

Dynamics of Underdevelopment In Africa: Exit of Professionals to Advanced Nations



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- In the beginning.....
- So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. Genesis 12:4
- Say, 'O Prophet,' "Travel throughout the land and see how He originated the creation, then Allah will bring it into being one more time. Surely Allah is Most Capable of everything. Al-'Ankabut, [29:20](#)
- The quotations from the scriptures above show that man is a mobile being. And some are cut out not to stay in their place of birth.

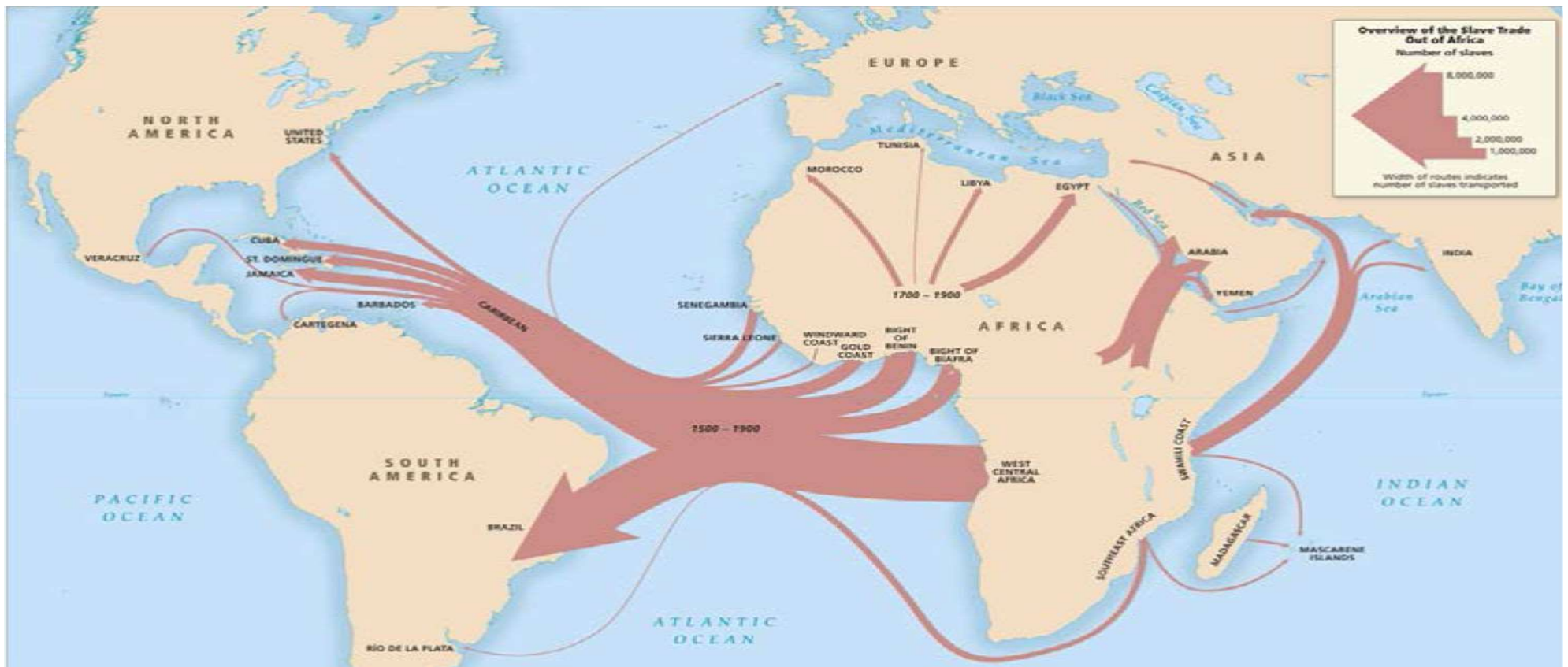
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- **Prologue**

- There is no war in Nigeria. Even the planned invasion of Niger republic by ECOWAS led by Nigeria has been put on hold due to superior arguments. Yet all around us in Nigeria is the atmosphere of war- the streets are desolate, Informal sectors are collapsing, the formal sector is comatose, people are losing their jobs, institutions are closing or operating at half capacity, official school and work days are being drastically reduced. Furthermore, there is an atmosphere of sadness, alienation and deprivation. Fathers and mothers can no longer fulfill their obligations to their children. Children are scrambling for survival. Religious houses are near empty and in abnormal cases overfilled with people looking for miracles as way out.
- On daily basis people put up sad look. The cord of friendship has been weakened and in many instances broken. The politicians are the only ones smiling. Yet they are appropriating our sovereignty on our behalf. On daily basis people are escaping from the country. There seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel. Even the tunnel has been destroyed. Many Nigerians are preparing their last meals, to eat and then rest in peace. Few are hoping against hope. Economic policy foisted on us does not consider how many people die in the process. Everyday one's eyes are laced with sorrow and tears. Yet one wonders what the purpose of the state or government is. Everyday comes with sorrow, hopelessness, anguish, regret, resignation and sadness. What a country.
- Hopelessness mingled with helplessness pervades the land. Roads and markets have very few whispering cars. Most pedestrians are moving in a zombie-like manner. Eerie quietness takes over everywhere, especially at dusk. Gloominess etched on faces. Oyeshile and Oluwole 2023

