**NAME: JIMOH AISHA OMOBUKOLA**

**MATRIC NO: 19/SMS09/036**

**DEPARTMENT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY**

**COURSE: IRD 205 – AFRICA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**DISCUSS THE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF AFRICA AND AMERICAN RELATIONS SINCE 2000**

**ABOUT AFRICA**

Africa is the world's second-largest and second-most populous continent, after Asia in both cases. At about 30.3 million km² including adjacent islands, it covers 6% of Earth's total surface area and 20% of its land area. With 1.3 billion people as of 2018, it accounts for about 16% of the world's human population. The continent is bounded on the west by the [Atlantic Ocean](https://www.britannica.com/place/Atlantic-Ocean), on the north by the [Mediterranean Sea](https://www.britannica.com/place/Mediterranean-Sea), on the east by the [Red Sea](https://www.britannica.com/place/Red-Sea) and the [Indian Ocean](https://www.britannica.com/place/Indian-Ocean), and on the south by the mingling waters of the Atlantic and Indian oceans.

**ABOUT AMERICA**

United States, officially United States of America, abbreviated U.S. or U.S.A., byname America,  [country](https://www.britannica.com/topic/nation-state) in [North America](https://www.britannica.com/place/North-America), a federal [republic](https://www.britannica.com/topic/republic-government) of 50 states. Besides the 48 conterminous states that occupy the middle latitudes of the continent, the [United States](https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-States-1371176) includes the state of [Alaska](https://www.britannica.com/place/Alaska), at the northwestern extreme of North America, and the island state of [Hawaii](https://www.britannica.com/place/Hawaii-state), in the mid-Pacific Ocean. The conterminous states are bounded on the north by [Canada](https://www.britannica.com/place/Canada), on the east by the [Atlantic Ocean](https://www.britannica.com/place/Atlantic-Ocean), on the south by the [Gulf of Mexico](https://www.britannica.com/place/Gulf-of-Mexico) and on the west by the [Pacific Ocean](https://www.britannica.com/place/Pacific-Ocean). The United States is the fourth largest country in the world in area (after [Russia](https://www.britannica.com/place/Russia), Canada, and[China](https://www.britannica.com/place/China)). The national capital is [Washington](https://www.britannica.com/place/Washington-DC), which is coextensive with the [District of Columbia](https://www.britannica.com/place/Washington-DC), the federal capital region created in 1790.

**ABOUT AFRICA AND AMERICA RELATIONS**

Africa–United States relations covers the diplomatic relationships between the United States and the independent African countries, with some information on political, economic and cultural ties.

Over the last century, relations between the United States and Africa have under gone many changes. The relationship between these two geographic zone has been defined primarily the slave trade and the Cold War. Although historians familiar with the details of the two zones could come up with a number of events that to some degree characterise the unique nature of this relationship, the fact remains that Africa and the United States of America have come to be associated in the minds of most people around the world in terms of their black populations and their political and military connections during the cold war. The presence of millions of people of African descent, and their growing power and self assertiveness-in the American political process, have combined to make US-African relations an issue of greater scholarly interest. With today’s political environment demanding focus on immediate crises at home and abroad, it is easy to neglect the long-term priorities that will profoundly shape America’s position in the world in the decades to come. But one foreign policy area that the United States cannot afford to neglect is its relationship with the African continent—with all its possibility and volatility, its risks and its rewards. Of course, when we talk about the U.S.-Africa relationship, what we are really talking about is a whole series of very complicated bilateral and multilateral economic, political, social, and personal relationships across a terrifically diverse continent.

**ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

**Economic and Development Issues.** Much of Africa experienced rapid economic growth starting in the early 2000s, reducing poverty and expanding the middle class in some countries. Since 2014, however, growth has slowed in many countries—and almost all continue to face high poverty rates and long-standing development challenges such as food insecurity and malnutrition, ineffective health and education institutions, and infrastructure deficiencies.

**Peace and Security**. Civil wars and crises have broken out in multiple African countries since 2010, reversing the previous decade’s trend of stabilisation. Newer crises have unfolded in the Lake Chad Basin, the Central African Republic (CAR), Mali, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Burundi, and South Sudan, while long-running conflicts continue to affect the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, and Somalia. Porous borders, weak institutions, and corruption have created permissive environments for transnational threats such as terrorism, trafficking, and maritime piracy. Two conflict-affected African countries, South Sudan and Nigeria, face a credible risk of famine in early 2019; in both, insecurity has hindered aid access to affected zones

.

**U.S.-Africa Policy under the Trump Administration.** The Trump Administration has maintained several Africa-focused initiatives launched by its predecessors, but it also has proposed changes to U.S. trade policy and foreign assistance, including aid cuts, that could significantly affect U.S. engagement with Africa if implemented. The Administration’s policy approach toward Africa, unveiled in late 2018, identifies three broad U.S. interests in the region: expanding U.S. trade and commercial ties with African countries, countering Islamist extremism and other forms of violent conflict, and imposing more stringent conditions on U.S. aid and U.N. peacekeeping missions in the region.