CULTURE

African map | Photo Pinterest

By **RUKEWVE OCHUKO**

08 March 2020 | 11:00 am

WHAT IS AFRICA’S ORIGINAL

NAME?

The name Africa is a phenomenon. Home to 1.216 billion people, the world's second-largest population and 2nd largest continent after Asia. Africa is a renowned name that has traveled way beyond the shores of the Nile to the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The name is one, over time that is connected to historical heritages and tied to historical revolutions.

However, there is one significance about Africa's name which has been a subject of debate for decades. Several schools of thought have emerged on the true name of what we today know as Africa. A school of thought argue that the name Africa never originated from within the people and her people were never associated with the name. In fact, this school argues that Africa was initially named Alkebulan and was widely referred to as Alkebulan before the name Africa was birthed.

In *Kemetic History of Afrika*, Dr cheikh Anah Diop writes, “The ancient name of Africa was Alkebulan. Alkebu-lan “mother of mankind" or "garden of Eden"." Alkebulan is the oldest and the only word of indigenous origin. It was used by the Moors, Nubians, Numidians, Khart-Haddans (Carthagenians), and Ethiopians. Africa, the current misnomer adopted by almost everyone today, was given to this continent by the ancient Greeks and Romans."

These first sets of Africans conquered empires, moving from one region to another, adding more territories to the Nations' masses creating today the 2nd largest continent in the world. The moors, to date, hold the topmost position as one of the strongest, richest, and educated empires the whole of history has encountered.

He goes on to argue along with historians in this school that the continent was also called, by many names aside Alkebulan. These names include Ortigia, Corphye, Libya, and Ethiopia.

An oil painting of an ancient African man

An oil painting of an ancient African man. | Photo Jewel

In *Kemetic History of Afrika* Dr Diop also connects the revolution of the present west African countries to have originated from ancient Kemet that is today's Eygpt, West African states like Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Ghana, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Sudan among others. However, many theories have tried to dispute the fact that West Africa states were initially named Africa and had no prior relationship being part of the ancient Kemet which was under the name of Alkebulan during the days of the old. Yet, the argument that west African states originated from Kemet has also been historically backed by Samuel Johnson a Nigerian scholar, who studied the origin of Yorubas in Nigerian for the past 20 years till present. According to Samuel in his Manuscript *"The history of the Yorubas from the earliest times to the beginning of the British protectorate,"* Samuel argues that some Yoruba historians have led the Yoruba people to believe they originated from Mecca instead of Egypt in North-east Africa. He also asserts that the ancestors of the Yorubas were Coptic Christians from Eygpt. More so, both places share the same traditional beliefs, like the gods they worship and the beliefs

# of the afterlife.

Kemet Golden throne in ancient Egypt | Photo Pinterest

According to history scholars, the name Africa came into existence in the late 17th century. The name was only initially used only to refer to the Northern parts of Africa. During this period colonialism was in practice, the Europeans roamed Africa and ruled over her people as slave masters. This influenced the change of name from Alkebulan to Africa. The word Africa was initiated by the Europeans and came into Western use through the Romans after the three Punic battles (264 BC to 146 BC) led by Publius Cornelius Scipio and the people of Carthage which is present-day Tunisia. Various theories suggest that the word Africa is derived from both a greek and Latin origin. The Greek word “Phrike” meaning cold and horror, and the Latin word “Aprica” meaning sunny.

Yet, historians from several continents have argued against this propagated African name

According to another school of thought, the name Africa has always been in existence before the Romans invaded the land. According to Motosoko Pheko, an African history scholar he writes that, “The name Africa ‘Alkebulan’ has been interpreted as, meaning mother of Nations or mother of mankind, but Africa is also one of the oldest name of names of this continent." He further argues that the thought that claims that the name Africa never originated from the people and was created by the Romans is totally false. He buttresses his point by indicating that the Greeks occupied Africa in 332 BC, followed by the Romans in 30 BC. The Greeks according to him, already knew Africa with the name Africa. He adds that the name Africa had various pronunciation due to Africa's diversity in language. It is estimated that there are over 6,000 languages in the world and over 3,000 of them are from Africa. In his essay, he writes "Greeks had earlier called Africa 'Aphrike' as they could not pronounce the existing name Af-Rui-ka".

Furthermore, some African historic scholars have suggested that the name

Alkebulan is not in relation to the name Africa. These scholars claim that the said name Alkebulan isn’t of an Arabic origin neither is the meaning. The word Alkebulan in Arabic, Al is a prefix leaving just kebulan as a word, and so far the word is non-existent in Arabic, they claim.

The history of the continent is known but the true name and its origin still raise controversies to date. What are your thoughts?