➤ Few history on human migration
African Diaspora in Asia



- **Few history on human migration**
- **African Diaspora in Asia**
- An overwhelming assumption is that the African presence in Asia, as in the Americas, resulted from the slave trade.
- However, there were free African migrations, both prior to and coterminous with the slave trade.
- The current consensus ([Klein, 2001](#); [Shen et al., 2000](#)) is that modern humankind emerged in Africa about 100,000 years ago,
- Some 40,000 to 50,000 years ago, there occurred significant migration, possibly first across South Asia, through Sundaland and New Guinea to Australia, with later dispersals from Western Asia to Europe, Northern Eurasia, and the Americas.
- Some authors ([Kamat, 2003](#); [Qamar et al., 2003](#); [Rashidi, 2003](#)) consider that peoples of African origin were the original inhabitants of the Persian Gulf and Makrani littoral, regions on the path of the postulated early migration route out of Africa.

The Gold Rush in California



The Gold Rush in California

- The discovery of gold in California in 1848 vastly accelerated changes that had been occurring since 1769.
- A huge meeting place for Mexicans, Russians, Americans, Europeans, and natives
- The gold rush turned California into a truly global frontier where immigrants from every continent on earth now jostled.
- More than 300,000 gold seekers flooded California by 1850
- These visitors had interest in making their "pile" and return home with pockets full of gold.

