

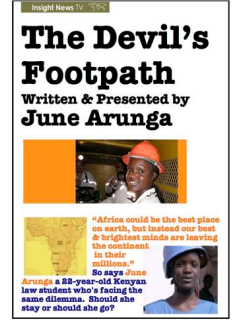
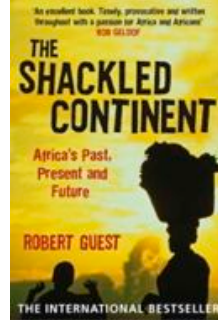
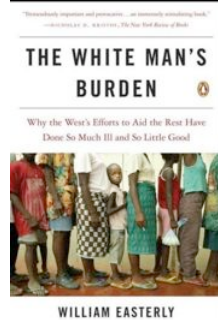
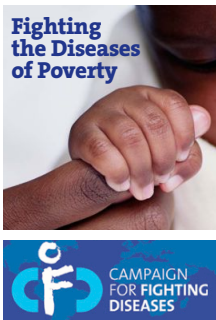
Africa



Freedom, Prosperity & Public Health

*A study guide for the debate topic on public health aid for Sub-Saharan Africa.
Additional articles, links, and references at www.EconomicThinking.org/Africa*

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Africa's Ultimate Resource

Public health in Africa is big news. From the *Vanity Fair* special Africa issue guest-edited by U2's Bono to special *Time* and *National Geographic* issues, African conflict, poverty, and public health problems energize celebrities as well as journalists, economists, and young people.

Debaters researching effective public health aid to Africa, have an opportunity to look behind headlines and celebrity photo shoots. Public health problems have long been linked to poverty and ignorance. Rich countries have "modern" public health problems like smoking, overeating, and over-medication. But in poor countries, smoking stoves, malnutrition, lack of medication for common diseases, and polluted water, are central public health problems, as they had been for all civilizations through all history until recent centuries.

Organized, science-based efforts to provide clean water, clean cooking fuels, and cures for infectious diseases are much newer. That history has often been tragic as leading health experts of one generation oppose insights and innovations from younger researchers.

Ignaz Semmelweis, a young doctor in Vienna, was put in charge of two hospital maternity wards where he could observe midwives delivered babies in one, and "modern" doctors delivering in the other. Leading doctors at the time (1841) were dismissive of midwives and their traditional hand-washing before delivering babies. Semmelweis saw 20 percent of babies delivered by doctors die of fever (*puerperal sepsis*) and much lower death rate with midwives. He established procedures for doctors to wash their hands and mortality rates quickly dropped by two-thirds. Angry doctors considered it foolish mysticism to believe something invisible could cause disease. They fired Semmelweis, who was later committed to an insane asylum and died there (of an infection).

Such tragedies are not unique in the history of medicine and public health. The widespread use of quinine to treat malaria was delayed for centuries. Effective treatment of tuberculosis with drugs was vigorously opposed by TB experts of the day who ran sanitariums. Even today there are fierce disputes over public health issues such as insecticide-treated bed nets vs. indoor DDT spraying to fight malaria in Africa.

Debates over what institutions should define and address public health issues continue as well. Today, public health advocates in the U.S. call for government to restrict teenage diets to less fatty foods and sugared colas.

Smoking is banned in many cities on public health grounds as are trans. fats in foods. Fatty foods and overweight people are, of course, major public health problems only in rich economies. Africans are astonished to hear that being *overweight* is perhaps the leading indicator of health problems for Americans.

Public health historian George Rosen claims: "The protection and promotion of health and welfare of its citizens is considered to be one of the most important functions of the modern state." Rosen writes that how people view



public health problems draws from “the mental image of the past that we have.” Though Rosen and other public health scholars believe promoting health is proper role of government, that mission was beyond what America’s founders originally envisioned for government. Early Americans were deeply skeptical of state power and trusted civil society associations to address most social and public health issues.

Rosen’s 500-page *A History of Public Health*, provides a history of both private-sector and government efforts to control infectious disease, provide clean air and water, and improve general sanitation habits like washing hands. Rosen separates public health initiatives into three categories: 1) sanitation and housing, 2) cleanliness and godliness (personal hygiene), and, 3) disease and the community. Every civilization from the ancient world to today had to address public health problems. And by today’s public health standards, most failed miserably.

For most of human history the great majority of people were as poor as the poorest are today in Africa. Only since the Industrial Revolution in Western Europe did famines cease to sweep away whole villages and regions after crop failures. Poverty and famines don’t require explanation; they have been the norm through history. It is prosperity that is unusual and requires explanation. Public health advances followed industrialization in Europe and America. Why have these advances not reached Africa?

At independence in the 1960s, people in African countries like Ghana and Kenya had similar average incomes as people in South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Now South Korea’s average income is \$16,000 per person and Ghana’s is about \$550.

Misguided economic policies funded first by natural resource wealth and later by foreign aid and loans distorted African economies. Robert Mugabe’s foreign-aid funded presidency in Zimbabwe, stretching from his first years in office to recent property confiscations and disastrous price controls, is sadly more the rule than the exception for Africa. At independence in 1964 Zambia was the second wealthiest African country. With rich seams of valuable copper, by 1969 mines were producing 825,000 tons of copper a year. The mines were then nationalized and soon over-staffed with government cronies. They fell gradually into disrepair and now produce only one-third as much copper. As copper-export income diminished, foreign aid money allowed the Zambian government to continue market-disrupting policies, and by 2004 average incomes were well-below 1964 incomes. Robert Guest tells this sad tale in his book, *The Shackled Continent*.

