

white man, this region is held in the grasp of fetish worship of a peculiarly cruel character. On the border of every village is the crucifixion tree, which seldom lacks for victims languishing to death. At every turn human life is sacrificed, usually by torture. The slave trade adds its quota of horrors. Life and liberty are hideously insecure. Do I exaggerate? When Benin was captured, the place so reeked with human blood that the working parties which cleaned the town were almost constantly nauseated. The white man comes. Perhaps there is a war, a short and sharp struggle in which twelve-pounder, maxim, and rifle assert once again their superiority to the Dane gun and the poisoned arrow. Then crucifixions, fetish sacrifices, slave trade, tribal warfare, and the other dismal horrors cease. Life and property become secure; murder ceases to be a daily public amusement and becomes the furtive crime which it is elsewhere in the world; the natives' own law is enforced and gradually improved. Industry is given an opportunity to develop, and in time steamboat and railway open the country to trade. I ask, was that war in which the shell and the bullet crushed the ju-ju warriors the worst thing that could have happened that negro population?

I turn to a very different scene. In 1861, the American people had to choose between war and a splitting of the United States. That splitting would have meant the continuance in slavery of eight million negroes; it also would have meant that the American people would have been separated into two countries, sufficiently alike in blood and language to ensure inextricable association, sufficiently different in social organization and political objects to ensure perpetual jealousy, suspicion, and ill-will. War meant the welding of the American people into one nation, the extinction of the danger of paralysing jealousies, the freeing of eight million slaves, the establishment of a common social organization. Were the Americans wrong in preferring war?

South Africa is obviously designed by nature to be a single state. The sub-continent was parcelled out among