

21st CENTURY: AFRICA's CENTURY An Advanced Research Saga & A Deemed Thesis

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Abstract

Africa claims the 21st century after its name as the African century. True to its name and claim, Africa has been in the global limelight with its cooperative performance at the United Nations (UN). The African representatives like the African Development Bank, African Economic Research Consortium, Global Coalition for Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and World Bank have catalyzed the Africa's prospects for economic and social development in the 21st century.

And also, Africa's moment into Africa's century took birth placing Africa on the track-path to claiming the 21st century with social awareness of the idea of Africa's rise invited by economic development, domestic and foreign investment in the continent. In fact, it is the Africans who nicknamed the World as 'Global Village' with globalization & information & communications technologies offering enormous opportunities for Africa to leapfrog stages of development.

Hence, Africa's claim, '21st century : Africa's century' , has become definitive aided by the conscious development partners obliterating vicious cycle of underdevelopment, conflict, and untold human suffering featured in the 20th century. Behind this, there is thorough participation, greater accountability and development discourses between African people, leaders and action-plans across intersection of society, economy and technology.

In this Paper, it is my pre-planned advanced research approach and saga toward verification and compilation of the African century claims with the help of numerous reference works traced out by me and on their consolidation , the entire thing in its present state & form & format of this Paper has indeed, conferred the apparent-status of a Deemed Thesis according to me .

Keywords: Africa, Century, Development, Deemed , Economy, Leapfrog,Technology,Thesis.



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**1. Introduction**

The 21st (twenty-first) century is the current century of the Anno Domini era or Common Era, in accordance with the Gregorian calendar. It began on January 1, 2001, and will end on December 31, 2100.

The continent, Africa matters globally among researchers, academic scholars and students associated with Africa Area Studies. Known as the ‘Rising Continent’, it reflects Africa’s positive moment *prima facie* into 21st century with democratic, social, economic and technological improvement. At the same time, Africa rising does mean that Africa has no dismal scenario in the 21st century’s days as the ‘rising continent’. It is practical to understand that three people coming from different walks of social life watching the same event are likely to come up with different opinions of that event. Depending on the spectacles each one of them is wearing in viewing the event, they would each have a different view of the event. Each person’s view-point or point of reference is his/her conceptual mindset. It so similarly and exactly happens given the freedom of mind and speech of which the population is the ultimate source and constitutes the resourceful potential of a continental democracy like Africa where Africans inhabit complete with such freedoms.

Africa is the largest place on earth that it is possible, most of the time, to overlook. But, such an outlook is eternally not a wishful mindset. The practical and simple reason is in Africa’s arithmetical information, which renders Africa materially relevant. According to the United Nations (UN), Africa’s population will triple between 2000 and 2050 from 800 million to 2.4 billion. It will then double to 4.2 billion between 2050 and 2100. The African population has already reached almost 1.3 billion people, more than double the population of the European Union with 512 million people, at the end 2017. The same is going to matter for debates and especially, among academic scholars about the future of Africa in the 21st century, demographically for Africa is expanding at a rate unmatched by any other continent just like its large endowments of natural resources, a global attraction.



fig. Africa's 21st century Aspiration

At the end of the 21st century, two out of every five people on earth will be African. Those of us who are not African had better get used to that idea from now onwards. The 21st century as the African century reflects belief or optimism that it will bring peace and prosperity not only to Africa but also through Africa to all, wherever one might be. In other words, by the end of the century, about 40 per cent of all humans (and nearly half of all children) will be African, heralding one of the fastest and most radical demographic changes in world history.

African integration into the global economy and urbanization is up to the point where Africa cannot be colonized as it was in the bygone past. In fact, it is the Africans who nicknamed the World as global Village with closer links to global trade and finance, better public and private sector economic management, improved communications, technological breakthroughs, advancements in social welfare, humanities, general and specialized skills education and scientific approach to life style. There is widespread consensus within Africa that intensified efforts are required to increase growth by fostering private investment through more open markets and trade and by ensuring a more secure environment all over the continent. Productivity has risen across the continent with rising potential on individual hands in savable incomes from greater use of human capital. Hence the African century is also variously inculcated by the inspiration as the Hopeful Continent of Africa and the Rising Continent of Africa.



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This century is the century of Africa: President Ramaphosa

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The President of South Africa, Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa on Friday used his maiden two day official visit to New Delhi to announce that this century is the century of Africa. "We are determined to ensure that Africa is not relegated to the periphery of world affairs. We want Africa to take its place," he asserted while delivering the first IBSA-Mandela Memorial Freedom Lecture in the presence of the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and a distinguished gathering. The lecture was organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs.

continents."
President Ramaphosa said, "As we as South Africans take up the non-permanent seat in the Security Council, South Africa is acutely aware of the responsibility it has been entrusted with. This century is the century of Africa. We will advance our foreign policy in a manner that champions the interests of Africa and its people. India is one of the those that we count among the first that we seek cooperation and collaboration with. As a country, Africa has come a long way since 1994. We also know that we need to move ahead to remove poverty and inequality. The South Africa that Mandela and Gandhi dreamt of was a democratic South Africa."

SAT, 26 JAN 19

fig. South African President, Ramaphosa claims 21st century-Africa's

This positive view of Africa is due to the rising African economies attracting the World. From 2016, growth was much faster in Ethiopia, Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo and the African countries like Seychelles, Botswana, Mauritius, Gabon, South Africa, Gambia and Ghana all had more mobile subscriptions per inhabitant better than the European Union's average of 1231 mobile subscriptions per thousand inhabitants, for example. The internet, cable cafes and cyber-plazas have become available in Africa promoting emotional intelligence and emotional investment by African men and women. In 2014, African civil space programme spending was about \$185-million compared to the global \$42.4-billion. The largest African spenders were Nigeria (\$66-million), Algeria (\$45-million), South Africa (\$31-million), and Angola (\$26-million). As globally known, Sub-Saharan Africa has six of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies. In respect of Africa's Natural Resources, passage from a curse in pre-decades of Independence to a blessing in the post-decades improved continental economic status.

Country	2018 (%)	2019 (%)
Ethiopia	7.5	8.5
Côte d'Ivoire	7.4	7
Rwanda	7.2	7.8
Senegal	7	6.7
Ghana	6.3	7.6
Benin	6	6.3
Kenya	6	6.1
Uganda	5.9	6.1
Burkina Faso	5.9	6
Guinea	5.8	5.9
Tanzania	5.8	6.6

Chart. Africa growing-IMF: <<https://qz.com/africa/1522126/african-economies-to-watch-in-2019>>

Thus, Africa's moment into Africa's century took birth placing Africa on the track-path to claiming the 21st century with social awareness of the idea of Africa's rise invited by economic development, domestic and foreign investment in the continent. Behind this, there is thorough participation, greater accountability and development discourses between African people, leaders and action-plans across intersection of society, economy and technology. Globalization and information and communications technologies offered enormous opportunities for Africa to leapfrog stages of development. The African representatives like the African Development Bank, African Economic Research Consortium, Global Coalition for Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and World Bank have catalyzed the prospects for economic and social development in the 21st century. Africa's claim on the 21st century has defeated complex and provocative objections and became definitive aided by these conscious development partners obliterating vicious cycle of underdevelopment, conflict, and untold human suffering featured in the 20th century.

