



# DID MODERN HUMANS COME OUT OF THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY AFRICA?

*Prepared by Dr. Sarah Namukoa, a Kenyan native, for GFUUPSS, and a commentary on humans who impact the world, by Caleb Page, CEO, Global Foundation to Upgrade Undeserved Primary and Secondary Schools (GFUUPSS) A recommended reading for children and adults.*

*Website: [www.everychildcanachieve.org](http://www.everychildcanachieve.org)*

*Campaign page: <https://www.gofundme.com/suport-underrepresented-kids>*

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*(We chose these small sampling of humans to show the positive and negative impacts humans have had on our planet and societies at large. The irony is that humans descended from the same ancient gene, place of origin, and the same “parent” Lucy. However, their mark on society ranged from being visionary, compassionate, but despotic dictators and murderers of humans. What are the genetic components which contributed to human behavioral differences, the behavioral differences that geneticists and social scientists should investigate? Perhaps if we understand the differences, we would learn how to cope with each other regardless of where we live. Professor Jim Li (see video in video references) wisely pointed out that although “humans are not so different from each other.” We are all of the same origins.)*



Nelson Mandela



Jomo Kenyatta



Barack Obama



Dr. Kwame Nkrumah



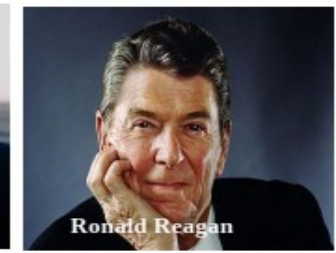
Julius Nyerere



Marcus Garvey



John F. Kennedy



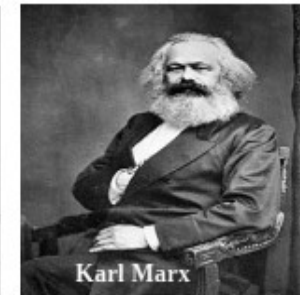
Ronald Reagan



Napoléon Bonaparte



Máo Zedong



Karl Marx



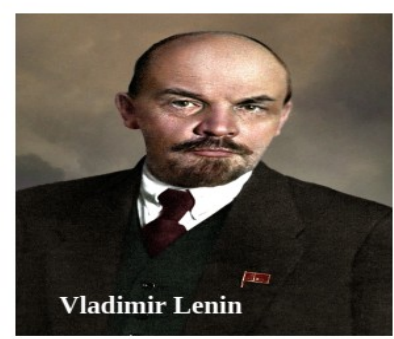
George Washington



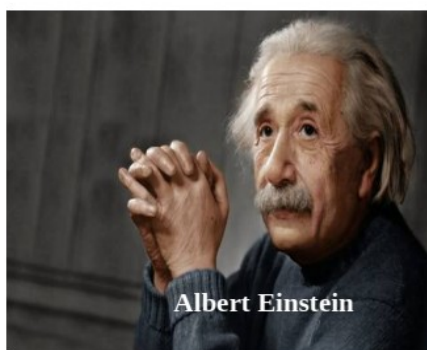
Adolf Hitler



Joseph Stalin



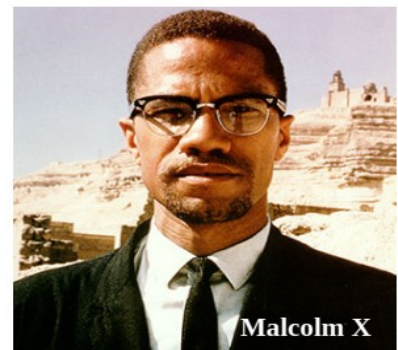
Vladimir Lenin



Albert Einstein



Margaret Hilda Thatcher



Malcolm X

You can't believe that the answer to your difficult question: the origin of humanity lies in the Great Rift Valley. Evidence from anthropology studies done in Africa show fossils from over 5 individuals dated at 1.8 million years (Wilford, 2013; Tattersall, 2009). The exact spot in Africa where the human fossils were discovered is the Great Rift Valley (Morgan, 1994). As reflected in the name, Great Rift Valley describes a continuous geographic trench that runs from South Eastern Africa through Mozambique to Beqaa Valley in Lebanon (see figure 1) (Tattersall, 2009). For a span of 10 million



Figure 1: Map showing The Great Rift Valley

years, two of Africa's tectonic plates have gradually pulled apart, creating a giant fissure in the earth's crust. The fissure runs for more than 3000 miles from the lower parts of Zambezi in Mozambique via eastern Africa towards the Red Sea, where it separates Africa from Arabia. The Rift encompasses the Jordan Rift Valley, the Lebanese part of the Dead Sea, the East African Rift and the Red Sea Rift. It is estimated to be 6,000 kilometers in length (Smith, 1989). As a result of tectonic upheavals and volcanic eruptions, the Great Rift Valley region has been transformed into a landscape of lakes, mountains, scarp, faults, and an array of complex fractures.

