

Problems of Anti-“Alien” Racism among Conservative Chinese

Part One: Living Conditions of Africans and African-Chinese Interactions in Guangzhou, China

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In addition to racism against African-Americans among some conservative White people, racism against Africans and African-Americans are also rampant among conservative and right-wing Chinese or simply ignorant and uneducated Chinese with no sense of respect for “alien” cultures; and many cases can be found in YouTube, if you search by the key words “racism against Africans in Guangzhou.”

Some YouTube movies deal with the subject of the living conditions of African residents, and anti-African racism in Guangzhou, China, and with the issue of intermarriage between African men and Chinese women. In this part of the article, we will discuss living conditions of African residents and African-Chinese interactions in Guangzhou, China. Relevant YouTube videos are listed below.

Living conditions of African residents in Guangzhou:

1. “*Secrets About the Current Conditions of 300,000 Blacks Living in Guangzhou*” (广州 30 万黑人现状揭秘), available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxM90LwObaYOZEbmk>. This video indicates that about 11,000 Black Africans live as permanent residents in Guangzhou according to data published by the local Public Security Bureau (China’s name for police department); it shows that merchants from Mali buying clothes and grocery items for resale in their own country are the earliest arrivers since 1998, followed by Nigerians; about 300,000 to 500,000 passengers from Africa arrived and left Guangzhou yearly; a Nigerian merchant bought 25,000 shirts every two months, sold them in Nigeria for a profit of \$1.50 each, realizing a total amount of profit of \$37,500 per period, during the years 2004-2008; but since 2008, with inflation and rise in labor cost, the profit margin decreased, and Visa to enter China has been tightened up; thus, many African merchants moved to Viet Nam or Indonesia; this caused the closure of one third of local Chinese businesses that catered to Africans; the labor cost per day was \$27.5 in China, \$8.6 in Viet Nam and \$6.7 in Indonesia.
2. “*Videotaped Investigation of Black People in Guangzhou I: The Africans Are Coming!*” (广州黑人影像调查 1: 非洲人来了), available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvJN4ilqLXY>. This video tells the stories of Africans living in Guangzhou, China; some of them such as a merchant from the Congo and another from Kenya, who have lived there longer than others and can speak Mandarin, became leaders of African residents' organizations or "People's Ambassadors" dealing with issues involving African-Chinese relations; African merchants called Guangzhou the Capital of the Third World. The video shows that in Africans' residential districts, store signs are in both English and Chinese; some African merchants married Chinese women and have happy mixed-blood children; some Chinese manufacturers of cloths only made L, XL, and XXL sizes cloths for African markets, but no M or S sizes for the Chinese market.

African-Chinese inter-racial marriages and "conflicts of civilization:"

1. "*African Officers Cursing Chinese Officers, and Bilateral Conflict Intensifies*" (非洲官员狂骂中国官员, 双方冲突加剧), available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZr2Or2TMqo>. This video is obviously produced by a right-wing, anti-Communist and pro-Taiwan Chinese dissident and is biased against World Health Organization General Secretary Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, originally from Ethiopia and appointed to his high position with support from President Clinton, by calling Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus "(Communist Party Branch) Secretary Tan;" Dr. Ghebreyesus has been intensely attacked by former President Donald Trump's Administration, the Republican Party and Taiwan's separatist regime, because of his refusal to admit Taiwan into the World Health Organization as an "independent state," a position opposed by the majority of member states in the developing world (previously, Taiwan's participation in international organizations is permitted under the name of "Chinese Taipei" or "Taiwan, China," a title that suggests that Taiwan is a province of China, not the "Republic of China" (the official name of the Chinese state before the 1949), which is no longer recognized by the international community as a sovereign state but rather the remnant of an Ancient Regime overthrown by the 1949 Chinese Revolution. Since the current "Governing Authorities in Taiwan" - the official title given to Taiwan by the United States Taiwan Relations Act - started the process of separatism from China and supported anti-government riots in Hong Kong, the Chinese Government retaliated by vetoing Taiwan's participations in international organizations, and by cutting off business transactions with business supporters of separatism, and by intensifying military exercises surrounding Taiwan as a warning. Among supporters of Taiwan, Dr. Ghebreyesus is often branded as a "fellow-traveler of Chinese Communists." This video also shows Chinese police in Guangzhou arresting undocumented Africans (those who entered China without Visas, reside in Guangzhou without passports or identity cards, and work without permit, or the so-called "Three-No Africans"), arguments between Nigerian Consulate Officers in Guangzhou and local Chinese officers, the undocumented Africans living on the street because the hotels refused to rent rooms to