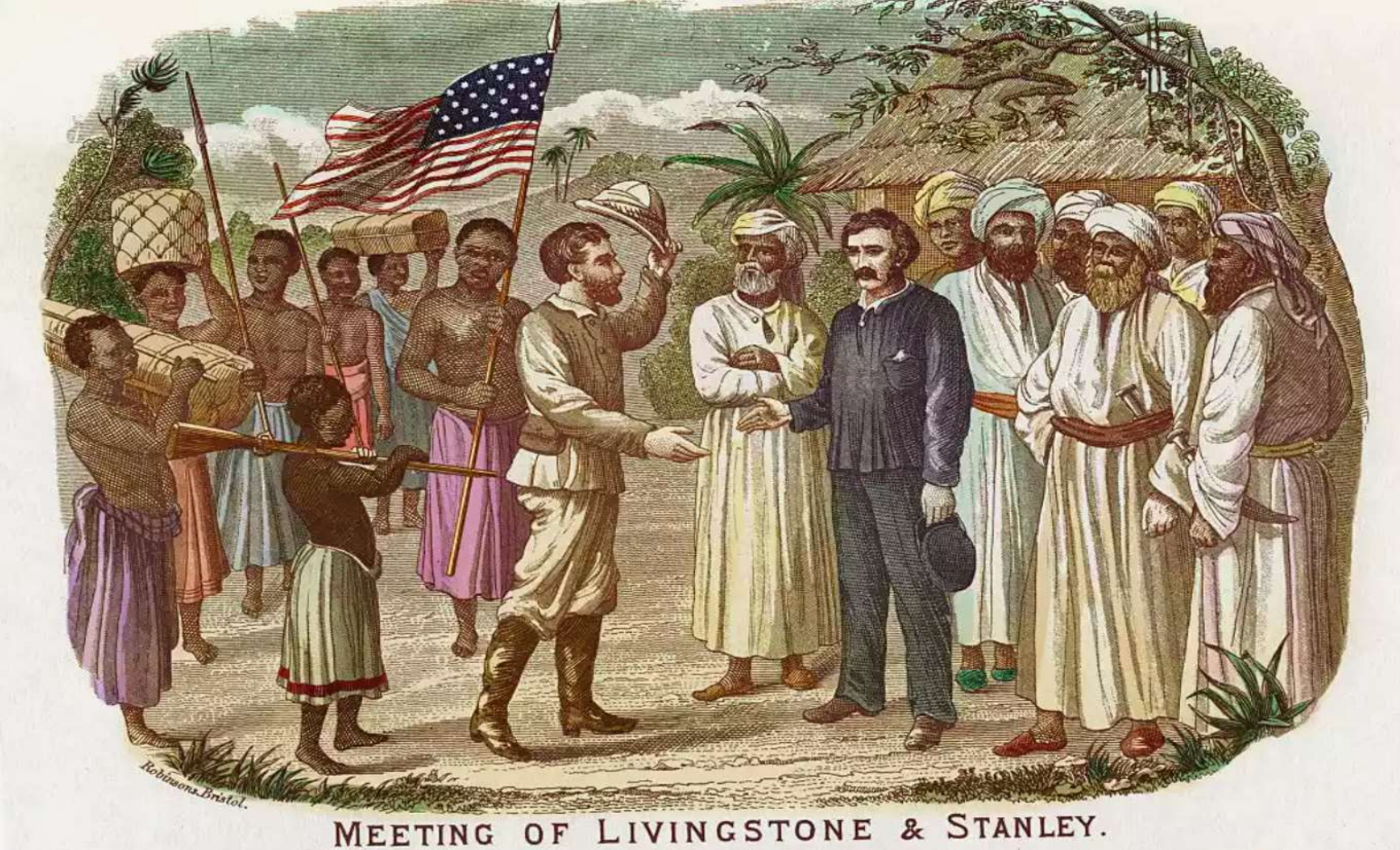
The Gold Rush in California

- Chileans and Mexicans arrived with considerable mining skills.
- Arriving in 1851, the Chinese, a legendary group of hard-working miners, railroad builders, cooks, and ditch-diggers, composed 22 percent of the county population in 1860.
- The Anglo-Americans, the majority of inhabitants, had subgroups of English, Irish, Welsh, and Scots, as well as American Yankees, southerners, and “Pikers” from Missouri.
- Blacks, both slave and free, came to try their luck.
- Europeans in the early days included Germans, Jews, Swiss, French, Basque, Italians, and Eastern Europeans, as well as miners from New Zealand and Australia.

The Gold Rush in California

- It was estimated that more than 2,000 African Americans traveled to California by 1852, lured by reports that the California frontier offered a rough-and-tumble egalitarianism along with its gold deposits.
- Like most gold seekers, they were bitterly disappointed by what they found.

The Scramble for Africa :



MEETING OF LIVINGSTONE & STANLEY.

The Scramble for Africa :

















- Portugal had long-established bases in Angola (first arriving in 1482, and subsequently retaking the port of Luanda from the Dutch in 1648) and Mozambique (first arriving in 1498 and creating trading posts by 1505).
- Spain had small enclaves in northwest Africa at Ceuta and Melilla (*África Septentrional Española* or [Spanish North Africa](#)).
- The Ottoman Turks controlled Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia (the strength of Ottoman rule varied greatly).
- France had settlements at Dakar and St Louis in Senegal and had penetrated a fair distance up the river Senegal, the Assinie, and Grand Bassam regions of Cote d'Ivoire, a protectorate over the coastal region of Dahomey (now Benin), and had begun colonization of Algeria as early as 1830.

The Mad Rush Into Africa in the Early 1880s

- From 1862 to 1906, Lagos Colony and Protectorate was actively under Britain. The start of the 1880s saw a rapid increase in European nations claiming territory in Africa:
- In 1880, the region to the north of the river Congo became a French protectorate following a treaty between the King of the Bateke, Makoko, and the explorer Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza.
- In 1881, Tunisia became a French protectorate and the Transvaal regained its independence.
- In 1882, Britain occupied Egypt (France pulled out of joint occupation), and Italy began colonization of Eritrea.
- In 1884, British and French - Somaliland were created.
- In 1884, German South West Africa (now Namibia), Cameroon, German East Africa, and Togo were created and Río de Oro claimed by Spain.

Asians in Africa

	South Africa (1,600,000)
	Ghana (1,110,000)
	Nigeria (945,000)
	Mauritius (929,000)
	Sudan (324,000)[12]
	Egypt (310,000)
	Ivory Coast (300,000)
	Comoros (227,000)
	Kenya (170,000)
	Sierra Leone (150,000)
	Madagascar (125,000)
	Zambia (113,000)
	Namibia (100,000)
	Uganda (100,000)
	DR Congo (90,000)
	Tanzania (90,000)
	Mozambique (82,000)
	Ethiopia (64,000)
	Angola (50,000)[40]
	Senegal (45,000)
	Djibouti (44,000)

	Algeria (40,000)[46]
	Chad (40,000)[47]
	Congo (25,000)[48]
	Lesotho (20,000)[49]
	Zimbabwe (19,000)[50]
	Malawi (13,000)[51][52]
	Botswana (12,000)
	Seychelles (10,000)[55]
	Zimbabwe (9,000)[56]
	São Tomé and Príncipe (8,000)
	Cameroon (5,000)[58]
	Equatorial Guinea (5,000)
	Guinea (5,000)[60]
	South Sudan (3,700)
	Liberia (3,000)[63][64]
	Mali (3,000)[65]
	Rwanda (3,000)[66]
	Togo (3,000)[67]
	Burundi (2,000)
	Eritrea (1,200)
	Niger (1,000)

