The Challenge of Africa

A recent book on the subject of the nature and significance of contemporary problems in Africa opens with the arresting sentence: "Africa staggers the imagination. The reasons are not for too seek why our minds are assailed by a series of conflicting energies when we consider Africa as it is today or it is likely to be tomorrow." I have heard it said recently that if one considers the individual who is interested in the problems of today should understand Europe, while in the problems of tomorrow should study what is going on in the East, that he who is interested in the problems of the day after tomorrow should pay in the problems of the day after tomorrow, that is misleading.

I submit that this summation of attention to Africa. I submit that this summation of the world can be divided into international relations that the world can be divided into international relations that are not necessarily one's welfare can be divided into international relations that are not necessarily one's concern because, whereas one part can be considered simultaneously with all the others, one must be maintained. I think if the health of the body is to be maintained, the health of the body is to be maintained in the same manner.

Arnold Toynbee has fallen into the same error in his recent book "The World of the West," in which he has been accused of "unjustifiable drawing sharp lines of distinction between the nations" of the world and that of others with none. This line of the world and that of others with none has probably suffered from that attitude more than any other area for a great deal of mischief and Africa has probably suffered from that attitude more than any other area.
to talk of Africa "exploding into history", as if Africa has just become a part of this planet. I might here remark parenthetically that we are indebted to a few Negro scholars such as Carter Woodson, du Bois, and Hansbury and others who have by their research and writings have kept alive the idea that Africa has always been a part of the stream of human civilization and thus saved the continent from being set to oblivion as far as modern scholarship is concerned. It must be a matter of gratification to find how many people are beginning to discover the Africa about which they have been devoted for so long a time and which they have as ever been crying in the wilderness for so many years.

**NATURE OF AFRICA**

Africa is the second largest continent in the world — 11½ million square miles — covering an area about four times the size of the United States. Its population is variously estimated at between 150 and 200 millions.

The continent is generally divided into two main areas by the Sahara:

1. Africa north of the Sahara, which is inhabited by peoples whose contacts with the rest of the world have been somewhat less close than those with the rest of Africa. This sometimes referred to as “Arab” or Mediterranean Africa or Islamic Africa because the majority of its inhabitants are Muslim. The Sahara, east of this area, is very large and is called the Sahara desert.

2. Africa south of the Sahara, inhabited by between 145 and 176 million people with numerous ethnic and linguistic groupings. This may be referred to as “black” or “Semitic” Africa.
On the other hand blacks or Equatorial Africa is called to itself capable of sub division into so called white man's countries or black man's countries, the former being the rest of Africa in which white settlement is reasonably safe and possible to the latter those in which such settlement is risky to pay the least.

The black man's countries are to be found principally in tropical West Africa where the white population is of negligible proportion and in the white man's countries which are to be found in parts of South, Central and East Africa which include areas of sufficiently high elevation where it makes white settlement possible.

The advances of modern science especially medicine and for the control of disease carrying pests such as the tsetse fly and the mosquito have the effect of mixing up the possibilities of white settlement in Africa and thus the possibilities of white settlement in Africa and thus the possibilities of white settlement in Africa and thus of white man's countries. White settlement in so-called white man's countries. White settlement in so-called white man's countries. White settlement in so-called white man's countries. White settlement in so-called white man's countries.
and form a province of the proposed federation of Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia which will have a population of 7 million Africans and 250,000 whites.

There is also observable a tendency of the interests of white settlement areas, actual or potential, to seek to form collaboration with another across territorial boundaries in order to ensure the paramountcy of white interests over a large area of Africa. The newly-formed Afrikaner Society which is less as its Director, the minification of British territory in Central East Africa is undoubtedly inspired by the prime principle of making Africa safe for white settlement. Whatever benefit is to Africa safe for white settlement, affects Zambian populations from this aggregation of white settlement areas tends to be regarded as incidental or central to the scheme, whereas British interests are generally laid on the economic benefits which would come from the African from the greater prosperity which would come from white capital investment in areas which are politically dominated by whites. The crumbs which fall from their master's table are, in fact, the components the African for any loss of the life for the ultimate achievement of self-government or political independence.