

Point of View

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MINORITY REPORT

MONEY AND HONOR AWAIT PERSONS, GROUPS WHO PROVIDE "MADE IN AFRICA" PRODUCTS OR SERVICES. NAACP OUTREACH POSSIBLE?

By James E. Alsbrook

In a recent television documentary, an early black minister said he was glad his grandfather was stolen in Africa and enslaved in America.

At a 60-year class reunion in Missouri, a Black speaker said someone in the audience was "acting like he lived in Africa."

In an episode of "I'll Fly Away," to be resumed soon on NBC, a

Southern White housewife said the "nigras" are needed for housework and "grunt" work. They should be thankful white men took them from Africa, she said. "Without their cooking and cleaning, what would a respectable white lady do?"

All three persons have been deceived by the extensive bombardment of misrepresentations propagated about Africa for

hundreds of years. The popular belief, supported by American textbooks catering to Confederate biases, is that Africa always was the Tarzan-like jungle occupied only by wild animals, wild vegetation and wild but submissive Black people. This image was created to "justify" slavery in America. The Black slave was conveniently declared sub-human.

But the latest encyclopedias reporting the latest findings of leading Europeans anthropologists and archeologists tell the story of an Africa with numerous and extensive kingdoms and cultures having trade routes among themselves and commerce in gold and other valuables first with Asian countries and later with Europeans. Some of these flourished hundreds of

years before Western Europe was civilized by the Roman Empire.

Books copyrighted in 1991 and 1992 report that trade routes across Africa include advanced kingdoms and other sites called "The Nubian kingdoms of Morocco," "The Nok Culture," "n'Begho," "Ashanti," "Benin," "Ife," "Igbo-Ukwu," "The Great Fortified Center at Zimbabwe," and more. The European scholars say civilized African leaders controlled vast regions and vast populations. They seem to be interested more in finding the truth than in preserving lies, White American mythology and White superiority.

What does all of this mean? Somebody lied!!

It means that Black Americans have historical antecedents and Black role models in ancient Africa. It means that strong doses of "Afro-centrism" Blacks wanting more race pride, personal esteem, power and money.

We have seen "Made in Japan," "Made in Korea," "Made in China," "Made Hong Kong," "Made in Mexico" and "Made in" many other places stamped on hundreds of products we Americans use—things from tooth brushes to fancy cars. We need to see—and we can profit from—products stamped "Made in Africa." "Made in" Nigeria, Liberia, Chad, The Niger, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia or anywhere in Africa would be good.

Researchers say African civilizations were dealt crushing



JAMES E. ALSBROOK, Ph.D.

blows by the relentlessly encroaching Sahara Desert (still eroding thousands of acres), by the murdering and plundering of Arabian Fundamentalist Moslem hordes who wiped religions, by "environmental calamities," (diseases, sudden climatic changes, etc.), and by Europeans who pillaged, plundered and murdered while taking slaves along with gold and other valuables. The Europeans alone had the help of a new weapon called the gun.

European nations that established colonies in Africa have exploited its natural resources for hundreds of years. Now, Africans and African-Americans can develop Africa's human and industrial resources and make money by setting up "cut and sew" shops, advancing to more technology and shipping assembled or manufactured goods to America and elsewhere just as Japan, Korea, Mexico and others did.

The "Made in Africa" label on good products would bring worldwide respect for Black people from Whites and others including Blacks themselves.

Civil rights groups, multimillionaire Black athletes and actors, and Black investment clubs can resurrect African commerce and make money for themselves.

POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams

WAKE UP

To define "Wake-up", we find the definition is; to cease to sleep; to be excited from a torpid or inactive state. There was plenty of excitement two nights ago at the Clark County School District's Board meeting. Community residents again displayed their disgust at the disparity of educational opportunities and funding distributions to African-American students opposed to all others. It is not by accident the group has named themselves WAKE-UP!

However, whether you agree with the groups claims are not the disparities that WAKE-UP! speak of, has been with us for a very long time.

Case in point, the Crisis magazine published the following analysis of school expenditures in Bibb County, Georgia:

- I. Number of children 6-18 yrs
 - White-10,642
 - Black-8,847
- II. Disbursements
 - Teachers—
 - White \$320,868.66;
 - Black \$52,292.00
 - Buildings & repairs—
 - White-\$16,941.29
 - Black-\$ 0
 - Equipment—

- White- \$ 3,127.57
- Black- \$ 0
- Supplies, Libraries, Janitors, Fuel, and other expenditures
- White- \$85,344.27
- Black- \$ 0

The date collected in this report also showed some counties had no schools at all for African-American children. Those that did, often had no desk, no means of getting light or heat.

Even under decades of disparity, African-American students in many cases excelled in spite of. Even today, in the face of lawsuits, protests, our students are still standing tall. Ironically one student who is very dear to me left to attend Southern University as a freshman. Even at a young age Vanessa understands the need for us to WAKE-UP! The following is a speech Vanessa gave last month at the National ACT-SO competition.

THE BLACK RACE ASLEEP
 by Vanessa R. Thompson
 It was once said by an Egyptian prophet and then translated by Dr. Karenga be skilled in speech so that you will succeed an effective speech is stronger than all fighting.
 Good evening audience and

panelists my name is Vanessa Thompson I am an eighteen year old graduate of Western High School located in Las Vegas Nevada the title of my oration is The Black Race Asleep.

As I quote from a famous black author by the name of Ralph Ellison "There are a few things in the world as dangerous as a sleep walker".

Picture it, 1963, a hot sizzling day in Atlanta, Ga. A black baptist minister steps forth to deliver a speech about a dream. A dream that once was engraved in the hearts of so many African Americans. True enough, this dream may still be alive today but we ask the black race seem to be asleep to this dream.

Paul Robenson once said "Negro action must be decisive! We have the power to end the terror and win for ourselves peace and security throughout the nation".

Yet we are asleep. Asleep from the fact that have been and are being hidden from us today about our past, our history, and in history itself of the great contributions given to America and other great nation by our race.

Racist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and the Skinheads wish to refer to us as niggers, coons, apes, and other cruel



Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams

names which I don't care to list. They say we "niggas don't belong in this beautiful land of America. Yet I say, we as beautiful African-Americans were never given the decision for it was a decision made by the caucasian ancestors when they robbed us, beat us, and took us from our native land Alkibulum which is the original name of Africa before it too was robbed of its name and taken was its pride.

I can remember a time when I was much younger, both my parents and grandparents would sit me down and tell me stories about what they would refer to as the good old days. A time when African American living in African American communities did not have to lock there doors at night in fear of their lives. A time when African American children living African American communities could play freely in their own front yards without their parents having to worry about what kind of outside influences could destroy their lives. Yes, the good old days.

Thirty years ago we were fighting for equal rights and (See Wake Up, Page 18)

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