

## EVENTS IN U.S.-AFRICAN RELATIONS

**2002:** The United States sends 3,200 troops to Djibouti as part of a joint U.S. task force for the Horn of Africa region. The country's position makes it a prime strategic location in the War on Terrorism.

**2003:** In his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush recognizes the need to tackle the growing global HIV/AIDS crisis, and calls for a tripling of the U.S. AIDS budget to \$15 billion over five years. Later that year, the President visits Africa to discuss trade, the fight against HIV/AIDS, and the conflict situation in Liberia.

U.S. troops are deployed to Liberia to help halt a bloody civil war. The troops are removed ten days later, leaving the peacekeeping mission in the hands of Nigerian peacekeepers.

President Bush announces \$400 million for the continuation of the Africa Education Initiative (AEI) over four years to improve the quality and accessibility of basic education for millions of children in sub-Saharan Africa.

**2004:** The U.S. Congress concludes that genocide has been committed in the Darfur region of western Sudan.

President Bush establishes the Millennium Challenge Corporation to reduce global poverty through the promotion of sustainable economic growth. Thirty-two African countries are on the list of 63 countries eligible to submit proposals for funding.

**2005:** The United States provides \$4.5 billion in economic assistance to sub-Saharan Africa.

U.S. oil companies, including Occidental and Chevron Texaco, win most of the contracts for oil exploration in Libya at its first open license auction. Libya has the largest oil reserves in Africa and is seeking massive foreign investment.

President Bush announces approximately \$55 million to support women's justice and empowerment in Africa.

President Bush pledges to increase funding of malaria prevention and treatment by more than \$1.2 billion over five years. The goal is to reduce malaria deaths by 50 percent in targeted African countries.

**2006:** Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf addresses the full U.S. Congress, one of only a few women to ever do so. She lists rebuilding and reconciliation after a fourteen-year civil war as her main priorities, and thanks the United States for its support. Congress promises an additional \$50 million in aid for Liberia.

The United States agrees to renew full diplomatic ties with Libya after removing it from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism. The move recognizes Libya's efforts to renounce terrorism and adhere to international norms.

**2007:** The U.S. Department of Defense announces the creation of a new U.S. Africa Command headquarters, to be known as AFRICOM, to coordinate all U.S. military operations and improve security in Africa.

**2008:** President George W. Bush visits several African countries—Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana and Liberia—to discuss the continent's economic growth, political reconciliation after years of violence, and the fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria. The President pledges more money to fight disease, and promises further American investment to boost African economies.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visits Kenya and offers U.S. help to solve the political crisis caused by the disputed presidential election.

**Additional questions for discussion:**

What is Africa's new strategic significance to the United States?

How have humanitarian issues shaped U.S.-African relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?