them, restaurant owners serving food to Chinese husbands inside the restaurant but African wife and mixed-blood children outside, Nigerian Consulate officers convinced Chinese hotel managers to admit undocumented Africans, African officers expelling Chinese who failed to go through the required 14 day quarantine due to COVID-19 pandemic, and finally, pejorative and denigrating comments on Dr. Ghebreyesus who was criticizing personal attack against him and African countries by the “Governing Authority in Taiwan.” From watching the entire footage, we can conclude that all conflicts are peaceful, although the author’s intention is “China-bashing.”

2. “*Tour-Guiding the Black Residential Area in Guangzhou, How Do So Many Africans Make a Living Here?*” (带大家了解一下广州的黑人区, 这么多黑人 在这里是靠什么生活的?), available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNYNkMHplmo>. This video shows both positive and negative sides of the relationship between Africans living in Guangzhou and local residents. According to the author, Africans who respect Chinese codes of behaviors are always welcome, citing the story of a physician from Africa with great skills and good behaviors, who has been positively reported in China’s mass media, to make the point. The author also tried to analyze the reasons why some Chinese harbored racist views on Africans, and indicated that Chinese do not discriminate on the basis of skin colors but do oppose bad personal behaviors, citing some examples such as a few African students receiving large amount of scholarship from Chinese Government but do not study hard enough, but rather spend the money on luxurious living, some Africans marrying Chinese women, getting them pregnant and returning to Africa irresponsibly, some African boys flirting with Chinese girls without serious intentions for friendship and marriage, and worst of all, some engaged in drug trafficking, raping, stealing and looting. The author then cited an example of racism against Africans; she once took a subway in the Xiaobei District, an area with high concentration of African residents; subway trains were usually very crowded; but she saw an African man sending messages out to his friends on cell phone while the seat beside him is strangely empty; a Chinese woman tried to prevent her son who held a cake from sitting by the African; the journalist believes that this is discrimination caused by the bad behavior of a few Africans but irrationally generalized to make all Africans victims of discrimination; she then told about her personal story studying abroad and experiencing Westerners discriminating against Chinese with a belief that all Chinese ate cats and dogs and paid no attention to personal hygiene. She also advocated more communications between Africans living in China and local Chinese residents on the codes of appropriate behaviors.
3. “*It Is Difficult for Africans in Guangzhou to Get a Chinese Green Card, How do Chinese Wives Evaluate Their African Husbands*” (非洲人在广州不好拿中国绿卡看中国老婆怎么评价非洲老公的), available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gb1N0E5Ke4&t=193s>. This video tells stories of two couples with African husbands and Chinese wives. They talked about

difficulty in getting China's Green Card, permit for employment or for buying an apartment; one Chinese wife also talked about problems of racism, such as suspicion from the neighbors that her husband might be a drug dealer, her children were called "Black Devils" ("niggers") by some schoolmates; she said that most of Chinese in Guangzhou were friendly to her and her husband.

4. "*Why Chinese Girls Love Black People? The Answer Lets Chinese Men Feel Embarrassed!*" (为什么中国女孩喜欢黑人? 答案让中国男人太尴尬了!), available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-S1GCtDZcA>, and "*Why Do So Many Chinese Girls Marry Black People?*" available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbYK5DirEWM>. These two videos discuss the reasons some Chinese girls marry Africans living in China: (1) African men are taller and have stronger bodies than Chinese men; (2) African men are more romantic and know better how to flirt and attract girls with sweat talks; (3) Africa today still maintains tribal system and those who come to China are usually the elites, i.e. children of tribal chiefs or aristocrats, and they are very courteous and behave like gentlemen; (4) they are generous spending money on Chinese girls; (5) some Chinese girls want to experience different lifestyles.

The above YouTube videos indicate that generally speaking, the living conditions of African residents in Guangzhou, as well as their interaction with local Chinese are normal, although problems of racism do exist and some conflicts occur.