successfully use that base to establish strong industrial economy that. Successfully transformed South Korea into one of the leading a sing ignores, whereas Ghana is still an agriculturally undeveloped country, with no industrial base!

F) The Sudan and the Impact and challenges of Globalism:

Being an Afro-Arab country with strong cultural lies to the Arab world, especially in the Northern states, the impact of Globalism, though keenly felt, was not as strong as it was felt in the south of Sudan, or in African countries, south of the Sahara. For one ting, Arabic and Islamic cultured is deeply rooted in the social fabric of northern Sudan. The popular Sufi orders, which have its firm root in the suit on more than fourteen centuries, since the very first century of the inception of Islam. Toward the end of the first century Hirate, the Muslims managed to establish a mosque in Dangla, the capital of the northern state in the Sudan. A Muslim Arab community sprang up protected by the best pact which the Arab Muslim commander, Abdullahi IbnAbi as Sarh, able to conclude with the Christian ruler of Dongla capital as AL-Magharah Dynasty. As a matter of fact, the Arabs entered the Sudan even before the advent of Islam. Arab Dederu tribe burst into the Sudan with camels' herds, long before the coming of Islam deriving by waves droughts that hit the Arabiau Peninsula, before the advent of Islam. They came through the eastern gate of the Sudan, though Sawakin port or where about Raman historians vesting the Sudan (known as Bilad as- Sudan (or land of the blacks)
as that time. Around the third and fourth centuries A.D. explorer, traveling in central Sudan, said he had encored Arab tribes with their herds around Shandi or alBajrawiyah.

From another perspective the rulers of the dynasty of Al Bajrawiyah had Arabic names. These rulers lived around the two or three centuries B.C. (before Christ). Theyere named

i- amani Shakhitu
ii- Amai Tayri

The name Amani is an Arabic name
Be that as it may, Sudan, ever Northern Sudan was exposed to western cultural during the colonial rule of the British, which lasted more than study years ( from 1890 to 1956 A.D) But despite this, western culture was not able to state deep roots in Arab and Muslim northern states of the Sudan. Northern Sudanese stuck to Islam and Arabic culture, so much so, that hundreds of poets and writers who used Arabic language as a medium of expression and speech.

Despite all these factors, which tend to minimize the impact of Globalzation on the Sudan, yet it cannot be said that the Sudan was ineffective by the strong winds of globalism:

i- for one thing, decades a modern, western English speaking education have had, as outcomes, an elite which is western oriental, and practically secular in its outlook.

ii- Fro another thing, more than half a century of British colonial
administration, with English favour and lasted.

iii- The continuation of the practice of sending young Sudanese University teachers and administrators to United Kingdom for further studies and training had a profound effect on the public life of the country. For a large number of Sudanese intellectuals, London in United Kingdom in general, is a second home.

iv- On the fourth ground, the Sudanese exports were tied with the British markets thus colon used to be exported mainly to un led kingdom and also ---- Arabic and vegetable oils, like sesame, and many other agricultural protects used be exported, mainly to the British, markets also imports used to be purchased from no united kingdom, specially cars, woolen textile martial, office equipments, agricultural machinery, especially traders and fertilizers and insecticides, etc liernes or trucks, also used to be unformed in UK, and various machineries all these imports tended to give the Sudan a distinctive British mode and style:

**G- The British over lordship of the Sudan:**

In general, the British continues to keep a close watch on the political, economical and ideological development on the Sudan. In all times, and all political
regimes of the Sudan, the British embassy in Khartoum, continued to have a substantial influence, sometimes visible, other times from behind the scene.

The British Policy towards the Sudan:

After the National Salvation Revolution, the British policy toward the Sudan, after the break of the al-Bashir led Revolution of the National Salvation Revolution (NSR) was mainly negative the British openly declared their opposition to the Islamic polices of (NSR) especially the introduction of the Islamic laws or of the Shariah, the British.

Parliament more than once, convene sessions to discuss events on the Sudan the London-based Christian Solidarity organization, led by Baron Cox, organized huge campaigns against the so-called Islamic fundamentalist government of Al-Bashir in some extended was the British who induced the American Administration------ a helpful position on the Sudan All these measures had an impact on the (NSR) Regime of at Bashier, and helped to modify its polices to a considerable extend:

- the expulsion of ben laden
- the wearing down of the Islamic quality of the regime
- The concussion of the Naivasha compressive race agreement (the CPA)
- Last but not least, the conclusion of the Abuja Agreement

These were all measures and polities, influenced by western lobbies and pressures on Khartoum, mainly British and American lobbies.
The Naivash comprehensive peace Agreement (C.P.A) was fore-shad owed by the American Non-Paper, produced by an American Strategic Research centre closely associated with the American foreign Ministry. These American Non-paper cheerily envisaged two largely authored almost independent form one and by political entities within nominally unified Sudan, the Northern states, under a federal system and a largely independent Southern Government owner the south as a unified region. This American non-paper was vigorously advocated by such intellectuals and dignitaries like:

1- Sayyed al-Khattib
2- Dr. Abder Rahman Ibrahim
3- Dr. Amin Hasan Omer
4- Ambassador Iris Muhammed Abdel-Gader
5- Ambassador Al-Dirdiry Mohammed Ahmed.
Likewise the Abaja accord was over seed by Ambassador Allan Gotty and the American Assistant under secretary of the ministry of state department

H-Epilogue:
Although at Bashier Regime started out as guided by an Islamic vision, and an Islamci invitational scheme of renaissance (AL-Mushruq al-Islami an – Vahdawi), yet it was indeed subjected tremendous pressures by western powers, especially USA united kingdom and the Igad Friends in general, the result of those pressures was :

i- a watering- down the Islamic quality of the regime

ii- a drawing closer to the American Axis, especially on the war on terrorism.
iii- The regime tried its best to please and appease the Americans, so much so, that it has been charged, by its critics that it has been practicing the policy of imbitah giving in too much to the American pressures.

The government (NSR) tried very hard to normally relations with USA especially the strived hard, but alass, with no success, to

i- Lift the American sanctions (economic and diplomatic)

ii- To lift the name of the Sudan from the lists of counties harlotry terrorisms.

iii- To resume full diplomacy relation and the exchange of full ambassadors but all that was to no avail

Subhanaka Alahuma Wa Bi Hamdika