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Race, Conquest and Revenge: Why Do Black People Resist Racial Revenge?

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Abstract

This paper claims that people of Black African descent resist racial revenge, including against people of European descent. The paper began by presenting data illustrating that millions of Black Africans were captured and transported to be enslaved through the Indian Ocean, Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Saharan, and Red Sea Slave Trades from the 1400s to the 1900s. Angola, Nigeria, Ghana, and Ethiopia are among the nations that lost at least one million of their members during this period. The paper presents several examples to substantiate this claim that people of Black African descent resist racial revenge. The paper goes on to present examples showing that although there have been negative implications of the enslavement of people of Black African descent and their resistance to racial revenge against Europeans, there are also important interrelated positive implications, including inheritance of fertile lands across the planet, wealth accumulation and the election of the son of a pure blooded Black African immigrant as president of the United States of America, making him not just the most powerful Black leader, but also the most powerful leader of the world in the beginning of the 21st Century.

Introduction

By the 1400s, what people consider Race (Black Africans, Asians and Europeans) was already visible or acknowledged. By the 1400s also, while wars or military conflicts still existed between ethnic groups within races, racial wars, conflicts or military attacks also became very prevalent and sophisticated. Of the three racial/geographic groups (Africans, Asians and Europeans), each representing one of the three Old World Continents (Africa, Asia and Europe), the Europeans came to possess in abundance the most sophisticated military weapons of mass destruction and used those weapons to go across continents to conquer, enslave or colonize the Black people of Africa, and Asians in Asia. In the New World (the Americas), Native Americans were also conquered and almost wiped out completely. As a result of these conquests by Europeans, dozens of nations or entities today in Asia and Africa attained their independence from European nations or powers. At the time when these Africans, Asians and Native Americans were conquered by Europeans, they were forced to work for the economic benefit of the European powers that conquered them (Mercantilism), resulting in them becoming wealthier and more militarily powerful.

By the beginning of the second decade of the 21st Century, almost all previously conquered nations or countries by Europeans in Asia and Africa have fought and successfully won their independence. However, there is deep resentment emerging from these once conquered peoples of Africa, Asia and the Americas and some of these formerly conquered peoples have been attempting to take revenge against Europeans: Suicide bombings specifically targeting people of European descent before and after September 11, 2001 in South Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, Indonesia, Central Asia, Europe, the United States, etcetera; kidnapping of people of European descent in Central Asia, Middle East, North Africa, Latin America and South Asia; and academic and intellectual confrontations from Asians, Africans and people of Native American descent against people of European descent all over the planet Earth, are all examples of the urge to revenge the humiliation and negative economic implications suffered as a result of European conquests.

One very important development (a phenomenon), however, although one can find deep mistrust among people of Black African descent (Nunn and Wantchekon, 2008), they appear to resist racial revenge (especially through their leaders), such as suicide bombings or military attacks against people of European descent or even people of Arab descent (who too conquered, colonized and dominated Black Africans) , even though the whole world is aware of the fact that they suffered the most brutal conquest from the Europeans, leading to enslavement of tens of millions or more of them in Europe and the New World for centuries (Bah, 2005, pp.76-83; Franklin and Moss, Jr., 1994; Kaba, 2007; 2008a, pp.3-6), and destructive colonialism in Africa for almost a century (Diop, 1991; Mazrui, 1986; Reader, 1998; Sowell, 1998).

This paper presents explanations as to why the Black African race resists, and continue to refuse to take racial revenge such as suicide bombings and violent armed attacks against people of European descent for slavery, colonialism and persistent humiliation in Africa and the New World? This is a phenomenon that needs some examination. This paper begins by presenting data showing the distribution of Black Africans captured in Africa between the 1400s and 1900s through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the Trans-Saharan Slave Trade, the India Ocean Slave Trade and the Red Sea Slave Trade. Next this paper presents examples illustrating that people of Black African descent world-wide do not show hatred toward people of European descent despite being their victims for hundreds of years and have refused to take revenge or hold racial grudge against them. Next this paper attempts to present the factors responsible for members of the Black race refusing to take revenge against people of European descent. Finally, the paper presents the implications or consequences of this phenomenon. Let us now begin by examining the numerical distribution of the four types of slave trades of Black Africans between the 1400s and the 1900s.

Numbers and Distributions of Africans in the Four Types of Slave Trade

In this section we will examine data showing the distribution of Africans captured in Africa between 1400 and 1900, through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the Trans-Saharan Slave Trade, the India Ocean Slave Trade and the Red Sea Slave Trade.

Breakdowns of the Four Historical Types of the African Slave Trades: Between 1400 to 1900

It is a difficult and almost impossible task to come up with a precise estimate of the combined total number of Africans captured and enslaved through the four types of slavery mentioned. Moreover, it is also difficult to determine the exact number of Africans captured and enslaved through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. For example, the estimates of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade range from 9 million to 100 million (Kaba, 2008a, pp.3-6). For this paper, we will examine estimates presented by Nunn (2007, p.13) between 1400 and 1900.

Table 1 (in appendix; all tables in appendix) presents the estimates of Africans captured and transported for enslavement during the four types of slave trades for a list of 56 African nations. According to Table 1, a total of 15.68 million Africans were captured and transported between the 1400s and 1900s during those four different slave trades. Table 1 shows that the following 19 African nations lost at least 100,000 of their members through one or more of the four slave trades: Angola, 3,607,020 (23% of 15.68 million); Nigeria, 2,021,859 (12.9%); Ghana, 1,614,793 (10.3%); Ethiopia, 1,447,455 (9.2% of 15.68 million); Sudan, 863,962 (5.5%); Mali, 841,697 (5.4%); Democratic Republic of Congo, 766,515 (4.9%); Mozambique, 625,862 (4%); Tanzania, 534,826 (3.4%); Chad, 528,862 (3.4%); Benin, 456,583 (2.9%); Senegal, 376,926 (2.4%); Guinea, 350,149 (2.2%); Togo, 289,634 (1.8%); Guinea-Bissau, 180,752 (1.1%); Burkina Faso, 167,201 (1.1%); Mauritania, 164,434 (1%); Malawi, 125,431 (0.8%); and Madagascar, 125,275 (0.8%) (Table 1).

