

Conflict in Africa

Who is fighting who and Why?

A continent of Chaos

- Slavery
- Colonialism
- Fragile new states
- Coups d'état
- Apartheid
- Liberation
- civil wars
- Cold war proxy wars
- Genocide
- Religious wars
- Cross border wars
- Jihad
- terrorism

Causes – there is always a reason

- Racism, tribalism, ethnicity
- Exclusion – groups ignored
- Quest for Power – authoritarian systems
- Economic – resources
- Weapons, fighters
- Religion – Islamic overlay
- Outside interference

Responses – How to Help? U.S. Policies

- No interference in internal affairs
- Not our problem, or is it?
- Cold war – during and after - terrorism
- Humanitarian aid
- Diplomacy - multilateral coalitions, persuasion, threats and sanctions
- Military operations
- Peacekeeping, Negotiations, Tribunals

Situation today

- Most nations are peaceful, progressive, democratic, responsible, joining the modern world
- They are still poor economically and have weak institutions
- Trouble persists in hot spots
- Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria, Mali, Congo, CAR
- Framework: causes, impact, response, status

Somalia

- One tribe, Barre 69-91, clan rule
- Warlords, drought, famine, external intervention, mission creep
- Black Hawk down, Islamic Courts, chaos, piracy
- Evolution of Al Shabaab, linkages to Al Qaeda
- Ungoverned territory, millions displaced

Responses

- Many talks, 2002 onwards, feeble transitional governments
- AMISOM, naval cooperation
- 2012 agreements, Federal state. President Mohamed Abdullah Mohamed
- US interest, anti-AlShaabab
- Economy in shambles, Territorial gains, Cautious progress

South Sudan

- Became independent 2011, U.S. midwife. Partially our problem.
- Unprepared for independence. Oil income.
- Tribal civil war, Dinka vs Nuer, 2014 and 2016 until now.
- UN peacekeeping operation, UNMISS.
- Elements of power sharing deal again on table. Intractable leadership. Best hope.
- Impact of violence – Half population, 4 million displaced or refugees.
- Humanitarian aid cares for all. \$800 million from U.S.

Central African Republic

- Historically peaceful, odd politics, unlikely to collapse into conflict but tribalism, ineffective government, exclusion, religious differences
- Selaka in 2012 Muslim force from east, raided towns, resulted in backlash from Christian Anti-Balaka militia, ethnic/religious cleansing, anarchy
- Response: Regional force since 2002 ineffective, France, then UN. Talks led to transitional president Samba-Panza, recent election of Touadira
- Maybe headed right, poverty, inclusion, outsiders still issues

Nigeria – Boko Harum

- North eastern, Borno, Kanuri speakers, excluded, Wahaabi influence, sharia, Islamic state, jihad
- Terrorist tactics: bombings, assassinations, kidnapping, destroyed villages, sees government as corrupt, westernized, Christian, even killed brother of Shehu. Buhari since 2015.
- Toll horrendous, insecurity, dead a displaced by both sides, links to AQIM and ISIL
- Nigeria rejected help, army incompetent, Political bravado
- Spill over into Cameroon, Niger, Chad, now regional cooperation, situation improved, but not solved.

Mali – War in the Sahara

- Tuaregs long excluded, military coup in 2012 offered opportunity, AQIM, Ansar al dinem hijacked Tuareg effort, weapons and men from Libya, Occupied Timbuctu and Gao. Threatened Bamako
- Coup limited US actions, but France/Africans acted, later UN, re-took territory, new democratic government needs to include Tuaregs
- AQIM/ISIS motivates US actions, extensive program in Sahara
- Region unstable

Congo – always on the list

- By nineties government writ weak in east
- Rwandan genocide spilled over
- First Congolese war
- Looting and proxy militias, tribal militias and genocidaires
- Second Congolese war
- Millions impacted, dead, now ebola
- Congolese military feckless, UN too
- Still meddling, still lawless
- Kabila's hold on power, elections in December

Conclusions

- Tribalism, exclusion, grievances fuelled by religious differences, jihad, lack of legitimate recourse
- Formula of condemnation, peace keeping, negotiations, development aid and humanitarian support helps
- Recent elections: Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa
- Nigeria, Mali and CAR may cope, but long haul in Somalia and Sudan(s)