

# Food Security in Africa

Issues and Solutions

By Selfa Chew

Day 1

# Food Security

A **person**, household or community, region or **nation** is food secure when **all** members have physical and economic access at all times to **buy, produce, obtain or consume** sufficient, **safe** and **nutritious** food to meet their dietary **needs** and food **preferences** for a **healthy** and active **life**.

Global Food Security assessment guidelines. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/global-fsa-guidelines-en.pdf>

# Climate Change

- Climate change has always occurred but it has been extraordinarily accelerated in modern times due to the expansion of industrial activities.
- Researchers have predicted the shrinkage of agriculture in large regions of Africa due to global warming.

The Regional Impacts of Climate Change  
Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change

<http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/sres/regional/index.php?idp=11>

# Why food insecurity crisis in Africa?

- Scholars have addressed different factors weighing food insecurity.
- In capitalist societies production and distribution tend to be monopolized by large corporations
  - [You can read this text on corporations and agriculture](#)
- Control is then held by those who consider profit as the main goal without regard for the future of the planet.

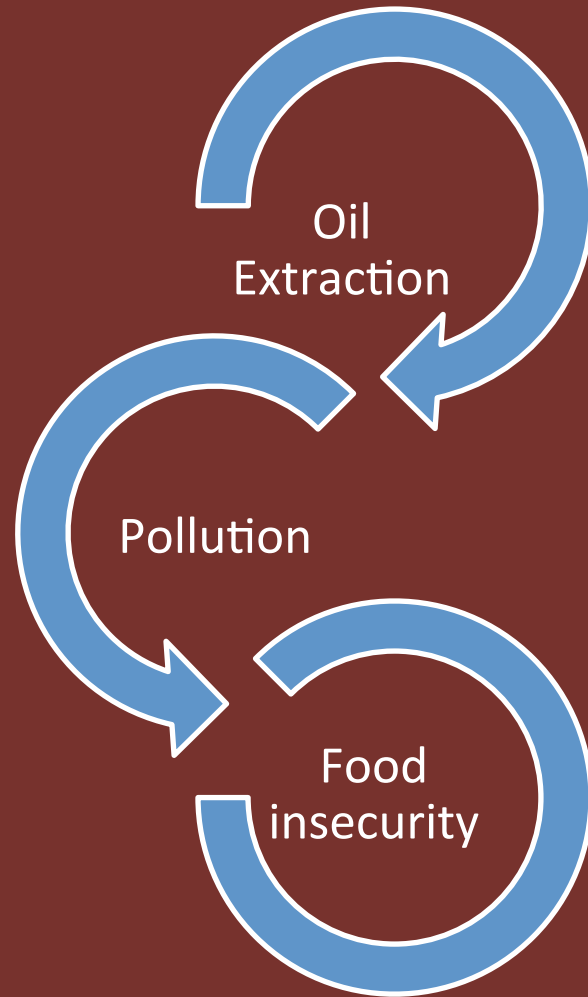
# They are hungry because they are poor

- “The hungry are not hungry because the world lacks food. We grow enough food right now [to feed about 10 billion people](#), yet [according to the U.N.](#) nearly one billion of today’s seven billion people are chronically undernourished and well over one billion suffer from significant malnutrition, in a world of plenty.”

**Timothy A. Wise.**

Global Development and Environment Institute (GDAE) at Tufts University.

<http://foodtank.com/news/2014/10/to-feed-the-world-in-2050-we-have-to-change-course>



- Can you think of ways in which your life style affect communities in Africa?
- Awareness is a step towards solution of the problem.
- Reducing food loss, waste and spoilage is another step.
- Alec Loorz' poetry fosters discussion on life styles that accelerate climate challenge and food insecurity through [art.](#)
- Why is Alec stating that this land is not ours? What do you think is his message?



# Who has the power?

When corporations have direct access to raw materials, production, and distribution, “finding genuine solutions will have to involve looking at who has power and how that might need to change.”