Table 1 also shows the total population of African nations as of July 2009, with the total for the entire continent estimated at almost 1 billion (998 million). It is useful to note that on per capital basis of their 2009 populations, Angola, Ghana and Benin appear to have lost a very high proportion of their members, 12.8 million, 23.8 million and 8.8 million respectively. Nigeria too lost over 2 million people but had a population of 149 million in 2009.

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade (Between 1400 to 1900)

According to Table 1, the following 12 African nations lost at least 100,000 of their members to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade between 1400 and 1900: Angola (3,607,020), Ghana (1,614,793), Nigeria (1,406,728), Democratic Republic of Congo (759,468), Benin (456,583), Mozambique (382,378), Guinea (350,149), Mali (331,748), Togo (289,634), Senegal (278,195), Guinea Bissau (180,752), and Burkina Faso (167,201).

Table 1 also shows that the following 9 countries lost at least ten thousand of their members during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: Republic of Congo, 94,663, Malawi, 88,061, Sierra Leone, 69,607, Cameroon, 66,719, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), 52,646, Madagascar (36,349), Gabon, 27,403, Gambia, 16,039, and Tanzania, 10,834 (Table 1).

Indian Ocean Slave Trade (Between 1400 to 1900)

According to Table 1, there are 6 African nations that lost ten thousand or more of their members during the Indian Ocean Slave trade: Tanzania (523,992), Mozambique (243,484), Madagascar (88,927), Malawi (37,370), Zambia (21,406), and Kenya (12,306).

Trans-Saharan Slave Trade (Between 1400 to 1900)

According to Table 1, there were 10 African nations that lost tens of thousands or more of their members during the Trans-Saharan Slave Trade: Ethiopia (813,899), Nigeria (555,796), Mali (509,950), Chad (409,368), Sudan (408,261), Mauritania (164,017), Senegal (98,731), Kenya (60,351), and Somalia (26,194).

Red Sea Slave Trade (Between 1400 to 1900)

According to Table 1, there were six African nations that lost ten thousand or more of their members during the Red Sea Slave Trade: Ethiopia (633,357), Sudan (454,913), Chad (118,673), Nigeria (59,337), Niger (19,779), and Kenya (13,490).

Regional Breakdowns of all Four Slave Trades

Of the 15.68 million Africans transported during these four slave trades, the Trans-Atlantic comprised 10,308,213 (65.75%); Trans-Saharan comprised 3,124,435 (19.93%); Red Sea comprised 1,305,404 (8.33%); and Indian Ocean comprised 939,504 (5.99%) (Table 2).

Utilizing the United Nations' regional classifications¹ of the countries grouped into each of the five regions of Africa (Eastern, Middle, Northern, Southern and Western Africa), of the 15.68 million Africans transported during these four slave trades, 6,634,714 (42.3%) were from Western Africa; 5,093,203 (32.5%) were from Middle Africa; 3,011,267 (19.2%) were from Eastern Africa; 936,137 (6%) were from Northern Africa; and 2,222 (0.01%) were from Southern Africa (Table 2).

Of the 10,308,213 Africans transported through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 5,221,415 (50.6%) were from Western Africa; 4,558,117 (44%) were from Middle Africa; 525,931 (5%) were from Eastern Africa; 2,135 (0.02%) were from Southern Africa; and 615 (0.006%) were from Northern Africa (Table 2).

Of the 939,504 Africans transported through the Indian Ocean Slave Trade, 932,196 (99%) were from Eastern Africa; 7,047 (0.75%) were from Middle Africa; 174 (0.02%) were from Northern Africa; 87 (0.01%) were from Southern Africa; and zero from Western Africa (Table 2).

Of the 3,124,435 Africans transported through the Trans-Saharan Slave Trade, 1,334,187 (42.7%) were from Western Africa; 900,444 (29%) were from Eastern Africa; 480,436 (15.4%) were from Northern Africa; 409,368 (13%) were from Middle Africa; and zero from Southern Africa (Table 2).

Finally, of the 1,305,404 Africans transported through the Red Sea Slave Trade, 652,702 (50%) were from Eastern Africa; 945,491 (34.9%) were from Northern Africa; 118,673 (9.1%) were from Middle Africa; 79,116 (6.1%) were from Western Africa; and zero from Southern Africa (Table 2).

In terms of the regional breakdown of the 2009 population of Africa, of the 998 million people on the continent in that year, 317,053,651 (31.8%) were in Eastern Africa; 292,744,702 (29.3%) were in Western Africa; 210,005,019 (21%) were in Northern Africa; 121,585,754 (12.2%) were in Middle Africa; and 56,406,762 (5.6%) were in Southern Africa (Table 2). Let us now examine each of these five regions of Africa.

Eastern Africa

Within Eastern Africa, of the 3,100,267 Africans transported in all four slave trades, 525,931 (17%) were through the Trans-Atlantic; 932,196 (30.1%) through the Indian Ocean; 900,444 (29%) through the Trans-Saharan; and 652,702 (21%) through the Red Sea (Table 3).

Middle Africa

Within Middle Africa, of the 5,093,203 Africans transported in all four slave trades, 4,558,117 (90.2%) were through the Trans-Atlantic; 7,047 (0.1%) through the Indian Ocean; 409,368 (8%) through the Trans-Saharan; and 118,673 (2.3%) through the Red Sea (Table 4).

Northern Africa

Within Northern Africa, of the 936,138 Africans transported in all four slave trades, 615 (.07%) were through the Trans-Atlantic; 174 (.02%) through the Indian Ocean; 480,436 (51.3%) through the Trans-Saharan; and 454,913 (48.6%) through the Red Sea (Table 5).

Southern Africa

Within Southern Africa, of the 2,222 Africans transported in all four slave trades, 2,135 (96.1%) were through the Trans-Atlantic; 87 (3.9%) through the Indian Ocean; zero (0%) through the Trans-Saharan; and zero (0%) through the Red Sea (Table 6).

Western Africa

Within Western Africa, of the 6,634,714 Africans transported in all four slave trades, 5,221,415 (78.7%) were through the Trans-Atlantic; zero (0%) through the Indian Ocean; 1,334,187 (20.1%) through the Trans-Saharan; and 79,116 (1.5%) through the Red Sea (Table 7). Let us now turn to examples demonstrating that despite this enslavement of Black Africans for centuries, they show no desire to take revenge against people of European descent.

