



On the Path to the one Unified Story of the Afrikan People Part 1 **By Sister Ivory Ann Black II Woletta Sellassie**

Greetings to all and welcome may the spirit of Afrikan Unity forever keep us and nurture us. As you may or may not beware, for the last 567 years the Afrikan forced to migrate to the Diaspora carried away as captives to build the Western world, have been determined to maintain our dignity and rightful identity, given to us from the foundation of the world. Having recognized thus far since we have been out side of our Motherland, Afrika, there has developed a cultural and identification gap between Afikans born in the Diaspora(Afrikan Americans) and our Afrikan brothers and sisters on the continent. So ***Afrikan Unity of Harlem***, under our **Education** propose are striving to pinpoint our collective Afrikan true story as a people. To do so we have to start with the simple basis structures.

What we Know

Around 1441 the continent of Afrika and beloved peoples underwent traumatic life-altering events were our beloved brothers and sisters were forcefully removed from their homelands. 700 million plus was forced to migrate to the Diaspora to work and build the Western society via the European Slave Trade of Afrikan People. At first this was seen as simply one people traveling to other areas to work, but soon Afrikan people were kidnapped and sold to distant lands for economical benefits. The majority of the people

were from the coast of West Afrikan countries. Afrikans were forced to migrate, and started their battles for freedom on the continent, leading to the holding quarters, then onto the ships that unfortunately dispersed them to foreign lands. Millions died fighting, and even through themselves overboard instead of being captives. Our dear brothers and sisters could have not imagined that for the next 500 plus years we would undergo extreme forced cultural change that would lead to the lost of identity, original language, and cultural religious practices, thus uprooting us from our Afrikan moral and ethnical principals. This caused the Afrikans stolen to America and other areas to receive fictitious names like Negro, Black, Colored, Black Americans, Afrikan-American. We are none of these. We are Afrikan people. The Berlin Conference in 1884 allowed European nations to decide for themselves to claim territorial rights and resources to our homeland by the signing of treaties.

In the late nineteenth century, the European imperial powers engaged in a major territorial scramble and occupied most of the continent, creating many colonial nation-states, seizing Afrikan lands placing Afrikan people under forced occupation. Kingdom states were forced to join together or family kingdoms were separated, and areas were given new names. Lines of demarcation that occurred during colonial rule caused the Afrikan neutral ways of government and economy to become unstable, and impaired its functioning bringing about a collapse on a number of once sovereign ethnic groups that are still being felt in African politics today. The European drawing artificial borders around their sized territories isolated them from other colonial rulers, separating Afrikan ruling classes which forced once enemies to live together with no buffer between them. In nations that had an extensive European populace, like in South Afrika, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. Rhodesia's systems of second-class citizenship were often set up in order to give Europeans political power over the dominated Afrikan society. In the area colonialist controlled, our shared or respected rights and power over land was distorted creating pervious nonexistent ethnic divisions. This soon led to cultural separation into groups with contradicting principles of governments creating damaging effects in the Afrikan society. An example of this can be seen with the division of Ethiopia, Italy's desire to have an East Afrikan Kingdom; and Italy worked diligently behind the scene to form Eritrea at the expense of Ethiopians losing a part of their Mother country and access to seaports. Another example is when German colonialist took ruler-ship over now Rwanda and Burundi in the 19th century and caused the Tutsis and Hutus to merge into one culture. This led to tribal strife centering on the right to marry only those from their own group. The Belgians introduced racial systems which indoctrinated some of our Brothers and Sisters on the continent with European ideologies, who then used these systems to dominate their own Afrikan people. Also, with the intense amalgamation, children were born with fairer skin and other stylized features which became more favorable then their own. Thus, these children were given power over their people to serve as the colonialist.

The only two independent nations maintained: Liberia, an independent state settled by Africans who was previously forced to serve in the Americans, along side those who sojourner freely to the Americas; and Abyssinia that defeated the colonialist at Magdale and yet again at the Battle of Adwa. Abyssinian victory over these outside forces retained

the sovereignty of the country (and unspokenly ALL Afrikan people), and because of this victory we in the West have never been slaves, and we on the continent have never been completely colonized. We all have just been occupied.

Now of course in this 21st century we can no longer blame any one for our own ills as a nation of people. The only option is to stand and take the responsibility to bring back our golden Afrikan morals which were the bedrock of our culture, society, and life prior to the above interference. To bring back to focus our Afrikan traditions of life, we must firstly start by asking: *Where was the first civilization on the earth? Who were the people? Where on the planet did they travel to live?* To refresh our minds we will look at the most recent study of the **National Geographic Book of the Peoples of the World: A Guide to Culture. Published 2007 for more information visit:** www.nationalgeographic.com

1. Migration of Peoples from the continent of Afrika

- a. The indigenous communities of people developed and advanced in east Afrikan areas around the Horn
- b. Modern thought of today after years of doubt, and speculation spread inward on the continent around 60,000 years ago,
 - *50,000 years ago out from the horn Eastward cutting the tip out what is known as India south to Australia.
 - *40,000 years ago northward out the horn to what is known as the Middle East to what is called today Asia, and out from the surround Island of Asia to Eastern Asia.
 - * 30,000 years ago spreading southward in Asia and Northwest to what is called Europe
 - *20,000 years ago out of about central Asia eastward crossing what is called today the **Bering Strait**, south through what is known today as Americas arriving in central America.
 - * From the National Geographic Human Project.

2. Who where they?

To start this section we are going to study the works of our Elders who have already laid the foundation for us and in remembering and honoring them, use their findings to enhance our mental thought about who we are as a people. So we are going to look at our **Elder John G. Jackson** and what he has found in searching for our ancestors in his work.