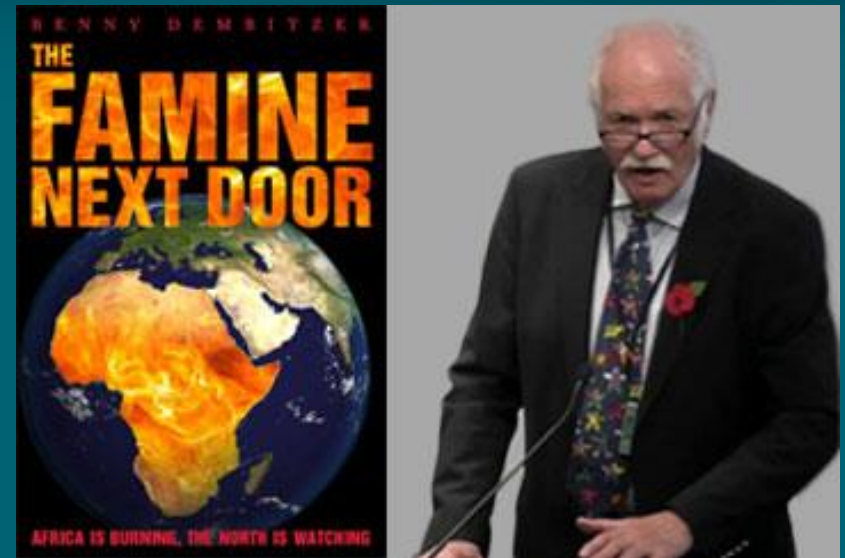
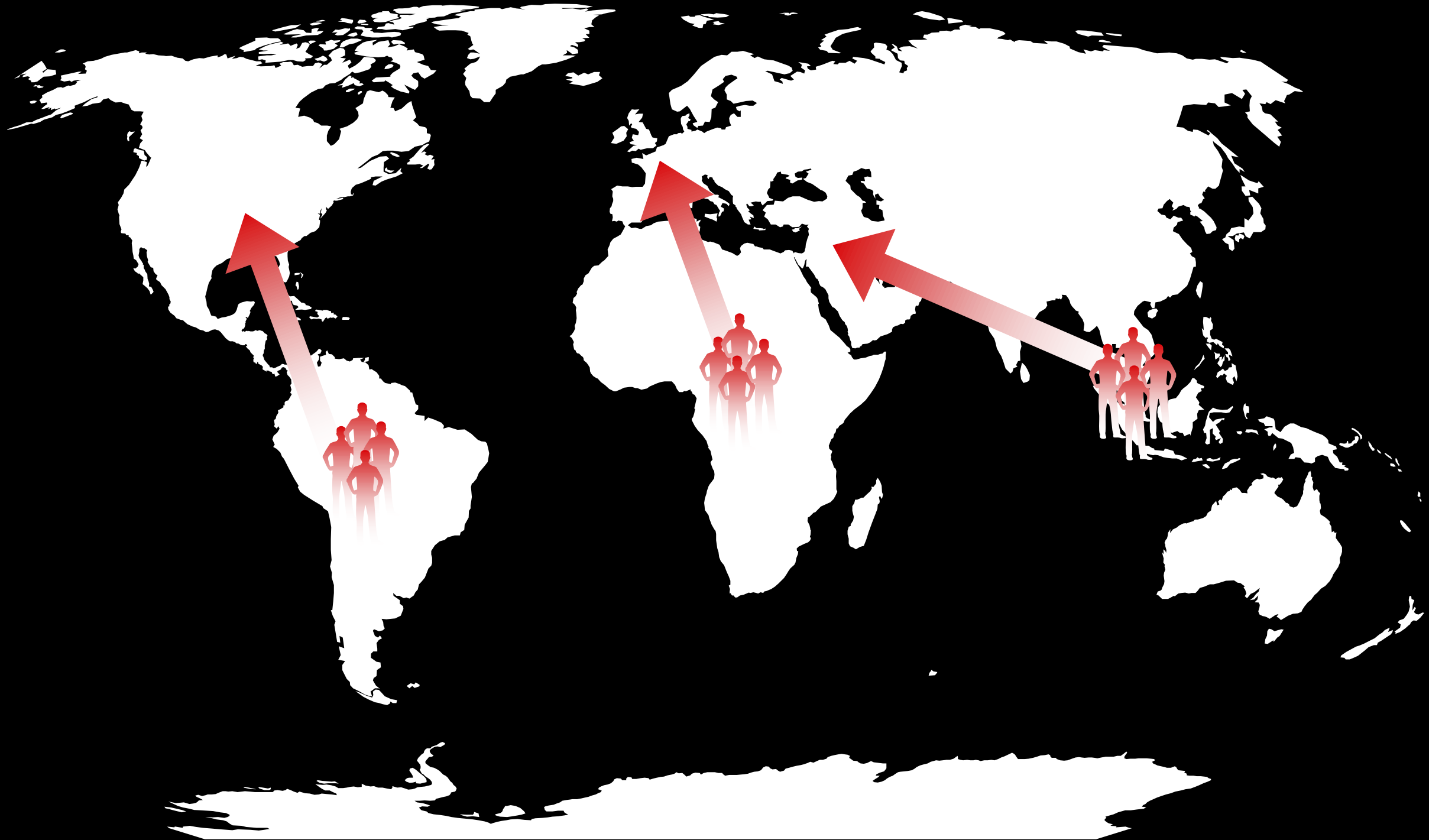