2. Characterization

Winston Churchill once said, if you quarrel with the past , you would lose the future !



fig.Late. Winston Churchill (1874-1965), ex-PM of England .

This is precisely the wisdom currently prevailing in the 21st Century's civilized Africa. Seen from the angle of the Continent's Development into the future ending its internal genocides of the yesteryears, it is now a stable Africa. Its forward journey into the aspiration, '21st Century: Africa's Century' has drawn its edifice from Sir Winston Churchill's subtle philosophy of not to quarrel with the past !

The great African-American political personality, Barack Hussein Obama, was the recent and first African-origin President of America in the 21st century from 2009-2017. He said on July 28, 2015 that "The world must recognize Africa's extraordinary progress. Today, Africa is one of the fastest-growing regions in the world. Africa's middle class is projected



fig. Afro-American President Obama Farewell, White House

to grow to more than one billion consumers. With hundreds of millions of mobile phones, surging access to the Internet, Africans are beginning to leapfrog old technologies into new prosperity. Africa is on the move, a new Africa is emerging. And Africa's progress can also be seen in the institutions that bring us together today. When I first came to Sub-Saharan Africa as a President, I said that Africa doesn't need strongmen, it needs strong institutions. And one of those institutions can be the African Union. Here, you can come together, with a shared commitment to human dignity and development.

Here, your 54 nations pursue a common vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa” (Whitehouse, President Obama, 2015). Therefore, the African optimism of peace and prosperity during the 21st century has superseded that of the rest of the world’s non-African nations with claiming the 21st century to be designated as the African century and so has been admired by the international community.

3. Elaboration

For my Research Saga, I dwell on the following 15 Frames of Optimistic Rise of Africa.

1. The spread of Democracy
2. The speeding up of technological change
3. The credibility ratings of African States
4. Absence of inter-State wars by accommodation & reconciliation
5. The triumph of consumerism
6. The African Media for transparency.
7. The transformation of production.
8. Women-laborer Reforms in Africa.
9. Regional Integration Projects
10. Military Power becoming less fanciful and less tangible
11. Debt Burden of African States in dilution.
12. Inclusion without sanctions in international Politics.
13. The production for Exports & Imports
14. Africa’s Natural Resources – from curse to blessing.
15. The Continental Agenda 2063 of the Africa We Want Aspirations of African Leaders.

Capsulated, the frame looks as below.

Democracy Spread	Speeding Technology Change Transformation of Production	Transparent Media Women laborer Reforms	Debt Dilution
Intangible Military			Exports-Imports
No inter- State Wars			Project Integration
Inclusion in International Politics			Consumerism
Credibility Ratings			Natural wealth
Agenda 2063			

fig. Optimistic rise of Africa – A Frame

4. Research Process

Formulation of the research hypothesis is the most important aspect of the research process.

5. Research Hypothesis

It is a brilliant guess about the solution of a research proposal or a leap into the dark ! A hypothesis is presumptive statement of a proposition regarding solution of a problem which an investigation seeks to prove in a specific frame of reference. The word hypothesis is made up of two Greek roots. ‘Hypo’ means that it is some sort of ‘sub-

statements ‘, for it is the presumptive statement of a proposition. ‘Thesis’ is about solution of a problem which the investigation seeks to prove. One can infer so as that “Hypo + Thesis = Hypothesis”.

The above fifteen investigations are owing to my Hypothesis that Africa is rising. Each of these investigations is individually subject to study of merits relevant to the rise for the non-negation of my Hypothesis.

A brief flashback hereunder is the crux of the matter that serves not only as the backup but also to back up my Hypothesis leading to the entailing 15 selective investigations as the over-all-frame of reference and /or the framework in itself for the non-negation of my Hypothesis.

6. The Flashback

Gone are the days of fateful destiny in the nature of pre-colonial , colonial , post-colonial , first world war , second world war , pre-cold-war , cold war , non-alignment post-cold-war , bi-polar , multi-polar and uni-polar times of the World’s and Africa’s transformational phases into the stories of History Chapters for partial and impartial Historians to variously interpret in light of evidences or in their absence through their authored and co-authored writings. African independence and uplift on a worldwide dimension have been the well known truths. It is no exaggeration to say that Africans are regenerated in America and on the African Continent or wherever they may be but certainly is a 100% contradiction opposing the laymen’s popular and non-academic perception “Why are Africa and African people at the bottom of the world order, when they gave the world its first civilization, created the first religion, science and all of the high technology now in use”. Therefore, all of the African peoples are no more functioning at the mercy of whites all over the World even in the odd sense of somewhat racially partial thinkers on the Globe. Those familiar with the Harold Cruse’s Crisis of the Negro Intellectual will harbor no surprise that at this moment in our history An African Answer as the key to global productivity is being presented at this moment not by a well-known astrologer or soothsayer but by millions , billions and trillions of new breed of African thinkers with special exposure to and involvement with the ripe and flourishing Continent of African States numbering as the 54 active populous units as well as the gargantuan corporate structures that populate America and the West . In the current 21st century, the African States’ re-emergence on the world stage holds the key to a more benign enhancement of corporate and political life the world over. Africa’s world leadership is guaranteed by the Sciences which have proven facts beyond rectification such as the following ones.

Fact One: Dr. Elso S. Barghoorn , a Harvard University’s Paleontologist ,discovered microscopic one-celled microfossils that are 4.6 billion years old embedded in rocks in South Africa . This discovery pushes back the age of the oldest known evidence of life by 100 million years .

Fact Two: Anthropologist Timothy White at the University of California at Berkeley has completed an analysis of skeletal remains of four million-year-old fossils that were found on the banks of an African river. These fossils predate by a million years the famous three million-year-old “Lucy “skeleton found in Ethiopia in 1974.

Fact Three: Allan C.Wilson, a professor of biochemistry at the University of California at Berkeley, has discovered in his DNA research that all of today’s humans descended from one woman who lived in Africa from 140,000-280,000 years ago. This was based on the estimated rate of mutation of DNA in human cells. Wilson’s conclusion bolsters the contention that Africa is the sole nursery foe ancestors of modern Homo sapiens.

Fact Four: A recent Study called a New Study says that Neanderthals or the archaic humans (Africans) were compassionate beings as per the University of York in the United Kingdom challenging our notions that they were brutish compared to modern humans.

