

EBOLA : A NEW WEAPON IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ?



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Africa has once again become the new epicenter of global geopolitical issues with the current management of a new outbreak of Ebola virus epidemic in West Africa. Nourished literature has been devoted to this phenomenon, however, analyzed, ironically by many scholars and experts in the world, in isolation, with only highlight in the health side and preventive and curative dimension.

Our goal through this article is to rethink otherwise on the phenomenon and to question why things happen; knowing that in a multipolar world, highly globalized, yet in crisis, any new development should be a deep questioning and being surrounded systemically.

What relationship could it exist priori between the Arab spring, the fight against terrorism, the African American Summit, illegal immigration, Western military interventions in Africa and the Ebola virus? We would tend to say no yet! It's still interesting to note that none of the observers and analysts who have written on the subject arose this issue of a geopolitical Ebola?

The discovery of the Ebola virus in Guinea took place in December 2013 in a context of full preparation of the historic summit Africa USA. It should be recalled that the idea of the summit circulated since the last tour of Barack Obama in Africa in June 2013; he had made a promise during the South African step. Two observations seem troubling at this stage: firstly Locations discovery and spread of the virus; Guinea, a country considered as a "geological scandal with fabulous reserves" followed by the following countries sharing the same language as the United States such as Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria; second finding, the troubling coincidence between the time the plague appeared and when the various American and African embassies were busy out the details of this great economic and geostrategic mass. It is true that the risk for a continent like Europe, a stronghold of the former colonial powers, and negotiator of Economic Partnership Agreements supposed to invigorate its economic relations with Africa were high. Therefore, and logically, it is legitimate to ask if a health and psychological isolation of the African continent could not be discouraging for American investor and reduce the expected impacts of the first historical summit between African American President Barack and his "African brothers". We dare not believe in such a Machiavellian hypothesis; however, for reasons of demand of rigor in analysis, no trail should be discounted. If African are not careful, the hopes of an Africa potentially emerging, maintained by many economic circles could quickly disappointed beings.

The other element of the context is to be found in the increasing acts of destabilization of African countries. After failed geopolitical strategies carefully ripened on the west side, such as supporting the Arab Spring whose destructive impact on regimes has contributed to strengthening of fundamentalist jihadists, the West acknowledges the limits of its new military intervention strategies basically in Centrafrique (Ecuador) and Mali (the Sahara). The time had it come in, conjunction with the Secret Service, to imagine other silent weapons, which scope of the policies of free movement of goods and people may be effective? Particularly in the strategies of fighting against the proliferation of weapons and the cross-border movement of jihadist fighters? It is a logical question we ask ourselves naturally without having the right answer. In this regard, what is more effective than an epidemic that would permanent state of alert safe reflex States. It should be underlined that Nigeria, one of the countries affected by the epidemic is BOKO HARAM home.

Finally the context of illegal immigration, with the resurgence of dramas recognized for some time must be mentioned in the analysis. In this respect, the way some African heads of state like Nigeria's President were "controlled" on arrival in Washington at the time of the summit certainly heralds a new attitude that could have the Western countries in relation to migration flows from Africa. In this regard, it should be noted that West Africa, an area with very high emigration culture is, paradoxically, to have been spared by the disease, the center of the Ebola crisis, and that, in expense of traditional areas of the virus as the countries of Central Africa and southern Sudan, also less oriented migration. Of the 1,400 deaths recorded in the nine reported outbreaks of the disease since 1976, date of discovery of the virus, the West Africa would record in one go over 900 or nearly 70%; The scale of the problem naturally creates a psychological blow.

It follows from the foregoing that the health destabilization seems to be after the political destabilization and military interventions, a new weapon of international relations developments. An international investigation should be opened to determine responsibility related to the introduction of the Ebola virus in West Africa. Africa must manage at short-term 3 geopolitical risks 3: (i) a cancellation of Foreign Direct Investment which could reduce growth and push several economic schools to question the concept of an Africa potentially emerging, (ii) a decline in subregional integration policies (iii) tightening of the western migration policies.

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