

2006

"Race, Geography and Territorial Inheritance:
People of Black African, European and Chinese
Descent,"

Amadu Jacky Kaba, *Seton Hall University*

Name: jacky kaba

Message: paper

Race, Geography and Territorial Inheritance: People of Black African, European and Chinese Descent: A World Overview

By:
Amadu Jacky Kaba, Ph.D

Introduction

By the middle of the first decade of the 21st century, it appears that any major discoveries of new land or territory on the planet have already occurred. Researchers and discoverers of new lands now tend to focus their attention on other planets other than earth. Also, during this same period of the 21st century, inhabiting the earth are peoples of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. However, when one carefully examines the geographic locations of the various racial groups across the globe, one finds something very interesting. Compared to other racial groups (such as South Asians in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, Japanese, Koreans, Persians or Iranians, Central Asians and Arabs), blacks or people of sub-Saharan African descent, Gentiles or people of European origin and to a great extent, people of Chinese descent, tend to reside in higher proportions in more countries and regions of the world. Each of those other racial/ethnic groups mentioned above does not have tens of millions to hundreds of millions of their members residing outside of their native lands at this moment in history.

Of black Africans, Professor Ali A. Mazrui, the Albert Schweitzer Professor in the Humanities, State University of New York, Binghamton, in a lecture in Spain in 2003, pointed out that just as the sun never used to set on the British Empire in the first half of the 20th century, in the 21st century, the sun never sets on blacks or people of African descent, because they are spread out in significant to substantial numbers in many countries and regions across the world (Mazrui 2003). This means that a black African can leave Africa today and travel to the United States, Venezuela, Brazil or Bermuda and feel at home because of being among people that look like him or her. A European can leave Europe and travel to those same countries and also feel at home because of being among people there that look just like him or her. A Chinese man or woman can leave China and travel to Singapore or Malaysia and also feel at home because of being among people who look just like them. This means that these three racial/ethnic groups and their descendants will be inheriting most of the territories or lands of our planet.

The purpose of this paper is to contribute to the understanding of the dispersion of blacks, Europeans and Chinese across the world. This paper does not attempt to explain how each of these three groups came to be scattered across the world in such substantial numbers, or how each group abroad is helping its ancestral land (see, for example, Foote 2004; Kaba 2004ab, for some of those figures). Instead, it surveys the geographic locations and numbers and percentages of these three racial/ethnic groups in most parts of the world. Also, it is useful to note that these figures are just estimates to give us some understanding of the spread of these three racial/ethnic groups across the globe.

One must hasten to add that people of Israeli decent, who also are included among people of European and African descent, are perhaps more spread out across the world than the three groups being examined. However, because their overall population in the world is estimated at 13 to 14 million, this paper will only focus on blacks, Europeans or Gentiles and Chinese, partly because each group has tens of millions to hundreds of millions of their members living outside their native lands. Each group also has at least 1 billion people all across the world including their ancestral lands. For people of European descent, this paper will interchange the following words to describe them: European or whites. Let us briefly examine the spread of each of these three racial/ethnic groups across the world.

European Populations across the Globe

Among individual nations, the United States has the largest European origin population on earth. According to the U.S. Census, as of July 1, 2004, the non-Hispanic white population in the U.S. was 197.8 million (Bernstein 2005). It is important, to note that included in what is called the white population in the U.S. are people of Jewish, Arab or Persian descent, or someone who may come from a country such as Afghanistan is classified as white in the United States (Fields and Moore 2002).

country such as Argentina is estimated to have more than 10 million people of European descent (2005 CIA World Factbook).

The country with the second largest concentration of whites may be Russia. It has an estimated 143.4 million people as of July 2005 (2005 CIA World Factbook). The use of the word 'may' is that in Russia, there are still states or provinces with non-European populations.

Brazil, South America, has the third largest concentration of whites. Of its estimated 186 million people, as of July 2005, Europeans (include Portuguese, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish) comprised 54% or 100.44 million (2005 CIA World Factbook). The remaining larger concentration of whites or Europeans are found in Europe: Germany (82.4 million), France (60.6 million), the United Kingdom (60.4 million), Italy (58.1 million), Ukraine (47.4 million), Spain (40.3 million), and Poland (38.6 million).[1] It is useful to note that the above European nations do have some minority populations of different races and ethnicities from all over the world including their former colonies, but at least 90% of the people in those countries are people of European origin. Also, as of July 2005, the 25 nations of the European Union have a total population of 457 million (2005 CIA World Factbook).