Fact Five: The Journal of World Archaeology in its Research favorably argues that not helping others out of self-interest is their attribute . A Senior Lecturer, Mr. Penny at the University confirms that they knew psychologies like feelings, love, suffering, efforts and non-expectations of reciprocity beforehand.

Fact Six: The worldly African and European participants had travelled great distances, spoke multiple languages, absorbed various forms of structural and directly-transacted violence’s results and together negotiated the complex roles of rescuer and refugee.

Fact Seven: Most of the historians know practically nothing about the Africans prior to their enslavement. Scholars in large numbers have not shown keen interest to study the African scientifically in the direction of human family and early civilization just like that of the primitive Greeks or early Romans.

Fact Eight: In Art & Architecture, Africans had advanced far beyond the primitive stage even with the limited evidence available with the Archaeologists for sure as made available. The everlasting Architecture still exists, though in ruins in Africa.

Fact Nine: The modern Area Studier's Research gave weight and confidence that the African population asserting that they were indeed an integral part of the human family of practical men & women.

7. Review of Literature

This sub-topic of the thesis focuses on examining the academic work of earlier times for an insight into the problem. Literature review is the art of looking into available studies on Africa to build a platform for investigative purposes, interests and inspiration.

1. Grinker, R.R. and Steiner, C.B. (Ed) (1997) . Perspectives on Africa.

“Africa - at one level, refers to an actual geological unity (the second largest continent after Asia) but at another level it refers to much more -the term “continent” implied something that holds or retains since Africa has been a powerful and fundamental force in world history long before the rise of European civilizations”.

Leopold Sedar Senghor (1948) stresses that “the indigenous wisdom of African peoples and argues that beneath the superficial cultural idiosyncrasies that distinguish one society from another, Africans are united by a profound commonality which is expressed in their democratic social structures, their religions, their work practices, their arts and in the rhythm of African life itself”.

Terence Ranger (1983) maintains that “the 1870s 1880s and 1890s were the time of the European rush into Africa and were the time of a great flowering of European invented tradition –ecclesiastical, educational, military, republican and monarchical. In Africa, therefore, the whole apparatus of invented school and professional and regimental traditions became much more starkly a matter of command and control than it was within Europe itself. Deployed in Africa, however, the new traditions took on a peculiar character, distinguishing them from both their European and Asian Imperial forms. All this is part of the history of European ideas but it is so also very much part of the history of modern Africa.”

2. Saxena, S.C. (2001). Africa Beyond 2000

The future of Africa in the 21st century is a hotly debated issue: Africa and the Democratic Tradition, Africa and Political Stability, Good Governance and Development as Africa's Majors among academic scholars including economists, political scientists and sociologists all over the world (Dr. S.C. Saxena,2001).

3. Robertson, C. (2012). The Fastest Billion: The Story behind Africa's Economic Revolution

Africa will rule the 21st Century and has economic, social and political development given the geo-economic structure of the world and poised to grow along at a faster pace, due to its advantages in possessing vast natural resources, huge tracts of cultivable land and a population structure in which productive youth will outnumber the elderly or the very young.

4. Cheru, F. (2008). Africa's Development in the 21st Century: Reshaping the Research Agenda

As Africa enters the 21st century, it faces mounting challenges as well as new opportunities. Unlike in the 1980s and the 1990s, however, the conditions for Africa's sustained growth and development are more favorable today than ever before. As a result of economic reforms the overall growth has been in excess of 4.5 percent annually since the mid-1990s. There is greater consensus among Africans now than at any previous time on what needs to be done to accelerate growth, reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. The positive response of Africa's international partners enhances the prospects for sustaining the progress. Africa is also benefiting from a commodity boom and increased investment in infrastructure and the extractive industry sector.

5. Zuma, J. (2015). *The Rise of Africa in the Twenty-First Century*

It is a fillip in discussing the rise of Africa, Jacob Zuma being the President of South Africa himself writes as the head of the government that much has been said about the rise of Africa in the twenty-first century and as home to seven of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world, the continent has in the past few years received a slew of attention from investors, commentators, developers and philosophers alike.

6. Lust, E.M. and Ndegwa, S.N (2012). *Governing Africa's Changing Societies: Dynamics of Reform*

What is the cumulative impact of the immense social, economic, and political changes that Africa has undergone in recent decades? What opportunities do those changes present to improve the lives of the continent's citizens? Countering the prevailing mood of pessimism in the face of disappointed expectations, the authors of *Governing Africa's Changing Societies* demonstrate the significance of even incomplete reforms in the areas of competitive elections and democratization, gender relations, property rights, the public sector, and privatization, among others. In the aggregate, their work reveals how seemingly small or sluggish changes are accumulating to fundamentally, and positively, transform Africa's governance environment

7. Tim, K. (2013). *Business, Politics, and the State in Africa Challenging the Orthodoxies on Growth and Transformation.*

In recent years Africa appears to have turned a corner economically. It is posting increased growth rates and is no longer the world's slowest growing region. This book goes behind the headlines to examine the conditions necessary not just for growth in Africa but for a wider business and economic transformation.

8. *Statement of the Problem*

21st Century : Africa's Century

It is a stable and an aspirational Africa on a forward journey into making 21st Century as Africa's Century.

Africans with their political independence accompanied by economic independence have their native wisdom put into practice in abundance seen from the angle of the currently developed continent ending their internal genocides of the yesteryears.

For academic scholars and interested observers, 21st century's first decade from 2001 to 2010 is over and the second decade beginning 2011 is also fast running out with 20 months more left to elapse. In the mean while, Africa has gone forward expanding its capacity to carry out social missions, democratic planning and economic refinement in a self-conscious manner of African solutions to the African problems undoubtedly.

So, this study gathers academic relevance in the context of initial stages of the phenomenon of rising Africa.

Indeed, there are achievements on the part of Africa in the first decade itself which have lead to the universal public affirmation of rising Africa. That is when the United Nations (UN) assumed the role of supervising Africa's Peace, Africa's Security, Africa's Development, Africa's Governance and Africa's Human Rights taken on its agenda for inclusive and sustainable development. Therefore, Africa became 'neighbor's envy' with graduation onto the global stage of the UN.

Originally applauded for being the Motherland of Human Race, the Heartland in geo-politics and the Virgin continent for natural wealth exploiters, Africa regained itself in limelight with the establishment of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) by the UN for the *New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)* in the first decade of the 21st century with the objectives of Africa's development, mobilization of resources, raising awareness on key issues and enhancing UN System Support to Africa. So, one cannot deny Africa's rising phenomenon during the first decade itself taking its social and economic roots. It is not an exaggeration, in my opinion, to say that Africa has found its godfather in UN!