People of Black African Descent and Their Resistance to Racial Revenge

As a racial group, people of Black African descent have suffered the worst humiliation and terrorization in many different forms at the hands of people of European descent. Even today people of Black African descent continue to be dominated by Europeans in Europe and people of European descent in the Old World (Africa, Asia and Europe) and the New World (the Americas). To a lesser extent people of Asian and Native American descent are experiencing their own share of domination by people of European descent, but there are many examples showing their visible resistance, including suicide bombings, kidnappings, physical confrontations and protests, armed military resistance and wars. People of Black African descent, however, including especially their leaders from almost all walks of life in the Old World and the New World resist such types of racial revenge, and instead prefer peaceful marches, legal law suits, peaceful reconciliation and religious/moral persuasion of people of European descent to stop humiliating and terrorizing them.

According to Mazrui (2006):

Cultures differ in hate retention. Armenians have been hating the Turks since the Armenian massacres in 1915-17. Africa has a short memory of hate. Nelson Mandela lost 27 years of the best years of his life in Prison. When he came out, he was prepared to have tea with the unrepentant widow of Hendrick Verwoerd, the architect of apartheid, begged white terrorists to stop their fasting unto death and thus laid the foundations of Black-White reconciliation. Before Mandela, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya was denounced by the British as “leader unto darkness and earth”, but emerged from jail an Anglophile eager to consolidate good relations with the former imperial power. Ian Smith unleashed a civil war on Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. He lived to sit in a Black dominated Parliament and to openly criticize the new Black government of the day (p.227).

Former President Nelson Mandela (1995) of South Africa points out that during the speeches he delivered immediately after he was freed from prison, he noted that: “no man or woman who has abandon apartheid will be excluded from our movement toward a nonracial, united and democratic South Africa...” (p.570). When there was serious tension in the air after a White South African assassinated a Black leader of the African National Congress (ANC), Mandela called for peace and obedience to the law:

Tonight I am reaching out to every single South African, black and white, from the very depths of my being. A white man, full of prejudice and hate, came to our country and committed a deed so foul that our whole nation now teeters on the brink of disaster. A white woman, of Afrikaner origin, risked her life so that we may know, and bring to justice this assassin.... Now is the time for all South Africans to stand together against those who, from any quarter, wish to destroy what Chris Hani gave his life for – the freedom of all of us (Mandela, 1995, p.608).

When European nations and the United States decided to start a war against the African nation of Libya and remove its leader from power in March 2011, the Black president of Uganda Yoweri Museveni, was reported to have published an article calling for a dialogue to resolve the war. In that article President Museveni specifically pointed out how Black and Arab revolutionary leaders took different approaches in their resistance toward the domination they experienced from people of European descent:

Sometimes Gaddafi and other Middle Eastern radicals do not distance themselves sufficiently from terrorism even when they are fighting for a just cause. Terrorism is the use of indiscriminate violence – not distinguishing between military and non-military targets. The Middle Eastern radicals, quite different from the revolutionaries of Black Africa, seem to say that any means is acceptable as long as

you are fighting the enemy. That is why they hijack planes, use assassinations, plant bombs in bars, etc. Why bomb bars? People who go to bars are normally merry-makers, not politically minded people. We were together with the Arabs in the anti-colonial struggle. The Black African liberation movements, however, developed differently from the Arab ones. Where we used arms, we fought soldiers or sabotaged infrastructure but never targeted non-combatants. These indiscriminate methods tend to isolate the struggles of the Middle East and the Arab world. It would be good if the radicals in these areas could streamline their work methods in this area of using violence indiscriminately.ⁱⁱ

The great late Black American scholar and Statesman, W.E.B. DuBois writes that: “the ideal of fostering and developing the traits and talents of the Negro, not in opposition to or contempt for other races, but rather in large conformity to the greater ideals of the American Republic, in order that some day on American soil two world races may give each to each those characteristics both so sadly lack” (1965, p.220).

Kaba (2009a) writes that: “On the issue of peace-making between Arabs/Muslims and the U.S., during his speech in Egypt on June 4, 2009, President Barack Obama said that: “For centuries, black people in America suffered the lash of the whip as slaves and the humiliation of segregation. But it was not violence that won full and equal rights. It was a peaceful and determined insistence upon the ideals at the center of America's founding” (p.105).

The prominent Black Caribbean American film Star and Statesman, Sidney Portier (2001) discussed why he does not allow humiliation of him and Black people by people of European descent lead him to become angry, hateful, confrontational, and develop the urge to take revenge:

The issue boiled down to why I wasn't more angry and confrontational.... As for my part in all this, all I can say is that there's a place for people who are angry and defiant, and sometimes they serve a purpose, but that's never been my role. And I have to say, too, that I have great respect for the kinds of people who are able to recycle their anger and put it to different uses.... Anguish and pain and resentment and rage are very human forces. They can be found in the breasts of most human beings at one time or another. On very rare occasions there comes a Gandhi, and occasionally there comes a Martin Luther King, Jr., and occasionally there comes a guy like Paul Robson or a guy like Nelson Mandela. When these people come along, their anger, their rage, their resentment, their frustration --- these feelings ultimately mature by will of their own discipline into a positive energy that can be used to fuel their positive, healthy excursions in life (pp.118 & 124).

Let us now examine some of the factors that have been responsible for people of Black African descent refusing to take revenge against people of European descent.

Factors Responsible for Why Black People Resist Revenge Against Other Racial Groups

What are the factors responsible for Black Africans or people of Black African descent resisting revenge against people of European descent? Among the factors responsible for people of Black African descent refusing to take revenge against people of European descent for their enslavement, colonialism and humiliation are: Age; Population (Numbers); Family/Blood Relations; Education; Religion; Deeper Knowledge of Europeans; Fighting in Wars for Europeans against Europeans; and Sports. Let us briefly examine each of these factors.

