

# Obama Tells African Youth: Pay Your Debts!

by Douglas DeGroot

Aug. 11—President Obama’s performance at a Microsoft- and MasterCard Foundation-funded meeting with African youth leaders in Washington July 28 removed any remaining doubts that an already skeptical African leadership may have had, that the Aug. 4-7 summit called by the U.S. President would lead to a shift in U.S.-Africa policy, to one of a development thrust to begin to fill Africa’s enormous infrastructure deficit.

Instead, as revealed by the demands Obama made, the U.S.A. will continue to defend the bankrupt British global financial empire, and work to prevent African nations from developing in collaboration with the system being set up by the BRICS nations (Russia, China, India, Brazil, and South Africa), the only sane survival option the world now has. The global financial empire will lose Africa as its private resource preserve if the continent industrializes with the cooperation of the BRICS.

Covering up the real reasons Africa has not yet developed, in response to questions from the young leaders, Obama retailed the line that the problems that are impeding African development are internal, and, ludicrously, he said that African development will take place once these internal problems are dealt with. He was especially brutal on the the question of debt relief, saying point-blank, that African nations had to stop complaining about their usurious debt burdens, and just pay them.

That leaves the combination of China and the BRICS grouping as the only option open to Africa for infrastructure development. Chinese investment in Africa this past year was over than \$200 billion, more than double that of the U.S.A.

Since the July 14-16 BRICS summit in Brazil, a \$50 billion New Development Bank, plus \$100 billion in the Contingent Reserve Arrangement—for countries that get in trouble—is now being geared up, and one of its goals, which has been in planning for some time, will be infrastructure in Africa. A regional office for the BRICS bank is to be located in South Africa.

Large-scale electricity production, roads, and railroads are only part of what would be on the agenda, if the BRICS are successful. A reported 70% of the African population have no electrical power or only irregular power. These kinds of topics did not enter into Obama’s performance at the meeting of the young leaders.

## On the Debt

The following poignant question on African debt was posed to Obama by Kenyan participant:

“Africa is losing her people to starvation and diseases, which are otherwise curable. And this is largely because our governments are establishing very huge debts to the G-8 countries. As a global leader in the family of nations, when will the U.S. lead the other G-8 countries in forgiving Africa these debts so that our governments can be in a position to deliver and provide essential services, like social, health care, and the infrastructural development services to our people?”

Obama avoided the issues of food shortages and disease altogether, and claimed there had been advances in health care, without taking into account how lifespans are shortened by the fact that the majority of the population does not have sanitation and potable water.

He went on to say: “I will challenge the notion that the primary reason that there’s been a failure of service delivery is because of onerous debt imposed by the West. . . . At some point, we have to stop looking somewhere else for solutions, and you have to start looking for solutions, internally. . . .

“But do not think that that [debt] is the main impediment at this point to why we have not seen greater progress in many countries, because there’s enough resources there in-country, even if debts are being serviced, to do better than we’re doing in many cases.”

Through the special features of “bankers’ arithmetic,” such as enforced currency devaluations, while significant portions of African debt has been repaid, large amounts are kept on the books, as *EIR* has documented in the case of Argentina.<sup>1</sup>

## Obama’s Grievance List

The British financial empire-designed campaign, outlined by Obama, will serve to undermine the poten-

1. See Dennis Small, “Will Argentina Be First To Bolt from Bankrupt System?,” *EIR*, June 27, 2014.



White House/Pete Souza

*President Obama wagged his finger at African youth leaders at their recent summit in Washington, ordering them to “suck it up,” and pay the predator banks.*

tial for the successful implementation of the desperately needed infrastructure projects.

Obama presented a list of what he said were the impediments preventing African development: bad governance, no rule of law, corruption, and female oppression. These are all problems can only be solved effectively by economic development.

The British Empire’s time-worn tactic is to use these types of issues as a grievance list to mobilize people against their governments, without providing any means to solve the problems.

Coming from Obama, the demand to eliminate corruption is especially outrageous, given the corruption of the millions of George Soros drug dollars channeled into his 2008 election. One African source noted that the amount lost to African corruption is measly, compared to illicit funds earned legally or illegally, and then illegally transferred out of an African nation by Western companies. He also said that if an African government tries to effect legislation for projects, it’s charged with corruption. But nobody bats an eye at the billions of dollars that are funneled through K Street, which by the same logic, should be called corruption, but is instead called lobbying.

As for the issue of female oppression crippling African development, Obama should consider that women arduously till the soil with age-old hand tools to pro-

duce 70% of the food in Africa, while men attempt to eek out some money from the cash economy.

Obama urged the youth to pressure their governments to ensure that his list of complaints be rectified—*without development*—hoping to rope them into future destabilization projects, à la the so-called Arab Spring. Africa has the largest youth population in the world.

### **Security Blackmail**

The creation of numerous conflicts and destabilizations across Africa by the anti-government militias and terrorists which are proxies of the British Empire, is another tactic that will be used to sabotage the development of

Africa, now that the BRICS opportunity is there. These conflicts were not mentioned by Obama in the meeting with the youth, but have been often referred to by the administration, and were discussed during the summit itself. These proxy forces are used to provide the pretext for U.S. and French military aid to, or intervention into, the countries under attack, to eliminate the peaceful environment needed for infrastructure development.

These type of operations have expanded greatly throughout big parts of Africa, since the Obama/NATO overthrow of the Libyan government by the use of militias, in conjunction with an extensive bombing campaign in 2011. The Qatar-financed arms networks are still running arms into militia bases in Libya that are active throughout the Sahel, as well as into other regions of Africa.

Some examples include:

- The radical militia takeover of northern Mali in 2012;
- The ongoing attacks against the government and population of Nigeria by Boko Haram;
- The Shabaab jihadi threat in Somalia, which is also being used to threaten Kenya to undermine large-scale infrastructural projects in a group of eastern African nations.

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