

The Perils of Tribalism in Africa Surpass the Emergence of Far-Right Movements in Europe

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The assertion that "Tribalism in Africa is more dangerous than the rise of the far-right movement in Europe" implores a discussion that is both deep and intricate analysis. There are important and possibly catastrophic consequences associated with both tribalism in Africa and the far-right movement in Europe; yet, they exhibit distinct manifestations themselves in different contexts and situations each time.

There is a specific compression that can be used to compare the far-right movement in Europe to tribalism in Africa in a circumspect manner. "Narrow nationalist perspective" is a manifestation of both; however, it necessitates context-based evaluation. I am discussing the potential negative consequences of tribalism on our shared aspirations for peace, unity, and progress from an African perspective. What is remarkable about this comparison is that the hatred of immigrants, particularly Africans, is one of the many factors contributing to the rise of far-right movements. Needless to say, the animosity extends beyond Africa and encompasses European nations that are economically dependent.

A key aspect in the emergence of far-right movements is the perception of Africans and Afro-Americans in South America as being responsible for issues and posing threats. Conversely, the historical presence of European colonial powers in Africa has resulted in lasting ethnic differences, nationalist feelings, and animosity towards the West. This is due to the fact that the colonial history of Africa is directly associated with the underdevelopment of Africa.

The colonial injustices that disrupted the African way of life were one of the critical factors that fueled conflicts, instability, and migration from Africa. Providentially, the wrongdoers were exposed and threatened by the very problem they introduced. Subsequently, these developments have precipitated adverse reactions in the United States and Europe. These concerns and prejudices are exploited by far-right movements to advance nativism, protectionism, and isolationism.

Nevertheless, they continue to portray Africa as a peril and a burden to Western civilization, promoting the implementation of stringent border controls, reduced assistance, and reduced engagement with the continent and its diaspora. Regrettably, some African nations, although considering themselves superior to others, have followed in the footsteps of Europe by implementing strict border controls against their fellow Africans. The likelihood of

peace and development in these regions is jeopardised by the aforementioned facts and rhetoric, which undermines efforts to establish cooperation and solidarity between Africa and the Western world.

The postcolonial political and economic connections between Africa and the West also influence their relationship in an unequal manner. Following their attainment of independence, several African nations retained strong ties with their former colonial powers, which exerted ongoing influence over their internal and external policies. The use of financial assistance and military aid to exert indirect control proved problematic. European powers offered development aid, commercial advantages, and security collaboration, but, these connections frequently exhibited inequality and exploitation. As a result, African elites and masses became dependent on and resentful of this situation.

Upon the withdrawal of the colonial power, the dividing elements of ethnic particularism or tribalism emerged and began to afflict the political system through inter-tribal competition for political power, public positions, and public resources. The polarising influences of tribalism or religious disparities are further exacerbated by ambitious and unscrupulous politicians who exploit the tribal or religious emotions of their constituents in order to get their votes during elections or to gain an advantage over their rivals.

Tribalism in Africa Definition and Context

Tribalism is the practice of demonstrating unwavering loyalty to one's own tribe or social group at the expense of others. However, the issue is much more profound than that, and it is challenging to consolidate all forms of tribalism into a single category. In Africa, tribalism is more akin to "interlocking, overlapping, multiple, and alternative collective identities." In Africa, tribal identities frequently predate colonial borders, resulting in a multifaceted mosaic of ethnic groups with profound historical origins.

Tribalism has served as a catalyst for a variety of conflicts in Africa, including the Rwandan Genocide (Hutus vs. Tutsis), the ongoing ethnic conflicts in South Sudan and Sudan, and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) rebellion against the central government of Nigeria.

The dangers and implications of tribal loyalties can undermine national unity, resulting in fragile states and frequent violent conflicts, as evidenced by the TPLF movement in Ethiopia and the Kenyan rivalry between the Kikuyu, the Luo, and the Kalenjin. Additionally, this is evident in the election saga and the recent emergence of the MK party in South Africa

with tribal tendency. The development of a cohesive national identity can be impeded by tribalism, which can make it challenging to address collective issues such as poverty, healthcare, and education.

The aspiration to control economic resources has transformed tribalism into an ideology that benefits the wealthy and influential at the expense of the impoverished and vulnerable. Tribalism encompasses additional components, including social conflicts. The African people are adversely affected by tribalism, which is closely linked to economic dominance. Many African politicians have become tribalistic and exploit their privileged positions in government to create advantages for themselves and to improve employment opportunities for their tribesmen/women, as a result of the invasion of tribalism by African politics.