In Congo (later Zaire then Congo again), U.S.-backed dictator Mobutu Sese Seko’s long and corrupt leadership continued a Belgian tradition of murderous misrule. “Congo from the Cockpit” tells the story of three generations of the entrepreneurial Munshi family developing businesses and creating wealth and jobs in the Congo. *Vanity Fair’s* Africa issue has stories of African writers, models, politicians, and foreign aid projects.



Many are online, but the Munshi family’s story is not. The Munshi family, originally from India, developed thriving enterprises in Congo until they were wiped out by rebels in 1963. They rebuilt but their businesses were again pillaged, this time by government soldiers in 1967. They started over and developed new enterprises until in 1974 Mobutu’s *Zairization* plan gave their property to native Congolese supporters of the President. In 1976 they were invited back to reclaim now destroyed factories and empty warehouses. The Munshi family started over a fourth time, building Business Aviation, an air transportation service.

Political scientists are sometimes concerned with “inequality” in the developing world. The Munshi family would likely have become far wealthier had their holdings had not been destroyed and confiscated three times. But wealth-creation is not a zero-sum game. They could only have gained great wealth by hiring and paying employees to create goods and services. Many Africans, Americans, and aid agencies distrust markets, trade, and businesses. Many believe governments should plan development through state-owned enterprises, agricultural marketing boards, and regulatory agencies. Nowhere has government regulation, taxation, intervention and confiscation been as destructive as in Africa. In *Vanity Fair’s* Africa issue, however, this reality merits less than two pages of one story.

Without secure property rights and legal protection of trade and contracts, wealth creation is difficult and slow, and public health suffers.

Economist Jeffrey Sachs is appropriately profiled in *Vanity Fair*. Opinions vary in the economics profession on the effectiveness of Sachs’ “shock therapy” advice for communist countries, and opinions also vary on Sachs’ current proposals for dramatically increasing foreign aid for Africa. Opinion is less divided among music and movie stars who are often shown with



Sachs touring “model” African villages like Sauri, Kenya. A video clip on the Earth Institute website has European experts giving Sauri villagers improved seed corn and showing them how to grow special trees whose leaves fix nitrogen from the air for fertilizer. But though Africans appreciate charity in time of need, it is unlikely they need to be told how to farm or what to grow.

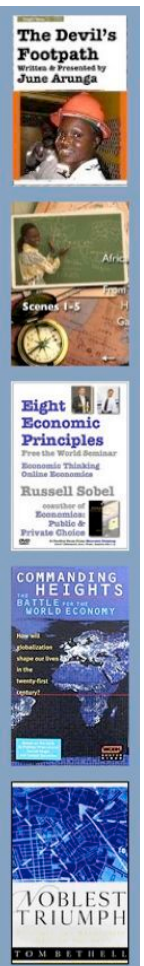


Top-down plans from development aid “experts” compare poorly to decisions made by farmers searching for profitable crops.

Sam Rich, in the Spring, 2007 *Wilson Quarterly*, surveys problems now emerging with Sachs’ Sauri village plans. The planners increased maize (corn) production as donations allowed more fertilizer to be purchased to boost production. But, Rich reports: “The price of maize has dropped dramatically around Sauri... as the village’s crop yields have improved and supply has increased. Maize is a subsistence crop that has fed Sauri families for years, but... its price is too low to make it a cash crop.” Local farmers might have been better off growing vegetables, “that fetch good prices at market, such as onions, tomatoes, and cabbages.”

The idea that village farmers need western experts to guide their economic decisions has long been questioned by economist Peter Bauer, anthropologist Polly Hill, and others who have done field research in Africa. Polly Hill in *Development Economics on Trial* writes of the success of migrant cocoa farmers in Ghana who dramatically expanded cocoa production in the early 1900s, buying and developing land, building roads and bridges, all without European assistance or capital. The British colonial authorities didn’t realize sophisticated new African enterprises were responsible for rapid increases in cocoa production.

From 1900 to 1960, as West Africa’s population quadrupled, average income quadrupled as well—all without European capital or management. Sadly, independence brought European- and American-educated African leaders to power, who moved quickly to heavily tax cocoa and try socialist economic policies.





LAW AND ORDERS IN AFRICA

Over centuries Europeans took Africans by force and sold them into slavery in the New World. Now European governments deploy their militaries and bureaucracies to keep Africans and African goods from leaving Africa for better pay and high prices.

America also blocks most Africans from visiting, sojourning, or migrating to the same New World where Africans were long sold into slavery. Why do travel and migration matter? They are, along with trade and international investment, primary pathways to prosperity. Across Sub-Saharan Africa some 500,000 are locked in refugee camps—people who would prosper if free to migrate to America, Europe, or to other African countries.

Taxpayers are rightly wary of refugee policies that mix costly welfare programs with employment restrictions. Civil society and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) provide assistance to African refugees. But most Africans don't need help when allowed the simple freedom to earn their own living. Here is an idea not much tried over the last five centuries: allow Africans and Americans to voluntarily associate with each other. Americans willing to offer support, training, and employment to Africans should be free to do so. This simple freedom is the most valuable public health aid the U.S. federal government could offer Africans.

