

Undiscovered Ancient History: Ancient Kemet and Contributions to Africans and Europeans

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Discoveries such as math, trigonometry, quadratics, astrology, writing, the calendar, medical surgery, architecture, irrigation, pottery, cosmetics, police, bowling, wigs, barbers, toothpaste, breath mints, and the wheel have their origins in Ancient Kemet (Bryant). Ancient Kemet is one of 3 original words for Africa (Bryant). In history, Ancient Kemet is often forgotten and distorted, which does not allow anyone to know this history but especially disconnects African Americans from their roots. This stems from Europeans changing history and claiming that African Americans would not be where they are today without them. This impacts the African and black communities because the African Diaspora built a system that we use now. African Diaspora is the movement in which Africans and their descendants move to various parts of the world during the modern and pre-modern periods. One often needs to learn their history and their role throughout history. This is important because we are the future and it helps us understand how the events from the past got us where we are today. Europeans are never really seen as necessary in informing others about what Africans and black Americans have done for everyone and how there is a lack of representation for the contribution that Africans have made. A close examination of defining Ancient Kemet, its destruction, the hidden agenda of Ancient Kemet's ancestors, and how this history impacts the modern day is imperative to understand the significance of Ancient Kemet fully.

### **Section 1: What is Ancient Kemet?**

Ancient Kemet is the original name for Africa, and so are Ethiopia and Alkebulan. Ancient Kemet means "black land," which stems from fertile soil (Nasheed). Ancient Kemet invented many discoveries for this world. This continent fascinated other countries because they

were advanced for their time. In the article “The Kemetic Cultural Influence on Ancient Greek Philosophy,” Nkosi Ato Diop states, "The Greeks had long been enamored by Kemetic civilization. In general, Kemetic civilization was beautiful to foreign visitors. Bernal informs us that "Egypt had by far the greatest civilization in the East Mediterranean during the millennia in which Greece was formed" (qtd. In Diop). Although they had been banned from the universities, the Greeks still sought admittance” (Diop). During this time, the Greeks were prohibited from going to Kemet for thousands of years. However, that did not stop them from wanting to learn from them. The Greeks thought that the continent of Ancient Kemet sowed wisdom and knowledge. “The Kemetic Cultural Influence on Ancient Greek Philosophy” by Nkosi Ato Diop states that “According to George G.M. James, the Greeks had been prohibited from entering Kemetic universities for thousands of years (qtd in Diop). They sought out Kemet, perhaps, because, "the Greeks saw Egypt, an African country, as the cradle of wisdom and knowledge." (Diop). Since ancient Kemet was very successful it caused lots of Greeks to come to study and learn about many different subjects.

Eventually, Greek students were able to enter into the Kemetic universities. However, only a few Greeks traveled across the Mediterranean Sea to Kemet to be educated. The first is said to have been Thales. Thales was a philosopher widely known as one of the seven wise men and was also known for his impact on science and nature (“Thales of Miletus | Biography & Facts”). Afterward, many of Greece's most esteemed scholars traveled to Kemet to learn. This continent even influenced others to learn and study what is now called philosophy—philosophers such as Socrates, Thales, Plato, Hippocrates, and Pythagoras. Thales was said to be one of the first Greeks to come to Ancient Kemet. In the article Diop states that, “Thus, Thales is said to have become the first of the Greeks to be schooled in Kemet. Therefore, he became ‘the first

Greek philosopher, as it is generally understood in Western philosophy. He is said to have learned ‘astronomy, land surveying, mensuration, engineering, and Egyptian theology’” (Diop). Hence, the "first" recognized philosopher of Greece is known to have received his education in Kemet. When Thales returned to Greece, he also influenced Pythagoras to pursue his education in Kemet. Thales wanted Pythagoras to sail across the sea to Ancient Kemet to get knowledge from Egyptian priests. Pythagoras is the “father of mathematics” who invented the Pythagorean theorem, which he learned in Kemet. When Pythagoras was in Kemet, he became a student of the people's religion and brought philosophy to the Greeks. Thales and Pythagoras were not the only ones influenced by Ancient Kemet. Kemet’s teachings have significantly influenced Plato, Aristotle, and Isokrates. After all, the theory talks about the discoveries of Ancient Kemet and the resources people used from other civilizations to survive because Ancient Kemet knew the primary living conditions.

