Effects of Eurocentic Views

Source Analysis, related issue 2

Source 1 is a picture of Africa being pulled in every direction from men who are sweating from pulling so hard. Around each of the men has a very grim expression and the name of a European country and the men are dressed in stereotypical apparel based on the country. This cartoon is explaining the division of Africa between the imperial powers of Europe and how the leaders saw it only as a place where raw materials could be harvested and indigenous peoples could be exploited. The author’s perspective is evident through the grim facial expressions of the men pulling on the continent that he views this event as a very greedy part of the world’s history. The image is labeled “the Scramble for Africa” mainly because the European countries did everything they could to control as much of Africa as they could. Source 1 is a perfect example of European leader’s Eurocentric views because of their little regard for the indigenous peoples of Africa. It also highlights European imperialism or Europe’s ability to conquer and rule over every area that they made contact with.

Source2 is a picture of a barren wasteland with a politician standing in front of a podium ready to make a speech. Beside the man are five piles of skulls each with the name of a different genocide beside it, finally there is another man standing with a movie clapper saying “Never Again, take five… and stand by for action”. This image is obviously trying to criticize the North America and Europe for their inability to take action during foreign atrocities. Not only criticizing their inability but the fact that even after promising to never let genocide happen again they continue to allow atrocities to happen. The source comes from a man who must be very tired of the North American and European way of overlooking genocide. It is evident that the illustrator is trying to show the devastation caused by genocide by the huge piles of skulls and even after several decades it can still have devastating effects. It is also showing that countries have a hard time stopping genocides unless it has an effect on their economic well-being.

Source 3 is an excerpt from an article written by William John Grayson about the relationship between a slave and their master. William is saying in this article that slaves should be content about being slaves because what they provide their master is given back to them in the ability to work. It also shows the racism when the author states that slavery is the only way to make Negro’s because they are very lazy people. William is showing his Eurocentric through him stating that because he is white that he is better than those of other races. “The Mutual Relationship in Slavery” is what this exert should be called because William is obviously trying to convince readers that slavery is a fair exchange between master and slave. The paragraph really highlights the core problem with Eurocentric and racist ideologies that they lead to other peoples being treated unfairly and exploited.

Source 1 and 2 both have to do with acts committed in Africa and the little care that governments show towards those living there. In source 1 it was Europe trying to increase its wealth at the expense of those living in there and in source 2 it was the UN’s inability to stop genocide despite their promises made. Also source 2 is the effect of the division of Africa illustrated in source 1 because when European’s divided Africa they created many political problems which lead to genocide. Sources 1 and 3 have to do with what eurocentrism is responsible for; the unbelievable depopulation and exploitation of Africans. A source 2 criticizes and source 3 proves that people tend to be condescending towards those who have less power than they do. All three sources show the overwhelming problem with eurocentrism and racist views.