GTCO
Guaranty Trust Holding Company plc
UNCLAIMED
DIVIDEND 2021

CLICK HERE

In this article

Africa's origin

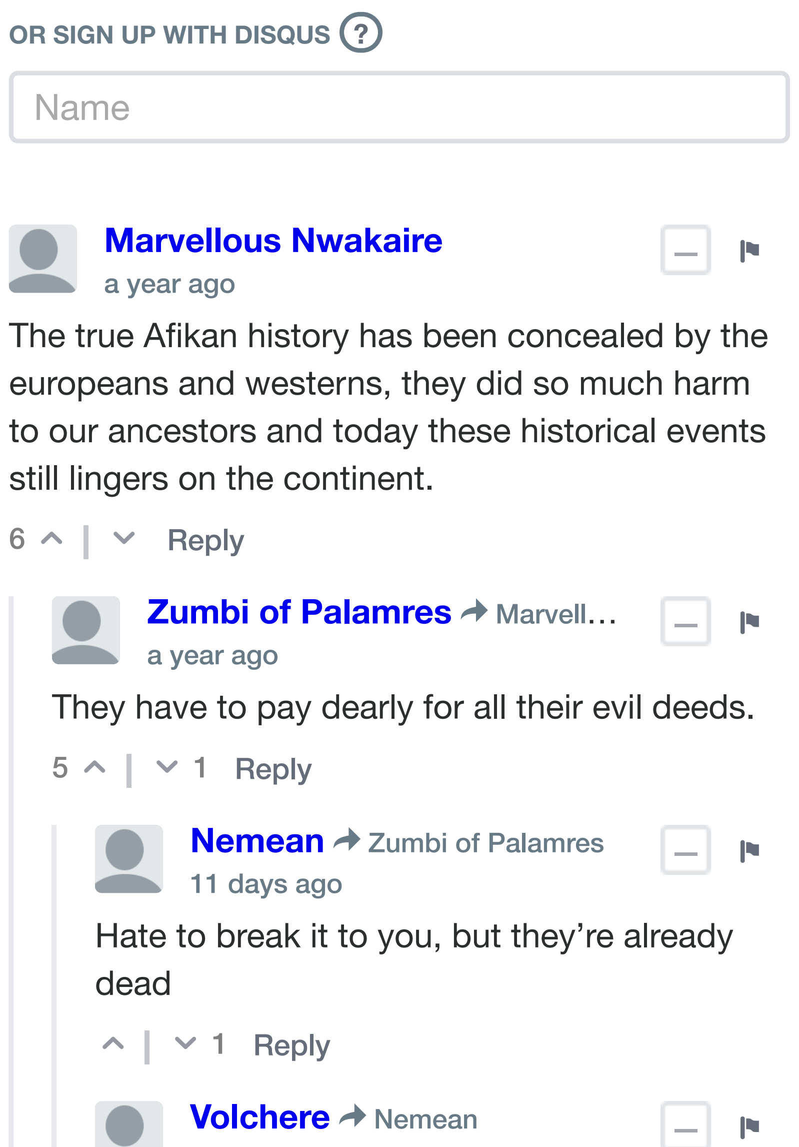
Africa's original name

Comments Community 1 Login

Favorite 29 Sort by Best

Join the discussion…

LOG IN WITH



OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?

Name

Marvellous Nwakaire
a year ago

The true Afikan history has been concealed by the europeans and westerns, they did so much harm to our ancestors and today these historical events still lingers on the continent.

6 ^ | ˅ Reply

Zumbi of Palamres ➦ Marvell…
a year ago

They have to pay dearly for all their evil deeds.