## **Section 2: The Destruction of Ancient Kemet**

Europeans destroyed Ancient Kemet. This dying nation was due to drought and foreign invaders. Ancient Kemet was a strong empire that caused many foreigners, especially Europeans, to come and learn. Many, such as the Dutch, Spanish, and European explorers, came to ancient Kemet and saw that the place was wiped out. The reason why Ancient Kemet was a strong empire was because of the natural resources that they had. The Nile is one of the primary resources used to create a strong empire because it provided vast amounts of fertile land and was a significant route for communications and travel. (“Egypt's Golden Empire. New Kingdom”) Europeans did not want any affiliation with the people in ancient Kemet. They did not want other nations to know that the people influenced them in Ancient Kemet because, around this time this is when slavery was happening. If any European country were to discover that they were

influenced, they would be enslaved, too. In the article “The Kemetic Cultural Influence on Ancient Greek Philosophy,” Diop states:

The above draws a distinct picture of why the denial of Kemet's cultural influence on Greece began to be strategically implemented within the textbooks. The European scholars did not want to associate with Kemet or any other civilization that could not be identified as purely European. In addition, the experience of the African Holocaust [misappropriately referred to as "the African slave trade"] forced Europeans to justify their kidnapping, enslavement, and murder of thousands upon thousands of African people (Diop).

People in ancient Kemet heard what would happen if they were to stay on the left. If they stayed, they would easily be enslaved. However, before leaving, other tribe leaders and members warned different tribes throughout Ancient Kemet. When the Europeans, Dutch, and Spaniards came to Ancient Kemet, they found the place wiped out. Nevertheless, while they were in ancient Kemet, they destroyed any evidence related to teaching Greeks, Romans, and many more Europeans because they did not want other Europeans to think Ancient Kemet had influenced them. This is because Europeans wrote many books on Ancient Kemet. There is a book, *Anacalypsis*, by Godfrey Higgins, who explains the influence that Ancient Kemet and people of color have had on Europeans. Europeans wrote many books about the African presence before Columbus. Still, it is not easy to get your hands on them because it was not famous for white or black people, mainly white scientists, to say that Africans/Moorish people were in America way before Europeans. Now that there is background to the destruction of ancient Kemet, the next topic is slavery and the hidden agendas.

### **Section 3: Slavery and The Hidden Agenda of Kemet’s Ancestors**

In history, people are often told about slavery, but not everything that went on. Slavery has happened to many races, but the most significant slave trade was with Africans. The reason why slavery happened was that in the expansion of Europe after the 1500s, Europeans would not have succeeded if they had not enslaved people because Europeans refused to migrate to the tropics in enormous numbers. After all, the death rate was high. This is also a reason why European colonizers came to Africa and Asia to buy enslaved people. In the tropical parts of the new world, the supply of local enslaved people was insufficient because the central region where colonizing nations could produce sugar and coffee. This caused an increasing demand for these products, which eventually led to Europe stimulating a large number of European shipping companies to purchase enslaved people on the Atlantic shores of Africa, haul them across the Atlantic shores, and sell them to enslavers in the New World.

The Roman Catholic church, on the other hand, divided the world in half, giving Portugal trade in West Africa and Spain the right to colonize the new world looking for land and gold. Pope Nicholas V made an effort and issued the Romanus Pontifex of 1455, which declared Portugal's rights to territories along the West African coast and the trade from those areas. The reason why it was easier to enslave Black people compared to any other person of color was to increase Queen Isabella's wealth. She invested in Christopher Columbus's exploration. She rejected enslaving Native Americans because they were thought to be Spanish subjects. Spain had a contract that involved Africans being traded as commodities in Spanish colonies in the Americas. Other European nations such as Denmark, England, France, and the Netherlands joined in on the trade, looking to seek geopolitical and economic power by exchanging people and goods along the west coast of Africa. With these new efforts, each country competed and developed a contract to colonize the new world. This eventually caused a new form of slavery,

and it was declared by European nations based on race, leading to the largest migration in the world: 12.5 million women, men, and children were forced into the trans-Atlantic slave trade (Elliott and Hughes). During slavery, black Moors were often used as guides so they could translate languages, and colonists could not do that. Black Moors was a word used to describe any person with dark skin at the beginning of the Renaissance, but over time, the idea of moors spread across Western Europe, and the word “Moor” was used towards anyone who was Muslim or had dark skin (Blakemore and Scherschel). For instance, George Washington had a Moore who helped him find a cure for his sick family (Trumbull et al.).

Europeans benefited from slavery because it helped them stimulate European businesses such as manufacturing, gun making, and shipping (“Digital History”). White Americans eventually got the upper hand because this was passed through centuries, that white people are the most superior. Despite the ending of slavery, they made it impossible for African Americans to achieve anything, causing them to have the upper hand still. This is because after the Civil War, it was hard for African Americans to receive any jobs, and they were still treated poorly in most cases because they had nowhere to go. The freedmen got the end of the stick in the end because of their skin color. It was very difficult for African Americans to get these jobs and homes because they were being taken out of an environment that they had known their whole life. As years went by, African Americans have come together to establish better living conditions and lives. However, each time they try to build a better life for themselves, it always gets destroyed.