Age

Age is a very important factor that may be contributing to why people of Black African descent resist racial revenge. Usually the older a person is the more likely that he or she could remember negative experiences of the past. But a younger person might not have been alive for a long period to remember any major negative racial experience. This is the case especially with people of Black African descent—they are the youngest people in the Old World (Africa, Asia and Europe) and they are among the youngest people in the New World (the Americas or the Western Hemisphere). Black Africans in Africa are responsible for the median age of the almost 1 billion (998 million) people on the continent to be 19.8 years in 2009 (Kaba, 2009a, p.154). For the world in 2007, the median age was 27.4 years for males and 28.7 years for females (Kaba, 2009b, p.110). According to Velkoff and Kowal (2007), in 2006, of the 752,790,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa, 406,769 (54%) were 0-19 years old (p.30) and that the median age for sub-Saharan Africans was 18.2 years (p.36). Velkoff and Kowal (2007) also show that in 2006 only 9.7% of people in sub-Saharan Africa were 50 years or older; 32.3% in Europe; 30.1% in North America; 18.6% in Asia; and 17.1% in Latin America and the Caribbean (p.6). For African Americans, as of 2005, their median age was 30 years and 40.3 years for Whites.ⁱⁱⁱ

In the Caribbean, with at least 65% Black population, the median age in 2009 was 31 years (Compiled and computed from the 2009 CIA World Factbook). This substantial age difference between people of Black African descent and other racial groups results in very large numbers of them to have a different outlook in life, one free from the past racial domination. In his new book: *The End of Anger*, Cose (2011) deals with this important phenomenon, finding out that younger African Americans are not overwhelmed by past racial hatred. According to Cose (2011): "Those under forty were also more likely to believe that employers will treat them fairly, and some (19 percent of all respondents and 21 percent of those under forty) actually saw their race as an advantage ... 'when competing, professionally, against white peers with comparable educational credentials'" (p.64). Cose (2011) continues by writing that: "What is striking about ABC [A Better Chance] respondents, particularly those under forty, is their sense that race is simply not the huge barrier it once was. The mind-set---and indeed the creed---of this generation can be summed up as: 'Yes, there may be prejudice out there, but I am talented enough and tough enough to overcome it.'" (p.65; also see Glaser, 1997, pp.452-453; Mevorach, 2007, p. 209).

Population (Numbers)

The relative high fertility rate of Black Africans in Africa which has led to the vast increase in the numbers of people of Black African descent in the world can also serve as a factor as to why they resist racial revenge. This is because usually very large groups tend to feel less threat from other groups because of the reassurance of being a very large group, while people in smaller groups tend to be worried at all times because of fear of being wiped out completely. In 1950, there were 221 million people in all of Africa (Kaba, 2006a, p.42), and by 2009 it had increased by almost 780 million to 998 million.

According to Velkoff and Kowal (2007), the total fertility rates (number of children born per woman) in 2006 of the following sub-Saharan African countries were: Niger (7.5); Mali (7.4); Uganda (6.9); Somalia (6.8); Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of Congo each (6.5); Angola (6.4); Malawi (5.8); Nigeria (5.5); Mozambique, Rwanda and Zambia each (5.4); Madagascar (5.3); Ethiopia (5.2); Eritrea and Senegal each (5.1); Kenya and Tanzania each (4.9); Cameroon (4.6); Cote d' Ivoire (4.5); Central African Republic (4.4); Ghana (4.0) (p.14); and that the average for sub-Saharan Africa in 2006 was 5.3 (p.37). The total fertility rate for the world in 2006 was 2.59 children born per woman.^{iv} Kaba (2010a) points out that there is an estimated 1.2 billion people of Black African descent all over the world (p.42), third only to people of South Asian descent (Colonial India today over 1.535 billion as of July 2011: India, 1,189,172,906; Pakistan, 187,342,721; and Bangladesh, 158,570,535), and people of Chinese descent (over 1.337 billion) (Compiled and computed from 2011 CIA World Factbook), and ahead of people of European descent (1.1 billion as of 2003) (Kaba, 2006b).

Family/Blood Relations

Another factor responsible for people of Black African descent resisting racial revenge against people of European descent is that they have come to be related to them by blood or family. From Southern Africa to Europe, the Caribbean, to North America and Central and South America combined, there are now tens of millions of people of Black African descent who are also part European or carrying the blood of Europeans in them. So hurting a European could be hurting the blood relative of a person of Black African descent. For example, anyone who hurts the White relatives of President Barack Obama is hurting Barack too. In an article entitled: "The Blood and Family Relations Between Africans and Europeans in the United States," Kaba (2006c) contends that both European and Black Americans are related by blood due to living together since 1619 (also see Kaba 2010b). According to the 2006 CIA World Factbook, the mixed race proportions, including Black African and Europeans and other racial groups in the following countries were: Brazil, 38.5%; Columbia, 14%; Cuba, 51%; Dominican Republic, 73%; South Africa, 8.9 percent.

Education

One must not underestimate education, especially formal education as a factor contributing to why people of Black African descent resist revenge against people of European descent. What I mean here is that more education can be a factor as less education can be a factor. People who are less educated can be less aware of what happened to their ancestors, while those who are more educated might know about such past negative events of their group. For example, according to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) statistics, while the gross enrollment ratios for tertiary education (that is students who were suppose to enroll in college and were actually enrolled) in 2006 were 70% in North America and Western Europe combined (60% for males and 80% for females); 60% in Central and Eastern Europe (53% for males and 66% for females); 25% in East Asia and the Pacific (25% for males and 24% for females);

31% in Latin America and the Caribbean (29% for males and 34% for females); 22% in the Arab States (22% for males and 22% for females); 25% in Central Asia (24% for males and 26% for females); 11% in South and West Asia (12% for males and 9% for females), it was 5% in sub-Saharan Africa (6% for males and 4% for females) (Kaba, 2009b). In the U.S., highly educated Black professors and intellectuals are among the most bitter about the issue of the slave trade and slavery in the U.S. or the New World. So in this case their high level of education made them aware of the past in a more rigorous way thereby causing them a lot of anger and pain. In the U.S., in 2009, 19.3% of Blacks and 29.9% of Whites aged 25 and over were "College Graduates or More."^v

