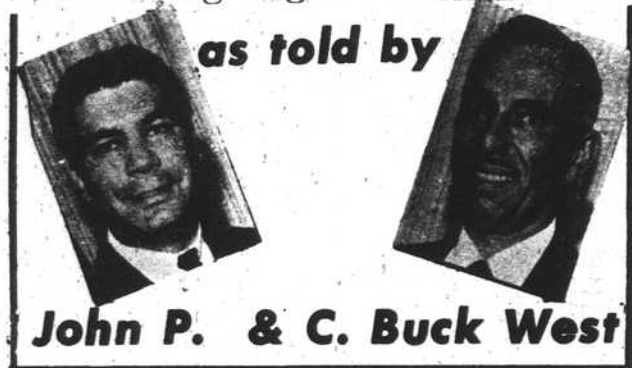


Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

as told by



John P. & C. Buck West

Nearly a quarter of a billion people have been playing a gigantic drama, for the past quarter century, against a backdrop of the eleven and a half million square miles of the African continent. The plot has been the revolutionary fermentation of 240,000,000 people striving to gain political maturity and self-determination. The struggle has been tremendously difficult because it has required the players to undergo almost spontaneous transition from their ancient primitive heritage, to a totally strange socio-political way of life.

The people of Africa knew very little of the ways of others, except for the limited and tilted knowledge that had been assimilated from Colonial domination. Contact with the rest of the world is relatively new to Africa. It has been less than 25 years that wide-scaled intercommunication has existed.

Africans have been eager to learn of others, but there is still limited desire among non-Africans to learn of Africa. This writer has undertaken this column in an attempt to fill that void among our readers.

The people of Africa speak many tongues. There are nearly 3000 dialects in use on this one continent. Many diversified language roots have contributed to the many dialects of the once Dark Continent. Most African languages are primitive and tonal in origin. Only three of the many hundred spoken dialects have an alphabet. One of these three, the Vai language, was devised less than a half century ago in the Republic of Liberia. Your writer has the distinguished honor of meeting the man who devised the written Vai language.

Written languages, other than Vai, have been derived, chiefly, from Hamitic and Semitic roots taken from the tongues of Hebrew, Arabic, Assyrian, Phoenician, Egyptian, Ethiopian, or Amharic. Indo-European roots have played a lesser part in formation of some of the African languages. These language roots are relative newcomers in African communications, excepting the Hebrew, Egyptian and Ethiopian languages. Chronologically, these latter three came upon the African scene centuries after the primitive, tonal dialects.

The Hamitic-Semitic languages are spoken chiefly in the north, north-east and eastern sections of Africa. Indo-European influences are observed in south-eastern Africa and in the islands offshore in the Indian ocean. European patois blended with tonal dialects are detected all over the continent, but the totally primitive tonal tongues are predominant in Africa.

Anthropologists, archeologists and Darwinian evolutionists, in majority, acclaim Africa as the cradle of man. From this birthplace early man migrated to every inhabitable area of the earth. Many mutated descendants returned to Africa thousands of years later to make Africa the melting pot as well as the cradle of man. We dare not attempt an analysis of the anthropological makeup of the people of Africa. The subject is too complex, too controversial, too philosophical, and far too voluminous.

We present a simplified classification of our own design. We list four Negroid classes and two non-Negroid classes, without any attempt to classify the myriad of mixtures.

The NEGROID AFRICANS are divided into: 1. The short people; 2. The GUINEA or SUDANESE; 3. The BANTU; 4. The NEGROID HAMITES.

The NON-NEGROID AFRICANS are divided into 1. HAMITES; 2. SEMITES.

The SHORT PEOPLE are comprised of three tribal groups: PYGMIES, HOTTENTOTS, and BUSHMEN. The Hottentots and Bushmen were indigenous to the Cape area of South Africa. These two tribes are about 5 feet 2 inches average height. They are a wrinkled yellowish brown in color with tufted hair. When Europeans settled the Cape Colony, the Bushmen completely rejected the new settlers and moved inland. The Hottentots remained in the area and mingled and miscegenated with the Europeans to propagate the racial group now known as the Cape Coloured People.

