

The Indispensable Weekly  
The Voice of the Awakened Negro

# THE Negro World

A Newspaper Devoted Solely to the Interests of the Negro Race



Reaching the Mass of Negroes  
The Best Advertising Medium

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## Africa's Wealth Is In Jeopardy; the Fate of Millions of Black Men and Women Is At Stake; Act Now Before It Is Too Late

Fellow-Men of the Negro Race, Greeting:

Gradually we are witnessing an increasing encroachment upon our rights on the continent of Africa by the adventurous European races. Already the great colonizing governments of Europe have established themselves all over Africa by way of political control, and now we find that they are calling upon their different nationals to go out and take up their residence on the continent for the purpose of exploiting the country and its natural resources. Open appeals have been made to the white capitalists of different countries to invest in the exploitation of the oil fields, diamond, gold and iron mines of the "old homeland." This means that in a short time Africa will become the centre of the world's commercial activities, at which time the black man is to be relegated to his accustomed place of "under-dog" in the new African civilization. This is about to happen in the face of a highly developed Negro civilization in the Western world, wherein men of our race seek the same opportunities in things economic as the other races of the world. Doesn't it suggest that we are sleeping on the job? If white capital should further invest itself in Africa it will mean that there will not be any room for our race to enter into the scheme of African development.

So, now that the opportunity presents itself, why not let us do that which the different governments are calling upon their nationals to do at this time in Africa? The advice of the Universal Negro Improvement Association to all skilled Negroes is that they make up their minds to betake themselves to Africa, there to assist in its development, for in another quarter or half a century Africa will take the place of the most forward and progressive nations of today. The hidden wealth and resources of Africa, if properly exploited, will make any race that enters into the scheme of development today independent and progressive. There is absolutely no reason why the four hundred million Negroes of the world should not make a desperate effort to reconquer Africa from the white man, in that, whether he be English, French, German, Italian or Spanish, his one and only interest is selfish exploitation and domination. Why should we allow them to exploit and dominate the land of our fathers? If the rank and file of native Africans are unable to appreciate the value of their own country, from the standard of Western civilization, then it is for us, their brothers, to take to them the knowledge and information that they need to help to develop the country for the common good. It is preferable that Negroes, from whatsoever part of the world, reap the benefits of African wealth than any of the white races of today.

### Look Toward Africa

The Universal Negro Improvement Association therefore encourages Negroes everywhere to look toward Africa as the goal of our ambition and as the hope of our physical salvation. Why should we allow Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Italy, France and England to build up and rehabilitate their bankrupt nations and civilizations out of the wealth and resources of our country? They have no room for us in their countries, and surely we should have absolutely no room for them for exploitation in ours. We have allowed cowardice and fear to take possession of us for a long while, but that will never take us anywhere. It is no use being afraid of these nations and peoples. They are human beings like ourselves. We have blood, feelings, passions and ambitions just as they have. Why, therefore, should we allow them to trample upon our rights and deprive us of our liberty? Negroes everywhere must get that courage of manhood that will enable them to strike out irrespective of who the enemy is and demand those things that are ours by right, moral, legal and divine.

Let us, therefore, prepare ourselves throughout the world for the combat that is bound to ensue between the rivaling forces for the ultimate domination of our country, Africa. Surely as long as the present generation lives we are not going to give up easily and allow these intruders to rob, exploit and dominate the country of our fathers.

If the oil of Africa is good for John D. Rockefeller's interest; if the rubber is beneficial to the Firestone interests; if the iron ore is good enough for the Carnegie Trust, then, surely, they are of interest to us. Why should we sit down and allow Wall Street and John D. Rockefeller and the capitalist group of America and other countries to exploit our country when they refuse to give us a fair chance in the countries of our adoption? Why should not Africa give to the world its black Rockefeller, Carnegie, Schwab and Henry Ford? And now is the opportunity, gentlemen. Now is the chance for every Negro to make every effort toward a commercial, industrial standard that will make us comparable with the successful business men of the other races.

You must prepare now to take the plunge, or be forever damned.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

Founder and President-General, Universal Negro Improvement Association.

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## THE NEGRO'S DILEMMA

We are all acquainted with the passage of Scripture in which Jesus, of Nazareth, striving to impress upon his hearers his humanity, repined that "The Son of Man hath not where to lay his head." It is an unenviable position to be placed in, to have nowhere to call one's home, or to find that, whatever the cause, one is worse off than the "Foxes which have holes," or the "Birds of the air which have nests."