Religion

Religion has been a major factor for the resistance to revenge against people of European descent by people of Black African descent. Interestingly the two racial groups (Arabs and Europeans) who humiliated Black people the most have also influenced them the most through their religions, to the point that by 2009, over 4 out of every 5 Africans in Africa were not practicing their original/pure or traditional African religions. In 2009, of the almost 1 billion people in Africa (998 million), 435 million (43.6%) were Muslims; 411 million (41.2%) were Christians; and 117.7 million (11.8%) continued to practice original African religions (Kaba, 2009c, p.12). In the Western Hemisphere, again over 4 out of every 5 people of Black African descent are Christians. According to the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life (2008), 85% of Black Americans are Christians; 78% of Whites; and 78% of the total population are also Christians (p.40).^{vi}

Arabs spread Islam in Africa and although Christianity is a religion originally established by Jewish people after a Jewish man named Jesus Christ, it has been Europeans who have spread it among Black Africans and people of Black African descent. It is through Christianity and Islam that Black pastors and Imams teach Black people to be obedient and not take revenge against those racial groups who have enslaved, colonized and humiliated them. In the case of Black Americans Kaba (2011a) points out that Black pastors or religious leaders have enormous influence on them and tend to teach them to be peaceful and obedient: "They tend to share similar conservative ideals with White churches and both entities teach their members to be obedient within the mainstream society.... more religious Blacks were less militant in the mid 1960s civil rights period" (pp.16-17). Indeed, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and in Africa Bishop Desmond Tutu are perfect examples of this claim.

Deeper Knowledge of Europeans

Knowing someone or a group of people for a very long period of time can also cause you not to fear them and not to consider them very relevant even if they continue to hurt you. Within the past five hundred years, from South Africa, to Europe, to the Caribbean, to North America and to Latin America, Black people as a race have come to know Europeans better than any other racial group, because they have been living together for all of that period (almost 400 years in the U.S. alone). This includes cooking for them, cleaning their homes, taking care or raising their children, being play friends of their children, having romantic relations with them, in most cases forced ones, actually having sleeping rooms within the same homes owned by these Europeans ('House Slaves/Servants; a new film on this topic was released in the U.S. in summer 2011 called "The Help"), etcetera. As a result, there is nothing about the European that Black people do not know.

Fighting in Wars for Europeans against Europeans

If people of Black African descent had any intention of taking revenge against people of European descent, then Europeans themselves made that possible. That is because Europeans have used Black people to fight in so many of their wars just going back from the U.S. Revolutionary war, War of 1812 in the U.S., U.S. Civil War, World War I and World War II (Franklin and Moss, Jr., 1994). In all of these Wars, if Black people wanted any satisfaction from killing Europeans then they had their opportunities during those Wars because they killed as many Europeans as they could. Indeed, a big part of the reason why the hatred of Black people by Whites is still as high in the American South and the South's continuous anger against the Northern United States is that Blacks were given guns to kill Southerners during the Civil War (also see Faust, 2008). Today, Arabs, Central and South Asians who are in a very deep hateful war with people of European descent never had such opportunities to kill people of European descent and that is probably why many continue to fight them even at this moment.

Sports

Sport has been a contributing factor for people of Black African descent not to seek revenge against Europeans. Time after time the world has watched on television or listened to the radio as Black boxers defeat or dominate boxers of European descent, from Jack Johnson to Joe Louise to Muhammad Ali, to George Foreman.

People of Black African descent have also dominated people of European descent in major sports such as Soccer, Baseball, Golf (Tiger Woods), Basketball (Kaba, 2011b), American Football, and Track and Field (Bejan, et al., 2010) As a result, Blacks have had all of these opportunities to show their abilities to Europeans if that is what they wanted to prove and therefore will see no need to try to destroy them using weapons of mass destructions or suicide bombings.

Implications of Black People's Resistance to Revenge Against People of European Descent

What then are the implications or consequences when people of African descent resist revenge against people of European descent? Although one could provide many negative implications for this phenomenon, there are also interrelated positive implications. Some negative implications include the high disease rates in Africa; high death rate of Africans in Africa (Kaba, 2005) and Black baby girls and boys in the United States; high Incarceration rates in the U.S. for Blacks (Kaba, 2008b); low Gross Domestic Products of Africa due to unfair international trade; continuous Civil Wars in Africa; (Kaba, 2006a, p.60); large wealth gap in the U.S. (Kaba, 2011c); etcetera. For this section of this article, I will focus on some important interrelated positive implications. Some of the important positive implications of people of Black African descent's resistance to revenge against Europeans include: Relative peace in the Black world; Inheritance of land/territories worldwide and Demographic advantage; Wealth; and the Election of Barack Obama as President of the United States; Let us briefly examine each of them.

Relative Peace in the Black World

Their ability to resist racial revenge and make peace with people of other racial groups has resulted in relative peace for people of Black African descent all over the world. For example, Kaba (2009a) points out that compared with other racial groups, people of Black African descent all over the world tend to be experiencing relative peace and that three modern leaders of Black African descent have contributed to this peace. This means that Black people are not fighting in any major war with any other racial group right now. These "Three Wise Black Men" as Kaba describes them are: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (who made peace with the Europeans of the United States in the 1960s), President Anwar Sadat (who made peace with the U.S./Israel in 1978-1979) and President Nelson Mandela (who made peace with the Europeans of South Africa in the 1990s). All three of them are Nobel laureates for Peace (pp.104-106).

Even Europeans have acknowledged these three wise Black men as peace makers. For example, of the 15 people of Black African descent all over the world who have won a Nobel Prize, from the first, Ralph Bunche in 1950 to President Ellen-Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia and Liberian activist Leymah Gbowee in 2011, 11 (73.3%) of them won for Peace: Ralph Bunche (United States, 1950); Albert John Luthuli (South Africa, 1960); Martin Luther King, Jr. (United States, 1964); Anwar El Sadat, who had a Black mother from Sudan (Egypt, 1978); Desmond Tutu (South Africa, 1984); Nelson Mandela (South Africa, 1993); Kofi Annan (Ghana, 2001); Wangari Maathai (Kenya, 2004); Barack Obama (United States, 2009); and to President Ellen-Johnson-Sirleaf and Leymah Gbowee (Liberia, 2011). Three of them have won a Nobel Prize for Literature: Wole Soyinka (Nigeria, 1986); Derek Walcott, Saint Lucia (Literature, 1992); and Toni Morrison (United States, 1993). Finally, one has won a Nobel Prize for Economics, William Arthur Lewis (Saint Lucia, 1979). It is useful to point out that Toni Morrison and Barack Obama are the only native U.S. born Nobel Laureates alive in 2010.

