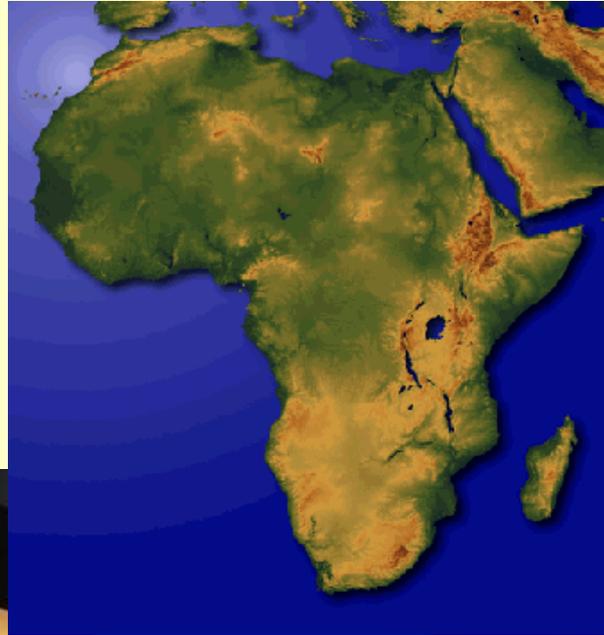


BLOOD DIAMONDS, BLOOD OIL, BLOOD CELL PHONES: EARTH SCIENCE ISSUES IN AFRICA



David A. Padgett
Associate
Professor of
Geography
Tennessee State
University



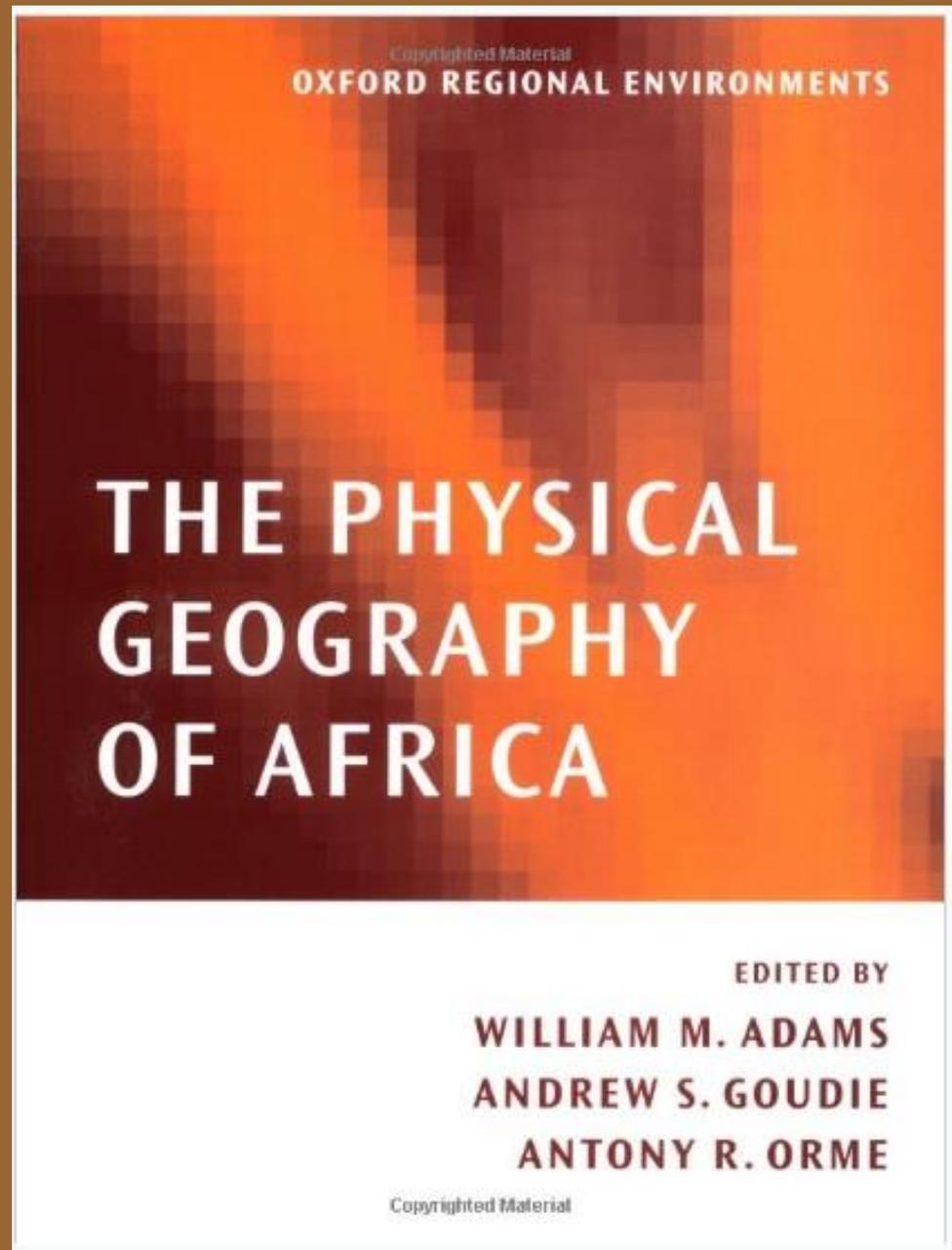
Fifth Annual Africa
Conference,
Tennessee State
University, April 2017

Unexpected Beginnings

1994 – 1998 Austin Peay State University

1999-2004 Tennessee State University

Geography of Africa course taught using “Earth Science” content



Purpose and Motivation – Increased HBCU Participation in Geoscience

Global climate change and increased urbanization will represent significant challenges to African populations, but also will provide many career opportunities, especially in sectors where African Americans and women are under-represented:

Geosciences/Climatology/Hydrology – The scientific analysis of the dynamic characteristics of earth systems is at the heart of the work necessary to protect urban populations from climate-related hazards. Because many HBCUs lack geosciences courses, much less programs and degrees, an externally hosted, easily accessible curriculum may be an effective means of ensuring that students are exposed to earth systems sciences.