Karen O’Brien (Oslo Sociologist)

- [http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/07/08/us-climatechange-science-technology-idUSKCN0PI23K20150708?utm\\_content=buffer04004&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/07/08/us-climatechange-science-technology-idUSKCN0PI23K20150708?utm_content=buffer04004&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)
- Is O’Brien’s statement similar to that of Alec Looz?

# Challenges in Africa

## A COMBINATION OF FACTORS

<http://www.harvesthelp.org.uk/causes-of-food-insecurity-in-african-and-other-third-world-countries.html>

Political  
Conflict

Climate  
change

Draught

Patriarchy  
and  
colonization

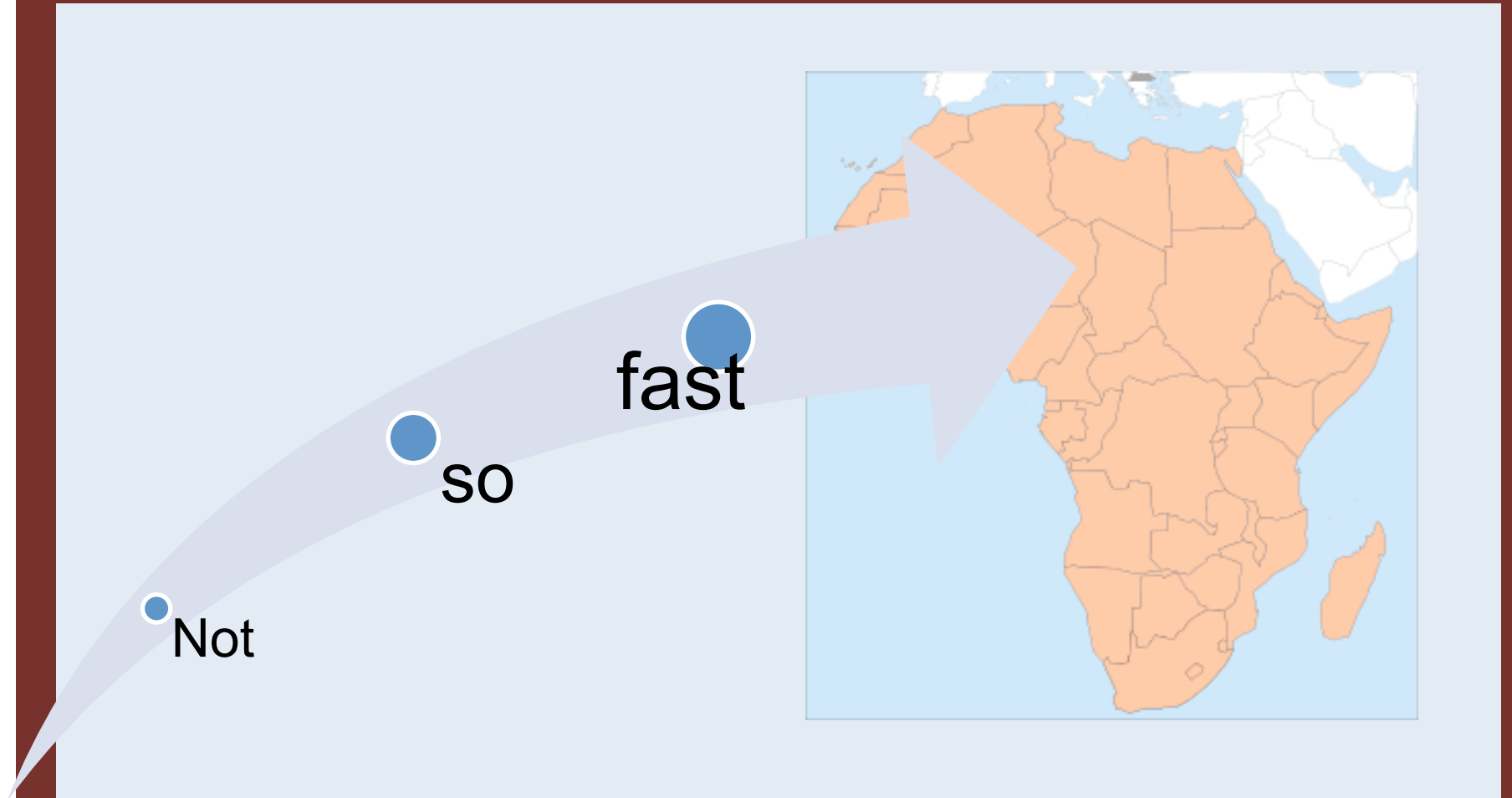
Pests

Lack of  
control  
over  
resources

Soil  
exhaustion

Poverty

# Ready to help?



Thinking about solutions to food insecurity in Africa requires an understanding of factors leading to hunger in that region.