With regard to the ongoing second decade of the 21st century, a definite achievement made by Africa is setting the Gold Standard of African Solidarity²⁴ inspiring durable solutions to forced displacement and statelessness in today's World notably admired by the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterre, very recently on 10-2-2019 at Addis Ababa. This demonstrates that Africa has exhibited unmatched generosity to those seeking hospitality and safe haven in Africa vide the African political and social missions of global fight to eradicate global crises of statelessness, migrants, victims of war & persecutions, internally forcefully displaced persons and refugee-problems

by keeping open the borders, doors and hearts of African peoples and African Governments with generosity and compassion in letter and spirit. The inference is that the World needs African Solidarity in the 21st century.

Yet, there remain 8 more decades of 21st century to come and go for the sake of futuristically settling the African claim “ 21st Century: Africa’s Century ” with conclusive writings to realize that to stumble is not to fall but to go forward faster like Africans in the times to come !! In other words , eight decades of span of African life and leadership potentials with effect from 2021 to 2100 will decide on Africa’s significance in favor of the inspired African claim to the 21st Century with conclusive writings to not only assess to judge but also to get to know the virgin continent’s exciting accomplishments .

9. Significance of the Study

The Study establishes that the collective willpower of Africans as the sons of the African soil in the upliftment of the Continent of Africa through many a developmental episodes of economic prosperity and political stability taken into scrutiny by this research study . This is so for and on the long-term basis for Africans’ all-round progress as reflected in the very title of this Study. That Africans are second to none manifests in the overwhelmingly independent and rational values of this Study which is supportive in appreciation of Africans.

Africans are the significant lot of our civilized World in the 21st Century. They also are fast-forwarding ablest population. In fact, they are the formidable African race on the globe enshrined in the World History—the past, the present and the future so as to unforget by one and all. Africans’ all-round progress as reflected in the very title of this Study is pre-planned through the continental Agenda-2063 and the Annual Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) which are popularly known to be the 21st century’s blue prints of long-term basis and coinage and also, accounted for in this research work-put qualitatively like an in and out procedure.

10. Objectives of the Study

This Study provides a basis to understand the progressive-mindedness of the African Leaders and their peoples in the times of the 21st Century.

Africans’ zeal toward scientific, economic and political modernizations and up-gradations in tune with the changing times of transforming, reforming and performing for human welfare is seen in this Study at length and breadth.

One can find out from the beginning of this work that the inhabitants of the 21st Century’s largest Continent, Africa, with their own native cultures, languages and gift of natural resources endowments are intelligent people by themselves to stand up as the Organization of African Unity. Having said so, the fact that that Africans are now placed in the niche of second to none is empirically evident by means of this Study. Last but not least impressive is that this Study considers 21st century’s African masses from the plank of rising civilization. Therefore, in a nutshell, research objectives and research questions are listed below.

11. Research Objectives

- To bring to light the progressive-mindedness of the African Leaders and their peoples in the times of the 21st Century.
- Africans’ zeal toward scientific, economic and political modernizations in transforming Africa at length and breadth is proved in this study.
- To find that the Africans with their own native cultures, languages and natural resources endowments are the population by themselves united as an entity organized in the name of the Organization of African Unity.
- Having said the aforementioned, the fact that that Africans are now placed in the niche of second to none is empirically evident by means of this Study.
- Impressive is that this Study considers 21st century’s African masses from the plank of rising civilization.

12. Research Questions

- What makes Africa’s multi-disciplinary vision to claiming the 21st Century?
- How ‘united we stand- divided we fall’ binds 54 African States to claiming 21st century?

These are the twin ontological questions churned out by above objectives laying down the brick-work for this multi-layered study through constructively explorative piece of research.

13. Scope and Limitations

This study contains sound basis in the accommodation of Knowledge of Africa which is the particular kind of African power, unity and identification phenomena resulting in progressive African transformation viewed from the evolution of Africa into the 21st century after completing 20 centuries so far as Africa is concerned substantially.

With the African preferences to scientific and technological approaches in real-world life and living standards, it is plausible that we'll be concerned with the African century. In other words, With African preferences to scientific and technological approaches in real-world African life and living standards, the journalistic cliché sings the tune that, as the 20th was the American century, there is a plausible case to be made that, we'll be talking instead about the African century next.

Obviously, the academic scholars and Universities dealing in African Area Studies have indeed started debates within the continent of Africa in particular and outside in general on the public-face of Africa as to how African countries should reorganize their political, economic and social order for development giving a large scope to the optimism that 21st century is Africa's affirmatively. The present study is a simple and factual encouragement limited to Africa's aspiration and African claim to the 21st century.

14. Justification of the Study

This Research Study about '21Century: Africa's Century' has a specific purpose in mind to know about Africans' endeavors contributing to the rise of Africa making it a Century of the African pride. Therefore, it becomes a directed research unlike a non-directed research which is sheer fun of things like watching a television momentarily with the zero-academic input-output gains resulting in a remark like 'bull-shit waste of time!'

The Evolution & Organization of the proposed exploration into the inspirational theme of the Africans' aspiration- '21st Century: Africa's Century' has been showcased in this Study. Successive expansive readings variously titled justify the purpose of this Research in a logically consecutive manner facilitating timely and fruitful order of comprehension paving the way forward to appreciate as to how Africa no more remains the proverbial frog in the well constrained by limited sky-view.

15. Advanced Research & Research Methodology

Research in a layman's language is search for knowledge. For the educated, Research is a scientific and systematic effort to search for information. Chiefly, it is an art of scientific enquiry or investigation. The term Research is made up of two words.

[Research = Re + Search]> ['Re' means again and again]> ['Search 'means to find out something]

The term Research is used to collect information about a particular subject. It forms means to finding out what one does not already have on record. Hence Research records certain things or gathered evidences. It promotes movement from the known to the unknown with a learning bent of mind in letter and spirit. So, Research becomes an organized learning for own benefit of store of knowledge. This is information hitherto unknown or a fact one doesn't have. Hence, Research or Research Activity or Research Productivity. For example, this Study about '21 Century: Africa's Century'.

In the words of Professor Clifford Woody of the Michigan University (Kunzangthinley BlogSpot, 2012 & Arvind Luhar, Meghan Somani & Shital Mehta 2014, p. 11)

“Research ideally is a careful unbiased investigation of a problem.”

-- Clifford Woody

The Webster's International Dictionary defines research as the collecting of information about a particular subject (Online dictionary 1828) . So, one can deduce that research is 'A careful critical examination in seeking facts or principles or diligent investigation in order to ascertain something'.

Research Methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. In it one studies various logical steps adopted by a Researcher. The implication is that the entire gamut of logical efforts is a science of doing Research constructively or scientifically. In other words, it not only involves research methods but also logic behind the method one uses in the context of Research. Also, it will be known as modus operandi of a study. The below tabulation is easier means of making explicit the scope of method and methodology.