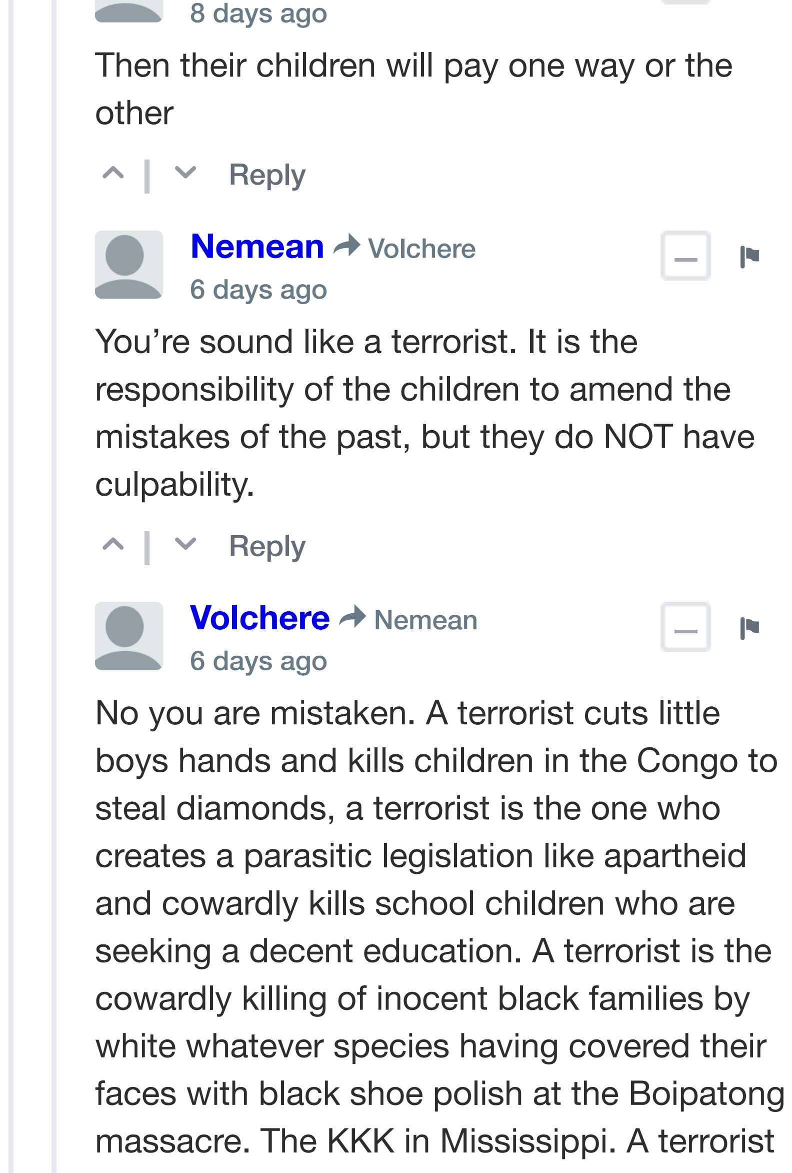
5 ^ | ˅ 1 Reply

Nemean ➦ Zumbi of Palamres
11 days ago

Hate to break it to you, but they’re already dead

^ | ˅ 1 Reply

Volchere ➦ Nemean



8 days ago

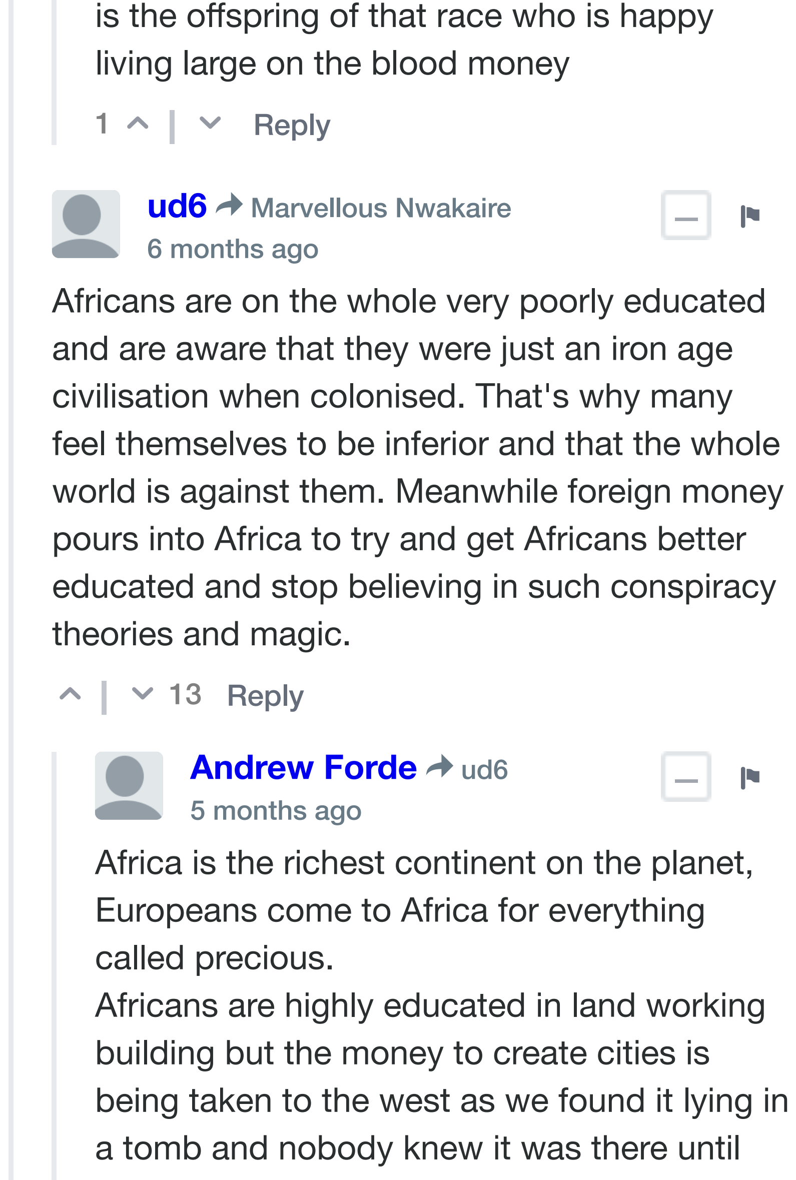
Then their children will pay one way or the other

Nemean → Volchere
6 days ago

You’re sound like a terrorist. It is the responsibility of the children to amend the mistakes of the past, but they do NOT have culpability.