An example of this is the Tulsa race massacre or black wall street. Black Wall Street was a successful neighborhood where black businesses could grow. The reason why black wall street got destroyed is that 19-year-old Dick Rowland, who was a shoe shiner, was accused of

assaulting a girl by the name of Sarah Page, causing the white people to go into an uproar and destroy the whole town (“1921 Tulsa Race Massacre”). Another example is Freedom House which established the EMT in Pittsburgh. The EMT was established in the inner city of the Pittsburgh Hill District where black women and men came together and started recruiting others to be a part of Freedom House Ambulance which became a pioneer in CPR and pre-hospital care. The Freedom House was initially used in response to the black community which frequently couldn’t rely on police or the fire department for emergencies. Despite how successful it was, power dynamics and racism shut down the Freedom House in 1975 leaving behind a legacy that has been almost lost to history (“Freedom House Ambulance”).

#### **Section 4: Modern Day Implications**

In history, it is often noticed that without Africans and African Americans, Europeans and White Americans would not be where they are today, and they benefit from black success. Europeans and White Americans have used their privilege to get where they are today. White Privilege is a set of benefits granted to those of us who, by race, resemble the people who dominate the powerful positions in our institutions (Kendall). In regards to this, this is where white dominant culture comes in. white dominant culture describes how white people's culture has been normalized. As a result, all Americans have adopted different aspects of white culture, even people of color (DiAngelo). White dominant culture eventually leads to white supremacy, causing Europeans and white Americans to believe that they are superior to people of color. This misconception comes from is rooted in scientific racism used to justify racial discrimination throughout history toward people of color. White superiority was established as a part of the U.S. This caused Europeans to believe they were superior to people of color. This also caused a riff between whites and people of color. The teachings and the violent forms of white supremacy



have been on the rise for several years. Something else that is on the rise is white nationalism. White nationalism stems from white supremacy and advocated to the United States that this is a white country only. They also believe that making the U.S. diverse will cause the economy's downfall. That is because if the U.S. was diverse, many people would not go to these European businesses, and they would eventually create their own. This would cause many white businesses to go out of business, and this would cause the white community to go into an uproar. Nevertheless, some white people can use their voices to talk about how, without African Americans and Africans, they would not be where they are today.

A woman named Jane Elliot discusses the complex reality of what people of color go through every day. She does this because she wants white people to understand what discrimination feels like and what it does to people. For white people to fully understand discrimination, she divided them by their eye color, blue and brown. The people with brown eyes got to go into the exercise early and could eat, while the people with blue eyes were forced to put on green collars, and when they were talked to, it was in a harsh tone. Not only that, but they needed to be given food to eat. When each person was separated by their eye color, regardless of their race, people with blue eyes slowly began to realize what might happen. They slowly started to realize this discussion was about race. As this discussion continues, Jane makes fun of a white girl for being unable to remember to get a pencil and take notes, which causes the girl to get angry. A quote Jane Elliot says is, "I cannot shed tears for a young white female in this exercise who knows this is an exercise, who knows that she is getting college credit, one hour of credit for being here. I am sorry. I have to save my sympathy and empathy for those who go through something much worse than this every day" ("Jane Elliott's 'Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes'"). When this was said, many were observant of what she said, and the browned-eyed people felt at ease

because they had someone who understood what they were going through. As she continuously tests the people with blue eyes, they start to feel outraged by their treatment.

Nevertheless, some blue-eyed people started to see not only what people of color go through but black Americans. No matter how much money a black American has, they have to work 10x harder to achieve their goals. When black Americans complain about how hard they have to work, they are constantly criticized, but white Americans do not understand it until they are put in their shoes. When hearing this, a black student was brought to tears and stated:

Tears were coming in my eyes, and when I saw these people crying, I'm like it was not for them; it was for the fact that I know people who are going through the same thing right now while we are sitting in the classroom and had the privilege, the time, the opportunity to be going through an experiment that there are people outside who go through that ten times worse than any student color in that room ("Jane Elliott's 'Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes'").

This quote is included because no one truly understands what African Americans go through. When African Americans complain about how much work they do, they are forced to put up with it. Not only that but everything African Americans do is criticized but often others love to do what African Americans do. This frustrates the black community because other races hate black community but at the same time love the things they do. In addition to this, Tim Wise, a white man has emphasized what African Americans go through on a daily basis.