Only a small percentage of Africans would choose to visit America, but each would support relatives back home. Remittances from Africans now in America—legally and illegally—are boosting economic development across Africa, sending not only money home, but also ideas, experiences, and optimism from the United States.

F. A. Hayek emphasized that there are two kinds of order in society. One is an artificial, top-down, government order where planners act like gods trying to design society. The other is a spontaneous order that emerges when people are free to trade, travel, and associate as they please in civil society.

African entrepreneurs who have visited America—those profiled on this page, and thousands more—are advancing freedom, prosperity, and public health in Africa from the bottom-up. Africans have endured centuries of ill-fated state development projects. Many ask now that nation-states just get out of their way.

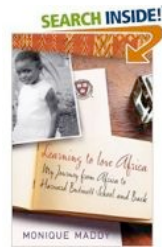
Learning to Love Africa by Monque Maddy

Born in Yekepa, a tiny village transformed into a utopian global community by a Swedish multinational corporation, Maddy introduces us to her remarkable father, Emmanuel, an enterprising driver-turned-restaurateur, and her mother, Julia, the descendant of an equally remarkable



family of Mandingo entrepreneurs. With loving descriptions of life in this developing world, Maddy introduces us to the sophisticated business skills of her ancestors and shows how her family's acumen and emotional strength became a launching pad for her own ambitions.

Liberian Monique Maddy worked for the United Nations before going to Harvard Business School and launching a telecommunications company in Africa. An excerpt from her book, *Learning to Love Africa: My Journey from Africa to Harvard Business School and Back* is above. See links to Google Video of Monique Maddy and GlobalEnvision story at www.EconomicThinking.org.



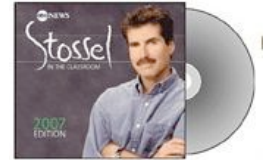
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One Man's Fight Against Corruption

"No amount of foreign aid will make a difference in Africa," says John Githongo, former Kenyan anti-corruption official (in Stossel segment with June Arunga and Jeffrey Sachs on foreign aid).

John Githongo is the former permanent secretary for governance and ethics in the Office of the President of Kenya. He discovered corruption and was forced to leave the country. In his March, 2007 Cato Institute policy study, Githongo writes: *The young generation especially treats Kenya's politicians with growing skepticism, and civil society and the media are increasingly active in exposing corruption and misrule there. The process of public awakening is not particular to Kenya. Globalization and technological change are having noticeable empowering effects on African youth.*



IREN Kenya, was profiled, along



with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, in a major *New York Times* article on Africa and public policy. IREN-Kenya's James Shikwati (see last page) has argued against foreign aid to Africa. His organization directs a series of agricultural, health, and education programs.

IREN-Kenya's Indoor Residual Spraying program in Western Kenya works with 600 households and its springs protection project ensures clean water for 300 households.

The disease burden in Africa has a major braking effect to development. Lives are lost as are millions of man-hours lost to productive activity. IREN carried out an assessment of the economic burden of health in Kenya in 2003 and confirmed that malaria is a major killer. IREN Kenya, in collaboration with the Free Africa Foundation, is setting up Malaria Free Zones in Kenya. Business, government, village elders and youth draw a line of defense against malaria. The Kenyan pilot model is targeting a village of 900 people that includes children under 5 years, and adults above 60. IREN also works to integrate an economic model to enhance the income of villagers to ensure sustainability of the project.



www.freeafrica.org

Africa Unchained

Ghanian economist George B.N. Ayittey calls for Africa's aging hippo generation of government officials to get out of the way for the cheetah generation of young African entrepreneurs.

Foreign aid, including aid for government public health projects, often serve to block innovative for-profit and nonprofit public health enterprises. The Free Africa Foundation's Malaria-Free Villages Project is one successful NGO project. The Free Africa Foundation is directed by Ghanian economist George Ayittey, author of *Africa Unchained*.



The first few minutes of the movie *Blood Diamond* show a poor fishing village where a father works and hope for future progress rests on his son going to school to become a doctor. In



Hollywood movies parents regularly push their child to become doctors. It would be nice to someday see a movie where children study to learn how to transform a poor fishing village into a thriving one.

The fishing village is a story in itself. For one thing, it seems too small and poor to support a doctor.

And why in 2006 are villagers fishing in old wooden boats and returning with six fish dangling on a line? Maybe that is what audiences expect of movies about Africa. After all, only movies about African conflict and famine reach theaters. Why not make a movie chronicling any of the thousands of young African entrepreneurs fighting to establish and defend new enterprises?

Economist George Ayittey, in *Africa Unchained*, calls these entrepreneurs the *Cheetah Generation* and argues they are opposed by Africa's *Hippos*, the older generation of bureaucrats employed by governments, state enterprises, and international development agencies. Private cell phones enterprises in Tanzania and Zimbabwe, modern fishing boats on Lake Victoria, tomato-processing plants in Ghana, along with hundreds more, are regularly harassed and bankrupted by governments and politically-connected private firms. Thousands of street vendors are regularly rousted and robbed by police across Africa.