If we are to look for global solutions, we should reflect on our perceptions of African peoples and where those ideas come from.

# Origins of control over food production. Assignment

- Investigate the characteristics of imperialism and write your own definition
- Find the when, why, and where the United States, Germany, Italy, Spain and France established their first colonies in Africa
- Don't forget to cite your sources.
- Submit your report next class.

Day 2

# Colonization of Africa

Portugal

Belgium

Spain

Germany

France

Italy

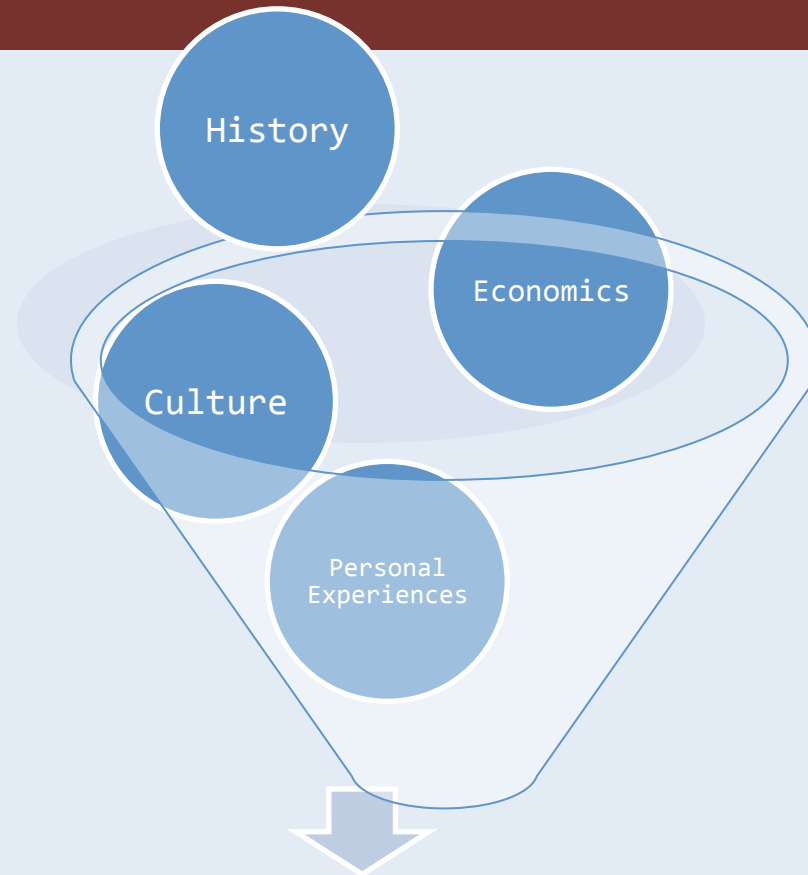
England

United St

- Colonization shaped economy and politics
- Took away control of resources from racialized Africans.
- Affected representations of African human beings

# Cultural Studies

Stuart Hall



Ideas of self and of  
conquered persons



# Otherness

Otherness:

Construction of racial, ethnic or geographical differences as inferior to a dominant historical and political power.