Volchere → Nemean
6 days ago

No you are mistaken. A terrorist cuts little boys hands and kills children in the Congo to steal diamonds, a terrorist is the one who creates a parasitic legislation like apartheid and cowardly kills school children who are seeking a decent education. A terrorist is the cowardly killing of inocent black families by white whatever species having covered their faces with black shoe polish at the Boipatong massacre. The KKK in Mississippi. A terrorist



is the offspring of that race who is happy living large on the blood money

1 ^ | ˅ Reply

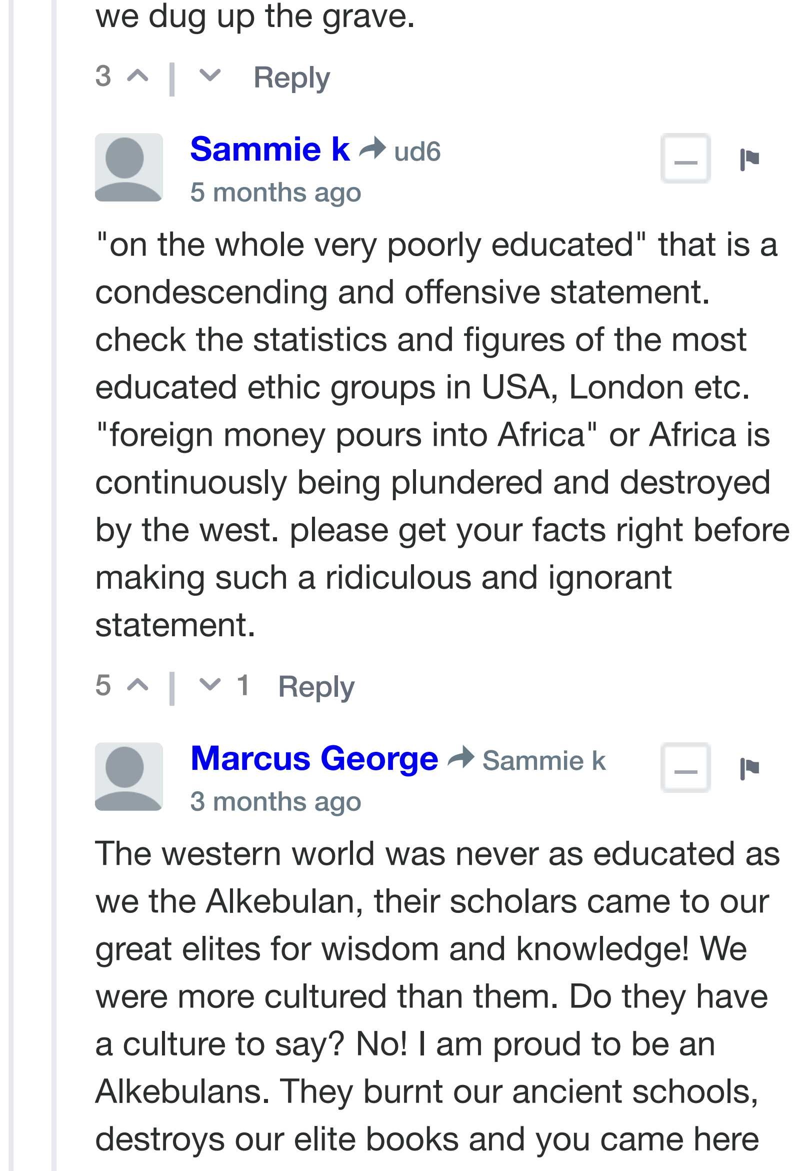
ud6 ➦ Marvellous Nwakaire
6 months ago

Africans are on the whole very poorly educated and are aware that they were just an iron age civilisation when colonised. That's why many feel themselves to be inferior and that the whole world is against them. Meanwhile foreign money pours into Africa to try and get Africans better educated and stop believing in such conspiracy theories and magic.

^ | ˅ 13 Reply

Andrew Forde ➦ ud6
5 months ago

Africa is the richest continent on the planet, Europeans come to Africa for everything called precious.
Africans are highly educated in land working building but the money to create cities is being taken to the west as we found it lying in a tomb and nobody knew it was there until



we dug up the grave.

3 ^ | ˅ Reply

Sammie k ➦ ud6
5 months ago

"on the whole very poorly educated" that is a condescending and offensive statement. check the statistics and figures of the most educated ethic groups in USA, London etc. "foreign money pours into Africa" or Africa is continuously being plundered and destroyed by the west. please get your facts right before making such a ridiculous and ignorant statement.

5 ^ | ˅ 1 Reply

Marcus George ➦ Sammie k
3 months ago

The western world was never as educated as we the Alkebulan, their scholars came to our great elites for wisdom and knowledge! We were more cultured than them. Do they have a culture to say? No! I am proud to be an Alkebulans. They burnt our ancient schools, destroys our elite books and you came here to speak emptiness. If you so call people had let us be, you think I will be writing this in English? I would have been communicating with my mother's beautiful language. Ishie mkpo!

