

THE TRUTH ABOUT GLOBALIZATION - Indoctrination

Excerpt from a keynote speech by Emeagwali [emeagwali.com] delivered on September 18, 2004, at the Pan-African Conference on Globalization, Washington DC USA

The entire **transcript** is posted at
<http://emeagwali.com/speeches/globalization/the-truth-about-globalization/index.html>

Excerpt

My indoctrination went far deeper than just a name. The missionary school tried to teach me that saints make better role models than scientists.

I was taught to write in a new language. As a result, I became literate in English but remain illiterate in Igbo - my native tongue.

I learned Latin - a dead language I would never use in the modern world - because it was the official language of the Catholic Church, which owned the schools I attended.

Today, there are more French speakers in Africa than there are in France.

There are more English speakers in Nigeria than there are in the United Kingdom.

There are more Portuguese speakers in Mozambique than there are in Portugal.

The Organization of African Unity never approved an African language as one of its official languages.

We won the battle of decolonizing our continent, but we lost the war on decolonizing our minds.

Many acknowledge that globalization shapes the future, but few acknowledge that it shaped history, or at least the world's perception of it. Fewer acknowledge that globalization is a two-way street.

Africa was a colony, but it is also a key contributor to many other cultures, and the cornerstone of today's society.

The world's views tend to overshadow and dismiss the value and aspirations of colonized people. Again, I must impart my own experiences to illustrate this point.

I grew up serving as an altar boy to an Irish priest. I wanted to become a priest, but ended up becoming a scientist. Religion is based on faith, while science is based on fact and reason - and science is neutral to race. Unfortunately, scientists are not neutral to race.

Take, for example, the origin of AIDS, an international disease. According to scientific records, the first person to die

from AIDS was a 25-year-old sailor named David Carr, of Manchester, England.

Carr died on August 31, 1959, and because the disease that killed him was then unknown, his tissue samples were saved for future analysis.

The "unknown disease" that killed David Carr was reported in *The Lancet* on October 29, 1960. On July 7, 1990, *The Lancet* retested those old tissue samples taken from David Carr and reconfirmed that he had died of AIDS.

Based upon scientific reason, researchers should have deduced that AIDS originated in England, and that David Carr sailed to Africa where he spread the AIDS virus.

Instead, the white scientific community condemned the British authors of those revealing articles for daring to propose that an Englishman was the first known AIDS patient.

If these scientists were neutral to race, their data should have led them to the conclusion that Patient Zero lived in England.

If these scientists were neutral to race, they should have concluded that AIDS had spread from England to Africa, to Asia, and to America.

Instead, they proposed the theory that AIDS originated in Africa.

Even history has degraded our African roots. We come to the United States and learn a history filtered through the eyes of white historians.

And we learn history filtered through the eyes of Hollywood movie producers.

Some of us complained that Hollywood is sending its distorted message around this globalized world.

Some of us complained that Hollywood is a cultural propaganda machine used to advance white supremacy.

George Bush understood Hollywood was a propaganda machine that could be used in his war against terrorism. Shortly, after the 9/11 bombing of New York City, Bush invited Hollywood moguls to the White House and solicited their support in his war against terrorism.

Some will even argue that schools play a significant role as federal indoctrination centers used to convince children during their formative years that whites are superior to other races. Fela Kuti, who detested indoctrination, titled one of his

musical albums: "Teacher Don't Teach Me Nonsense."

It scares me that an entire generation of African children is growing up brainwashed by Hollywood's interpretation and promotion of American heroes.

Our children are growing up idolizing American heroes with whom they cannot personally identify.

We need to tell our children our own stories from our own perspective.

We need to decolonize our thinking and examine the underlying truths in more than just movies.

We need to apply the same principles to history and science, as depicted in textbooks.

Look at African science stories that were retold by European historians; they were re-centered around Europe.

The earliest pioneers of science lived in Africa, but European historians relocated them to Greece.

Science and technology are gifts ancient Africa gave to our modern world.

Yet, our history and science textbooks, for example, have ignored the contributions of Imhotep, the father of medicine and designer of one of the ancient pyramids.

BIO:

Emeagwali helped give birth to the *supercomputer* - the technology that spawned the *Internet*. He won the 1989 Gordon Bell Prize, which has been dubbed the "Nobel Prize of Supercomputing."

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