

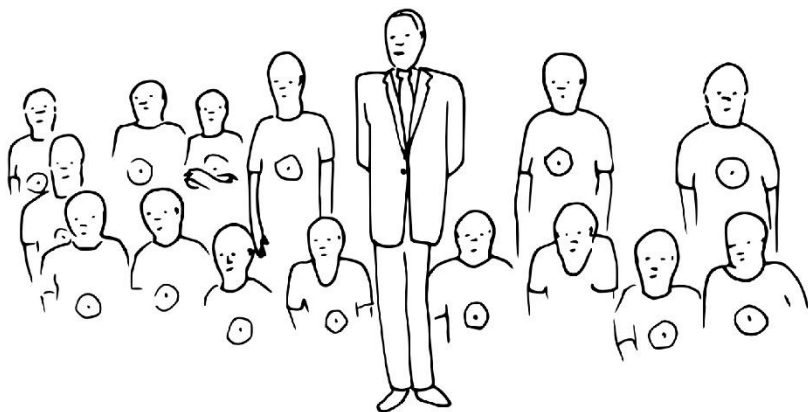


Fig.033 Illustration showing a black politician posing in front of a group of young natives. As part of an assimilation scheme they have been turned into a football team and the picture itself has become a stamp to show the more or less vane effort of the government to civilized the people they have so ruthlessly dispossessed.

Cynicism Among the Natives of Higher Africa

And while modern scientists "maintained that religion evolved from primitive animism to fetishism to polytheism" all the way to monotheism, natives scorn the black people' "fears of evil spirits" deploring their "superstitious nonsense" and their "magico-religious figurines and other so-called fetishes". They take an "equally dim view" of churches with "doll-like statues of Jesus and Mary" (Hallet 1973). The fact that black people conceive the forest as "the place for spirits of the dead" strikes the native as so funny that they would even "roll on the ground". And when white administrators distribute beans to them for planting soon enough these beans are "cooked for lunch". Also, they see the god that is imposed to them by the missionaries as "the biggest falsehood" they know (Turnbull 1961). Generally speaking, the natives see the black villagers as a "Muschenzi", a savage whose business is to supply them "with bananas" and does not think twice to plunder his plantations "like the wild pigs". Natives also are unwilling to work. "At first they tackled the job with the greatest zest, and to the accompaniment of songs and wild cheering" but very soon they begin to show "signs of languor and exhaustion" and quietly vanish "among the trees" dropping whatever task they are doing (Schebesta 1933).