Inheritance of Land/Territories Worldwide and Demographic advantage

As already noted above, if one carefully examines the spread of racial groups across the globe today, one would quickly observe that both people of Black African descent and people of European descent are the most spread out, actually residing on the ground together in these different parts of the world. This means that these two racial groups have inherited the vast portion of the territories of the planet from their ancestors. Indeed, today, among the most powerful and prominent individuals of all kinds are people of Black African and European descent who are not in the original ancestral lands, with over 220 million people of Black African descent outside of Africa. The relative young age of people of African descent put them in a favorable position to continue to inherit these territories or lands for thousands of years. In an article entitled: "Race, Geography and Territorial Inheritance: People of Black African, European and Chinese Descent: A World Overview," Kaba (2006b, January 16) claims that Blacks and Europeans and to some extent the Chinese are inheriting most of the territories of the world at this moment in history; that a Black African or European can travel to the following countries right now: Canada, U.S., Columbia, Venezuela, Bermuda, Brazil, etc. and will immediately be among people that look just like them or share their DNA. In an article entitled:

“Inheritance, Race and the Four Major Factors for the Unity Between African Americans and European Americans: Land/Territory, Blood/Genes, Religion and Language,” Kaba (2010b) points out that:

There is no American or human being in the United States or the world today alive 150 years ago. This means that American citizens today have inherited one of the richest territories in the world from their ancestors who inhabited the land before them. No other people have inherited such a wealthy and geographically diverse territory. In 1990, for example, the buying power of all Americans was \$4.27 trillion. By 2009, that figure increased to \$10.72 trillion. Apart from Native Americans, people of Black African descent and people of European descent are the oldest inhabitants of the United States, occupying the land together for almost 400 years. Both groups comprise at least 80% of the total population of the country. This paper argues that unity between these two racial groups is responsible for their economic success and leadership position in the world. The paper goes on to claim that four major factors have been responsible for the unity between Africans and Europeans in the United States: (1) Land/Territory; (2) Blood /Genes; (3) Religion (mostly Christianity); and Language (English) (p.93; also see Kaba 2004).

In Europe, by February 2011, it is noted that there were an estimated 3.5 million to 8 million people of Sub-Saharan African decent on that continent (Branger, 2008, p.5). In the United Kingdom alone, it is pointed out that as of April 2001, there were 1,148,738 Blacks in that nation (“Population of the United Kingdom,” 2004).

Wealth

As already noted that people of Black African descent and people of European descent have inherited most of the territories of the planet, that has resulted in their relative access to capital especially in the United States. For example, as of 2009, the buying power of Black Americans was \$ \$910.4 billion (Kaba, 2010b, p.93). In 2010 it increase to \$957.3 billion and is projected to increase to \$1.2 trillion in 2015 (“African-American Women in the United States,” 2011). In addition, there have been reports of Black billionaires in the United States, including Oprah Winfrey. There are also numerous Black millionaires in the New World and Europe. In the United States, according to the United States Census Bureau, in 2008, there were 584,000 Black alone households with incomes ranging from 100,000 to 250,000 or above.^{vii}

Election of Obama as President of the United States in November 2008

One can make a strong argument that had it not been for their resistance to racial revenge, Barack Obama, a son of a pure blooded Black African from Kenya, East Africa, would never have been elected President of the United States in November 2008. Kaba (2010a, pp.42-43) presents examples illustrating that President Obama is not only the most powerful Black leader ever, but also the most powerful U.S. president, partly because the country is at its most militarily powerful, and that he is in the position to know more top secrets than his predecessors. The same argument can made about the two Black governors in the U.S. (David A. Paterson of New York and Deval L. Patrick of Massachusetts) as of 2010. Kaba (2004) presents this account of people of Black African descent in powerful political positions outside of Africa:

Due to their large numbers in countries and regions outside Africa, blacks or people of African descent are gaining significant political and economic positions in those entities. For example, blacks (using the definition of a black person in the U.S.), tend to be major players or important officials in many different countries in the world.... In the United States, for example, the first George W. Bush administration had three blacks in top government positions: Secretary of State, Colin Powell, National Security Adviser (and Secretary of State nominee for the second Bush administration), Condoleezza Rice, and Secretary of Education, Rod Paige. Also, the 108th Congress of the United States, which took office in late January 2003, had 39 black members (9%) of the 435 total members in the House of Representatives... The 109th Congress of the United States has one African American Senator, Barak Obama, whose father was a Kenyan immigrant scholar in the United States. In addition, there is a black man, Clarence Thomas, among the nine members of the U.S. Supreme Court. In Brazil, Raymond Colitt reported in the Financial Times in May 2003 that, for the first time a black man, Barbosa Gomes, was appointed to the Brazilian Supreme Court....In the United Kingdom, as of June 12, 2003, there were two black cabinet ministers in their government. They are Baroness Amos, the first black woman cabinet minister, who was appointed as International Development Secretary in May 2003, and Paul Boateng, Treasury Minister, who became the first black minister in the United Kingdom’s history in 2002. There is also the influential Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, who has an African mother from Sudan. Kofi Annan, a Ghanaian, is the Secretary General of the United Nations as of July 2004 (pp.27-28).

In addition, in the Barack Obama administration, the Attorney General (Eric Holder) probably the second most powerful position in the country after the Presidency, is a Black man, and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations is a Black woman (Dr. Susan Rice).

Conclusion

This paper starts by presenting data illustrating that millions of Black Africans were captured and transported to be enslaved through the Indian Ocean, Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Saharan, and Red Sea Slave Trades from the 1400s to the 1900s. Angola, Nigeria, Ghana, and Ethiopia are among the nations that lost at least one million of their members. The paper goes on to claim that people of Black African descent resist racial revenge against people of European descent and other racial groups. The paper presents several examples to substantiate this claim. The paper then presents examples showing that although there have been negative implications of the enslavement of people of Black African descent and their resistance to racial revenge against Europeans, there are also important interrelated positive implications, including inheritance of fertile lands across the planet, wealth accumulation and the election of the son of a pure blooded Black African immigrant as president of the United States of America, making him not just the most powerful Black leader, but also the most powerful leader of the world in the beginning of the 21st Century.