METHOD	METHODOLOGY
1. Conduction of research	Cause of research study
2. Gives solution to a problem	Definition of research problem
3. Fixation of objects	How and why of Hypothesis
4. Information relates to solution	Information collection methodically
5. Collection of new information opposite to inadequate information	Information collected organized technically and per time-line/chronological/glotto-chronological
6. Research activities	Research results or conclusions or synopsis
7. Research techniques within the scope of method	Chosen methods are used
8. Method constitutes part of Research methodology	Methodology has many dimensions

fig. Research Method & Methodology Basics

Thus, simplified definition of research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem involving a logical studying with various steps in addition to knowing research method. In other words, this means to say that a researcher needs to design a methodology for his/her research problem solving since all problems are not one and the same in their individual scope and limitation. Under mentioned is a sample variety of research design of a research topic in simple sense.

RESEARCH DESIGN
Title
Topic (subject & introduction)
Importance
Review of Literature
Source (additional sources, if any)
Methodology (method , historical analysis , hypothesis)
Scope & Limitation
Chapter Scheme
Conclusion
Bibliography

fig. Research Design in its simplicity

16. Conceptual Framework

In essence, the Research work dwells upon fifteen investigative frames of the Optimistic Rise of Africa during the 21st Century and so far as this Study is concerned , the frames are pivotal .

It focuses on tangible achievements of the Africans encapsulated as the four types of segmented useful information with respect to African Democracy, Africa Tech Savvy, Africa Social and Africa Economical paradigms emphasizing modernized Africa’s self-governance through self-determination in the 21st century. In essence, a desk-research study via the most prominent theoretical characterizations imbued with life all over Africa substantiated by global values of practical relevance in the spirited optimism that has permeated the entire African continent. On a conceptual scale perceived , it concerns with the *modus operandi* offering comprehensive framework in a swiftly methodological manner.

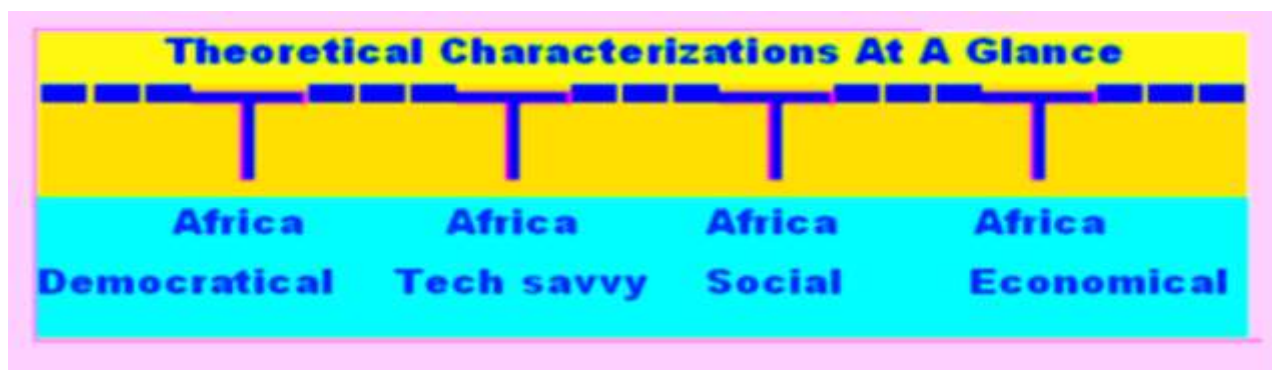


fig. A conceptual scale of theoretical characterizations for Africa-developmental-parameters

Theoretical characterizations

First Set: Africa Democratical

(1) The spread of Democracy (2) Military Power becoming less fanciful and less tangible. (3). Absence of inter-State wars by accommodation & reconciliation (4). Inclusion without sanctions in international Politics (5). The credibility ratings of African States. (6). The Continental Agenda 2063 of the Africa We Want Aspirations of African Leaders.

Second Set: Africa Tech Savvy

1. The speeding up of technology change (2). The transformation of production

Third Set: Africa Social :(1). The African Media for Transparency; (2). Woman-laborer-Reforms in Africa

Fourth Set: Africa Economical

(1). Debt Burden of African States in dilution. (2) The production for Exports & Imports.

(3). Regional Integration Projects. (4). The Triumph of consumerism

(5). Africa’s Natural Resources – from curse to blessing

Further, the four sets convey cumulative effect of unexaggerated characterizations of this Study, facilitating positive theoretical stride to highlighting ‘21 Century: Africa’s Century’ at a glance below.

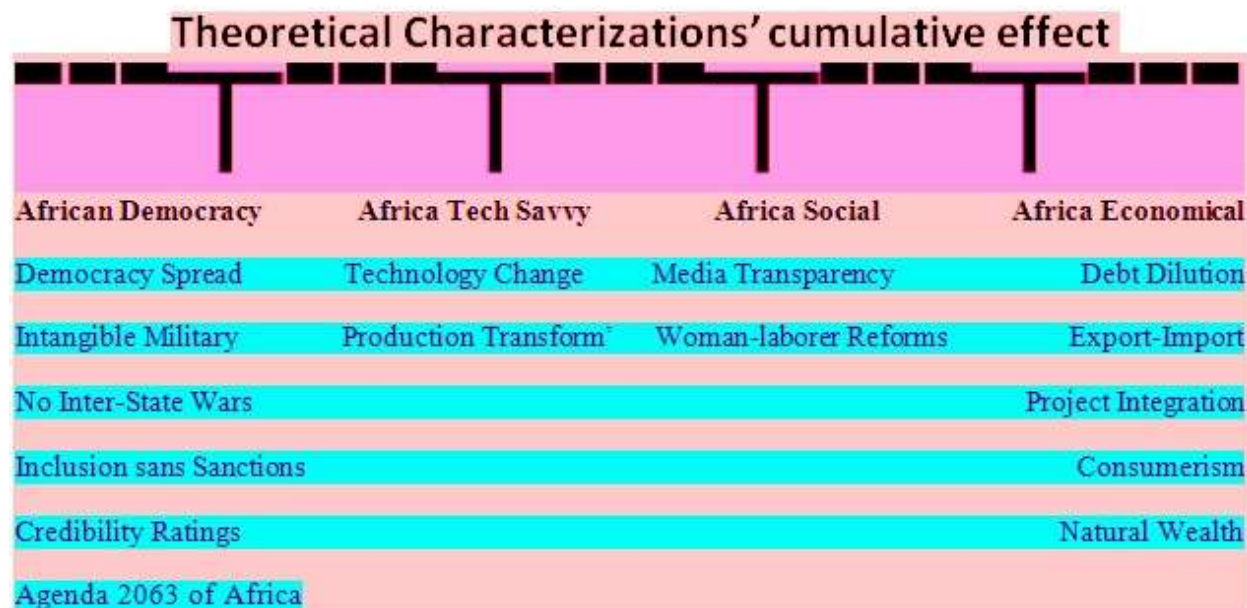


fig. Cumulative effect visualization at a glance

17. Research Compartmentalization

The basis for research compartmentalization is the idea that clarity and relevance within organization of my presentation of the knowledge of research —taken for both of the input and output survive at all times. Yet, even if someone has the highest clarity of thought, certain "compartmentalized" information, identified referring to particular types of detailed information, may still be organized and coordinated to certain standardizations, be it African or global. Hence, the “ 21st Century : Africa’s Century ”, in my assessment constitutes an advanced research saga ! In other words, a deemed thesis!!