Stanford's Summer Undergraduate Research in Geoscience and Engineering Program



SURGE INFO

The application system for SURGE 2016 is now closed. The deadline was January 29, 2016.

Interested in SURGE 2017? Return in November 2016 to apply.

CONTACT OMA

397 Panama Mall
Mitchell 139
Stanford, CA 94305-2110

Phone:
650-724-6250

streamsurge@stanford.edu

Strengthening Geoscience Competency for HBCU Pre-Service Teachers

February 2–4

Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN

Note: this workshop has already taken place. Read the [workshop synthesis](#) for a summary of key ideas and see the [workshop outcomes](#) for materials developed in association with the workshop. Workshop presentations and summaries of discussions are available on the [program page](#).

Highly skilled teachers will be needed to prepare the next generation of climate scientists, engineers, and urban planners. There is already a critical need for teachers who are adept at science education, especially in schools serving low-income and urban minority populations. Many Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) are located in proximity to these schools. HBCUs educate a large share of public school teachers, but very few black colleges have geoscience departments. Strengthening geoscience curriculum and exposing HBCU pre-service teachers to earth science learning modules during the early stages of their college programs will improve their ability to cultivate earth literacy among elementary and secondary school students.

The workshop is open to multi-disciplinary HBCU teams comprising at least two faculty from both Education and STEM departments who have opportunities to train pre-service earth science teachers. Building on current practices and successful models from established programs, HBCU teams will develop new models for infusing earth science topics in STEM and enhance collaborations between earth science and education schools.



Pan-African Approaches to Teaching Geoscience

Leader Workspace

May 23–25, 2017

Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA

Africa is integrally linked to the United States through the impact of Africans in America and Africa as a source of minerals, other materials and intellectual resources. Yet, African-Americans are underrepresented in the geosciences, and attracting African-American students to the geosciences is a challenge. This workshop focuses on developing opportunities for students to learn geoscience in the context of culturally relevant questions using Pan-African pedagogical approaches. Faculty from all disciplines who have opportunities to teach about the Earth and Africa are invited to apply.

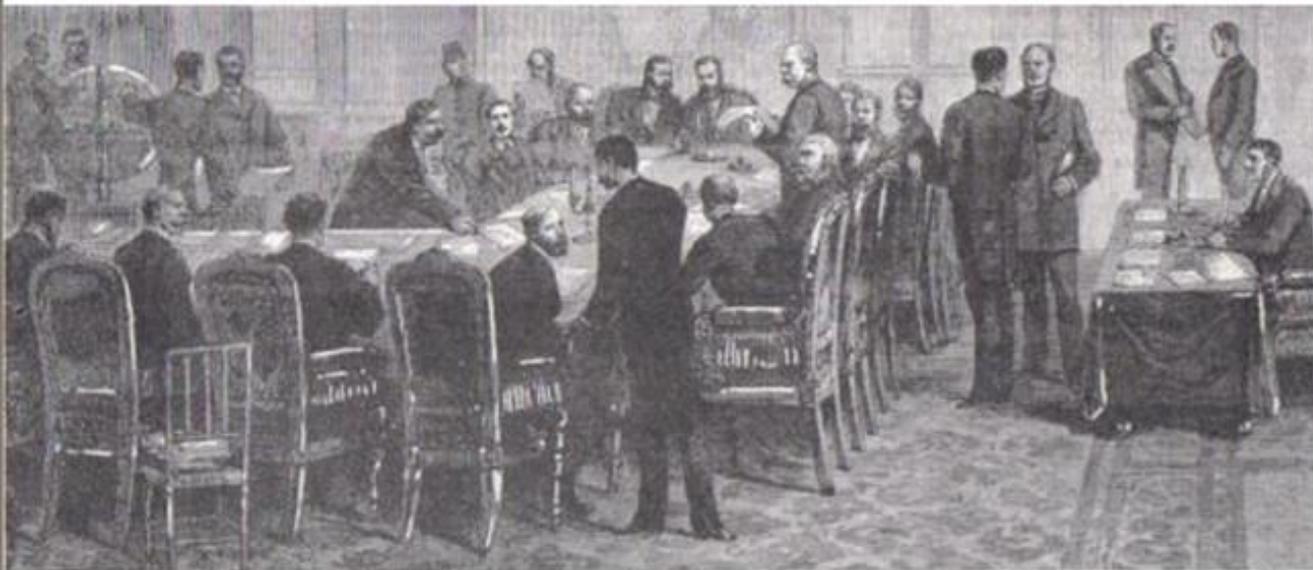
Application deadline: April 11th, 2017



BLOOD DIAMONDS, BLOOD OIL, BLOOD CELL PHONES: NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLOITATION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

The beginnings.....