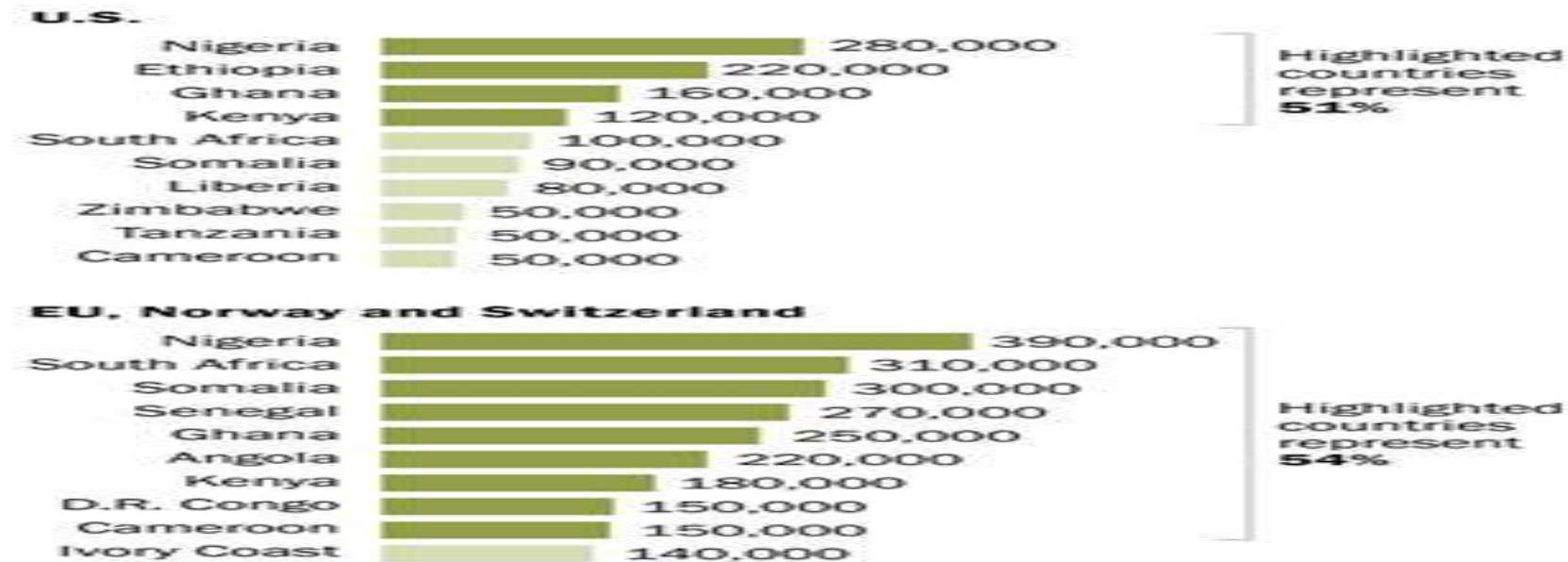
In addition, there are over 12 million Eurasians living in Africa.

David Levinson, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Modern Asia* (6 vols, Thomson-Gale, 2002) 1:31–35 and passim

Africans migrating to Europe for survival

Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa and Kenya stand out as origin countries for sub-Saharan migrants living in both the U.S. and Europe

Top countries of birth of sub-Saharan migrants living in the U.S. and the European Union, Norway and Switzerland in 2017, in thousands



Notes: See Appendix B for list of countries in sub-Saharan Africa included in this analysis. Estimates rounded to the nearest 10,000. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of United Nations data accessed on Dec. 23, 2017. "At Least a Million Sub-Saharan Africans Moved to Europe Since 2010."

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Africans migrating to Europe for survival

- In 2017, the dire prediction from Antonio Tajani, president of the European Parliament, came as Paris evacuated almost 3,000 migrants sleeping rough from a makeshift camp near the city centre - the 34th such evacuation in two years.
- In an interview with Il Messaggero newspaper, Mr Tajani said there would be an exodus "of biblical proportions that would be impossible to stop if we don't confront the problem now".



Africans migrating to Europe for survival

- It was predicted in 2017 that Europe is "underestimating" the scale and severity of the migration crisis and "millions of Africans" will flood the continent in the next five years unless urgent action is taken, a senior European official has warned.