1 ^ | ˅ 1 Reply

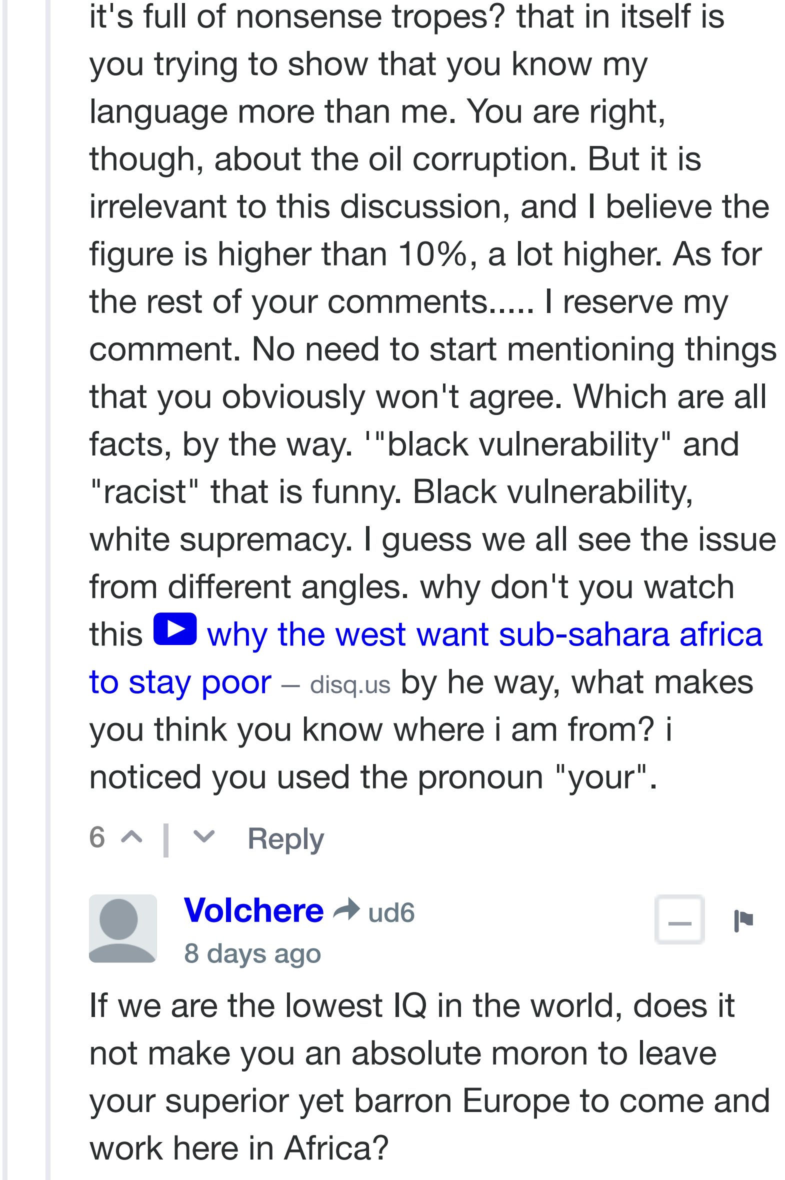
ud6 ➦ Sammie k
5 months ago

Put away that black vulnerability. Hate to tell you, but more Africans live in Africa than in the US. If you look at research papers, Africans are poorly educated. Your language is so full of nonsense tropes. 10% of Nigerian oil money goes into Minister's pockets. The view that the west is now plundering Africa is simply racist and a way of detracting from the rampant corruption. I live in Africa, work in Africa...indeed in the country which has the lowest IQ in the whole world.

1 ^ | ˅ 8 Reply

Sammie k ➦ ud6
5 months ago edited

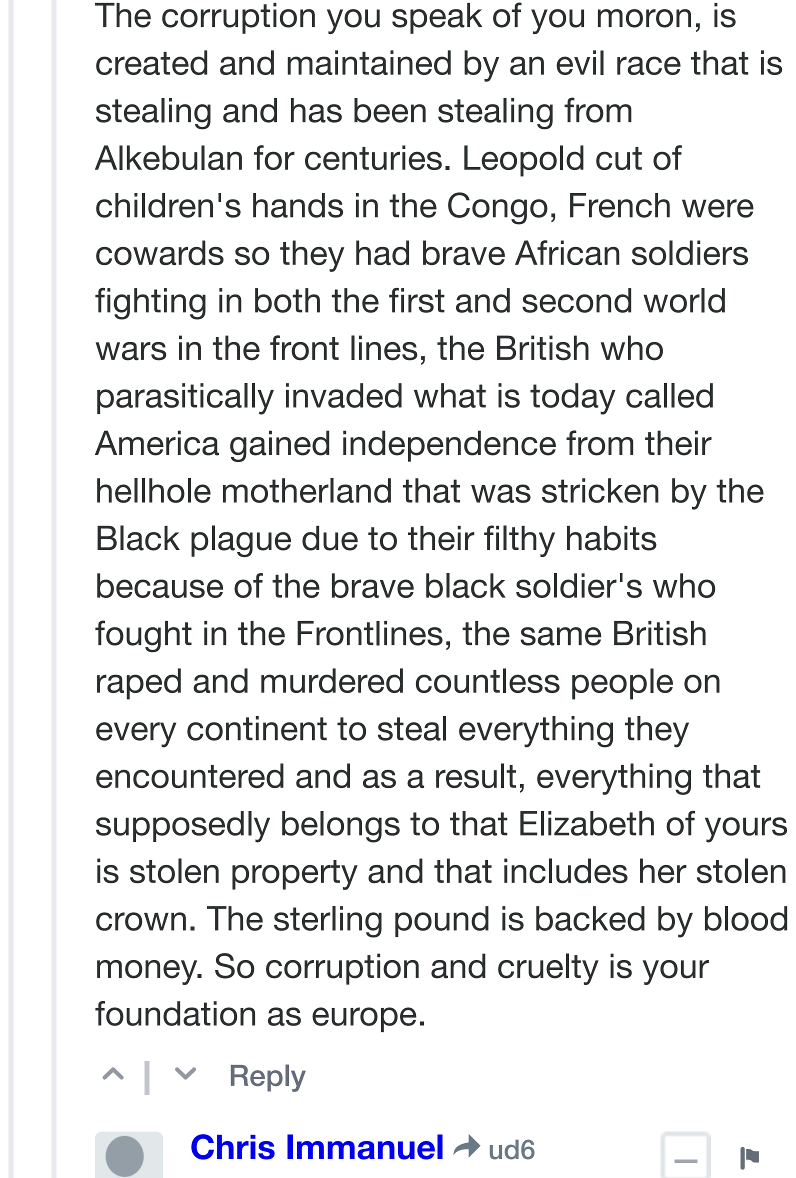
Since it's "our language", how do you know