The Scramble for Africa: Berlin Conference of 1884-1885 to Divide Africa



Meeting at the Berlin residence of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck in 1884, the foreign ministers of fourteen European powers and the United States established ground rules for the future exploitation of the "dark continent." Africans were not invited or made privy to their decisions. Photo from the book *The Horizon: History of Africa* American Heritage Publishing Co., New York, 1971, page 452.

[Berlin Conference Document](#)

The following material is from the book *Geography: Realms, Regions and Concepts*, by H. J. de Blij, Peter O. Muller, 2003

1884-1885 - Berlin West African Conference carves Africa into spheres of control



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "GLORY" AND "THE LAST SAMURAI"

Leonardo DiCaprio
Jennifer Connelly
Dennis Haysbert

BLOOD DIAMOND

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
A WOLFGANG PETERSEN FILM
A SPRING CREEK / GEORGINA FILMS PRODUCTION
A WOLFGANG PETERSEN FILM
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CHARLES LEWIS & SALLY MITCHELL CHARLES LEWIS EDWARD ZWICK

DECEMBER 8

Blood Diamonds





Good Morning, this ain't Vietnam still
People lose hands, legs, arms for real
Little was known of Sierra Leone
And how it connect to the diamonds we own
When I speak of Diamonds in this song
I ain't talkin bout the ones that be glown
I'm talkin bout Rocafella, my home, my chain
These ain't conflict diamonds, is they Jacob? don't lie to me mayne
See, a part of me sayin' keep shinin',
How? when I know of the **blood diamonds**
Though it's thousands of miles away
Sierra Leone connect to what we go through today
Over here, its a drug trade, we die from drugs
Over there, they die from what we buy from drugs
The diamonds, the chains, the bracelets, the charmses
I thought my Jesus Piece was so harmless
'til I seen a picture of a shorty armless
And here's the conflict
It's in a black person's soul to rock that gold
Spend ya whole life tryna get that ice
On a polar rugby it look so nice
How could somethin' so wrong make me feel so right, right?
'fore I beat myself up like Ike
You could still throw ya Rocafella diamond tonight, 'cause
People askin' me is I'm gon' give my chain back (uh)
That'll be the same day I give the game back

Diamonds From Sierra Leone (Remix) Lyrics

Kanye West



Source : <http://www.nobodysmiling.com/hiphop/musicvideo/84820.php>



Diamond seekers work a diamond mine outside Freetown. (Photo: Desirey Minkoh / AFP-Getty Images) – Source: <http://www.worldpress.org/Africa/2193.cfm>

Correspondent Dominic Cunningham-Reid speaks with diamond miners in the West African nation of **Sierra Leone**, a country emerging from **a ten-year civil war**. A serendipitous product of the enormous heat and pressure exerted upon graphite deep beneath the earth, diamonds are the world's most sought-after stone. **Despite their role as an international symbol of love and affection, diamonds have financed the brutal civil war in Sierra Leone and other African countries**



Source: National Geographic

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/02/0212_030212_diamonds.html

↻ Daily Hip-Hop News:

Russell Simmons Downplays Blood Diamond Problem In Africa

Wednesday - December 6, 2006 by Brandi Hopper

Amid the controversy surrounding conflict or "blood" diamonds, Russell Simmons held a press conference yesterday (December 5) after a nine-day tour through Africa to say, "Bling isn't so bad."



The Simmons Jewelry Company, co-owned by Simmons and his wife **Kimora Lee Simmons**, have established the Diamond Empowerment Fund (D.E.F.). To raise money for the program geared to support educational and skill development schools and colleges in South Africa and Botswana, the Simmons Jewelry Company have also launched the Green Initiative. Green Initiative jewelry, which includes green diamonds, will be sold through Simmons Jewelry Company's retail partners.

Simmons, Kimora, [Hip-Hop](#) Summit Action Network principal **Dr. Benjamin Chavis** and others formed the Simmons Jewelry Company Delegation. The group returned

Russell & Kimora Form: The Simmons Jewelry Company

Monday, February 16, 2004

By: brooklyniteOne



In a breakthrough venture for both the jewelry industry and the hip-hop community, M. Fabrikant & Sons, one of the worlds largest distributors of polished diamonds and jewelry, has teamed up with hip-hop impresario Russell Simmons and designer Kimora Lee Simmons, creative director of Baby Phat, to form a joint venture partnership called The Simmons Jewelry Company. The Simmons Jewelry Co. will develop innovative lines of fine jewelry and watches under the Baby Phat, Phat Farm, Def Jam, Kimora Lee Simmons and Russell Simmons

The Diamond Myth

The diamond invention is far more than a monopoly for fixing diamond prices; it is a mechanism for converting tiny crystals of carbon into universally recognized tokens of wealth, power, and romance. To achieve this goal, De Beers had to control demand as well as supply.

Both women and men had to be made to perceive diamonds not as marketable precious stones but as an inseparable part of courtship and married life.

To stabilize the market, De Beers had to endow these stones with a sentiment that would inhibit the public from ever reselling them. The illusion had to be created that diamonds were forever -- "forever" in the sense that they should never be resold.

Source: The Atlantic Online - <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/198202/diamond>

If You Purchased a Gem Diamond or Diamond Jewelry Between January 1, 1994 and March 31, 2006

You May Have a Claim to Receive Benefits in a Proposed Class Action Settlement

You may be eligible to obtain a cash benefit from a Proposed Class Action Settlement of litigation pending in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. The case is called *Sullivan v. DB Investments, Inc.*, Civil Action Index No. 04-2819 (SRC). These lawsuits are about gem diamond pricing, and the Proposed Settlement is with De Beers, a miner and seller of rough gem diamonds.