Research Compartmentalization

There are four compartments to prevail upon set-wise as above crowning within their collective central idea of the distinguished Continent’s development step-wise as follows and progressively.

- ❖ **Research Compartment: Africa Democratical**
- ❖ **Research Compartment: Africa Tech Savvy**
- ❖ **Research Compartment: Africa Social**
- ❖ **Research Compartment: Africa Economical**

Additionally, an earmarked **Research Compartment : Conclusion** deserves and reserves its place naturally at the end.

Every Research Compartment has an interior setup notionally as seen in the diagram below.

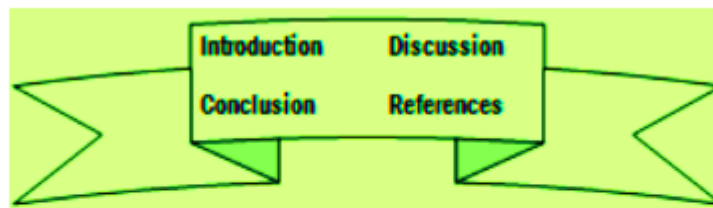


fig. Notional interior setup of a Research compartment

For the purpose of the advanced research saga , I have pre-fixed the interior setup for each of the above Research Compartments incorporated with a focus lens or compound lense , wherever necessary and essential on the relevant issues which give a complete sense to the research input and output offerings .

Research Compartment: Africa Democratical

Democracy Spread	Intangible Military	No Inter-State Wars	Inclusion sans Sanctions	Credibility Ratings	Agenda- 2063
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Research Compartment: Africa Tech Savvy

Technology Change	Production Transform
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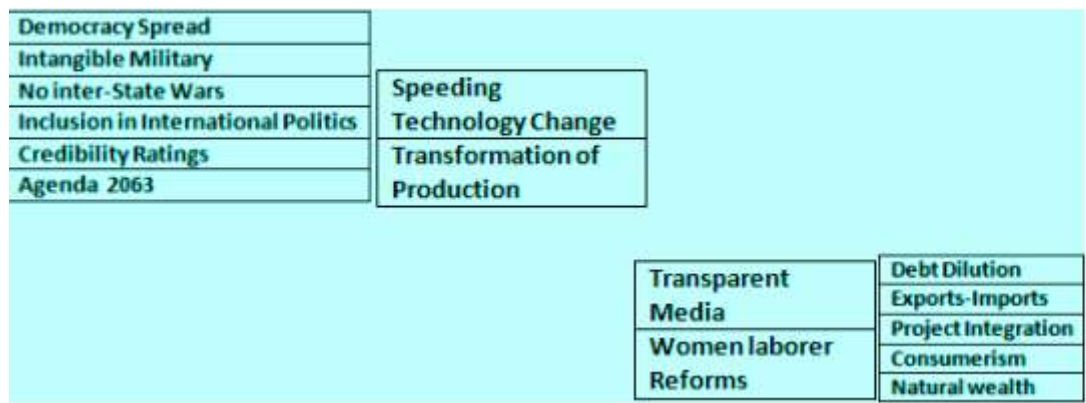
Research Compartment: Africa Social

Media Transparency	Women-laborers Reforms
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Research Compartment: Africa Economical

Debt Dilution	Export-Import	Projects	Consumerism	Natural Wealth
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Alternatively, the research compartmental interior setup pre-fixed issues at a glance are observable hereunder.



18. Central idea of Research Compartments

The “21st century is the African century “ reflects belief or optimism that it will bring peace and prosperity not only to Africa but also through Africa to all, wherever one might be. In other words, by the end of the century, about 40 per cent of all humans (and nearly half of all children) will be African, heralding one of the fastest and most radical demographic changes in world history. It gives indepth knowledge on the investigational-outlook for collection of necessary and vital aspects laid down hypothetically. Fifteen salient features are studied on Africa staking claim to the 21st century tag as its own which command world value

Africa Democratical

Democracy Spread
Intangible Military
No inter-State Wars
Inclusion in International Politics
Credibility Ratings
Agenda 2063

The Spread of Democracy discloses that Democracy and Development in Africa spread developmental democracy. Evidently, the relationship between democracy and development at the best became a very popular ideal in the 21st century

African states, with their respect for national sovereignty and preference for incumbency and by virtue of the African Union (AU) being the unifier and guardian of democratic norms and principles, tend to lean toward democratic transitions rather than military rule. AU’s prescription of prohibition of unconstitutional changes of government has origins in the 1990s’ broad shift of the AU from military rule to multi-party democracy throughout Africa which has rendered military less fanciful and less tangible in 21st century Africa.

Absence of inter-state wars by Accommodation & Reconciliation dwells on the grand success of the African Union(AU) which has forged political reconciliation among the African States as a more positive version of the accommodation which encompassed the notions of equality, trust, acceptance of cultural and political differences, partnership, active friendship and mutual or joint interests as well as democratic reciprocity with deep psychological, sociological and profoundly African solidarity .

African intellectual freedom, and a willingness to risk charting one’s own course. More broadly, African leaders recognize that the ongoing transformation of the global economy with global commerce and distribution of roles and responsibilities across the global production system having undergone tectonic shifts, Africa has enough power to impose its strategic preferences on others thus creating the conditions for African’s long-term prosperity and social

stability. Governments’ motive is not only economic but it is also about dignity. Africa’s ever-green inclusion in international relations and international policies without drastic Sanctions of economic nature is Africa’s asset.

Credibility rating is the newest in kind and first of its model in the World of Nations devised in Africa and on the Globe. It is a unique experiment by the African Continent because it appraises the credibility of individual African States in orders to evaluate their political and economic governance in Africa and has no parallel in the remaining five Continents of Americas, Asia, Australia and Europe.

The African Union (AU) superintends the credibility ratings and in the occupation of promoting the well-being and one-upmanship of the largest African Continent in the 21st century unlike the other larger Continents devoid of a likewise APRM(African Peer Review Mechanism). Credibility ratings of African States emphasizes credibility rating amongst African States through the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) by evaluating the African States on their successes in a wide range of areas .