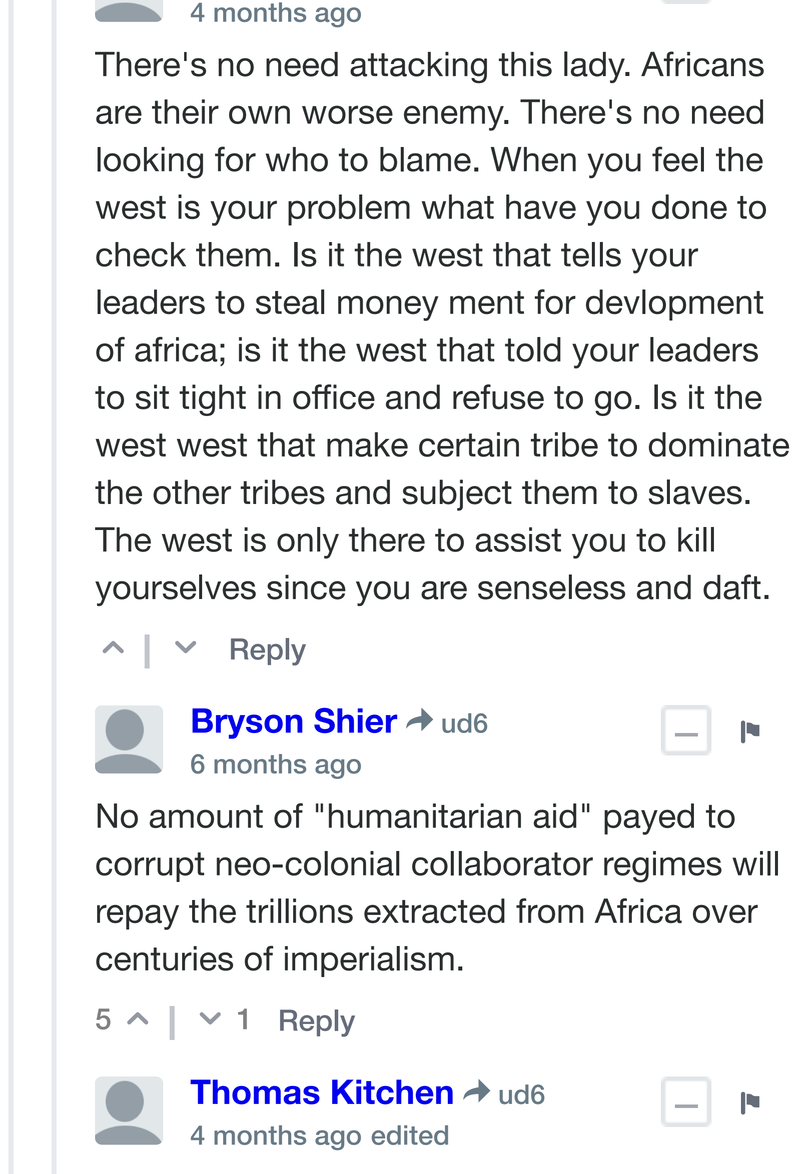
it's full of nonsense tropes? that in itself is you trying to show that you know my language more than me. You are right, though, about the oil corruption. But it is irrelevant to this discussion, and I believe the figure is higher than 10%, a lot higher. As for the rest of your comments..... I reserve my comment. No need to start mentioning things that you obviously won't agree. Which are all facts, by the way. '"black vulnerability" and "racist" that is funny. Black vulnerability, white supremacy. I guess we all see the issue from different angles. why don't you watch this ▶ why the west want sub-sahara africa to stay poor — disq.us by he way, what makes you think you know where i am from? i noticed you used the pronoun "your".

Volchere ➦ ud6
8 days ago

If we are the lowest IQ in the world, does it not make you an absolute moron to leave your superior yet barron Europe to come and work here in Africa?