Michelle Dillon, Introduction to Sociological Theory: Theorists, Concepts, and their applicability to the Twenty First Century, Wiley, 2009.

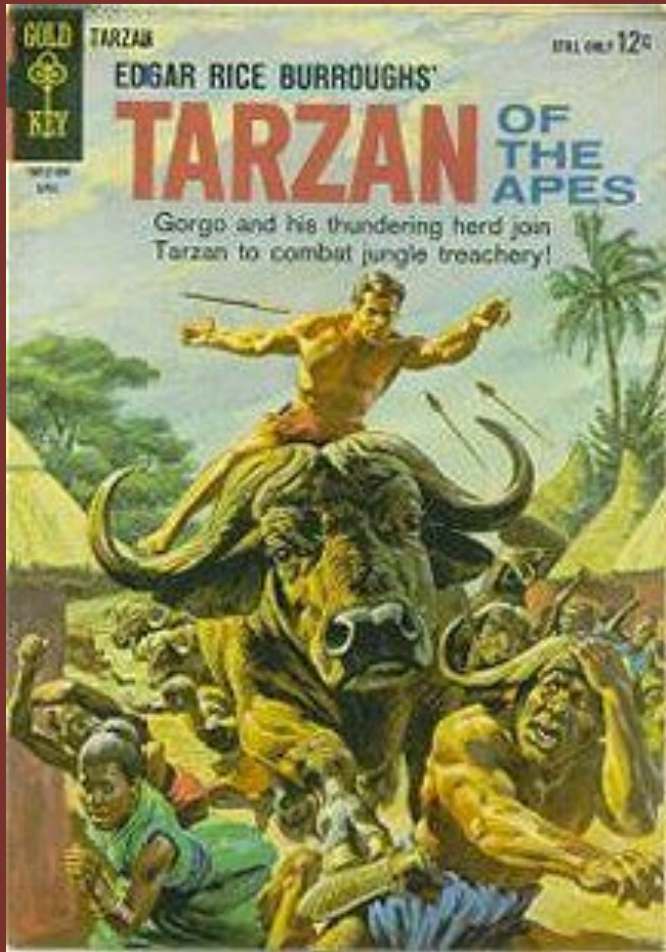
# Racialization



Race is a social construction

Racism is associated to imperialist expansion

Colonization resulted in oppression/poverty of Black Africans



An imperialist  
gaze?

# Representations of Africa

- Can you think of other images of Africa and its peoples in TV, magazines or films?
- What do you think about those images?
- How have you learned what you know about Africa?

# Grounds for Solidarity

**It is a good idea to acknowledge the needs, power and knowledge of the people we work with.**

**Research and respect differences in culture and knowledge**

**Know how your community has benefitted, directly or indirectly, from the work and land of other peoples**

**Ask for their participation and consent if your project affects them or uses their images**

# Assignment

Form groups of five

- Your group will discuss what country in Africa you will work with and color it in the map your team has received. (3 minutes)
- Propose several projects for your team to contribute to the creation of food security in any country in Africa. (10 minutes)
- Decide which project the team will undertake and outline the steps to implement it. (5 minutes)

# Prepare for presentation

- Team Homework: Research a particular community in Africa your team would like to work with. Bring that information to class to prepare with your team for your final presentation.

Day 3



# Presentation of Assignment

- Based on your research on the community your team will partner with, adjust your project to their needs, location, language, etc. (5 minutes)
- Time to prepare your strategy to present your team project. (15 minutes)
- Your team will present the food security team project to the class explaining the characteristics of the community and your plan: benefits for the community, expected results, budget, sources of funding for the project and how it will include the community's own ideas of needs and goals. Your team will illustrate your project through a poster or a brochure. (5 minutes)

# Evaluations

- Your team will evaluate other projects and determine the amount of funds assigned to complete it, based on their presentation. (3 minutes)
- Your team will submit evaluations to each group and a copy to your teacher.
- Final comments.