This is just a summary of your rights. To get complete information about the Class Actions and your rights, and to see if you qualify to receive a cash payment, you should visit: www.diamondsclassaction.com or call: 1-800-760-5431.

What Are These Lawsuits About?

The lawsuits allege that the De Beers group of companies ("Defendants") conspired to fix, raise and control the price of gem diamonds. They also claim that De Beers monopolized the rough gem diamond market and issued false and misleading advertising. The lawsuits claim that Class Members therefore were forced to pay more for gem diamonds and diamond products.

The Defendants deny these allegations, and have decided to settle, without admitting any liability or wrongdoing, to avoid the expense and burden of litigation.

Who is Involved?

There are two groups of people whose rights are affected by the Proposed Class Action Settlement. These two groups are the "Direct Purchaser Class" and the "Indirect Purchaser Class."

You are a member of the "Direct Purchaser

Class" if:

- You are a person or business resident in the United States, excluding De Beers sightholders, and
- Between September 20, 1997 and March 31, 2006, you purchased any gem diamond directly from De Beers or one of De Beers's diamond mining competitors (e.g., Alrosa, Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton or Argyle) for delivery in the United States.

The "Indirect Purchaser Class" has two subclasses: the Reseller Subclass and the Consumer Subclass.

You are a member of "The Reseller Subclass" if:

- You are a person or business residing in the United States on October 1, 2007,
- You purchased gem diamonds or diamond jewelry from someone other than De Beers or one of its competitors, in the United States or for delivery in the United States, between January 1, 1994 and March 31, 2006, and
- You purchased the gem diamonds or diamond jewelry for resale.

For example, Reseller Subclass members include diamond jewelry manufacturers and retail jewelry stores.

You are a member of "The Consumer Subclass" if:

- You are a person or business residing in the United States on October 1, 2007,
- You purchased gem diamonds or diamond jewelry from someone other than De Beers or one of its competitors, in the United States or for delivery in the United States, between January 1, 1994 and March 31, 2006, and
- You purchased the diamonds or diamond jewelry for your own use or as a gift, but

not for resale.

As used here, the United States means the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

What Does The Proposed Settlement Provide?

De Beers has agreed to pay \$295 Million to settle the class actions ("the Settlement Fund"). The Settlement Fund will be divided as follows:

- The Direct Purchaser Class will receive \$22.5 Million.
- The Reseller Subclass will receive about \$137.1 Million.
- The Consumer Subclass will receive about \$135.4 Million.

The Settlement Fund is earning interest. The Settlement Fund will be reduced prior to distribution by taxes on the interest, plus other charges, such as attorneys' fees, out-of-pocket expenses of the lawsuits, and costs of administering the claims process, that will be determined by the Court.

The amount you will receive will depend on the total number of claims that are made. Because of the cost to administer checks, if you are a Consumer whose payment amount is less than \$10, or a Reseller whose payment amount is less than \$25, you will not get a payment check.

The Proposed Settlement also provides for an Injunction that prohibits De Beers from engaging in certain conduct that violates federal and state antitrust laws.

Who Represents You?

The Court has appointed attorneys to represent the Classes. You do not need to pay them. Class Counsel will ask the Court to award them a fair and reasonable fee not to exceed 25% of the total recovery. They will also request reimbursement of their costs, and incentive

awards for the named plaintiffs (those individuals and corporations who initiated the litigation against De Beers). The awards that the Court makes will be deducted from the Settlement Fund before it is divided among the Class members.

You may hire your own attorney. However, you will be personally responsible for that attorney's fees and expenses. You may also represent yourself, provided you are not a corporation.

What are Your Legal Rights?

You have a choice whether or not to stay in the Classes.

- If you do not want to be part of the Proposed Settlement, you must exclude yourself, in writing, postmarked by **March 4, 2008**. Excluding yourself will allow you to bring your own claims against the Defendants but will prohibit you from submitting a claim against the Settlement Fund.
- If you stay in the Classes, you will not be able to sue De Beers for any of the claims in this lawsuit in the future. However, you can file a claim to get a payment from the Settlement Fund. Your claim must be postmarked by **May 19, 2008**.

If you stay in the Classes, you may object to or comment on any part of the Proposed Settlement. Your objection/comment must be written and postmarked by **March 4, 2008**. You may also request in writing to speak at the Final Approval Hearing, which will be held on **April 14, 2008**, at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 8, U.S. P.O. & Courthouse Bldg., Federal Square, Newark, NJ 07101. At that time, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate, what to award Plaintiffs' Counsel as reasonable fees and reimbursements, and whether to award incentive awards to the named plaintiffs.

**For More Information on your Legal Rights and Filing a Claim:
Visit: www.diamondsclassaction.com Call: 1-800-760-5431**

**Or Write: Diamonds Claims Administrator
P.O. Box 9432, Minneapolis, MN 55440-9432**

What's being done

- *The Kimberley Process of Certification Scheme (KPCS) is the process established in 2003 to prevent conflict **Blood Diamonds** from entering the mainstream market.*
- *The KPCS was introduced by United Nations General Assembly. The process was set up "to ensure that diamond purchases were not financing violence by rebel movements and their allies seeking to undermine legitimate governments*

The Perfect Solution?

