

**Legacy of the Goldmines:** summary of Arabic commentary “Maraya” by Rachida Mohammedi

During the month of February, Americans celebrate their African history. In this commentary, I trace the meanings of Africa, from the doors of Zanzibar to the channel of Gibraltar, as they exist in the minds of the West. I ask how, although Africa’s gold is so treasured, and its bananas so widely savored, those consumers regard the name of Africa, forgetting it’s pre-eminence as the original place.

You, Africa, are presented as the goldmine of disease, the warehouse of poverty. Between their doubts and reality of your misery, the West pretends interest in you yet still ejects you from their new world order and their programs. They still suck your blood.

They know but they don’t acknowledge how African arms and blood built their skyscrapers. They know but do not acknowledge how African sons made George Washington’s dreams. They know but do not acknowledge that the evidence of their modernity rests on African shoulders. They know but do not acknowledge that without the race dimension in their country, they could not dare plan those colossal bridges and tunnels.

You, my beautiful brown one, are the real goldmine. Each year you expose the pollution in the equality they claim. Each year you are the revolution of consciousness against phony theories.