The Africa Agenda of 2063 will result in the continent taking her rightful place on the global stage of the 21st century. The convergence with the rest of the world will be reflected in the wellbeing of her citizens, the dynamism of her economy, the unity of her people, the culture of good governance, democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law that will have taken root, the peace and security enjoyed by her citizens, the status of her women, as well as the cultural renaissance that will be generalized throughout the continent making the 21st century Africa’s.

About Agenda 2063’s Seven Aspirations & African flagship projects, the following charts provide the respective highlights.



fig. Agenda 2063’s African Aspirations(Left) & Flagship Projects(Right)

Africa Tech Savvy

Speeding Technology Change
Transformation of Production

The Speeding up of Technological Change touches upon as to how Africa’s rises to the global technological standards to bring home the fact that Africa is keeping pace with major technological advancement.

The twenty-first century’s game-changing technologies saddled in Africa currently are the dynamic force in the African agricultural production’s transformatory catalysis. Artificial intelligence and machine learning – when combined with satellite and drone imagery, the internet of things and spatial analytics – are revolutionizing how accurately farmers can treat their crops and optimize harvesting opening up the potential for much more precise crop protection and tree care. The pace of digital transformation in African agriculture enabled Africa leapfrog the rest of

the world. With world-class technology platform in Africa, the potential of well-knit technology agribusiness networks across Africa has brought fame and name to the Continent that it is rising in the 21st century.

Africa Social

Transparent Media

Women laborer Reforms

The African Media for Transparency tells that the Media Freedom, Transparency and Governance are the inseparable triad for overall wholesome well-being of the governed in our World of Information, Policies, Law & Order, Military and Civil & Health Services whereas in Africa, the African Media for Transparency has been the superior public goal for good governance everywhere and all over the Continent.

Africa's modern development organizers, planners and reformers alike recognized as crucially important the role of African women in the socioeconomic life of Africa. 'Women and Development' is a primitive niche cast aside by 'Women in Development as contributors to the Agriculture , Industry , Education , Health , Law ,Governance , Trade , Commerce , Science , Technology , Civil Society and Democracy alongside . Further , they realized that advancement of women –laborers is in the process of conferring both female and male characteristics to all types of phenomenon such as scientific and technological careers and employment opportunities , especially which were hitherto widely regarded as the preserve of men only . The women from every other part of the World looked forward with legitimate demands of reforms for women-laborers in the African Societies .This arose from diverse historical and political contexts of civilian systems ranging from the egalitarian forms to the repressive apartheid and materialistic culture in Cities side by side orthodox traditions nurtured by social organizations.

Africa Economical

Debt Dilution

Exports-Imports

Project Integration

Consumerism

Natural wealth

Africa's debt in the first decade of the 21st Century referred to as the Africa's Current Debt is the lowest it has been in decades as per the professional economist duo, the Oxford University's Professor Mthuli Ncube and the Economic Advisor of the African Development Bank, Zuzana Brixiova. Available statistics indicate that between 1970 and 2002, Africa received a total of \$540 billion in loans and paid back \$550 billion with \$10 billion more than the original loans .The African countries even though were in receipt of \$162 billion by way of debt and aid during the year of 2015, provided \$203 billions, i.e., \$41billions more of their debt-level-receipts in the same year. This shows the debt burden of African States in dilution

African imports feature medical supplies as well as food items. The main imported commodities are machinery and equipment, Chemicals, Petroleum products, scientific instruments and foodstuffs. Machinery and equipments imports have become a regular as the region is trying to uplift its productivity and make use of the vast resources. However, the imports are limited to nations that have a decent level of consumption. Overall, Africa trade has been helped enormously by other such as Germany, Japan and China that have not only invested a lot in the emerging countries but have been regular African trade partners as well.

The Africa trade is dominated by diverse natural resources that the continent enjoys in abundance. Countries such as South Africa represent the higher side of the spectrum of production for exports and imports whereas regions such as Burundi have the least trade volumes and Africa trade represents extremes (Economy Watch Content, 2010). According to the African Development Bank's Annual Report -2014, the extractive sector accounts for over half of Africa's exports and in some African countries up to 90%.

The first major indication that Africa was taking regional economic integration seriously came with the adoption of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) Agreement in June 2015 in Egypt. The agreement covers 26 nations with a

population of 720 million people It covers the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) economic communities. The Agreement promises to do for the continent’s economic freedom what the formation of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) in May 1963 did for Africa’s freedom. The agreement signalled the possibility of achieving wider continental integration. Negotiations for the creation of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) were launched immediately following the signing of the TFTA.

The Triumph of Consumerism brings to light the roots of consumerism hidden in ancient African times and so, Africa cannot be sidelined and marginalized for the reason of popular cultural consumption of Film-productions, Televisions, Radios, Internet and electronic or printed Journals and Publications of modern economical and technological period which have found their niche, influence and respect throughout the 21st century’s independent and democratic African nations. Several factors are shaping the new consuming class Africa’s population, the fastest growing and youngest in the world, is concentrated in urban areas. This new class of consumer has a smaller family, is better educated and higher earning, and is digitally savvy. Africans are exceptionally optimistic about their economic future: 84% say they will be better off in 2 years.

World's ten fastest-growing economies*		Annual average GDP growth, %		Country	2018 (%)	2019 (%)
2001-2010†	2011-2015‡					
Angola	11.1	China	9.5	Ethiopia	7.5	8.5
China	10.5	India	8.2	Côte d'Ivoire	7.4	7
Myanmar	10.3	Ethiopia	8.1	Rwanda	7.2	7.8
Nigeria	8.9	Mozambique	7.7	Senegal	7	6.7
Ethiopia	8.4	Tanzania	7.2	Ghana	6.5	7.6
Kazakhstan	8.2	Vietnam	7.2	Benin	6	6.3
Chad	7.9	Congo	7.0	Kenya	6	6.1
Mozambique	7.9	Ghana	7.0	Uganda	5.9	6.1
Cambodia	7.7	Zambia	6.9	Burkina Faso	5.9	6
Rwanda	7.6	Nigeria	6.8	Guinea	5.8	5.9
				Tanzania	5.8	6.6

Sources: The Economist; IMF

fig. African economies growing on the road to betterment

The Africa of the 21st century has diversified her economy promoting competitiveness, innovation, and investment opportunities not only in the natural resources and human resources but also in capital goods and technology sectors of economy. As globally known, Sub-Saharan Africa has six of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies. In respect of Africa’s Natural Resources, passage from a curse in pre-decades of Africans’ Independence struggles to a blessing in the post-decades of virtually African scientific and technological sovereign outlook in the independent domestic African economy and participatory global economy, is nil-disputed.