Argentina, in South America, has a total population estimated at 39.5 million, with Europeans comprising 97 percent. Australia has a total population estimated at 20.1 million, with Europeans comprising 92 percent. Of the 43 million people in Colombia, South America, Europeans comprised 20 percent (2005 CIA World Factbook). In South Africa, as of July 2005, of the estimated population of 44.3 million, Europeans comprised 10 percent. There is also a significant white or European population in New Zealand, 70% of that country's 4 million people in July 2005. Iceland, as of July 2005 had a total population of 296,737, with whites or Europeans comprising at least 94 percent (2005 CIA World Factbook). Research by this author shows that as of 2003, there were at least 405 million (47%) whites or people of European descent in the Western Hemisphere, and that as of July 2001, of the total population of Latin America (from Mexico to Argentina) estimated at 490 million, whites comprised 182.7 million (37%).[2]

Black African Populations across the Globe

Blacks or people of sub-Saharan descent are just as spread out across the world as Europeans, and they live in many countries outside their native lands together. As of July 2004, there were an estimated 874 million people living in Africa, with the overwhelming majority of them being black Africans.[3]

People of Black African Descent in Latin America (Excluding the Caribbean)

The 22 countries/territories that make up Latin America (excluding the Caribbean) are among the most racially diverse regions of the world. As of 2001, research by this author shows that out of the estimated total of 490 million people in Latin America, whites made up 182,690,461 (37.3%), Mestizos {mixed race of Whites and Indians} 152,751,357 (31%), Amerindians 58,265,533 (11.9%), blacks 16,071,290 (3.3%), mixed {blacks mixed with Indians or with whites or Mestizos} 73,844,229 (15.2%), and other racial groups 7,217,685 (1.5%). If the definition of blacks in the U.S.[4] were used in Latin America, the black population would be at least 90 million (18.5% of the total 490 million people in July 2001).[5] Using the definition of a black person in the U.S., the countries in Latin America with significant to substantial black populations as of July 2005 were: Brazil, 45% out of 186 million; 36% of 765,283 in Guyana; 21% of 43 million in Colombia; and 4% out of 3.4 million in Uruguay (2005 CIA World Factbook).

People of Black African Descent in North America and Europe

Apart from Brazil, the United States has the largest black Africa population outside of Africa. As of July 1, 2004, there were 39.2 million blacks or African Americans in the United States (Bernstein 2004). In Canada, according to the 2001 Canadian census, of the 29,639,030 people in that country, blacks comprised 662,215 (0.022%) ("Visible Minority Groups, 2001 Counts, for Canada, Provinces and Territories,").

There are black African populations scattered across Europe, ranging from thousands to tens of thousands and more, but there is still no real count of them all. According to White (2002), as of 2001/2002, of the United Kingdom's total population of nearly 60 million, blacks comprised 2 percent. Conde (2000) notes that: "France is ... also a little black, since the population from sub-Saharan Africa we must add the nationals from the overseas territories...estimated to be between 340,000 and 500,000..." (p.2).

People of Black African Descent in the Caribbean

People of black African descent constitute the majority of the 24 countries/territories that make up the Caribbean. As of the year 2001, the total population of the Caribbean was estimated at 36.9 million, with an estimated 65% of this total population being black or people of black descent.[6] As of July 2005, the following Caribbean nations had these proportions of people of African descent: 98% of 2.7 million in Jamaica; 95% of the 8.1 million in Haiti; 85% of 301,790 people in the Bahamas; 62% of 11.3 million people in Cuba; and 58% out of 1 million in Trinidad and Tobago (2005 CIA World Factbook). Research by this author shows that as of 2003, there were at least 165 million (19%) blacks or people of African descent out of the estimated 862 million in the Western Hemisphere.[7]

People of Black African Descent in the Middle East

There is a significant black population in the Middle East, including Israel/Gaza, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. However, unlike Western countries or Latin American nations, countries in that region do not classify blacks separately. Ann M. Simmons reported for the *Los Angeles Times* about Iraq's black African population by pointing out that: "...some academics put the number of Iraqis of African descent at about 1%, though others believe that figure could be as high as 5%" (Simmons 2004: A-1).

People of Chinese Descent across the World

Although people of Chinese descent are not as highly dispersed in numbers across the world as black Africans and Europeans, there are tens of millions of people of Chinese descent outside mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong (or Northeast Asia, with over 1.3 billion people). Chinese people are scattered across the world, but the majority of overseas Chinese live in Southeast Asia.

From 1998 to 2004, there were an estimated 34.4 million Chinese living overseas, with 28 million (81%) in Asia alone in 1998. The following are estimates of the distribution of overseas Chinese in Southeast Asian nations: 62.5% or 2.650 million of the total population of Singapore in 2004; 24.5% or 5.691 million out of the total population of Malaysia in 2000; 13% or 8 million out of the total population of Thailand in 2003; 3.1% or 7.4 million out of the total population of Indonesia in 2003; 3% or 1.1 million out of the total population of Myanmar (Burma) in 2003; 2.9% or 177,500 out of the total population of Laos in 2003; 2.5% or 329,000 out of the total population of Cambodia in 2003; 2% or 1.5 million out of the total population of Philippines (no date provided, but the number is large enough to be noted); and 1.4% or 1.2 million out of the total population of Vietnam in 2003 ("Overseas Chinese," 2005).