The corruption you speak of you moron, is created and maintained by an evil race that is stealing and has been stealing from Alkebulan for centuries. Leopold cut of children's hands in the Congo, French were cowards so they had brave African soldiers fighting in both the first and second world wars in the front lines, the British who parasitically invaded what is today called America gained independence from their hellhole motherland that was stricken by the Black plague due to their filthy habits because of the brave black soldier's who fought in the Frontlines, the same British raped and murdered countless people on every continent to steal everything they encountered and as a result, everything that supposedly belongs to that Elizabeth of yours is stolen property and that includes her stolen crown. The sterling pound is backed by blood money. So corruption and cruelty is your foundation as europe.



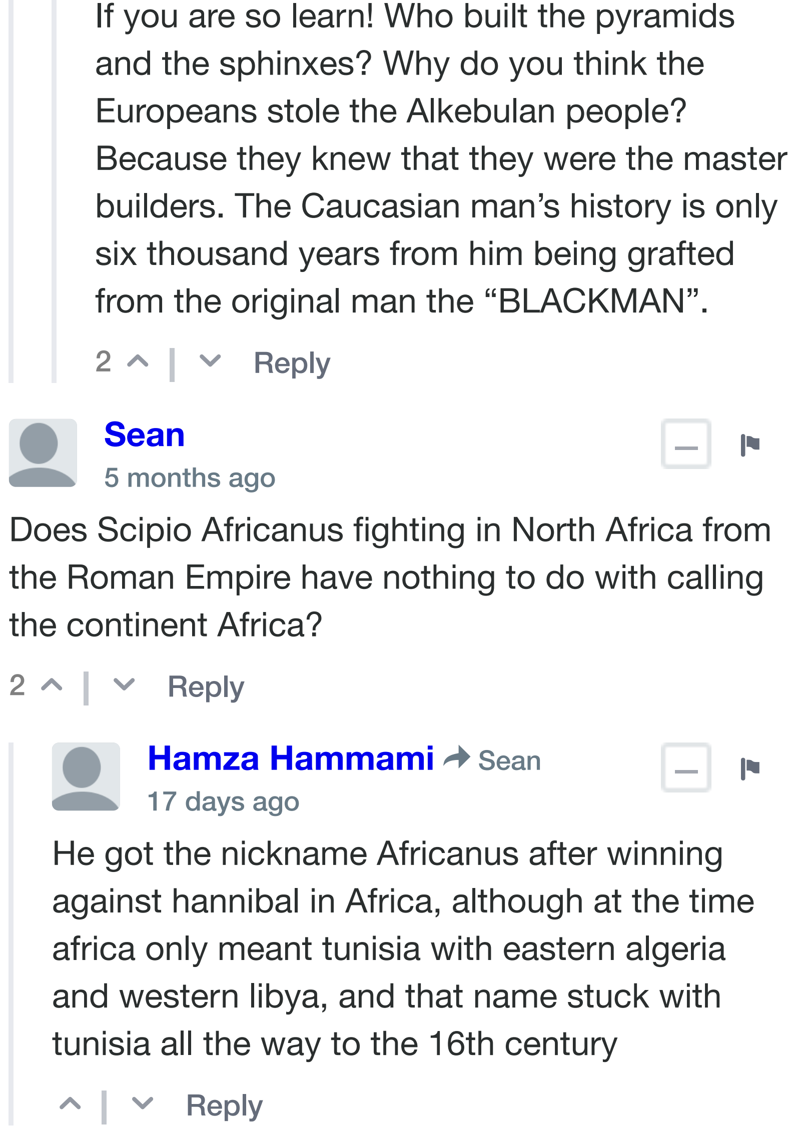
4 months ago

There's no need attacking this lady. Africans are their own worse enemy. There's no need looking for who to blame. When you feel the west is your problem what have you done to check them. Is it the west that tells your leaders to steal money ment for devlopment of africa; is it the west that told your leaders to sit tight in office and refuse to go. Is it the west west that make certain tribe to dominate the other tribes and subject them to slaves. The west is only there to assist you to kill yourselves since you are senseless and daft.

Bryson Shier → ud6
6 months ago

No amount of "humanitarian aid" payed to corrupt neo-colonial collaborator regimes will repay the trillions extracted from Africa over centuries of imperialism.