VOICE READERS COMPRISE a \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

TYPICAL GUINEA NEGRO



Sekou Toure
President of Guinea

(See BANTU and NEGROID HAMITE types, page 3)

The Pygmies have totally resisted adjusting to western culture imposed under colonial rule and have isolated themselves in the central and south central equatorial forests. They are hunters by heritage. They average less than four and a half feet in stature. They are fairly tall, average 5'10" tall, very black, with broad noses and thick lips. This group furnished the slaves that were brought to the western hemisphere, and represent the stock from which the Negro population of our country has descended. The GUINEA negroes were cultivators in majority, and pastoralists, and hunters in minority. This group now inhabits all of the African countries on the West Coast and along what is known as the Gulf of Guinea, extending southward as far as Portuguese Angola. The main nations with predominant Guinea African people are Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Dahomey, Nigeria, and the Cameroons.

The GUINEA (also called SUDANESE) NEGRO inhabits the sub Sahara West Africa section, spreading eastward across the continent to Ethiopia and the Sudan. They are fairly tall, average 5'10" tall, very black, with broad noses and thick lips. This group furnished the slaves that were brought to the western hemisphere, and represent the stock from which the Negro population of our country has descended. The GUINEA negroes were cultivators in majority, and pastoralists, and hunters in minority. This group now inhabits all of the African countries on the West Coast and along what is known as the Gulf of Guinea, extending southward as far as Portuguese Angola. The main nations with predominant Guinea African people are Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Dahomey, Nigeria, and the Cameroons.

The BANTU PEOPLE--This group is the largest in number, accounting for more than a third of the total population. They are found all over the continent, but are concentrated chiefly in the eastern, southern, and central regions. The BANTU are not so much an anthropological group, as they are a common language group. The Bantu speak hundreds of dialects which have a common language origin. Their different dialects are, in fact, so similar that there is very little language barrier between the many hundred different tribes of Bantu. Their language has given them a common basic cultural and social pattern. Physically the Bantu do not adhere to a standard tribal, or ethnic identity as is found among the other classes.

The NEGROID HAMITES are found in East Africa. They are the dominant inhabitants of Ethiopia, Somali Eritrea and the Sudan. This group is a light brown with keen features and woolly hair. It has been theorized that this class of Negroid Africans resulted from the blending of the HAMITES who migrated from the Near East, and Bantu and Guinea People from the western regions.

Discussion of the two non-Negroid Africans will be taken up in our next issue.

Communications Establish Unity

People must be able to talk to one another, if they are to understand one another. People must come together to talk, and they must have some common denominator to hold their interest in a constructive conversation. When the common denominator is a major issue in the lives of these people, they seek, major issue in the lives of these people, they seek and they usually find a line of communication with one another. Through the medium of communication, they seek counsel of one another in a common quest for answers, and solutions.

The Negro residents of our community, by the accident of their African ancestry, have the common denominator of being classed as second-rate citizens. They have the unenviable denominator of being deprived of equal opportunity because of the blood of their ancestors. It makes no difference how completely Caucasian a Negro might be in physical appearance, he is denied equality of American citizenship, with the same resistance that faced his African ancestors, provided his identity is known. The American Negro is a mixture of all bloods of all races, but his African blood sets him apart from all other Americans as something different from all the other American mongrels.

Our nation came into being because it was a haven of freedom from tyrannical rule. Pilgrims from Europe pioneered, but pilgrimages from every corner of the earth followed in rapid succession. America became the meeting ground and the melting pot of people from all lands and all races. They mingled and they intermarried, procreating a population of every imaginable blend and mixture. The people of America are today the most mongrelized people of the world. Ironically, the American Negro can boast of less mongrelization than any other people of this nation, but he is looked down upon by other Americans. This factor gives the Negro the most binding common denominator, and makes him an enigma in a democratic nation.

The social revolution taking place in America today was generated by the Negro's impatience with the snail paced racial reforms of the past century. Since his ancestors were declared free by Presidential Proclamation and established as citizens by Constitutional Amendments. The momentum of social reforms, taking shape in America today, must be reenergized by each Negro doing his part in a unified effort. Unity will turn the tide. We must have communications for developing this unity. WE MUST GET TOGETHER IF WE WANT EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.

The Las Vegas Voice is your voice. It is the only focus of communication that is practical, as well as available for the tasks ahead. The Voice was established to fill our void of communications. This instrument for "keeping in touch" offers refreshed hopes of pulling us together to accomplish our missions. We beg your faith in us. With your faith behind it, your Voice will be heard, and victory will be both rapid and complete.

Read the Voice. Look carefully for announcements of meetings. Attend all meetings and dedicate yourself to a united effort.

UNITY WILL PROVIDE THE POWER FOR TOTAL VICTORY. LET US UNITE AND WIN. SUPPORT THE VOICE! IT WILL ALWAYS SUPPORT THE CAUSE.

Dr. Charles I. West

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LAS VEGAS
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