- While the Kimberley Process has not solved the problem of conflict diamonds, it has reduced the amount of conflict diamonds sold into the open market.
- Currently, violence funded by conflict diamonds is escalating in Cote D'Ivoire, proving there are serious loopholes in the Kimberley Process.
- Recommendations to strengthen the Kimberley Process include increasing government oversight of the diamond industry and strengthening government enforcement policies.

Why the illicit diamond trade is (almost) gone, but not yet forgotten



CNBC

Natalia Wojcik, special
to CNBC.com
11/6/2016



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BLOOD DIAMONDS

IT'S BEEN 15 YEARS SINCE THE
GLOBAL EFFORT TO BAN
CONFLICT DIAMONDS BEGAN. BUT
THE INDUSTRY IS STILL TAINTED
BY CONFLICT AND MISERY

<http://time.com/blood-diamonds/>

U.S. Oil Addiction and Africa



Nigerian pipeline blast kills more than 260 – December 2006

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SIGHTS & SOUNDS 

CURSE OF THE BLACK GOLD HOPE AND BETRAYAL IN THE NIGER DELTA



Royal Dutch Shell has agreed a \$15.5m (£9.7m) out-of-court settlement in a case accusing it of complicity in human rights abuses in Nigeria – June 2009



<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8090493.stm>

The U.S. Road to Oil Addiction

- 1973 – USA Oil Crisis - OPEC
- 1977 – U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) established – billions of US dollars directed at alternatives to foreign oil
- 1981 – Ronald Reagan becomes US President – attempts to dismantle US DOE – billions of US dollars directed to “Energy Security” military strategy.

The U.S. Road to Oil Addiction

- 1980s – U.S. automobiles fail to meet U.S. EPA mileage standards
- 1991 – Desert Storm – U.S. invades Iraq under the guise of “restoring democracy” to Kuwait
- 2003 – U.S. invades Iraq again, under the guise of removing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) from Saddam Hussein.

Bush: U.S. Must Break Oil 'Addiction'

Dependency On Foreign Oil Is Centerpiece Of State Of Union Speech

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 2006

(Page 1 of 2)



President Bush delivers the State of the Union to a joint session of Congress while Vice President Dick Cheney, left, and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, right, watch. (CBS/AP)

1 2 3 4 5

< PREVIOUS IMAGE

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(CBS/AP) President Bush, politically weakened but determined to set the agenda in this election year, made freeing America from its oil dependency the centerpiece of his State of the Union address Tuesday night.

CBS News senior White House correspondent Bill Plante reports the president, as expected, also talked about the war in Iraq and the threat of nuclear weapons from Iran. But the headline was that the former oil man in the Oval Office said he believes that the United States needs to develop different sources of energy.

U.S. covets Africa's black gold

by Saeed Shabazz
Staff Writer

NEW YORK (FinalCall.com)—While President Bush was goading the UN General Assembly to draft a new resolution threatening Iraq with possible military attack if they do not allow weapons inspectors in, he was quietly preparing the way for U.S. companies to exploit the next oil frontier: Sub-Saharan Africa.

Following his haughty mid-September UN speech, he met with 11 African leaders, most of whom represented states who are current major oil producers or are involved in the expansion of oil exploration in the region. Press reports state that the president discussed fighting terrorism and ending conflicts on the continent, but observers say oil

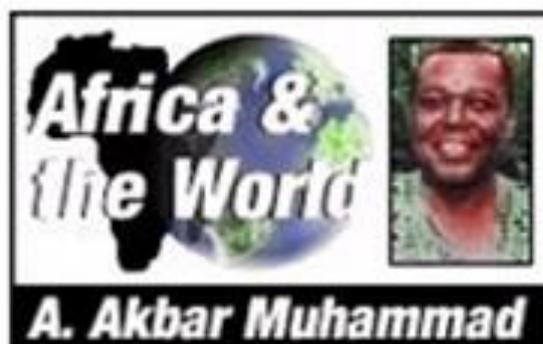


Somalia: a clear case of 'blood oil' in Africa

By A. Akbar Muhammad

Updated Jan 25, 2007, 02:27 pm

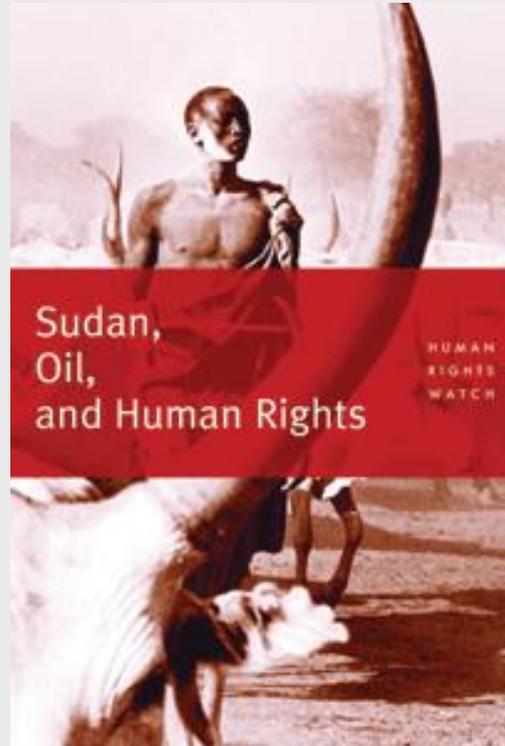
- [Annan: U.S. wrong to support warlords in Somalia](#) (FCN, 06-29-2006)
- [Qadhafi: Oil is behind Darfur, Sudan crisis](#) (FCN, 12-08-2006)
- [Bush's Goal: Bring African leaders in line with U.S. policy](#) (FCN, 12-08-2006)
- [U.S. covets Africa's black gold](#) (FCN, 10-01-2002)
- [Oil Junkie: Bush will act globally to lock in U.S. supply](#) (FCN, 04-30-2002)



(FinalCall.com) - As the world took note of blood diamonds through the recent motion picture of the same title, there's another story that blood diamonds makes all, who see the destruction of life and property look at, and that is, the killing and destruction of governments, the loss of life of civilians as well as military personnel, is the struggle over oil. In most of the articles written

recently about the tragedy of Somalia, there has been very little or no mention of oil.

