FULL NAME- NICK-ANI DANIEL

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The North – South Divide

This sis a socio-economic and political division. Popularized in the late 20th century and early 21st century. Generally the global north include the United States, Canada, all European countries, including Japan, Israel and Singapore. While the global south consist of sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Pacific Islands including the Middle East.

The global north correlates with the western world and the first world or the “first civilisation”. Plus much of the second world. While the south is referred to as the third world and Eastern world.

The two groups intersect in differing levels of wealth, economic development, income inequality and democracy, political and economic freedom. Nations in the north tend to be wealthier less unequal and considered more democratic and developed.

In the southern states they are generally poorer, these countries are younger in existence with more fragile democracies and usually share a history with colonialism by members of northern states.

The media and the global north

When reporting on the global south by foreign media houses information is dissipated with lack of knowledge on the real situation, there is also the use of negative frames to report news stories concerning third world regions. In an escalating the global south can also be categorized with references describing the south as a region of crisis. Which further threatens the peace of the “third world” public usually when expressing their positions on terrorism in Africa and the Middle East.

The mass media are social institutions that play a big role in public perception of a given society from events such as terrorism, economic hardship and inequality which occurs in certain regions of Africa in comparison with standards of living in the west.

Aid

Foreign aid is money that is given to countries voluntarily from one another as a form of gift, grant or loan. Commonly termed as economic assistance from countries in the Global north to countries in the south. Emphasis are usually made on the outcome of the aide input into southern economies by the western communities.

How does aid influence perception of the global south?

* Aid increases dependency of GS nations because they are “developing”.
* Increases risk of corruption by receiving nations
* Aids don’t express the agenda of foreign owned corporations that dispense these funds.

What is the reason for this aid?

These assistances comes as a result of southern communities being seen as poor and the need to save them from economic suicide.

Case study 1- AFRICOM

A Military Initiative by President George W. Bush. During reflective efforts by his administration, it was summed that terrorism exposes the United States as a threat.

ISIS is an Islamic terrorist force in the Middle East. In its annual report on terrorism released on October of 2008 the state department in America singled out Africa as a key location where operations of terrorist groups were on the rise unlike Syria and Iraq. With the emergence of Boko Haram, the group which originated In Nigeria all embarking on wide-spread violent attacks, kidnappings, terrorist actions that spread death and distraction.

In recent times the united states have decided to pull out of West Africa seeing they have no reason to remain after they had built a drone base to monitor terrorist activities in Africa from Niger.

Case study 2- Covid-19(Vaccination stages)

In a headline released by CNN on the 5th of May 2020. It says “Amid WHO warnings and with no proof, some African nations turn to herbal tonic to treat Covid-19.

The use of keyword “Herbal Tonic” refers to an African method in local medicine which does not seem viable to the global north because there is little or no use of modern medicine in the process of vaccination. (Modern pharmacy is an attribute of development from the global north).

The production of these herbal products are described as untested natural therapy by the West. They warn of potential dangers and go on to state neutrality in the production of said medication.

In an event whereby, the United States or a nation in the global north territory produces the cure for the covid-19 pandemic provides a situation where nations from the third world are at the mercy of western economy.

Challenges of a foreign correspondent

* + Time difference between home country and work country.
  + The organisational level of the media in the global north compared to the level of organisation in home country.
  + Lack of reliability by the public due to disbelief in power of the press
  + Understanding the mind-set of citizens in the work country in relation with their government.
  + The dynamics in the relationship between the media and the people which definitely varies with birth country.
  + Having the right vocabulary especially for a western audience.
  + Fear of critic by reader.
  + International journalism is also cost intensive.
  + Access to information is relative for ach international correspondent.

Being a black journalist in the Global North

In the aftermath of the death of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis.

Black reporters also face the likeliness of also being arrested even after identifying as the press.

A fellow correspondent who saw her black journalist colleague get arrested as an illustration of systemic racism due to the fact that her white colleague had cordial interaction and experience with the police.

Reporters are often faced with tough situations for black journalist, covering Floyd and other issues of racial injustice bears additional layers of complexity, one that involves managing encounters with law enforcement while on the job and processing the emotional toll it can take to cover these events.

The black journalist was quick to note that with the police the opposite is always true. Furthermore; “White colleagues are treated differently meanwhile black journalist are categorized as troublesome”.

Key things such as ringing the police the police department before arriving at a scene of a case is common with black journalist so as to avoid being arrested upon identification. Covering black related issues usually has a huge emotional turmoil on the journalist.

There are over 60 incidents between the police and journalists during these protest times alone. Which include being harassed, shot at with rubber bullets, tear gassed and arrested without cause.

The Chinese Covid-19 situation

In the midst of the global scramble in dealing with the Covid-19 situation, relations between the Chinese and Africa ruptured.

The discrimination and maltreatment the African nationals have suffered are as a direct result of the rising pressure from the imported cases of covid-19 faced by the authorities in Guangzhou, China. Chinese officials imposed an entry ban on all foreign nationals with visas or resident permits in an attempt to control the domestic infection.

African migrants were at the centre of the sting operation with individuals from Nigeria, Ghana, Congo, Angola, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, etc…

Fear generated from the large influx of Africans on arriving upon China could be infected or contagious, bringing an eruption of local resentments, evictions, refusal of service, and maltreatment. The persecutions continued by local shops refusing to provide service to black people and evicted African nationals have had to sleep on the street. History remains that there has been pre-existing racism against blacks in china foretime.

Solutions

Racism of all forms should not be tolerated**.** Resources that can ease the financial burdens that perpetuate systemic inequalities should be provided.

The foreign ministry in Beijing have been coordinating to provide lodging and food to affected Africans. The Chinese have a lot of investments in Africa so it’s in their best interest to repair relations and there should repercussions for such actions against foreign nationals by an international body so that these crimes would be frowned upon.

The fact that black people face additional challenges above and beyond, their white colleagues should work hard in learning to be inclusive, rather than putting the responsibility on the black colleagues**.** Black students and journalists should network more with their white colleagues so they can empathize with their relative working conditions and create room for an improved and healthier work-environment. Communication among journalist would increase possible

access to information and sourcing so that information can be classified as less relative in outsource value. There should be accurate data informing people of all races including blacks in America that they all can be vulnerable to the Covid-19.

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