A man named Time Wise, an American writer, activist, and anti-race advocate, uses his voice to talk about the privilege that he has and has been to 48 states and many colleges to preach about the injustice the people of color face. Tim Wise mentions that there was no white race. In fact, during the 15th and 16th centuries, the Europeans were going through hardships

within their country. There was no white race. The white race was formed in the 1600s during the time of indentured servitude and slavery. Tim Wise believes that white people complain about African Americans and other people of color receiving more benefits than white people. In the video, Tim Wise states that there was a boy who emailed him stating that all of the Mexicans and blacks were taking all the jobs. Tim Wise states, “Really? Black Americans and Mexicans took all the jobs? Then how is it that black folks and Latino folks are significantly more likely than white folks to be out of work?” (“Tim Wise Part 4”). The point that he is trying to prove is that how would the minorities have the upper hand in a system that was built by white people so only they can succeed?

Most times in history, African Americans and Africans just want to be heard rather than ignored or pushed to the side. One of these groups of people is Egyptians. Many media platforms and history often distort Egyptian history. Most Americans and Europeans do not understand why Egyptians are often touchy over, like Africans in the diaspora and ancient Egypt. The reason is that Egyptian culture has been taken from the Egyptians themselves. Not only that but their culture is often misinterpreted because they do not want people to know that Egypt, being as fancy as it is, is made of black people. For example, the movie *Cleopatra* is played by a white cast, but around the actual time when Cleopatra reigned over Egypt, she was not seen as white. She was seen as black. Most Egyptians realize that artifacts are often taken to different museums around America, and most of them are never brought back to their homeland. This is important to Egyptians because, in history, it is often brought up how Africans were slaves, but it never talks about how they were kings and queens. Comedian Kevin Hart planned *Cairo* to show young viewers that they were kings and queens, not just slavery cemented education in America. Many Egyptian artifacts are in the U.S. because they took artifacts. Many Egyptians are against

this because those artifacts are related to their history. This often happens to other people of color, and the reason why people in Egypt are offended is because all their history has been stolen (Amin).

### **Section 5: Why African Americans do not get the same benefits as white Americans**

The reason why African Americans do not get the same benefits is because of systematic inequalities. There are systematic inequalities such as environmental racism, wealth, and income. For example, in the Flint Michigan crisis on April 25, 2014, Flint, Michigan changed its water supply source from Detroit, which supplied Lake Huron to the Flint River. The switch caused the water distribution pipes to corrode and leach, contaminating the water. A young activist named Amariyanna Copeny has been using her voice to help the community and the children of Flint, Michigan. She has since expanded her efforts to help other communities across the U.S. dealing with a water crisis. She developed a Hydroviv, a water filter that has been shipped all over the country, especially to those facing a major water crisis. Even though she has made a water filter, Flint is still facing a water crisis (Copeny). There is still bad water, and the community wants these Hydroviv filters to be instilled into the water lines, but doing that would cost lots of money, and the government is not willing to do that.

In black households, black families often have less access to tax advantage forms of savings because of the long history of employment discrimination and other discriminatory practices. There has also been a history of mortgage market discrimination. This means that black people are less likely to own homes compared to their white counterparts. This also means they have less access to savings and tax benefits from owning a home. Labor markets also cause segregation and discrimination and force African Americans into less advantageous employment opportunities compared to their white counterparts. This causes African Americans less access

to stable jobs, retirement benefits, and good wages. And because African Americans have less access to these advantages better, they receive the bare minimum, causing this to damage the cycle of wealth inequality. This country was built so white people, no matter their status, have the upper hand. An example of this is poor white trash compared to being black and poor. Some white people would rather be poor than be black because they know that being black faces a lot of inequalities.

The Ancient Kemet civilization used their backs to build these many countries in which each of these countries went to Kemet to study, learn, and unfortunately destroyed all because of race. This caused a downfall for the black community and consistently caused African Americans and Africans to receive the bare minimum. This is important and many others need to care because a lot of our history that is being taught to us is false and makes the consumers of the information believe that it is true. When they receive the actual truth they tend to not believe it because the lies they were told are ingrained into them causing no one to really know who to believe.

When people receive the truth with information that they find, they start to gain more knowledge causing them to want to know more about what actually took place. Spreading this information about Ancient Kemet and Speaking about the African and the black community helps not only the readers but also the black community and the Africans as well because they are underrepresented and misunderstood. The next step when discussing this topic should be to spread the word and put this information on various websites because when searching for information about this topic, it is very difficult to find whether this is a true source or not and which source you can use to defend an argument. When you spread the word it helps people acknowledge what is going on and it educates people making them want to learn more.

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