Blood Diamond shifts from chaos and civil war in Africa to sincere European diplomats committed to solving Africa's problems, which they describe this way: "Throughout the history of Africa, whenever a substance of value is found, the locals die. In great number and in misery. This was true of ivory, rubber, gold, and oil. It is now true of diamonds." But why should oil in Sudan, Chad, Nigeria or Angola cause chaos and misery while oil found in Texas made Texans with big hats rich, creating jobs for thousands?

Thankfully, European bureaucrats lost control of the United States some centuries ago. In the U.S., whenever a substance of value was found, people prospered. Legal traditions of secure property rights encouraged and protected production of agricultural crops and resources valued elsewhere in the world. Africans, we are told in textbooks, were pushed by colonial powers into "export dependency." Yet early America, Argentina, and Australia grew rich from exports and long depended upon imports from Europe.

It is true that treasure resources like gold, diamonds and oil create different incentives than do crops and forests that require longer and more complex work to grow, harvest, and transport. But West Africa prospered for decades as Africans, enjoying relatively secure property rights, vastly expanded production of cocoa, tea, palm oil, and other agricultural products. From 1900 to 1960, as population quadrupled, West Africa average wealth also quadrupled.

In Ghana, African entrepreneurs rapidly expanded cocoa production. Nigerian migrants first developed cocoa production on forest land purchased from local villages. As production grew, workers were hired from local tribes and as more learned the trade, many purchased their own cocoa property. Soon, thousands traveled from miles away to try their hand at these new enterprises. The British neither funded nor managed early cocoa production in Ghana. They were mostly sipping tea and scarcely knew of the complex agricultural revolution taking place away from British outposts.

Anthropologist Polly Hill did the original field research on the migration, enterprise, and prosperity that followed the discovery of this "substance of value." Just as tobacco production brought rapid prosperity to the early immigrants in Virginia, encouraging rapidly expanded immigration from Europe, so cocoa was a magnet



for migration to Ghana, northern Nigeria, and other cocoa-producing regions in West Africa.

So what happened next? How was West Africa's advantage in growing crops like cocoa lost? That is the bigger story that explains much of why Africa is poorer today than in 1960. But it is not a simple movie script claiming diamonds, ivory, oil, and corporate greed are the roots of turmoil and poverty in Africa.

Oil discovered in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas and California brought thousands of jobs and vast wealth to American wildcatters, geologists, speculators, and stockholders. And consumers enjoyed ever cheaper and cleaner-burning fuel. In Pittsburgh, Houston, Dallas, Tulsa, Wichita, Denver, and other cities, hundreds of hospitals, universities, office complexes, and factories were funded with oil wealth invested or donated.

Oil wealth accumulated by John D. Rockefeller brought major advances in public health around the world. Then, as today, the richest man in the world spent vast amounts of his personal wealth to reduce diseases like Hookworm, Yellow Fever, and Malaria. *To Cast Out Disease: A History of the International Health Division of Rockefeller Foundation (1913-1951)* tells the story of the

IHD's programs to improve public health in the American south and Africa, before its operations went to the World Health Organization.

The free-enterprise system that created both wealth and huge charitable foundations in America was side-tracked by another American and European institution: universities promoting "new" economic ideas. Martin Meredith begins his 750-page book, *The Fate of Africa*, with "The Gold Coast Experiment." British officials were dealing with an imprisoned troublemaker they labeled a "thorough-going Communist." Kwame Nkrumah had received an economics degree in the U.S., where Marxist economic theories were popular, before "befriending leading British communists and avidly participating in anti-colonial protests." British communists helped Nkrumah take power in Ghana, and he quickly pushed to confiscate earnings from private cocoa exports by establishing a government "Cocoa Marketing Board" (marketing boards confiscated income from farmers across Africa). Funds were poured into unworkable and soon bankrupt industrial projects. Cocoa production was pushed down by price controls, and Ghana fell behind.

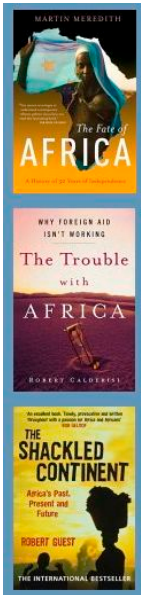
Communism is less popular now in development circles, (though it seems popular still in debate circle, to judge by books on Marxism for sale at the national debate tournament).

European bureaucrats still mistrust markets. They seem to think speeches at conferences, and international agreements banning ivory or conflict-diamond sales will address African problems. European and American government officials could do much more to help Africa by removing quotas, tariffs, and import bans on goods produced in Africa. And after centuries of taking Africans as slaves to the new world, bureaucrats block most Africans from leaving chaos at home to live and work in Europe or America.

What has been learned from decades of development disaster? The Univ. of Michigan Debate Institute offers forty evidence sets free online on this year's debate topic. Apparently not all socialist policies have yet been tried on Africans, and more are advocated by UM. Here is a representative card from a "Capitalism-Good" file:

Susan George, Vice-President of ATTAC and a longstanding champion of the Third World, accordingly proposes a 'new, updated and Keynesian strategy . . . , not just for the United States or in Europe but throughout the world. We need vast injections of crisis-directed resources into the global economy. They must be linked to environmental renewal, poverty eradication, and democratic governance.' She envisages this 'Planetary Contract' being administered by a new international institution and financed by such measures as the Tobin Tax and a Unitary Profits Tax on transnational corporations.