Sudan: Oil Companies Complicit in Rights Abuses



(London, November 25, 2003) - The Sudanese government's efforts to control oilfields in the war-torn south have resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. Foreign oil companies operating in Sudan have been complicit in this displacement, and the death and destruction that have accompanied it (<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/sudan1103/>)



US AFRICOM'S
COMPONENT COMMANDS



UNITED STATES AFRICA COMMAND

General William E. Ward, Commander

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Aid groups: Southern Sudan
may return to war (AP)

Thursday, January 07, 2010

Sudan Clashes Seen as Threat
to Peace Treaty (NYT)

Thursday, January 07, 2010

Exercise in Africa Breaks Many
Molds (SIGNAL Magazine)

Monday, January 04, 2010

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2009 US Africa Command
Posture Statement

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U.S. Special Envoy Gratton Expresses Optimism on Sudan

Jan 13, 2010 · [America.gov](#)

AFRICOM PAO note: The following article, by the U.S. Department of State, is provided for public awareness of U.S. policy in Africa. As a military organization, U.S. Africa Command does not lead U.S. foreign policy but instead supports policies articulated by elected civilian leaders.

Washington... [Full Story](#)

TRANSCRIPT: Deputy Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Africa Discusses Africa Partnership Station

Jan 12, 2010 · [U.S. AFRICOM Public Affairs](#)



On January 12, 2010, Vice Admiral Harry Harris, commander of U.S. Sixth Fleet, and deputy

commander of U.S. Naval Forces Africa, discussed the U.S. Navy's Africa

Partnership Station (APS) at the Foreign



WASHINGTON, D.C. - Vice Admiral Harry Harris, commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet, and deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa, talks to news media at the Foreign Press Center in Washington, D.C. January 12, 2010. Harris spoke to media from Africa, Europe and the United States about Africa Partnership Station (APS) 2010. APS, a U.S. Navy original initiative, is an international effort aimed at improving maritime safety and security on the continent of Africa through training and other collaborative activities with African partner countries. (Photo courtesy of

[U.S. Africa Command Multimedia](#)

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AFRICOM Dialogue

From General William E. Ward, commander of U.S. Africa Command

My staff and I spend much of our time traveling and meeting with people across Africa, throughout the United States, and around the world....

[\(Read Full Entry\)](#)

Recent Posts by AFRICOM Staff

On 1/7/2010 11:01:05 AM

From Melony C. Angelilli

"Yesterday (January 6, 2010), I had the pleasure of being a part of a visit by United States Army General William "Kip" Ward to the Intelligence Knowledge Development Moleworth..."

[\(Read Full Entry\)](#)

On 1/6/2010 5:36:06 PM

From Lieutenant Colonel Victoria

<http://www.africom.mil/>

Is Africom a U.S. military maneuver or real help for the Motherland?

NEW YORK (FinalCall.com) - From the halls of academia to the streets of America, has come a call to confront the Obama administration and Congress over Africom, the military's U.S. African Command that became operational last October.

"Concerned citizens in the USA must work to build real solidarity with the peoples of Africa—solidarity will replace the kind of phony humanitarianism on which AFRICOM is being presented," said Horace Campbell, a professor of African and American political science studies at the University of Syracuse, in a position paper sent to *The Final Call*.

"Peace activists must vigorously oppose the planned U.S. Africa Command," Prof. Campbell said.

Activists, advocates and scholars worry that the true purpose of Africom is to increase U.S. power over African nations, exploit natural resources like oil and strategic minerals and pursue American military objectives.



General William E. Ward, commander of U.S. Africa Command (l), presents the Distinguished Service Medal to Major General Herbert L. Altshuler, U.S. Africa Command's director of Strategy, Plans and Programs (r), at Altshuler's retirement ceremony, Dec. 30, at the command headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. Photo courtesy, U.S. Department of Defense

The new militarization of Africa by the U.S. Department of Defense is a very dangerous precedent, particularly during this period of ideological warfare now taking place in Africa, which can be exploited by the U.S., and the possible beginning of a new kind of Cold War scramble for Africa's resources

Chioma Oruh

http://www.finalcall.com/artman/publish/World_News_3/Is_Africom_a_U_S_military_manuever_or_real_help_5631.shtml

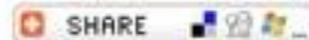
FEATURES

Obama moves ahead with AFRICOM

Daniel Volman

2009-12-10, Issue 461

<http://pambazuka.org/en/category/features/60921>



[Printer friendly version](#)

There are 3 comments on this article.



cc US Army

Concerned over the supply of oil to the US and a supposed need to continue the global 'War on Terror', President Barack Obama has essentially maintained the militarised approach to Africa that was the hallmark of his immediate predecessors George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, writes Daniel Volman. The escalation of AFRICOM (United States African Command) activities, argues Volman, underlines a troubling commitment to an approach based on might and dominance, one entirely at the expense of promoting sustainable economic development and democracy.