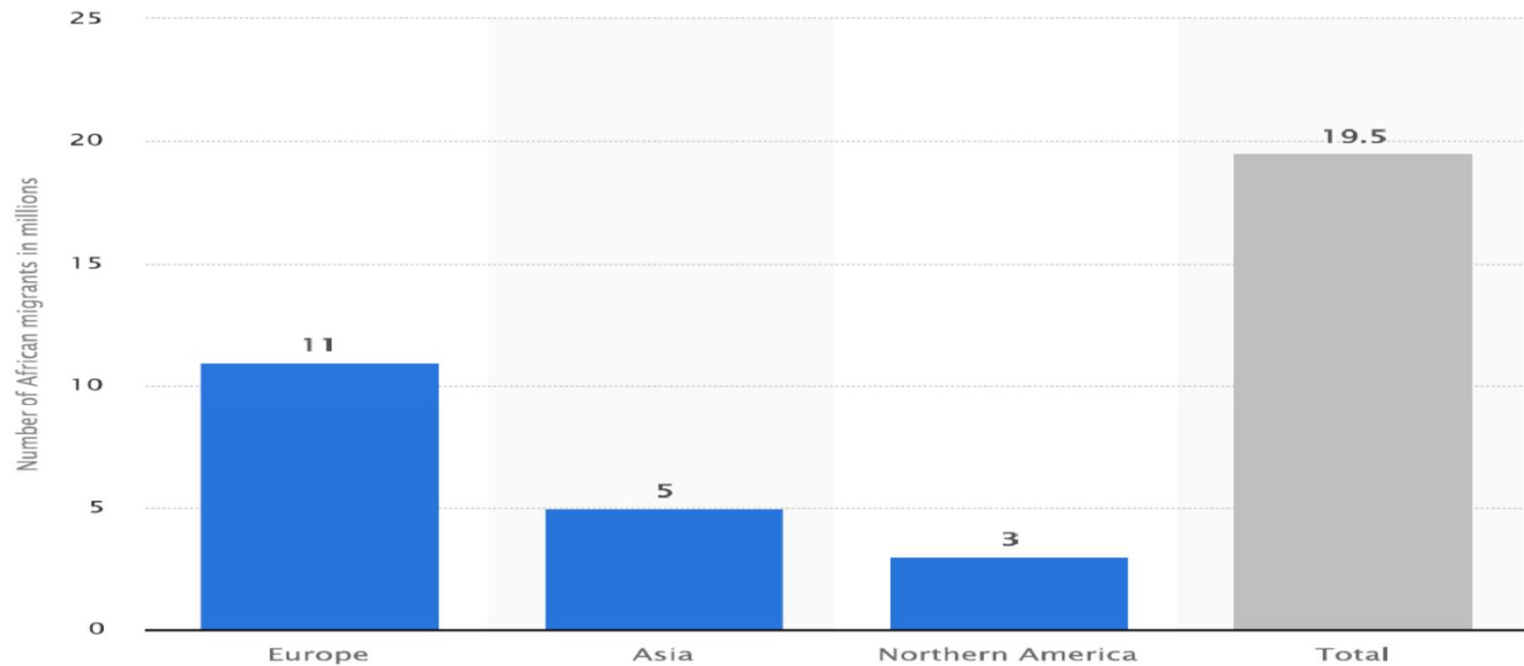
Africans migrating to Europe for survival



Africans migrating to Europe for survival

- Approximately 2.1 million sub-Saharan African immigrants resided in the United States in 2019, representing 5 percent of the total foreign-born population of 44.9 million. This highly diverse group is comprised of individuals from 51 countries, with a range of ethnic, linguistic, and educational backgrounds
- In the 2021 Census, 2,409,278 people in England and Wales were recorded as having Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African ethnicity, accounting for 4.0% of the population.
- In 20 years, the African diaspora has more than tripled, from 300,000 people in 2000 to 1.3 million in 2021.
- In the 2020 census, over 400,000 people living in Australia recorded they were of African origin.