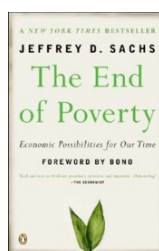
All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing. -- Edmund Burke





Prescriptions for African development

Jeffrey Sachs: Smarter Aid

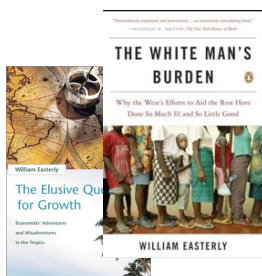


Sachs *End of Poverty* argues for smarter planning, better technology, and record-keeping. Sachs calls for more

aid for smaller and smarter projects that try to avoid the failures of the past. Consider his aid project to bring the Green Revolution to Africa, described in the book, and in a short video segment available online. This project has western agronomists and development experts instructing villagers on how to make use of new technologies.

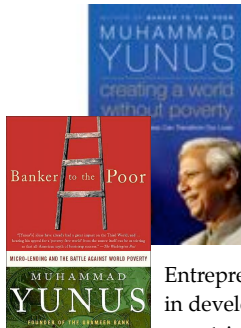
The story begins in Sauri, Kenya when fertilizer prices rose and villages could no longer grow enough food. Jeffrey Sachs tells of arriving at Sauri with his team in 2004 to see poverty and disease. New seeds are provided along with a fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing trees. Villages are to plant the tree and later shake the nitrogen-rich leaves onto the farmland. They avoid having to purchase as much fertilizer and can burn the wood for fuel.

William Easterly: Searchers vs. Planners



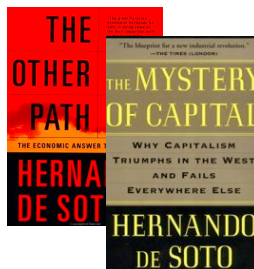
William Easterly, in *White Man's Burden*, provides detailed research and first-hand experiences from his years working in Africa for the World Bank. His central theme contrasts *planners* and *searchers*. African development projects costing hundreds of billions over five decades have followed top-down plans. Even had there been less corruption these development plans are utterly unlike actual development in now prosperous countries. Easterly contrasts the process of distributing millions of copies of Harry Potter novels that reach customers in a single day, with much cheaper bed nets that can't seem to be distributed by dozens of governments and NGOs to malarial African villages. Harry Potter distribution is managed by *searchers*, bed net distribution by *planners*.

Muhammad Yunus: Micro-lending & Credit



Entrepreneurs in developing countries, like business people everywhere, rely on tools and technology to multiply their physical skills. In wealthy countries entrepreneurs often borrow funds to develop new business enterprises. But in poor countries, argues economist Muhammad Yunus, most lack access to credit. Yunus won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for his ground-breaking efforts expanding access to credit in Bangladesh and other developing countries. Yunus' Grameen Bank has provided very small loans—*micro-loans*,—to over five million of the world's poorest entrepreneurs. Expanding now in Africa, *microlending* has tremendous public health benefits. For details, see the video on Yunus at www.izzit.org.

Hernando de Soto: Property Titles & Business Licenses



Most Africa entrepreneurs, like others throughout the developing world, lack clear title to their property, lack licenses for their businesses, and therefore lack access to a formal legal system to enforce contracts or borrow to expand their firms. Africa, like Latin America, is part way in a pre-market Mercantilist system where governments try to control the formal economy while arbitrarily pursuing small merchants and farmers operating *informally* outside the law. Since *informals* lack access to the legal system they also avoid paying taxes. De-Soto's books are best-sellers. See video clip from PBS series *The Commanding Heights* at: EconomicThinking.org/Africa.



George B. N. Ayittey: Cheetas vs. Hippos



Ghanian economic George B.N. Ayittey describes economic manacles shaped by erroneous economics. "Between 1982 and 1983," he writes "the government of Ghana had in its employment more than 300 price inspectors and more than 20 price control tribunals." "The Marxist Rawlings regime," Ayittey continues, "denounced indigenous markets, which had been in existence for centuries, as dens of economic profiteers and saboteurs. It slapped stringent price controls on hundreds so goods... In June, 1980, a magistrate... jailed a 43-year-old petty trader...for three years at hard labor for making an illegal profit of \$1.50 on 6 cakes of "Guardian" soap. The same magistrate handed down a three-year term at hard labor to an 18-year-old boy who make an illegal profit of fifty cents on a packet of matches." Unfortunately, similar economic madness is being pursued today in Zimbabwe. Price controls create chaos.

Government-funded Research Claims

Government Aid is Good

Bias in academic research is always a concern. If, for example, 75 percent of scientists calling for major regulations and increased government funding of climate change research were themselves funded by government agencies, skeptics would reasonably be suspicious of their research agenda and conclusions. Similarly, if 75 percent of economists whose articles had been published in a leading development journal were themselves employed by or receiving funding from government development institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, U.S. AID, United Nations, etc.), debaters should be skeptical of their studies

claiming foreign aid is good for the developing world. An August 2004 article in *EconJournalWatch.org* found 75 percent of articles published in the *Journal of Development Economics* had ties to the "Big 8" development agencies. And 25 of the 26 journal editors had ties with these government-funded agencies. Who in this clubby world of development aid expert-recipients would risk future funding by researching and reporting on failed foreign aid programs?