In the Americas, there were an estimated 5 million Chinese in 1998 (14.5% of world total). In North America, they comprised 2.3 million or 1% of the total population of the United States in 2000, and 1.094 million or 3.64% of the total population of Canada in 2001. In Europe, there were an estimated 945,000 Chinese in 1998, including at least 150,000 in France. In 2001, there were an estimated 247,403 or 0.4% Chinese in the United Kingdom. In 1998, there were an estimated 126,000 Chinese (0.3% of world total) in Africa. There were an estimated 556,554 or 3% Chinese of the total population of Australia in 2001. In 1998, there were an estimated 564,000 Chinese in Oceania ("Overseas Chinese," 2005). The Chinese presence in Latin America is relatively low "...due to generally lower levels of Chinese immigration..." ("Chinatowns in Latin America," 2005).

Summary

These three racial/ethnic groups we have reviewed tend to be strategically dispersed across the world. They appear to be among the most privileged racial/ethnic groups in the world because they and their descendants are inheriting most of the land or territories due to their large numbers. Haiti, for example, is a very poor country not just in the Western Hemisphere, but in the world. The per capita GDP of Haiti in 2004 was estimated at \$1,500. However, as poor as those blacks of Haiti are at this moment, they still own their land (total area of 27,750 sq km or slightly smaller than the state of Maryland, USA).

In a future research, this author will focus on the black African and European populations across the world because they tend to reside together in relatively high numbers in many countries and regions outside of their ancestral continents. In fact, this author has observed that black Africans and Europeans outside their ancestral lands are more united than Africa is with Europe, and they are also joined or united in many countries or regions in three important and everlasting ways: Blood, Soil and Religion. We shall examine these convergences between them in a future research.

References

Bernstein, Robert. 2005, June 9. "Hispanic Population Passes 40 Million, Census Bureau Reports," U.S. Census Bureau. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

Canada Statistics. 2001. "Visible Minority Groups, 2001 Counts, for Canada, Provinces and Territories." <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/highlight/Ethnicity/Page.cfm?>

"Chinatowns in Latin America," 2005. Retrieved on September 2, 2005 from Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinatowns_in_Latin_America.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA): World Factbook. 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. Superintendent of Documents. Imaging & Publishing Support.

Conde, Maryse. 2000. "Are the Black British Setting the Example?" *Black Renaissance*, 2, (3):109.

Fields, Robin. and Moore, Solomon. 2002, July 31. "The Great 'White' Influx." *Los Angeles Times*, p.A-1.

Foote, Melvin P. 2005, August 16. "African Union's Diaspora Strategy: Mobilizing a Constituency for Africa in the United States," *Holler Africa!* Retrieved on Friday, September 2, 2005 at <http://www.hollerafrica.com/>

Kaba, Amadu J. 2004a. "Africa-U.S. Partnership in the 21st Century," 2004. *Chimera*, 2 (1), 18-25

Kaba, Amadu J. 2004b. "Africa's Migration Brain Drain: the Costs and Benefits to the Continent," 2004. *Chimera*, 2 (3):19-30.

Mazrui, A. A. 2003. "The African Experience in Politics and Culture: From Monroe's

Doctrine to Nkrumah's Consciencism." Lecture delivered under the sponsorship of the Center for Contemporary Culture of Barcelona, in Barcelona Spain, January 13.

"Overseas Chinese," 2005. Retrieved on September 2, 2005 from Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overseas_Chinese#Statistics
Simmons, Ann. M. 2004, January 17. "Back to Africa, From Iraq." *Los Angeles Times*, p.A-1.

"Visible Minority Groups, 2001 Counts, for Canada, Provinces and Territories," Statistics Canada. Retrieved on July 30, 2004 from <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/highlight/Ethnicity/Page.cfm?>

[1] Compiled and calculated based on data in the 2005 CIA World Factbook

[2] Compiled and calculated based on data in the 2002 CIA World Factbook.

[3] Compiled and calculated based on data in the 2004 CIA World Factbook.

[4] In the United States a person with black African blood is categorized as Black or African American. In the beginning of the 21st Century, however, that definition is beginning to change.

[5] Compiled and calculated based on data in the 2001 CIA World Factbook.

[6] Compiled and calculated based on data in the 2001 CIA World Factbook.

[7] Compiled and Calculated based on data in the 2003 CIA World Factbook.

Dr Amadu Jacky Kaba teaches at the Graduate Department of Public and Healthcare Administration, Seton Hall University. This article was originally published in African Renaissance

Articles published on this website are reviewed before publication, which means there may be a delay between the time you sent your article and its appearance on the website. Holler Africa! reserves the right to edit articles for style and length