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Endnotes

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Appendices

Table 1. African Nations with Members Captured and Transported Through the Indian Ocean, Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Saharan, and Red Sea Slave Trades, 1400s to 1900s, and Their 2009 Total Populations (N=56).

Country	Trans-Atlantic	Indian Ocean	Trans-Saharan	Red Sea	All Slave Trade	Population (July 2009)
Burundi	0	87	0	0	87	8,988,091
Comoros	0	0	0	0	0	752,438
Djibouti	0	5	0	0	5	516,055
Eritrea	..	..	..	..	..	6,647,168
Ethiopia	0	200	813,899	633,357	1,447,455	85,237,338
Kenya	303	12,306	60,351	13,490	86,448	39,002,772
Madagascar	36,349	88,927	0	0	125,275	20,653,556
Malawi	88,061	37,370	0	0	125,431	14,268,711
Mauritius	0	0	0	0	0	1,284,264
Mayotte	..	..	..	..	..	223,765
Mozambique	382,378	243,484	0	0	625,862	21,669,278
Reunion	..	..	..	..	..	743,981
Rwanda	0	0	0	0	0	10,473,282
Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	87,476
Somalia	0	229	26,194	5,855	32,277	9,832,017
Tanzania	10,834	523,992	0	0	534,826	41,048,532
Uganda	900	3,654	0	0	4,554	32,369,558
Zambia	6,552	21,406	0	0	27,958	11,862,740
Zimbabwe	554	536	0	0	1,089	11,392,629
Angola	3,607,020	0	0	0	3,607,020	12,799,293
Cameroon	66,719	0	0	0	66,719	18,879,301
Central African Rep.	2,010	0	0	0	2,010	4,511,488
Chad	823	0	409,368	118,673	528,862	10,329,208
Congo, Rep.	94,663	0	0	0	94,663	4,012,809
Congo (D.R.)	759,468	7,047	0	0	766,515	68,692,542
Equatorial Guinea	11	0	0	0	11	633,441
Gabon	27,403	0	0	0	27,403	1,514,993
Sao Tome & Principe	0	0	0	0	0	212,679
Algeria	0	0	61,835	0	61,835	34,178,188
Egypt	0	0	1,492	0	1,492	83,082,869
Libya	0	0	8,848	0	8,848	6,310,434
Morocco	0	0	0	0	0	34,859,364
Sudan	615	174	408,261	454,913	863,962	41,087,825
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	0	10,486,339
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0	1,990,876
Lesotho	0	0	0	0	0	2,130,819
Namibia	191	0	0	0	0	2,108,665
South Africa	1,944	87	0	0	2,031	49,052,489
Swaziland	0	0	0	0	0	1,123,913
Benin	456,583	0	0	0	456,583	8,791,832
Burkina Faso	167,201	0	0	0	167,201	15,746,232
Cape Verde	0	0	0	0	0	429,474
Cote d'Ivoire	52,646	0	0	0	52,646	20,617,068
Gambia	16,039	0	5,693	0	21,731	1,782,893
Ghana	1,614,793	0	0	0	1,614,793	23,832,495
Guinea	350,149	0	0	0	350,149	10,057,975
Guinea-Bissau	180,752	0	0	0	180,752	1,533,964
Liberia	6,790	0	0	0	6,790	3,441,790
Mali	331,748	0	509,950	0	841,697	12,666,987
Mauritania	417	0	164,017	0	164,434	3,129,486
Niger	133	0	0	19,779	19,912	15,306,252
Nigeria	1,406,728	0	555,796	59,337	2,021,859	149,229,090
Senegal	278,195	0	98,731	0	376,926	13,711,597
Sierra Leone	69,607	0	0	0	69,607	6,440,053
Togo	289,634	0	0	0	289,634	6,019,877
Saint Helena	..	..	..	..	..	7,637
Total	10,308,213	939,504	312,4435	1,305,404	15,677,352	997,795,888

Source: Compiled and Computed from: Nunn, Nathan. 2007, September. "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trade,"

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Table 2. African Regions with Members Captured and Transported Through the Indian Ocean, Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Saharan, and Red Sea Slave Trades, 1400s to 1900s, and Their 2009 Total Populations (N=56).

Region	Trans-Atlantic	%	Indian-Ocean	%	Trans-Saharan	%	Red Sea	%	All Slave Trade	%	Population (July 2009)	%
Eastern Africa	525,931	5.1	932,196	99.2	900,444	29	652,702	50	3,011,267	19.2	317,053,651	31.8
Middle Africa	4,558,117	44.6	7,047	0.75	409,368	13	118,673	9.1	5,093,203	32.5	121,585,754	12.2
Northern Africa	615	0.006	174	0.02	480,436	15.4	454,913	34.9	936,137	6.0	210,005,019	21.0
Southern Africa	2,135	0.02	87	0.01	0	0	0	0	2,222	0.01	56,406,762	5.6
Western Africa	5,221,415	50.6	0	0	1,334,187	42.7	79,116	6.1	6,634,714	42.3	292,744,702	29.3
Total	10,308,213		939,504		3,124,435		1,305,404		15,677,352		997,795,888	99.9
Percent	65.75		5.99		19.93		8.33		100			

Source: Compiled and Computed from: Nunn, Nathan. 2007, September. "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trade,"

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Table 3. Eastern African Nations with Members Captured and Transported Through the Indian Ocean, Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Saharan, and Red Sea Slave Trades, 1400s to 1900s, and Their 2009 Total Populations (n=19).