Africans migrating to Europe for survival



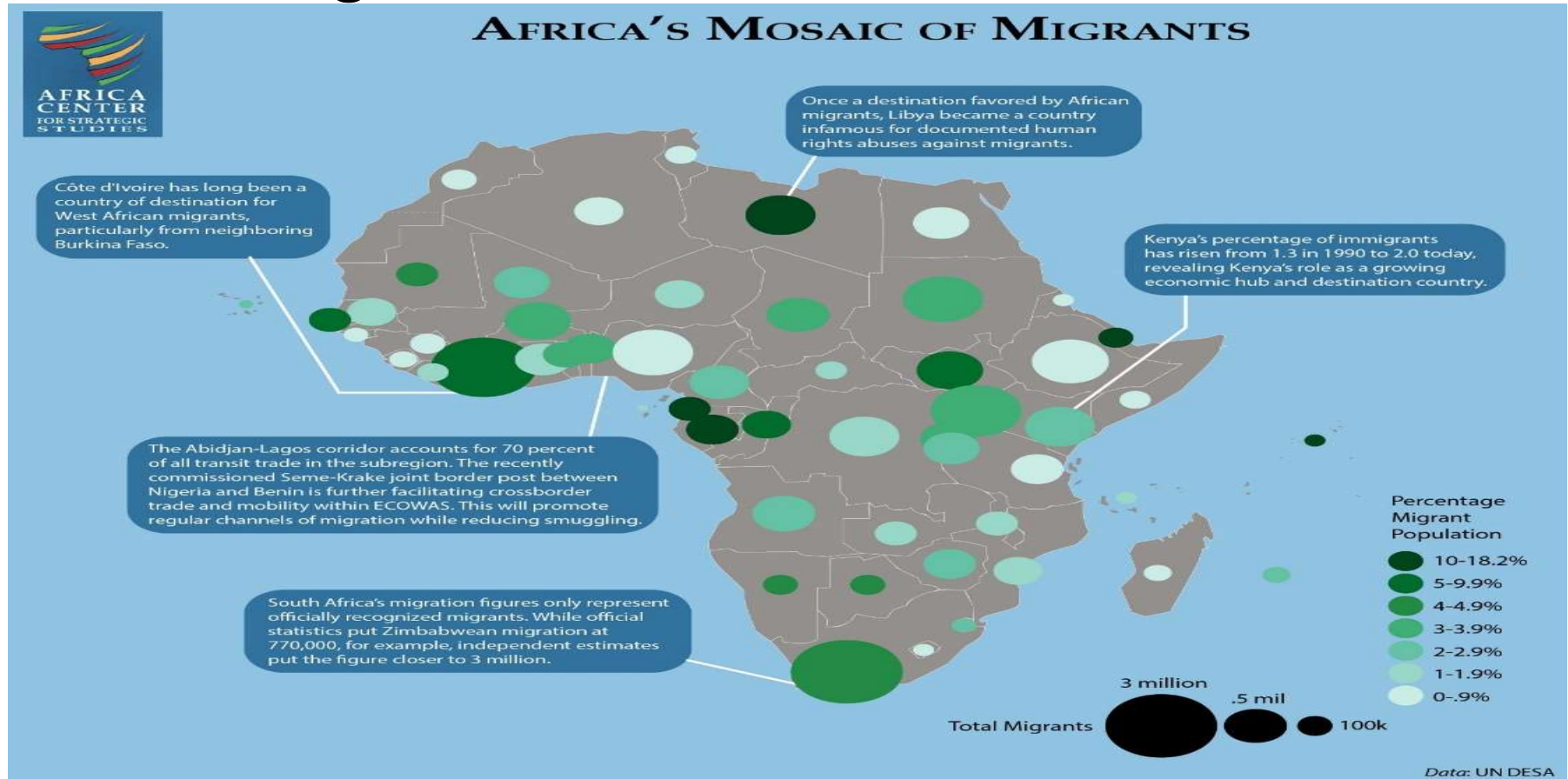
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- **African Migration Trends within Africa as at 2023**
- *Most African migration is to economic hubs on the continent, a pattern that can be expected to continue as regional economies become more integrated.*
- Africa Center for Strategic Studies

African Migration Trends within Africa as at 2023



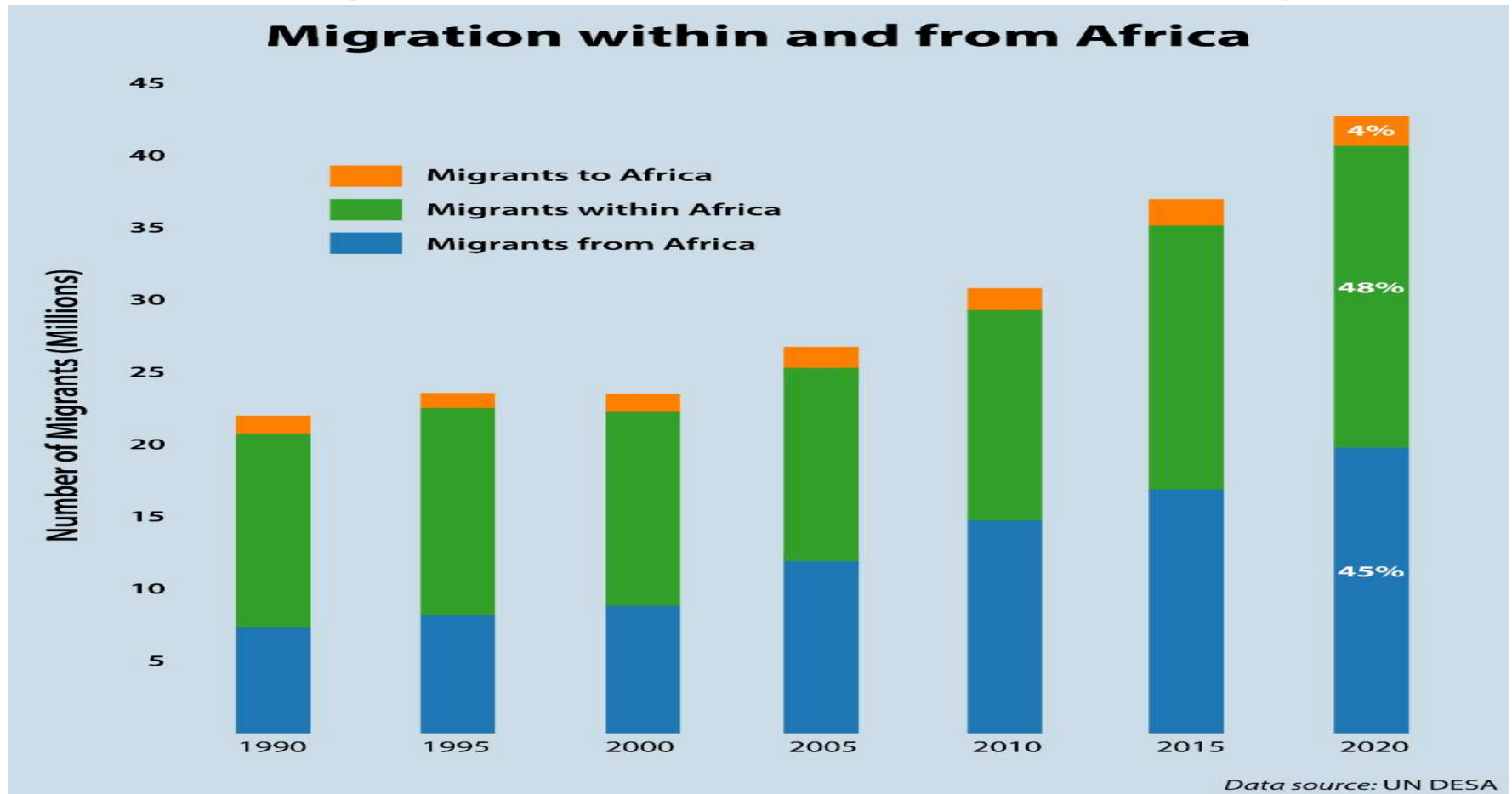
Source: Africa Center for Strategic Studies

