



“Black American Nation Formation”

Imagine that it is 2040, that you are a descendant of Black American slaves (Afrodescendants), and that you are a citizen of a new Black nation. Imagine this new nation as a place where the economy reflects stability and growth sufficient to provide abundant employment; where educational and healthcare requirements are met with ease; where political and religious leadership is close to the people being represented; and where racial prejudices are nonexistent.

Does this sound too good to be true? Why? How would such a nation be formed, and how can we be assured that this nation would fare better than many African nations today? Why should such a nation be formed? What obstacles would obstruct nation formation? What would be the bottom-line benefits of this new Black nation?

After 400 years in the United States as a minority ethnic and subjugated group, it is not surprising that many Black Americans harbor a notion that, if something important is to be accomplished, then it must be orchestrated by non-Blacks. However, billionaire Robert L. Johnson, CEO Richard Parsons, neurosurgeon Benjamin Carson, and the late attorney Johnny Cochran are symbolic of Black American expertise that wrought miraculous achievements despite great opposition. Is not this type of expertise applicable to nation formation?

Significant thought has been given to Black American nation formation over the years, including a key effort undertaken during the 19th century by the American Colonization Society. Building on that and other efforts, the author prepared a “draft blueprint” for Black American nation formation.¹ It indicates that orderly leadership and electoral processes in the United States could facilitate the formation of a representative body, which could finance and manage a nation formation effort. We suggest that the new country be settled over the course of a generation, as the nation’s infrastructure could be constructed and occupied in phases.

We contend that Black Americans will be more successful at nation formation than Africans who developed nations after independence for the following four reasons:

- Black Americans have trained and performed in all occupations required for successful state functioning; Africans were denied often such opportunities because colonizers used middle-men to run the state.

¹ See Essay 3, “Point Zero Nation Formation for Black Americans,” in *CHOSEN: Black America’s Calling*; <http://www.BlackEconomics.org/BEAP/CHOSEN.pdf>.

- While Black Americans reflect class differences, they would not be hampered by the vast chasm in cultural and ideological perspectives that can differentiate African tribes.
- Given stereotypes of ineptness that have been promulgated by White Americans about Black Americans, the latter enter a nation formation effort with a common, unifying, and strong motivation to prove that they can form a state successfully. Africans had a rich history of state and empire formation, and had nothing to prove when they sought to re-establish states.
- As recent as the 1960s, Black Americans managed their own communities relatively effectively—with limited external intervention. They should not find it too difficult to apply lessons learned from that experience to effect successful state formation. Many African nations did not have the luxury of drawing on such experiences when their states were formed hurriedly following colonization.

For these and other reasons, Black Americans should be given high odds for establishing and operating a new nation successfully.

Why should Black Americans form their own nation? A simple response is, “To increase happiness and general well-being.” Why should Black Americans continue to experience an official unemployment rate that is generally twice that of White Americans? Why should Black Americans continue to accept nearly 40% representation in U.S. prisons, when they constitute less than 14% of the population? Why should Black Americans continue to accept a 25% poverty rate, while Whites enjoy a less than 10% poverty rate? Finally, why should Black Americans continue to experience conditions that cause some to say that Black children are “an endangered species?”² Should Black Americans accept these conditions when they could do better in their own nation?

There are two primary obstacles to Black American nation formation. First, there is the issue of land. Given a rapidly expanding world population, land is an essential and very valuable resource—especially land that contains water, minerals, and fauna. Therefore, identifying land for nation formation will be challenging. Africa is not likely to be an option; but North America, especially Canada, represent viable options. This is particularly true given the future warming trends at higher latitudes that are expected due to global warming. Second, and possibly even more challenging than land, is convincing wealthy, well-educated, and well-connected Black Americans to join a nation creation movement. Change is a painful process—especially for those who are comfortable. However, appeals to history (slavery and discrimination) and to posterity (prospective great achievements that await a new nation) may be sufficient to motivate Black American “haves” to join a nation formation effort.

² “Endangered species” is used to characterize Black babies in the State of Georgia, where 50% of all aborted babies are Black. Black Americans comprise only 30% of Georgia’s population. See a February 12, 2010 segment of a “Morning Edition” program on National Public Radio entitled “Ga. Billboard Sparks Debate Over Abortion and Race”; <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=123610180>.

This essay opened with idyllic conditions that could exist in a nation formed by Black Americans (Afrodescendants). Those conditions define, in part, the benefits that could be derived from a new Black nation. Beyond those benefits is the future critical role that Black Americans have been prepared to play on the world's stage. The slavery and discrimination experience, and Black Americans' responses to it, have enabled Black Americans to evolve superb diplomatic skills and deeply empathetic souls. These characteristics are fundamental requirements for managing a world that can more than meet total demand for goods and service, yet remains divided on numerous fronts. Black Americans, who are able to use the seclusion of their new nation to heal their minds and souls from their 400-year brutal experience in the United States, will be well-prepared to help usher in a millennium-long period of world peace and prosperity that has been prophesied in a wide range of religious literature. What a return-on-investment from Black American nation formation.

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