In his 11 July 2009 speech in Accra, Ghana, US President Barack Obama declared, 'America has a responsibility to advance this vision, not just with words, but with support that strengthens African capacity. When there is genocide in Darfur or terrorists in Somalia, these are not simply African problems - they are global security challenges, and they demand a global response. That is why we stand ready to partner through diplomacy, technical assistance, and logistical support, and will stand behind efforts to hold war criminals accountable. Our Africa Command is

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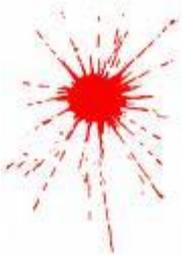
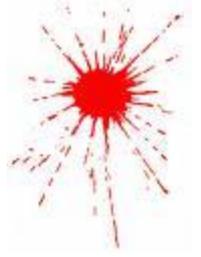
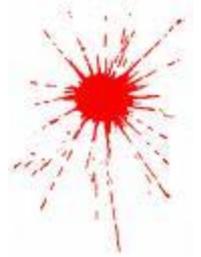
Sponsor a solar system for your partner mission or NGO

GET STARTED ▶

Civil and Environmental Engineering/Green Infrastructure

Development/Renewable Energy – There is great potential for engineering innovations in developing renewable energy sources in Africa, specifically solar energy, in efforts to move away from petroleum and other non-renewable, less sustainable energy sources.

Transboundary Impacts of Cell Phones



What Is Coltan ?

Coltan, short for Columbite-tantalite is a metallic ore comprising Niobium and Tantalum, found mainly in the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). When refined, coltan becomes a heat resistant powder, metallic tantalum which has unique properties for storing electrical charge. Of the 525 tons of tantalum used in the USA in 1998, 60% was used in tantalum capacitors, with a predicted growth rate of 14% per annum



Mining Coltan

Coltan is mined by hand in the **Congo** by groups of men digging basins in streams by scrapping off the surface mud. They then "slosh" the water around the crater, which causes the Coltan ore to settle to the bottom of the crater where it is retrieved by the miners. A team can "mine" one kilo of Coltan per day.

80% of the world's known coltan supply is in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, which the UN says is subject to "highly organized and systematic exploitation."



Coltan Financing War

A recent report by the UN has claimed that all the parties involved in the local civil war have been involved in the mining and sale of Coltan. One report suggested that the neighboring Rwandan army made **US\$250 million** from selling Coltan in less than 18 months, despite there being no Coltan in Rwanda to mine. The military forces of Uganda and Burundi are also implicated in smuggling Coltan out of Congo for resale in Belgium.



Source: Coltan, Guerillas and Cell Phones <http://www.cellular-news.com/coltan/>



First Blood Diamonds, Now Blood Computers?

By **ELIZABETH DIAS** Friday, Jul. 24, 2009



Men sift through buckets of dirt while looking for gold at an abandoned industrial mine in Mongbwalu, Congo

Spencer Platt / Getty

BLOOD STRATEGIC MINERALS IN AFRICA



A man enters a tunnel dug with shovels in the Shinkolobwe cobalt mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A U.N. resolution obligates governments to give a full accounting of their nuclear materials, but many have fallen short, including Congo, the source of the uranium for the first atomic bomb.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36159563/ns/world_news-united_nations/

BLOOD STRATEGIC MINERALS IN AFRICA



A young man carries wet cobalt on his back at the Shinkolobwe cobalt mine near Likasi, in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2004. A U.N. Security Council resolution of 2004 obligates governments to give a full accounting of their nuclear materials, but as U.S. President Barack Obama prepares to host a summit on nuclear security April 12-13, many nations haven't done so.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36159563/ns/world_news-united_nations/

BLOOD TIMBER IN AFRICA



“In several parts of Africa, timber has become associated with violent conflict.”
<http://www.unep.org/dewa/Africa/publications/AEO-2/content/205.htm>

Impacts of Technology Waste upon Developing Countries in Africa and Around the Globe



<http://www.greenleft.org.au/2007/715/37118>

9/17/08

EPA criticized over export of toxic electronic waste

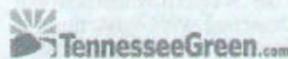
By JULIET EILPERIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency has done little to curb the export of discarded electronic products containing hazardous waste, much of which ends up in poorly regulated countries and harms the environment and public health, the Government Accountability Office concluded in a report being released today.

The report, commissioned by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman, D-Calif., is a scathing critique of the EPA's failure to control exports of used electronic equipment, which often goes to China, India and other nations to be dismantled in unsafe conditions.

U.S. authorities have yet to develop a national approach for handling the waste, which often contains toxic metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium. Amounts are growing as consumers replace laptops, cell phones and televisions.

"It's a really inadequate situation that we've allowed to continue," said Berman, whose panel is holding a hearing today. "We have a regulation



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where, as far as I can tell, there's no effort to enforce it."

EPA disputes study

EPA spokesman Timothy Lyons took issue with the report, saying the agency is working hard to enforce a January 2007 rule requiring the EPA to oversee the export of cathode-ray tubes.

"In the 18 months since the CRT rule went into effect, EPA initiated 20 investigations, recently issued one complaint and entered into one settlement," Lyons wrote in an e-mail. "Improving compliance with the rule is our top priority as we continue our efforts to educate the public and the regulated community about the new rule, and take enforcement action when necessary."

