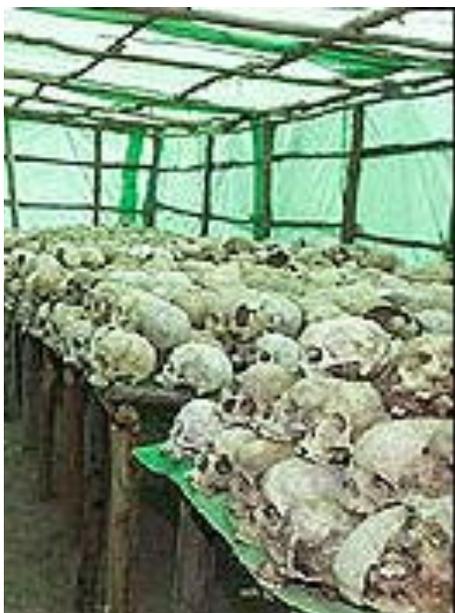


African Voices: Tragedy and Possibility

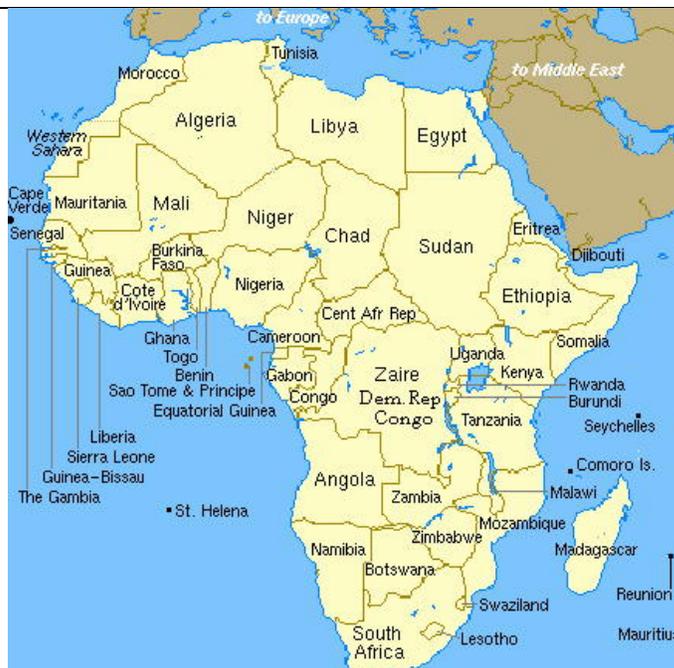
edited by Alan Singer

In the last unit of the Global History curriculum, high school students explore issues facing the world in the twenty-first century and review many of the key social studies concepts introduced during the study of earlier historical epochs. This series of articles under the umbrella title “African Voices” discusses the tragedies and possibilities confronting sub-Saharan Africa, a vast region of the world with 49 countries, an estimated population of 700 million people and an international debt of over 200 billion dollars. It uses first-person narratives to put a “personal face” on concepts such as colonialism, globalization, revolution, genocide, interdependence and development.

Jacqueline Murekatete writes as a survivor of genocide in Rwanda who is willing to speak with school groups about her experience. Her email address is jacquemu@hotmail.com. At the time she prepared this autobiographical essay, Jackie was a student at Martin Van Buren H.S. in Queens, NY. Her social studies teacher was Dr. Norman Strauss. Jackie received editorial assistance from Lisa Torre, a secondary education student at Hofstra University.



A table covered with skulls from the Rwandan genocide. Source: news.bbc.co.uk.



Rebecca King Dyasi is a teacher educator at Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus. In this article she describes her memories of the movement for independence in Sierra Leone and her thoughts on the warfare that has divided the country since the early 1990s. Mariama Bah, a student at Middle School 61 in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, is a refugee from this war and her story is included. Her social studies teacher was Hamid Balogun. Dr. Dyasi received editorial assistance from Kerry King, a secondary education student at Hofstra University.

Lerole David Mametja was born in Pietersburg in a northern province of South Africa. He is currently a student at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University in New York City. In this article he discusses the movement against apartheid in South Africa, his personal transformation into an activist, and his work as a health planner in a nation besieged by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. He also received editorial assistance from Kerry King.

Dr. Arnold Wendroff is a Brooklyn resident who has worked in Africa as a member of the Peace Corps. He noticed that in rural villages many African women carried heavy loads, including a family's daily water supply, on their heads. Dr. Wendroff invented a handcart that can be made entirely from wood and used bicycle parts. This article addresses the question: Is Sustainable Development Possible in Africa?