This Aid Train Left the Station
Captive development journals serve a role in promoting increased foreign aid. After one widely-publicized economic study showed that foreign aid actually disrupted economic growth in developing countries, a new study was published

claiming aid to "good" governments could promote development. *The Economist*, *The New Yorker*, and of course *The New York Times* reported the claims and the White House quickly established the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to send an extra 5 billion aid dollars to "good" governments. With these billions en route to "good" African governments, new research found the studies flawed and confirmed that foreign aid has made recipient countries poorer (see Easterly's *White Man's Burden*, p. 44-51).

Another Oriental

Despot's picture—North Korea's Kim Il Sung—hangs on the office wall of Zimbabwe's dictator, Robert Mugabe. R.W. Johnson in the *Wall Street Journal*, (August 8, 2007) reports one past episode: "Using North Korean terminology, Mr. Mugabe explained that 'the people [in Matabeleland] had their chance and they voted as they did. The situation there has to be changed. The people must be reoriented.'" Some 20,000 people died in the resulting campaign of torture and murder. Foreign aid has helped keep Mugabe in power over the years, with Zimbabwe's government receiving an average of \$440 million per year from 1980s to 1999.

Johnson continues: "When Kim died in 1994, Zimbabwe set up a Committee to Honor the Memory of Kim Il Sung, chaired by Vice President Joseph Msika. This committee holds a special month of mourning for Kim every year, with lectures, seminars and a memorial service 'praying for his eternity.'"

Both Kim Il Sung and Robert Mugabe will surely be remembered for all eternity for the thousands they tortured and the millions they impoverished through their megalomania.

Asian Absolutism in Africa

The actor Danny Glover comments, in the Africa issue of *Vanity Fair*: "When I was 20 years old... I read Julius Nyerere's writing on African socialism. Nyerere was the first president of Tanzania. I majored in economics, and I was so moved by his writing and his vision of Africa as self-sufficient and independent that I wanted to go to Tanzania and work for his government." Glover wasn't alone. Economists worldwide were excited by new socialist and nationalist central-planning theories. And the freshly independent continent ready to be experimented upon was Africa. In Tanzania Nyerere was inspired by China's Mao Zedong to launch a "visionary" village modernization scheme. Called *Ujamaa* this collectivization of Tanzanian farms got results: Tanzania was transformed from Africa's largest food exporter to its largest importer. (Chinese farmers fared even worse as collectivization led to famines that killed over 30 million).

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On the Trail of a Cure: Malaria reality & rhetoric

Further anecdotal and off-the-record reports show that malaria-specific financing is often stuck in ministries of finance for months without any treatments being procured for the sick. This has allegedly happened recently in Tanzania, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Nigeria, among other places.²²

The Fund can choose to bypass finance ministries, which are usually the nominated principal recipients and which give the money directly to drug manufacturers for delivery to another government ministry or NGO in the field. This happened in Zambia, where the Global Fund appointed an NGO and a faith-based body as principal recipients in 2004.²³ And as a consequence of corruption in Uganda,²⁴ the Global Fund procured directly through the WHO, bypassing corrupt officials in Uganda altogether; drugs have since been procured more effectively. But such action is the exception, not the rule. This is partly because the Fund was established to be responsive to the needs of developing countries, and it requires delicate diplomacy to explain to a health minister that his cabinet colleagues in finance are either incompetent or corrupt. Therefore, corrupt

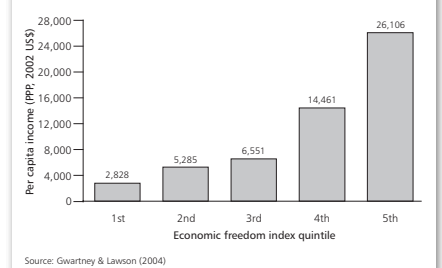
The above excerpted from *On the trail of cure: reality and rhetoric on treating malaria* by Dr. Roger Bate (www.PolicyNetwork.net, 2007-04-02) "Despite a record level of philanthropic and multilateral funding for malaria, there are still significant problems in the procurement and delivery of malaria drugs. These easily solvable problems are undermining the effectiveness of donor funding."



Economic Freedom Index

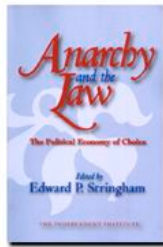
How can public health best be advanced in Africa? Advancing economic freedom is the proven path to prosperity. The *Economic Freedom of the World Index* and the *Index of Economic Freedom* provide empirical support for economic freedom generating prosperity. Quintile 1 are least free, and poorest (and in Africa). Botswana and Mauritius rate highest in Africa in economic freedom.

Figure 9 Average income vs. economic freedom index, 2002



Anarchy, State & Africa

European colonial officials were frustrated by the absence of centralized states in Africa. When they inquired as to who had absolute authority, local chiefs responded reasonably that it would be foolish and dangerous to grant anyone such authority. Africa's traditional decentralized decision-making was viewed in state-crazy Europe as tribal backwardness.



