Legacies of Historical Globalization

In the first source, people representative of different European countries pull on the continent of Africa from many different angles. Each of the characters seems to be physically exerted by the task, and none of them are cooperating to solve the issue. It can be concluded that they are fighting over the area. The cartoon shows that in the act of dividing Africa, European countries and their leaders were pitted against each other for control of this new territory. The artist is trying to communicate that that the “scramble for Africa,” a product of economic greed, brought on many negative effects. This cartoonist takes the position that imperialism caused harm, and it its legacies continue to harm many people to this day.

The second source is a cartoon displaying a series of piles of skulls representing different genocides that occurred in several different areas. Each of these areas was a colony of European imperialists at one point in history. A news reporter stands at his podium as a crew member states that the former should take a break, but be ready for action. Irony is developed through the sad truth and the optimistic title. The cartoonist’s message is that genocides should not be happening, but they will continue to keep occurring, especially if the rest of the world continues to just sit and watch the news reporter. Also revealed through the cartoon is that each of these genocides was put through European colonization in their past, but they are now left to govern themselves, in these cases, by killing each other. Each of the genocides is a horrible product of the historical legacies of globalization.

Source 3 is an excerpt written to explain the economic benefits of slavery. It suggests that slavery brings prosperity for all. To support this, it explains the obvious gain for the master and beneficiaries, and continues to write that the slave’s quality of life has improved because, without his master, the slave would be “lazy and improvident.” As the majority of slaves were taken from foreign colonies, the author’s ethnocentrism contributes to his biased viewpoint. The author of this excerpt is certainly in favour of slave labour. He would also believe that historical globalization is providing great benefits for the world.

On the topic of historical globalization, the first two cartoonists are sure to agree with each other that it has had a negative effect on society, and the legacies continue to harm people to this day. The author of the third source would directly oppose them, saying that there is no harm, and that the economic benefits would certainly make up for the losses. The second source shows sensitivity for different ethnicities and stirs emotion, that we, as a society, should end the genocides and take responsibility for the legacies of historical globalization that were created by our ancestors. As a Eurocentrist, the author of the third source would feel no guilt and might consider those who would wish to end the genocides as treasonous.