The democratic popular Governments of African States that are blessed with these minerals use them as a tool to better their economic prosperity through mineralization process industries and serviced by domestic African exporters .The African nations with the most mineral deposits have fared well with the treasures of these resources arising from the interaction between institutions and natural resources showing that better lawful institutions make resources more conducive to economic growth. This implies that institutional development eventually made the Africa-specific curses including the Dutch Disease dilute and vanish in terms of institutional quality of the legal arrangements disciplining the activities of the private sector and its interactions with the public and priority sectors based on legal systems with enforcement of property rights and social laws of limitation.

19. Conclusion

What the 21st century Africa epitomizes is “the next big thing,” since it has experienced moments of inspiring economic progress. As home to seven of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world, the continent has in the past few years received a slew of attention from investors, commentators, developers and philosophers alike. With an abundant store of virtually every resource in the world (land, oceans, minerals, energy) and a population of over a billion people, the interest in Africa today is its scientific rise and from the economic perspective, Africa is now the second most attractive investment destination in the world.

In Africa, the speed of change in almost every discipline of human effort is something to comprehend and in consonance with the hallmark of fame that Africa is the motherland of the human race. That’s how, the traditional, focusing on value systems, social structures, economic activity and democratically affiliated formations of governance systems surface in this ‘Endeavour’. Over the past decade, the growth of the African continent has been, to put it modestly, remarkable. What is more, the advances being made in Africa are not limited solely to economic growth, but have been spread across the board. The current spike in education, standard of living, health, and governance is set to keep increasing over the next 30 years and beyond, certainly making the 21st century Africa’s without any doubt in my mind.



fig. South African President, Ramaphosa’s claim of 21st century

Those aspects of African civilization and contemporary life either from the disciplinary or the general point of view with understanding of the major transformations facilitating the rise of this Continent in this 21st century providing knowledge on the interwoven dimensions of scientific, social, political and economic values are accumulated and highlighted in this Dissertation as recapitulated just below.

In Africa, the speed of change in almost every discipline of human effort is something to comprehend and in consonance with the hallmark of fame that Africa is the motherland of the human race. That’s how, the traditional,

focusing on value systems , social structures , economic activity and democratically affiliated formations of governance systems surface in this 'Endeavour' . Over the past decade, the growth of the African continent has been, to put it modestly, remarkable. What is more, the advances being made in Africa are not limited solely to economic growth, but have been spread across the board. The current spike in education, standard of living, health, and governance is set to keep increasing over the next 30 years and beyond, certainly making the 21st century Africa's without any doubt in my mind.

The star attraction is the picture-depicted above Report's firm assertion by the South African President , His Excellency , Cyril Ramaphosa on 26th January , 2019 , during the context of his maiden visit to India as the Chief Guest at the Indian Republic Day Celebrations at New Delhi that a democratic South Africa is the dream of Africa's late Leader and President, Hon'ble Nelson Rohilal Mandela and elaborately added saying to justify that "As we as South Africans take up the non-permanent seat in the Security Council, South Africa is acutely aware of the responsibility it has been entrusted with" besides announcing that "This century is the century of Africa" and also that "We are determined to ensure that Africa is not relegated to the periphery of world affairs. We want Africa to take its place," His Excellency has indeed confirmed.

As a united Continent, the people of Africa came up from a very thorny social experience in the life of an entire civilization proving to the World their oneness and merit to make a mark in the current 21st century as a shining and rising Continent. It is a far more complex human occurrence that commenced 60,000 years back when 150 people, the average size of a hunter-gatherer community, walked out of a rift valley in eastern Africa and started spreading all over the world. In 1983, a very interesting experiment was carried out on the heredity structures of people living in five distinct geographies. It revealed that all those people who were heredity tested in those five distinct regions of the world traced their ancestry back to a common African mother. The definition of African women by the simple saying that expresses the practical wisdom is contained in the twin African proverbs to fathom that the African women can make or mar anything, firstly and power is handed over through the African mother's breast milk ultimately! The bold initiatives of the hunter-gatherers onwards, traders, preachers, conquerors and explorers of every shade and hue shaped the progress and rise of Africa as it evolved into the 21st Century.

Therefore, no abnormal is the rise of Africa in the twenty-first century for Africa will write its own history and it would be, to the north and to the south of the Sahara, a history of glory and dignity in the times of the current century.

Today, Africans are proud to say that current Century is the Century of Africa .The same is true in other spheres of knowledge , in political and social development , in the transition from traditional to modern systems of value , in the field of education and of Africans' health. African Solidarity's vision stretches beyond the limited frontiers of the nation-state in this 21st century. The United Nations (UN) praises that Africa has set 'Gold Standard' for African Solidarity citing unmatched African generosity to those seeking hospitality and safe haven in Africa vide the African political and social missions of global fight to eradicate statelessness, migrants , victims of war and persecutions , refugee-protection and forcefully-displaced-persons-settlement and their rehabilitation inside Africa permanently. The World and the UN have drawn constant inspiration from African leadership, African vision and African compassion according to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterre's praise showered on the African Union (AU) at Addis Ababa (recently, on 10-2-2019) and unfortunately the richest Nations are not so better serving the refugee-cause like Africa and therefore, Africa has set the Gold Standard for Solidarity. Africa is the only quarter of the world where African Solidarity amidst spate of political and social missions in the 21st century's 'Modern Africa Rising' optimism overlooks the narrow confines of class, race, tribe and religion.

What the 21st century Africa epitomizes is "the next big thing," since it has experienced moments of inspiring economic progress. As home to seven of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world, the continent has in the past few years received a slew of attention from investors, commentators, developers and philosophers alike. With an abundant store of virtually every resource in the world (land, oceans, minerals, energy) and a population of over a billion people, the interest in Africa today is its scientific rise and from the economic perspective, Africa is now the second most attractive investment destination in the world .

According to me , ' Modern Africa ' is so-called because , in Terence Ranger's own words , " the invented traditions of nineteenth-century Europe had been introduced into Africa to allow European and certain Africans to combine for modernizing ends and offered many Africans models of modern behavior.

Thus, modern Africa to me means the continent Africa *per se* which has prepared for its future as the rising Africa necessarily in the world of today's time and as the 21st century's Africa, i.e., its dynamic presence in the world with humanism of the 21st century's mankind as the modern Africa moves to survive in the 21st century.

Africa is rising despite the political conditionalities by international actors. Gone are the days of fateful pre-colonial, colonial, post-colonial, first world war, second world war, pre-cold-war, cold war, non-alignment, post-cold-war, bi-polar, multi-polar and uni-polar times of the World's transformational phases into the stories of History for Historians to variously interpret in light of their 'shared & xeroxed' views with long lists of bibliographies. The African Humanism, say, one can view it as a political philosophy of contribution to man's destiny on Earth regardless of the geography or history of the Society one may happen to be thinking of. Humanism is of course, a product of history and society, but it may also transcend the borders of the land-locked, water-shared and aero-space-limited defence-mindedness of the Republics and become a part of political and intellectual tradition, a worthy contribution to the World of Nations formed by local and regional group-interests.

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