Skepticism of state power that had informed leading thinkers in the Eighteenth Century had given way, especially in Europe, to an enthusiastic confidence in powerful nation-states.

Anarchy need not mean chaos and disorder. Economist Edward Stringham's anthology, *Anarchy and The Law*, explains how societies self-organize through voluntary institutions, and that it is arbitrary state power that tends to create chaos through central planning.

"Igboland in Nigeria was a non-state society," writes William Easterly, "with decentralized village self-government... The British appointed chiefs anyway, sometimes choosing one of the village heads to rule over the others." (*White Man's Burden*, p. 274) Colonial authorities insisted every African belong to a single tribe and every tribe have a chief. But many African tribes had long migrated, intermingled, and intermarried. European scholars of the colonial period brought modern "scientific" ideas of race, eugenics, nationalism, and socialism to Africa.

European weaponry secured colonial (mis)rule of most of Africa by backing chosen chiefs with superior firepower. African chiefs whose traditional power was limited, claimed to clueless colonial administrators that had (or at least ought to have) absolute power.

European and American governments and aid-agencies still treat African states as if they have legitimate power over Africans. Thomas Jefferson insisted that governments were instituted to protect people's rights and that they derive "their just powers from the consent of the governed." So it was for centuries with local chiefs in Africa, but European colonial heads invented African nation-states whose powers derived from European guns, not local consent.

Today's African states and borders were created by European diplomats and enforced by colonial guns. After colonialism, \$500,000,000,000 in "aid" dollars thrown at corrupt African governments has contributed to chaos across much of Africa. Perhaps the *anarchy* of Africa's traditionally state-less societies would better advance peace, prosperity, and public health.

MDs vs. THPs* in Africa

*THPs: Traditional Health Care Practitioners

	MDs	THPs
Malawi	35	17,000
Tanzania	600	30,000-40,000
Sub-Saharan Africa	Ratio: 1:25,000	Ratio: 1:200

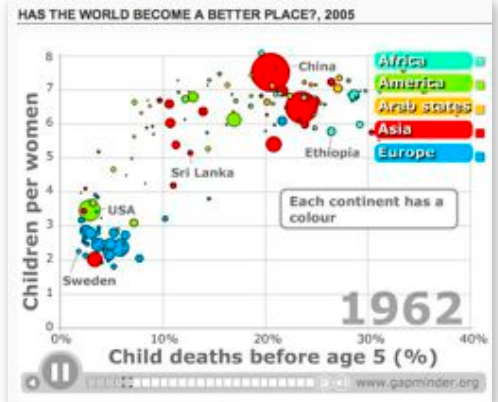
MDs, THPs, and the Global Health Challenge

United States government and private foundation public health aid to Sub-Saharan Africa has increased dramatically, but with unintended and unfortunate consequences. Scarce health care resources are being drawn away from higher-value uses.



Recent dramatic increases in public health aid to Sub-Saharan Africa via targeted health care spending has disrupting Africa's fragile public health infrastructure, according to Laurie Garrett. Doctors and nurses are being hired away from critical health services leaving even more Africans to die. Garrett's January/February 2007 Foreign Affairs essay outlines this latest foreign aid tragedy. But why is there a shortage of African health care workers? It turns out that traditional African health practitioners are excluded from the western-style medical aid model. Instead of basic medical training that could improve the knowledge and skills of tens of thousands of Africa's existing Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs), western aid funds mostly western-trained Medical Doctors (MDs).

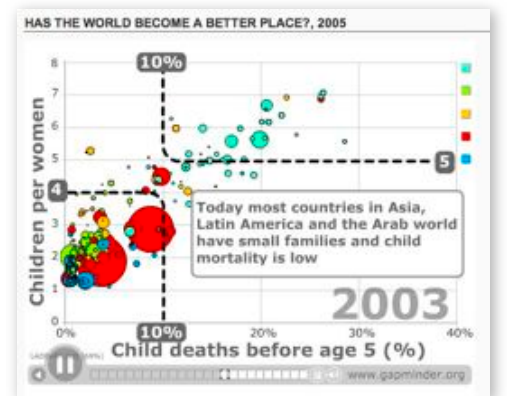
Public health advocates regularly decry the scarcity of Medical Doctors (MDs) in Sub-Saharan Africa. Various aid programs fund training of additional MDs, many of whom quickly emigrate to Europe or the U.S. But though Africa has few European-style Medical Doctors, it has many African-style Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs). The chart at top compares M.D. and THPs across Sub-Saharan Africa. An in-depth discussion of published proposals to advance public health training for African traditional private-sector healers is online linked from: www.EconomicThinking.org/Africa.



In 1962 both family size and child mortality were high in developing countries. By 2003 (below) child mortality and family size had dropped dramatically in the underdeveloped world—except for most of Africa.

Has the world become a better place?

In 1962 most women in the developing world had more than five children and over twenty percent of those children died. Gapminder.org's "bubble-map" shows the amazing progress since then for most of the world, as child mortality has dropped to under ten percent. The exception, however, is Africa, where child mortality rates are still tragically high. Few in the 1960s thought such rapid progress was possible. Fears of over-population, food shortages, and running out of natural resources were widespread. See animation at Gapminder.org



New Tech Public Health




DataDyne is developing ... information technologies to help CDC, WHO, the American Red Cross, UNICEF, and others use information technology to collect and share health information in service to the world's needy most populations. Former Collegiate School and St. John's School debate coach David Beers, now president of PikeSoft, helped develop the EpiSurveyor software for DataDyne's public health data collection technology, now used in Africa. More information at: www.datadyne.org.


