

Trader Maclean

Letter from Francis Bennion to Daily Mail 13 August 2002 (not published)

As an old Africa hand I can confirm what Max Hastings writes today. Mostly the British came into Africa by invitation from the blacks.

When constitution-making for Dr Nkrumah in Ghana I had to research in local archives the way Britain took power in the Gold Coast. One British trader, Captain George Maclean, had gained such local respect that he was able to secure lasting peace between the Ga tribe and their inveterate Ashanti enemies. The tribes implored him to extend this British justice to their own people. He later reported-

‘Let but the local government deny or cease to administer even-handed justice to the population for a single day, and the whole country would again become a scene of warfare, rapine and oppression’.

Only with great reluctance, and after much pressure from the local blacks, did the British government agree to take over rule in this area.

Hastings reports that recently the prime minister of Sierra Leone asked if his country could again become part of the British Empire. I can echo that from 40 years ago, when my Nigerian steward-boy in Accra, bullied to distraction by the local Ga tribesmen, implored me to restore West Africa to British rule. I regretfully explained that I lacked the power to do this. He didn't seem to believe me.

Black rulers in Africa are now intent on expelling the whites. How this shows up the current claptrap in Britain about so-called racism!