But such is the condition to which the strong arm of the white race would relegate the Negro in this age and day. In Africa, the God-given home of the Negro, powerful nations have entrenched themselves, and, not content with despoiling the country and garnering the fruits of the country to enrich their nationals at home, are subjecting the rightful owners to slavery in its worst form.

Down the forests, and to the ships that come to their ports with the produce of their country, to be taken to distant lands for the enrichment of the invaders and their kin. He is not even adequately paid for the labor he gives, but is forced to toil as a serf, starved and bruised, and thank the oppressor for having come to show him what civilization can achieve.

British, Frenchman, Portuguese, Belgian, Italian and Spaniard, have combined to do a hellish work in black Africa, thinking, perhaps, to receive absolution from their foul crimes by offering to their God the excuse that economic necessities compelled.

The missionary went first with his Bible and his baubles. They were, forsooth, the kindly pioners. Now the reign of terror has succeeded; the poor, harassed victim being left to find whatever solace he can in the Master's words, so religiously taught him by the white benevolent. It is a dinnable crime, for which the perpetrators will assuredly pay.

There is ferment today in South Africa, where the Dutchmen have recently passed an iniquitous bill, which precludes the native from engaging in certain occupations in competition with whites and restricting him to certain localities. The bill was passed over and above the sustained protest of liberal thinkers of practically every great country in the world and in spite of the solemn protest and warning of the church and such a veteran statesman—an imperialist besides—as Jan Christian Smuts. Europeans there glibly talk of making South Africa white, with never a thought for the teeming millions of natives who people the land and who must starve and die, if such a policy were, or could be carried to its conclusion. The natives, on their part, fully alive to the peril, are fighting the insidious economic war being waged against them with all their might.

Up to the present they have been unable to obtain any mitigation of the evils just added to their lot, but they are, through their new-found co-operative action, forcing the white oppressor to pause and consider whether in thus brutally seeking, by a stroke of the pen, to degrade millions, he is not laying up incalculable trouble for the morrow.

But it is not only in South Africa that unreasoning hate and prejudice rule. In the East—in Abyssinia—the white man reaches out, represented by the British and the Italians, to infringe upon the sovereignty of the black kingdom, while the British and French have the most valuable territory in the west in a vice-like grip.

Liberia, the only other independent State on the continent, with the exception of Abyssinia, now seems destined for the fate that overtook Haiti, the Firestone grant of 1,000,000 acres of land for rubber cultivation paving the way for the virtual conversion of Liberia into an American possession.

And while in Africa this terrible state of affairs exists, outside of the mother continent Negroes are being subjected to the same oppressive tactics. In the United States of America Negroes are kept in a state of economic dependence, from which it is very unlikely they can ever evolve, and immigration laws, cleverly designed, make it practically impossible for Negroes from foreign lands to gain admission to the country. While, side by side with this, the Universal Negro Improvement Association, the only organization in the world which is seeking to develop a nation for Negroes in Africa, where they may develop unfettered and unhampered, is embarrassed by the persecution and imprisonment of its leader, Marcus Garvey.

Recently in Panama (a portion of which, on either side of the Canal, is United States territory) an immigration bill was passed, banning Negroes and Asiatics, under pain of dire penalties, and Mexico, United States neighbor, follows suit. Nor is this all. While in his own Africa the Negro is being abused and tortured, oppressed and persecuted, circumcised and hedged in; while in other parts of the world, in the western hemisphere and in the east, he is being told that he is not wanted, as if to cap the heartlessness and godlessness of the situation, it is made increasingly difficult for Africans abroad to return home. It is quite as difficult today for a British subject, if he is a Negro, to go to a British possession in Africa, unless to fall in a toly semi-governmental position, as under contract with some British corporation, than it is for a Negro to find work while employment is England. What will come of it? It is plain that policies have to be revised, that human considerations must enter in, if the world is to be spared a cataclysm, such as has never engulfed it before. Four hundred million men and women of ebony hue will not consent to be railroadled, to slavery. Black men and women have a right to dwell on the face of the earth as free human beings, and work out their destiny, and enjoy the things of life.

the earth. And marching with the times, and taking a lesson from the peculiar experiences that are theirs, and nerved by the very torment and persecution visited upon them, they will take their rightful place in the sun, or report to God the reason why.

## RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION BY PRIVATE AGREEMENTS

All of the readers of The Negro World are interested in the A—movement which has gained nation-wide importance of late years. It is seeking to restrict the residential districts of Negroes by local ordinances or by private agreements among owners. The contention has been set up in every instance that when Negroes become residents of a block the value of all the property in the block becomes depreciated. This, of course, is a debatable question. Much city property, in which Negroes have become the majority of the residents, is notorious, yield more rental than when white tenants occupied the same property. It depends upon you regard the matter. But the question of law as to local ordinances and written agreements among property owners restricting the rights of people to buy and sell or occupy property because of race and color, up for discussion and settlement by the courts, is of vital interest.

Property rights are among the most clearly defined by our laws, a right in North Carolina holding that such restrictions could not be sustained, as they invaded both the right of the buyer and seller to do what is will with his property, so long as the interests of the public were not involved. It stands to reason that any law or private agreement which denies or abridges the privileges and immunities of citizens to buy and sell or occupy property, based on race or color, should not be regarded as a valid one by any court of competent jurisdiction. But judges are also human, and the late Col. Theodore Roosevelt strove to prove that some courts were determined to read law into the constitution—that is, to construe law as constitutional which had no standing in the constitution.

Left to themselves, Negroes, just as Jews and others, prefer to live among themselves, and often create districts of their own, and make them what they should be, "things of beauty and joys forever," but they do so because they prefer to do so, and because the necessity is not upon them to live among themselves. It is when local law makers and prejudiced persons undertake by law or underhand methods to prevent the sale and purchase of property of a certain race or persons of color, that the principle of coercion enters and must be combated, on the principle that what one citizen may do another citizen may do. If not, why not?

The only way to get what you want and what belongs to you in common with others is to fight for it; fight in all of the ways and with all of the weapons that others fight. Those who accept injustice and outrage without protest and defense will be imposed upon at will by those who seek to profit or gain advantage by so doing. All of the time, "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

## THE NEGRO AND THE NEWSPAPER

EVER so often somebody offers the illuminating bit of information that "Negro journalism is still in its infancy." Unfortunately, this is more or less true, and we have come to accept the statement without giving it the second thought as to the reason why. The tendency is to put the entire burden upon the weary shoulders of the Negro editor and publisher. This is a mistake, and the sooner the reading public realizes it, the sooner we will begin to have better Negro papers.

The American Negro has been more than sixty years free. He has developed very rapidly along some lines, but he has been amazingly slow along other lines. The reading of newspapers upon matters which are purely racial, and begin to ask for and buy in the better class. And it is the readers of newspapers who determine the success or failure of the newspaper. Good or bad,

Marcus Garvey was technically charged with and convicted of "using the mail to defraud." He was convicted on the strength of the weak and contradictory testimony of a pitifully ignorant Negro who could not even relate a portion of the contents of a letter which he claimed to have received. The only evidence submitted was the back and front of an empty envelope in which a letter was "supposed" to have been. And yet a man was sent to jail.

JOSEPH ILLI, Bocas del Toro, Republica de Panama.

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## WHITE RACES CANNOT OWN WORLD

(continued from page 2)  
Professor Brookes, "what very few races have been the originators of civilizations. Races have borrowed, civilized, and possibly improved upon them. Our civilization has not been our own. It was borrowed civilization, and it was borrowed almost entirely through the medium of the Christian missionaries. England did not invent it."

"Professor Brookes remarked that life in England some two thousand years ago had been almost entirely absorbed by the life and customs of the Romans who had borrowed from the Greeks, and the Greeks from those before them."

## The White Race's Part

"There are undoubtedly," continued the speaker, "a certain number of spheres in which the white races are definitely superior to the non-white races, and that they are superior. Mechanical civilization of the modern world is essentially white civilization, and the greatest contribution which the white races have made to the world's development. In this certainly the non-European races were definitely inferior to the white races, having adopted a borrowed civilization, should not make a great success of it in their own right. That is impossible."

"Professors Brookes said that the negroes were destined to remain in the presence of such an audience and without a convenient means of haste say such a thing, he would say that at present the black man was definitely inferior to the white man."

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