Insight News TV

The Devil's Footpath


Written & Presented by June Arunga



"Africa could be the best place on earth, but instead our best & brightest minds are leaving the continent in their millions." So says June Arunga a 22-year-old Kenyan law student who's facing the same dilemma. Should she stay or should she go?



Arunga a 22-year-old Kenyan law student who's facing the same dilemma. Should she stay or should she go?



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The Devil's Footpath



"Africa could be the best place on earth, but instead our best and brightest minds are leaving the continent in their millions." So says June Arunga a 22-year-old Kenyan law student who's facing the same dilemma. Should she stay or should she go?

To find an answer to that question, June embarked on a 5000-mile, six-week, soul-searching journey, traveling the length of Africa through Egypt, Sudan, Congo, Angola, Namibia and, finally, South Africa. Six conflict-riven countries that span the continent - from Cairo to Cape Town - and comprise 'The Devil's Footpath.'

Aid agencies, UN peacekeepers and even multinationals fly June into some of the continent's bleakest war zones - meeting tribal chiefs, DJs, rappers, soldiers, miners, students, and witch doctors. The journey is an emotional one, showing the very best and the very worst of Africa.




Amy Smith designs cheap, practical fixes for tough problems in developing countries. Among her many accomplishments, the MIT engineer received a MacArthur "genius" grant in 2004 and was the first woman to win the Lemelson-MIT Prize for turning her ideas into inventions.

Clean-burning, life-saving fuel from MIT

A major public health risk in Sub-Saharan Africa is respiratory infections from air pollution. Not from factories or coal-fired power plants, but indoor air pollution from cooking. Dr. Amy Smith, in a 15-minute www.TED.com video, outlines public health benefits from a new cooking fuel that: "has the potential to make a huge impact around the world. It addresses one of the biggest health issues on the planet, the number one cause of death of children under five... breathing the smoke from indoor cooking fires [that] lead to two million deaths a year..." Affirmatives can push "carbon macrotube" technology: "Worldwide you could prevent a million deaths switching from wood to charcoal as a cooking fuel." In Ghana the fuel is "fully functional, field-tested, ready to roll out..." Dr. Smith claims this simple innovation would yield health benefits, environmental benefits, and economic benefits, and recommends micro-finance to develop fuel production and distribution micro-enterprises.

DER SPIEGEL ONLINE INTERNATIONAL

For God's Sake, Please Stop the Aid!

DER SPIEGEL INTERVIEW WITH AFRICAN ECONOMICS EXPERT

www.spiegel.de/international/spiegel/0,1518,363663,00.html

The Kenyan economics expert James Shikwati, 35, says that aid to Africa does more harm than good. The avid proponent of globalization spoke with SPIEGEL about the disastrous effects of Western development policy in Africa, corrupt rulers, and the tendency to overstate the AIDS problem.

SPIEGEL: Mr. Shikwati, the G8 summit at Gleneagles is about to beef up the development aid for Africa...

Shikwati: ... for God's sake, please just stop.

SPIEGEL: Stop? The industrialized nations of the West want to eliminate hunger and poverty.

Shikwati: Such intentions have been damaging our continent for the past 40 years. If the industrial nations really want to help the Africans, they should finally terminate this awful aid. The countries that have collected the most development aid are also the ones that are in the worst shape. Despite the billions that have poured in to Africa, the continent remains poor.

SPIEGEL: Do you have an explanation for this paradox?

Shikwati: Huge bureaucracies are financed (with the aid money), corruption and complacency are promoted, Africans are taught to be beggars and not to be independent. In addition, development aid weakens the local markets everywhere and dampens the spirit of entrepreneurship that we so desperately need. As absurd as it may sound: Development aid is one of the reasons for Africa's problems. If the West were to cancel these payments, normal Africans wouldn't even notice. Only the functionaries would be hard hit. Which is why they maintain that the world would stop turning without ... development aid. [Interview continues at URL above.]



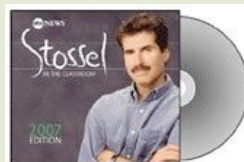
Economic Thinking is a program of E Pluribus Unum Films, a Seattle nonprofit.

Our mission is to inspire students through active learning programs like speech and debate to learn the history and economics of public policies, and explore the seen and the unseen consequences of both economic freedom and political intervention.

Video resources on Africa and Aid

Free Videos for Educators...

Stossel 2007 DVD with Africa/Foreign Aid



segment featuring Jeffrey Sachs and Kenyans John Githongo and June Arunga. Free online at:

www.stosselintheclassroom.org

Pennies a Day

Features Nobel Peace Prize winner M.



Yunus. and micro-lending for improving living standards and public health. Free to teachers at: www.izzit.org

The Devil's Footpath

Information on this BBC documentary above. Individual orders at: EconomicThinking.org/store

Africa: Resources, Conflict, and Freedom

This DVD includes June Arunga's 17-minute film: Africa's Ultimate Resource.