The Famine Next Door: Africa Is Burning, the North Is Watching

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The whole world is on the move

- From Latin America to North America. At least 200,000 migrants enter the United States annually without authorization, mostly from Central America.
- From SE Asia to Gulf countries; about 3 million annually from India and Pakistan in the Gulf States. In Kuwait, Qatar and the Emirates, the migrants comprise more than half of the total population
- From sub-Saharan Africa to Europe About 420,000 more sub-Saharan African migrants lived in Europe in 2017 (4.15 million) than in 2010 (3.73 million).
- From China to Africa; more than one million in the last 20 years

The chain reaction

- Population is increasing rapidly
- Land must be spilt
- Available arable land is decreasing as more people need it
- Climate change is decreasing the carrying capacity of the soil
- Farmers escape to the cities
- Cities become slums
- Slums explode
- People escape to other countries
- They are not welcome
- They try to escape to Europe

AFRICA IS A BIG PLACE



AFRICAN FOOD IMPORTS

- *Sub-Saharan Africa did not import food in 1980. In 2016 was probably spending between \$35- \$50 billion on imports.
- *Imports are projected to increase to \$110 billion by 2050.
- *Africa has potentially enough land to feed itself, more than 60 per cent of its labour force is employed in agriculture, and yet there are more people starving than ever before. The number of undernourished people in sub-Saharan Africa is likely to rise from about 255 million in 2015 to about 320 million by 2025. (*African Dev Bank, 2018*)
- *The Guinea Savannah could feed the whole world. It comprises 600 million hectares of land, of which about half could be used to grow food. (FAO)

poor data on the poor

- The World Bank sets the poverty line at \$1.90 per day. That is too high; it varies from country to country and location to location. In cities, the cost of food and water and basic needs will be at least 3 to 4 times as high. In Asia food distribution costs much less than in rural Africa
- According to a study undertaken by the ODI in 2015, more than 100 countries in the world do not have functioning bureaux that enable them to register data on births and death.
- Across Africa, there has always been inequality – “modern” development makes it worse.
- We do not really understand the depth of rural poverty across the continent.
- Poverty is multi-dimensional. You cannot think in terms of food alone or shelter.
- We do know that lack of food in the first few years leads to stunting; more than half of all the children in Rwanda and Ethiopia area stunted.
- Statisticians think they deal in figures; they deal in fantasies.

WHY DO WE NOT UNDERSTAND?

- Those who set the agenda – the World Bank, ODI, DFID, the major consultancy firms – mostly live in their own bubbles of London, Paris, Washington. They are all armchairs generals of development.
- Societies favour elitism – attend Davos, speak at the Annual Meeting of the World Bank. It is competition for status not for effectiveness.
- Our societies are highly centralised, urban, metropolitan – we no longer understand societies that are at different levels of development.
- We are using the tool of privatisation to solve societal, not economic challenges. We are in a neo-liberal and libertarian environment in which the power of the state to intervene to protect us all is being severely curtailed.
- We are tremendously hypocritical when it comes to food policies; the US devotes \$164bn p.a. to agriculture and the EU CAP Euros 55bn p.a. Their markets are highly protected, but they force African countries to open their markets

A WORLD OF 4 DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

Because elites from the West/North dominate the discourse over globalisation, we think that economic forces play everywhere with the same strength. They do not.

There are at least 4 different economic systems;

1. OECD club – highly connected, small agricultural sector, large degree of industrialisation, sophisticated services
2. The resource-rich countries, mainly in the Gulf
3. The nations that use state capitalism – certainly China, increasingly likely to be Turkey, Indonesia, Brazil.
4. Poor economies that have to develop agriculture, their primary resource

IT'S AGRICULTURE, STUPID

- Most of what we advise is still destroying the livelihoods of the poorest – encouraging cancerogenic Roundup, more exports in a world of decreasing value of commodity prices, more universities and less primary education,
- Poor countries do not have structures to meet their challenges. We need to help through real partnerships at all levels – not a few injections here and there. The biggest of all is changes to land planning and management, and place agriculture at the centre of development.
- Women are the key agents of development.
- NGOs need to detach themselves from governments and donors and be genuine partners to local people. Where they cannot work, they should leave. International NGOs have not yet realised that they have been captured by their own personnel in most developing countries. There need to be fewer of them and be more focused to listen to the grassroots.

DOES IT MATTER?

- Our societies are being changed as a result of the perceived onslaught.
- We do not understand that the less poor migrate to other parts of the world, the poorer become IDPs.
- Migration from sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East has created the fascism of Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Austria. It has toppled Mrs Merkel.
- Tremendous migration from Latin America to the US delivered Trump.
- We are changing through the lack of understanding.

It's agriculture, stupid

- Land reform
- Planning for water reservoirs, rural roads, forests, commercial farming and private farming
- Support the common needs – education for all, understanding the crucial role of women, the centrality of farming.
- Making the different donors work together (not toilets on its own or water or nutrition or children (but not mothers), etc)

*If you have been listening,
thank you very much*

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