But it was GAO officials who alerted the EPA to violations by Jet Ocean Technology, a

Chino, Calif., company from which the EPA is now seeking a \$32,500 penalty. Company officials could not be reached for comment Tuesday. The report said that dozens of other U.S. companies are circumventing the CRT rule, while other electronics containing toxic materials are flowing overseas with no restrictions. The EPA cannot identify where 80 percent of U.S. electronic waste is headed, it said.

"U.S. law allows the unfettered export of nearly all types of used electronic devices," the report said. And though the agency has a regulation governing disposal of cathode-ray tubes, the "EPA has done little" to set up an enforcement program.

Toxic materials in electronics do not leach out while the products remain intact, but once they are disassembled, the ingredients can enter the air and water. A 2007 study in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* found that children in Guiyu, a Chinese village where electronics are dismantled, have

lead levels in their blood that are 50 percent higher than limits set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Reps. Mike Thompson, D-Calif., Gene Green, D-Texas, and Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., have tried for several years to broker a consensus on electronic recycling among manufacturers as well as retailers and state and local governments.



GORDON
He is trying to broker consensus on recycling.

"We're making progress," said Thompson, but "it's really hard to find any community of interest that says, 'Why don't you develop some laws and regulate and tell me how to do my business?'"

Thompson has drafted legislation calling for manufacturers to take more responsibility for their products and requiring manufacturers, retailers and recyclers to share the burden of creating a program to collect, transport, reuse and recycle electronic waste. Currently the issue is addressed by a patchwork of laws enacted by 16 states and New York City.



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Last Updated: Wednesday, 27 December 2006, 00:08 GMT

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Dealing with toxic computer waste

By Yo Takatsuki

Business reporter, BBC World Service

An unfortunate by-product of today's fast-moving digital age is the obsolescent equipment that gets discarded in its wake.

One estimate suggests that by 2010, 100m phones and 300m personal computers will be thrown on the rubbish tip.

Most of these contain toxic cocktail of substances including lead, mercury and arsenic.

At the moment a lot of this waste ends up, often illegally, in dumping sites around the globe, especially in the developing world.



Old computers look harmless but may contain toxic substances

ENVIRONMENT: Where That "Recycled" E-Waste Really Goes

By Stephen Leahy



UXBRIDGE, Canada, Nov 14 (IPS) - Is your old TV poisoning a child in China? Or your old computer contaminating a river in Nigeria?

Without a law banning export of toxic electronic waste in the United States, there has been no way to know if old cell phones, computers or televisions originating there didn't end up in some poor village in the developing world, where desperate people pull them apart by hand to recover some of the valuable metals inside.

A small group of people have now allied with a few responsible recyclers to ensure e-waste can be treated responsibly by creating an e-Stewards certification programme. Announced this week, e-Stewards are electronics waste recyclers that are fully accredited and certified by an independent third party.

Such accreditation is crucial in an industry that often makes fraudulent claims. Currently even when e-waste (electronic trash) goes to a "green" recycler, the chances are high that toxic stuff from the developed world ended up in a huge pile in the middle of some village.

The U.S. generates an estimated three million tonnes of electronic waste, such as cell phones and computers, each year. U.S. citizens bought some 30 million television sets this year and that number will be higher next year as all U.S. TV networks switch to digital broadcasts Feb. 17.

So where do these old, unwanted TVs go?



Migrant child from Hunan province sits atop one of countless piles of unrecyclable computer waste imported from around the world. Guiyu, China.

Credit: © Basel Action Network

Element	Use in Wireless Technology	Harmful Effects
Lead	Used primarily in soldering of circuit boards and other device components	Extremely harmful to the human body; damages both the central and peripheral nervous systems; can cause seizures, retardation, high blood pressure, damage to the kidneys and liver; adversely affects child development
Beryllium	Forms significant portions of electrical connectors and battery contacts	Long term exposure can be carcinogenic, especially for the lungs. Extreme exposure can lead to a potentially fatal condition known as Acute Beryllium Disease
Arsenic	Used in some integrated circuits and semiconductors	Arsenic is a notoriously potent poison; causes severe damage to the digestive tract
Mercury	Can be found to a degree in batteries and circuit boards	Attacks the central nervous and endocrine systems; harmful to mouth, teeth and gums; poses risk in the neurological development of unborn fetuses
Antimony	Used in production of diodes and batteries. Pure form used in semiconductor production	Toxic to humans in ways similar to arsenic; fatal in large doses
Cadmium	Used in soldering, semiconductors and chip resistors	Potentially carcinogenic; Repeated exposure can damage the lungs, kidneys and liver



BASEL CONVENTION

*the world environmental
agreement on wastes*



Main Goal of the Convention

To protect, by strict control, human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation and management – including transboundary movements – of hazardous wastes and other wastes



Secretariat of the Basel Convention
International Environment House
13-15 Chemin des Anémones
CH - 1219 Chêne-Bleue
Geneva, Switzerland

Child labourers exposed to toxic chemicals dying before 50, WHO says

Bangladesh tannery workers exposed to formaldehyde, sulphuric acid and more while making products for westerners



ALTERNATIVES TO ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLOITATION IN AFRICA



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we plant the seeds of
peace and hope."*

- WANGARI MAATHAI -

**Wangari Maathai
1940 – 2011
Nobel Peace Prize
Laureate of 2004**



Dr. Wangari Maathai - Nobel Peace Prize Winner – Founder: Greenbelt Movement

Questions?



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