Thomas Kitchen → ud6
4 months ago edited



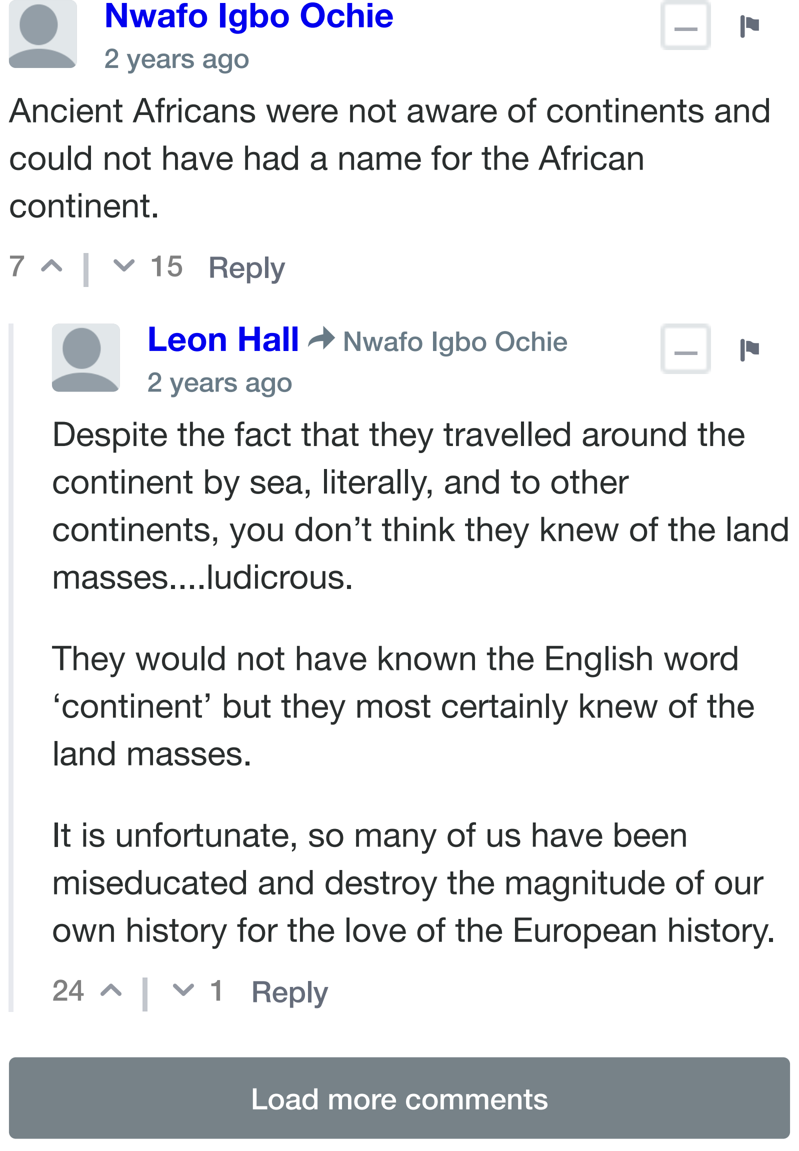
If you are so learn! Who built the pyramids and the sphinxes? Why do you think the Europeans stole the Alkebulan people? Because they knew that they were the master builders. The Caucasian man’s history is only six thousand years from him being grafted from the original man the “BLACKMAN”.

Sean
5 months ago

Does Scipio Africanus fighting in North Africa from the Roman Empire have nothing to do with calling the continent Africa?

Hamza Hammami → Sean
17 days ago

He got the nickname Africanus after winning against hannibal in Africa, although at the time africa only meant tunisia with eastern algeria and western libya, and that name stuck with tunisia all the way to the 16th century



Nwafo Igbo Ochie
2 years ago

Ancient Africans were not aware of continents and could not have had a name for the African continent.

Leon Hall ➦ Nwafo Igbo Ochie
2 years ago

Despite the fact that they travelled around the continent by sea, literally, and to other continents, you don’t think they knew of the land masses....ludicrous.

They would not have known the English word ‘continent’ but they most certainly knew of the land masses.

It is unfortunate, so many of us have been miseducated and destroy the magnitude of our own history for the love of the European history.

Subscribe Do Not Sell My Data DISQUS

SHARE

From Around The Web

jubna

BITCOIN·DIGITAL·DECENTRALIZED·PEER TO PEER

Nigerian Millionaire Reveals: How to Get Rich

with Bitcoin, Without Buying Bitcoin

Daily Finance | Sponsored

Nigerian Millionaire Mom Exposes How to Become Rich Without Leaving Home

Daily Finance | Sponsored

5.5
mmol/l
HOW TO CONTROL
DIABETES

Want To Avoid Amputation Due To Diabetes? Use This Everyday

Health Club | Sponsored

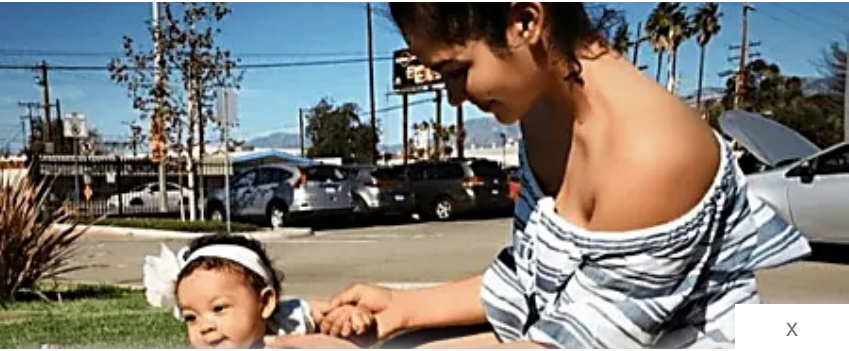
Diabetes: Proven Solution To Type 2 Diabetes Discovered By Ghanaian Expert

Makajeet | Sponsored

BITCOIN·DIGITAL·DECENTRALIZED·PEER TO PEER
MONETARY METALS
TROYOZ
999 FINE

Nigerian Millionaire Reveals: How to Get Rich with Bitcoin, Without Buying Bitcoin

Daily Finance | Sponsored



X