Country	Trans-Atlantic	Indian Ocean	Trans-Saharan	Red Sea	All Slave Trade	Population (July 2009)
Burundi	0	87	0	0	87	8,988,091
Comoros	0	0	0	0	0	752,438
Djibouti	0	5	0	0	5	516,055
Eritrea	..	..	..	..	..	6,647,168
Ethiopia	0	200	813,899	633,357	1,447,455	85,237,338
Kenya	303	12,306	60,351	13,490	86,448	39,002,772
Madagascar	36,349	88,927	0	0	125,275	20,653,556
Malawi	88,061	37,370	0	0	125,431	14,268,711
Mauritius	0	0	0	0	0	1,284,264
Mayotte	..	..	..	..	..	223,765
Mozambique	382,378	243,484	0	0	625,862	21,669,278
Reunion	..	..	..	..	..	743,981
Rwanda	0	0	0	0	0	10,473,282
Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	87,476
Somalia	0	229	26,194	5,855	32,277	9,832,017
Tanzania	10,834	523,992	0	0	534,826	41,048,532
Uganda	900	3,654	0	0	4,554	32,369,558
Zambia	6,552	21,406	0	0	27,958	11,862,740
Zimbabwe	554	536	0	0	1,089	11,392,629
Total	525,931	932,196	900,444	652,702	301,1267	317,053,651

Source: Compiled and Computed from: Nunn, Nathan. 2007, September. "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trade,"

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Table 4. Middle African Nations with Members Captured and Transported Through the Indian Ocean, Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Saharan, and Red Sea Slave Trades, 1400s to 1900s, and Their 2009 Total Populations (n=9).

	Trans-	Indian	Trans-		All Slave	Population
Country	Atlantic	Ocean	Saharan	Red Sea	Trade	(July 2009)
Angola	3,607,020	0	0	0	3,607,020	12,799,293
Cameroon	66,719	0	0	0	66,719	18,879,301
Central African Rep.	2,010	0	0	0	2,010	4,511,488
Chad	823	0	409,368	118,673	528,862	10,329,208
Congo, Rep.	94,663	0	0	0	94,663	4,012,809
Congo (D.R.)	759,468	7,047	0	0	766,515	68,692,542
Equatorial Guinea	11	0	0	0	11	633,441
Gabon	27,403	0	0	0	27,403	1,514,993
Sao Tome & Principe	0	0	0	0	0	212,679
Total	4,558,117	7,047	409,368	118,673	5,093,203	121,585,754

Source: Compiled and Computed from: Nunn, Nathan. 2007, September. "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trade,"

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Table 5. Northern African Nations with Members Captured and Transported Through the Indian Ocean, Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Saharan, and Red Sea Slave Trades, 1400s to 1900s, and Their 2009 Total Populations (n=6).

	Trans-	Indian	Trans-		All Slave	Population
Country	Atlantic	Ocean	Saharan	Red Sea	Trade	(July 2009)
Algeria	0	0	61,835	0	61,835	34,178,188
Egypt	0	0	1,492	0	1,492	83,082,869
Libya	0	0	8,848	0	8,848	6,310,434
Morocco	0	0	0	0	0	34,859,364
Sudan	615	174	408,261	454,913	863,962	41,087,825
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	0	10,486,339
Total	615	174	480,436	454,913	936,137	210,005,019

Source: Compiled and Computed from: Nunn, Nathan. 2007, September. "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trade,"

National Bureau of Economic Research. Working Paper 13367. Cambridge, MA. (p.13). <http://www.nber.org/papers/w13367>. The 2009 population numbers are compiled and computed from the 2009 CIA World Factbook. The regional groupings are based on United Nations classifications of the regions of the world: Country/regional classifications by the United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved on February 25, 2009 from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm>.

Table 6. Southern African Nations with Members Captured and Transported Through the Indian Ocean, Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Saharan, and Red Sea Slave Trades, 1400s to 1900s, and Their 2009 Total Populations (n=5).

	Trans-Atlantic	Indian Ocean	Trans-Saharan		All Slave Trade	Population (July 2009)
Country				Red Sea		
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0	1,990,876
Lesotho	0	0	0	0	0	2,130,819
Namibia	191	0	0	0	191	2,108,665
South Africa	1,944	87	0	0	2,031	49,052,489
Swaziland	0	0	0	0	0	1,123,913
Total	2,135	87	0	0	2,222	56,406,762

Source: Compiled and Computed from: Nunn, Nathan. 2007, September. "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trade,"

National Bureau of Economic Research. Working Paper 13367. Cambridge, MA. (p.13).

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w13367>. The 2009 population numbers are compiled and computed from the 2009 CIA World Factbook. The regional groupings are based on United Nations classifications of the regions of the world: Country/regional classifications by the United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved on February 25, 2009 from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm>.

Table 7. Western African Nations with Members Captured and Transported Through the Indian Ocean, Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Saharan, and Red Sea Slave Trades, 1400s to 1900s, and Their 2009 Total Populations (n=17).

	Trans-Atlantic	Indian Ocean	Trans-Saharan		All Slave Trade	Population (July 2009)
Country				Red Sea		
Benin	456,583	0	0	0	456,583	8,791,832
Burkina Faso	167,201	0	0	0	167,201	15,746,232
Cape Verde	0	0	0	0	0	429,474
Cote d'Ivoire	52,646	0	0	0	52,646	20,617,068
Gambia	16,039	0	5,693	0	21,731	1,782,893
Ghana	1,614,793	0	0	0	1,614,793	23,832,495
Guinea	350,149	0	0	0	350,149	10,057,975
Guinea-Bissau	180,752	0	0	0	180,752	1,533,964
Liberia	6,790	0	0	0	6,790	3,441,790
Mali	331,748	0	509,950	0	841,697	12,666,987
Mauritania	417	0	164,017	0	164,434	3,129,486
Niger	133	0	0	19,779	19,912	15,306,252
Nigeria	1,406,728	0	555,796	59,337	2,021,859	149,229,090
Senegal	278,195	0	98,731	0	376,926	13,711,597
Sierra Leone	69,607	0	0	0	69,607	6,440,053
Togo	289,634	0	0	0	289,634	6,019,877
Saint Helena	..	..	..	..	..	7,637
Total	5,221,415	0	1,334,187	79,116	6,634,714	292,744,702

Source: Compiled and Computed from: Nunn, Nathan. 2007, September. "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trade,"

National Bureau of Economic Research. Working Paper 13367. Cambridge, MA. (p.13).

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w13367>. The 2009 population numbers are compiled and computed from the 2009 CIA World Factbook. The regional groupings are based on United Nations classifications of the regions of the world: Country/regional classifications by the United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved on February 25, 2009 from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm>.