African Migration Will Continue to be Dynamic

- African migration has been on a steady upward trajectory for the past two decades.
- The record level of over 40 million African migrants represents a 30-percent increase from 2010. Given continuing strong push factors, that trend can be expected to continue in 2023.
- While often unrecognized, most African migration occurs within the continent as migrants seek employment opportunities in neighboring regional economic hubs.
- In fact, 80 percent of [African migrants do not have an interest in leaving the continent](#). Africa accounts for only 14 percent of the global migrant population, compared to 41 percent from Asia and 24 percent from Europe.

South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, and Nigeria are among the top five destination countries on the continent, revealing their position as economic hubs for their respective subregions.

African Migration Will Continue to be Dynamic



Top 10 African Destination Countries by Numbers of Migrants

Country of Destination	Immigrant Population	Total Population	Percentage Immigrant Population
South Africa	2,860,495	58,801,926	5
Côte d'Ivoire	2,564,857	26,811,790	10
Uganda	1,720,313	44,404,611	4
Sudan	1,379,147	44,440,486	3
Nigeria	1,308,568	208,327,404	1
Ethiopia	1,085,517	117,190,911	1
Kenya	1,050,147	51,985,780	2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	952,871	92,853,164	1
South Sudan	882,252	10,606,227	8
Libya	826,537	6,653,942	12

Exit of Professionals from Nigeria to Advanced Nations

- Exit of professionals to advanced nation is both a disavowal of patriotism and a new cultural personality. On TikTok, *Japa* has been launched as [comic material](#), including [nuggets and tips](#) on how to navigate moving to a different country. [Tweets](#) about *Japa* continue to surge.
- With origins from the 2018 [Naira Marley song](#) of the same name, the word has shifted into the lexicon of Nigeria's young demographic as a marker of discontent.
- According to Phillips Consulting, 88 per cent of individuals who plan to quit their jobs within a year were millennials and Gen Z.
- This demographic shift could lead to a significant loss of skilled workers, which may negatively affect critical industries and the economy, it stated.

Exit of Professionals from Nigeria

- “Moreover, this demographic includes young professionals with valuable skills and extensive education, making them highly desirable in the global job market. “More than 50 per cent of those surveyed said they would consider cancelling their migration plans if Nigeria met specific conditions.
- “These conditions include a peaceful environment, better economic conditions, access to competitive and fairly paid job opportunities, and effective leadership,” it added.
- The Talent Management Report, “A New World Order: Shifting Paradigms in Addressing the Brain Drain,” was presented during the quarterly meetup of the Nigerian Human Resources Directors Network in Lagos.
- The survey indicated that Finance & Insurance, Professional Services, Education, Healthcare, and IT would be the hardest-hit professions, stated that nearly 50 per cent of employees working in these fields were considering leaving the country.
- **Nigerian businesses face numerous challenges in the post-pandemic world, such as market uncertainty, inflation, digitisation acceleration, changes in consumer behaviour, increased operational expenses, unemployment, a weak currency, and insecurity.**
- The situation has exacerbated the high cost of living and affected employees’ finances and purchasing power and complexity.

Exit of Professionals from Nigeria

- Development Research and Project Centre (dRPC) also indicates that nurses leave the country in droves.
- A [recent report](#) showed that between 2019 and mid-2022, at least 4,460 nurses migrated from Nigeria to the United Kingdom.
- In January 2021, the National Universities Commission (NUC), an agency under the Federal Ministry of Education that ensures a productive university system, reported that only 100,000 lecturers attended to 2.1 million university students in Nigeria.
- The Medical and Dental Consultants' Association of Nigeria (MDCAN) has said not less than 500 of its members left the country between 2020 and 2022.
- Data from the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) of the UK shows that 225 nurses and midwives migrated to the UK in 2019; 663 in 2022; and 626 in 2021.