Rise of the far-right movement in Europe definition and context

Movement to the far right It has evolved into a political ideology that frequently prioritises nationalism, anti-immigration policies, and traditionalism; however, it may have a much more profound meaning than a simplistic definition. The emergence of far-right parties in Europe has been exacerbated by economic uncertainties, apprehensions regarding immigration, and concerns regarding national sovereignty. Xenophobia and racism are the initial manifestations of the implications; however, they are backed by systemic institutional structures that ensure the dominance of the Caucasian race.

Far-right movements frequently advocate for policies and language that encourage exclusion, resulting in heightened levels of discrimination and hate crimes against minority groups. The emergence of the far-right exacerbates political polarisation, destabilises democratic institutions, and undermines social cohesiveness. Far-right regimes or influence pose a potential danger to democratic norms such as the preservation of freedom of the press, the autonomy of the judiciary, and the safeguarding of minority rights.

Not only are these movements not restricted to Europe; they are also acquiring momentum in the United States, which poses a threat to the stability of domestic policy. The rise of far-right movements is a "blessing in disguise" as it facilitates the discussion of critical questions regarding self-reliance and discontinuity that have historically been dependent on the support of Europe and the United States among Africans.

The African situation has never been altered by *economic assistance from Europe and the United States*, and it will not be altered in the future, except to further exacerbate our

predicament. In a positive manner, the development of far-right movements in Europe and the United States is influenced by historical ties, socio-economic factors, and political dynamics. Transnational influences have substantial implications for global geopolitics and Africa.

Comparative Analysis Scope and Scale of Violence

Tribalism in Africa has resulted in substantial displacement and loss of life, as well as large-scale violence and civil conflicts. Far-right movements in Europe have not yet resulted in conflicts of the same magnitude as those observed in Africa, despite the fact that they have contributed to violence and hate crimes.

The assessment of relative threat is contingent upon the specific measurements employed and the particular scenario in question. Tribalism in Africa has direct and profound ramifications for stability, government, and human life. Conversely, the far-right movement in Europe presents a substantial threat to democratic principles, societal unity, and global interactions, carrying lasting consequences.

Both phenomena pose significant risks, and effectively managing them necessitates customised strategies that take into account historical, social, and political circumstances. Both issues should not be overlooked and require immediate response to minimise their hazards and effects.

Influence on stability and governance In African states, tribalism can result in chronic instability and governance issues, which frequently impede development. Although the far-right in Europe is destabilising, it operates within established democratic frameworks, although it has the potential to undermine these frameworks over time.

Implications on society the worldwide consequences of tribalism solidify differences and have the potential to prolong cycles of retaliation and strife. Far-right movements contribute to societal fragmentation and can result in the marginalisation of specific social groups. However, they also elicit robust opposition movements that promote inclusion and the protection of human rights.

Tribal conflicts have the potential to destabilise entire regions, resulting in humanitarian crises and affecting international peacekeeping efforts. The global implications of the far-right's ascension in Europe include the unification of supranational entities such as the European Union, immigration policies, and international relations.

Conclusion

Unless Africans address the tribal inclination by structural means and provide systematic education to each nation, the consequences will be far more perilous than the rise of the Far-Right movement in Europe. It is unrealistic for us to believe that tribalism would disappear in the foreseeable future unless significant efforts are made to educate folks. Nevertheless, it is possible to mitigate its adverse consequences by training young individuals to cultivate a broader vision of the world, distinct from the limited viewpoint of tribal emotion and entitlement.

Hence, Africa must adopt a proactive and strategic approach in addressing the problems and possibilities presented by the emergence of far-right movements in Europe and the US. The continent should avoid being complacent or defensive, and instead strive to actively and diplomatically collaborate with its partners while promoting its interests and ideals. Africa should capitalise on its advantages, such as structural governance and Intra-Africa trade, in order to promote sustainable and all-encompassing development.

The far-right movement in Europe and America will respect and will accommodate the centre position when Africa begins to work together for collective self-sufficiency, unity, and prosperity. In the same vein, tribalism will eventually dissipate as Africans become more conscientious and embrace one another in order to promote equality on the global stage.

Africa can showcase its resilience, solidarity, and potential as a global player by taking this action, while also making a valuable contribution to the promotion of peace, democracy, and human rights on a global scale. Africa should capitalise on its advantages, including its youth demographic, cultural diversity, abundant natural resources, and regional unification, in order to promote sustainable and inclusive progress. Africa can showcase its resilience, solidarity, and potential as a global player by taking this action, while also making a valuable contribution to the promotion of peace, democracy, and human rights on a global scale.

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