Exit of Professionals from Nigeria

- Nigeria spends about N664bn yearly on medical tourism
- Year 2010 - 5,000 Nigerian-trained medical doctors were practising in the United States of America.
- Year 2017 - 35,000 Nigerian doctors were practising abroad, out of the 72,000 registered with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria.
- 2022 - Ethiopia attracted over 200 professors and 3,000 other Nigerian skilled experts across all disciplines
- 2021-2022 - 2800 resident doctors left Nigeria
- January – august, 2022 – 800 medical doctors left Nigeria
- Year 2022 - 906 medical laboratory scientists left Nigeria
- 2015 – 23,000 lecturers leave Africa annually - Obafemi Awolowo University Muslim Graduates Association.

Causes for migration of professionals to advanced nations

- The causes for migration can be classified as “economic migration, social migration, political migration, and environmental migration” and the factors for migration can be summed up or called summation of various “Push (reason to leave the area)” and “Pull (reasons to move to the area)”
- **Push factors**
- A push factor is a factor that motivates a person to migrate away from their country or region of residence. Push factors are often used with negative connotation, since they often consist of problems, distressing situations, and political or economic failures.

Push factors

- Examples of potential problems that may cause a geographic push factor include:
- Lack of jobs or opportunities
- Absence of good educational institutes
- Poor medical care
- Poverty
- Famine or drought
- War and political conflicts
- Religious or political persecution
- Natural disasters
- Pollution
- Poor hygienic conditions
- Inadequate public services

Pull Factors

A pull factor is a motivating cause that attracts a person to migrate to another region or country.

- Common pull factors include:
- Employment opportunities
- Higher income
- Better working conditions and facilities
- Educational opportunities
- Higher living standards
- Better public services
- Religious freedom
- Freedom of expression
- Political freedom

Push indices in Nigeria

- **Economic Factors:** Most of the studies indicate that migration is primarily motivated by economic factors.
- **Socio-cultural Factors:** Social and cultural factors also an important role in migration. Sometimes family conflicts, the quest for independence, also cause migration especially, of those in the younger generation.
- **Political Factors:** Sometimes even political factors encourage or discourage migration from region to another.
- **Natural disasters:** For instance, natural disasters closely related to climate change such as storms, floods, wet mass movements, drought, wildfire, and extreme high temperatures.
- **Corruption** can both drive legal and illegal migration, as well as facilitating illegal migration. The literature surrounding migration and its causes identifies a lack of economic opportunities and a lack of security as two key drivers of legal and illegal migration.

- **Pull indices in Nigeria**

- **Economic migration** – The pursuit of a particular career path, the drive to find employment, or the desire to secure higher paying work.
- **Social migration** – Moving to be closer to family, to be in a major cultural center, or to live in an area with better public resources, such as great public transit, walkability, good healthcare or education.
- **Political migration** – Seeking peaceful regions, free of political turmoil or unrest.
- **Environmental migration** – Moving to a safer area with a low likelihood of being hit by natural disasters, drought, famine, and other major disruptions to people's lives.

Conclusion

- While migration is a natural human experience, an array of circumstances illustrate reasons for relocation. In Nigeria, it's a serious endeavor, often triggered by economic hardship. In recent years, the pursuit for a better quality of life overseas has taken on an anxious, nerve-tingling quality.
- Colloquially known as "*Jaa-paa*" — which is Yoruba for "to run, flee, or escape" — the word takes firm root in the aspiration that young Nigerians have to leave the country for good.
- The issue of brain-drain is endemic in Nigeria's ecosystem to such an extent that it has affected virtually all the facets of Nigeria's work environment. It has enabled Nigerian youths to coin a peculiar word for the concept of brain-drain these days, called the "*JaaPaa*" theory.
- This abnormal form of scientific exchange between nations, considered by one-way flow in favour of the highly developed nations has not only caused harm to Nigeria's educational institutions but also other fabric of Nigeria as whole.

- If the country is to develop, if the politicians are to concentrate on the work of managing the economy properly, we must collectively solve their personal problems of heavy burden of debt incurred during the election processes. We need to find a law to protect them or to protect us from their exploitation.
- We must think about the next level where our currency will stop the free fall, inflation will be tamed to a single digit, production in all sectors will grow and the unemployment rate will go down. Politicians cannot do it alone.
- All of us have different roles to play to offer appropriate solutions.
- I commend Nigerian Institution of Surveyors for doing this well.

- **Development politics is urgently required in Nigeria, to resolve essential but sensitive challenges, towards generating new revenue sources for effective governance.**
- Development politics here conceptualized as an approach to politics in which government leaders adopt and implement essential policies for sustained economic development, especially in environments where political constraints inhibit the adoption of such policies by politicians with the best of intentions is a panacea.

- **Provision of migration counselling**
- The *migration counselling* is a capacity-building service aimed at providing a harmonized and coherent approach with key migrant-centred principles to to prospective migrants.

END

THANK YOU



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