### The East African Rift

The East African rift constitutes two branches: Eastern Rift Valley (Gregory Rift) (figure 2) and Western Rift Valley (Albertine Rift) (Abrams, 2001). The Western Rift borders the Ruwenzori Range and Virunga and Mitumba Mountains. It contains Lake Tanganyika, Lake Malawi, Lake Victoria, and

other Rift Valley Lakes. On the other hand, the Eastern Rift Valley occupies the Mozambique belt. It runs from Ethiopia across Kenya and Tanzania to Mozambique. It is thought to be a product of the organic system remains.



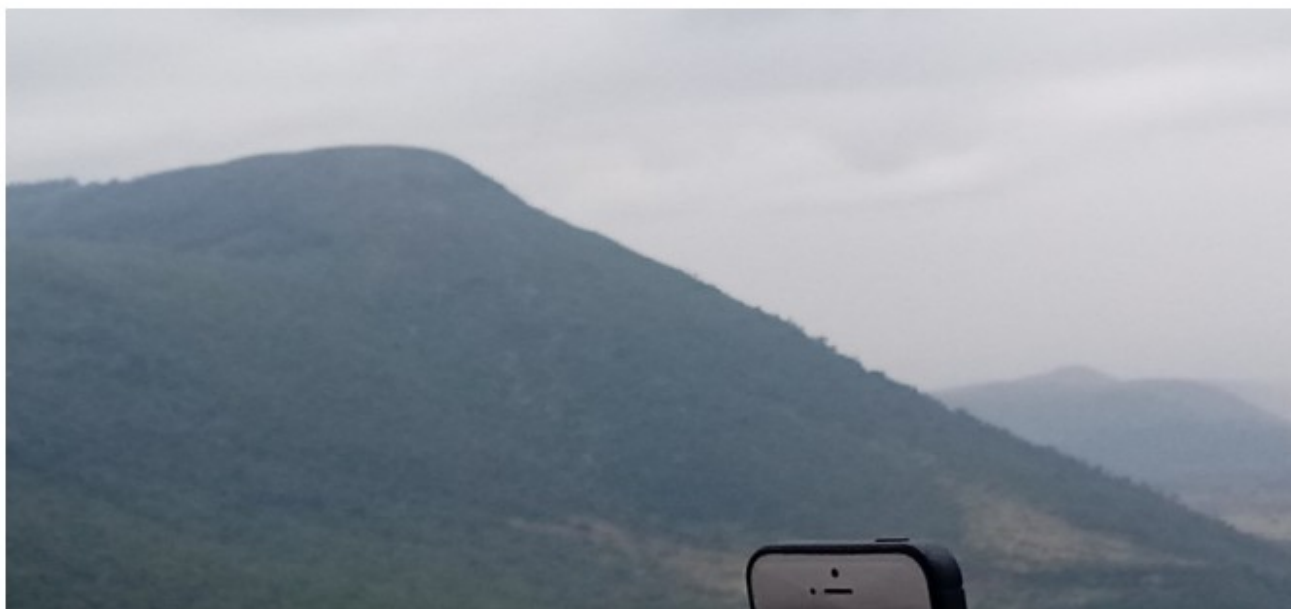
*Figure 2: Western cliffs of the Eastern Rift Valley*



*Figure 3: Western cliffs of the Eastern Rift Valley*



*Figure 4: Western cliffs of the Eastern Rift Valley*



*Figure 5: Western cliffs of the Eastern Rift Valley*



*Figure 6: Western cliffs of the Eastern Rift Valley*



*Figure 7: Wildlife in the western cliffs of the Eastern Rift Valley*



*Figure 8: Wildlife in the western cliffs of the Eastern Rift Valley*



*Figure 9: Wildlife in western cliffs of the Eastern Rift Valley*

## The Dead Sea Rift

The Dead Sea Rift stretches from Big Valley in Lebanon through Hula Valley, Jordan Rift, Dead Sea, Wadi Arabah, Gulf of Aqaba to the Red Sea (Bressan, 2018). The former separates Anti-Lebanon Mountains from Lebanon while the latter separates the Golan Heights from the Galilee Mountains. Further, the Red Sea Rift meets the Aden Ridge in the East African Rift. It is also separated by the Afar Triple Junction.

### The Rift-valley as Cradle-land for Mankind

The great rift valley has been proven to be the origin of humanity (University of Southern California, 2013). An English Missionary Louis Leakey in 1959, while accompanied by his wife Mary, discovered an australopithecine skull around the Olduvai George in Tanzania (Tattersall, 2009). After intense search Leakeys discovered the fossils of a species that was more advanced than the



*Figure 10: The Homo erectus Species skeleton found in 1984 by Kamoya Kimeu on the west side of Lake Turkana. The skeleton was dated 1.5 million years.*

australopithecines and called it the Homo habilis, also called the handyman.

This evidence by Leaky moved the world attention to Africa as it was accurately pinned to an age. The bones identified by Leakeys and others uncovered in East Africa were pinned to a given age (Wayman, 2011). Worth noting is that previous evidence involving fossils and sediments by other studies was not dated. However, Leakey dated the volcanic ash layers which were interspersed in the sediments using a clock like the decay of the radioactive elements. Leakey also fixed the limits to



the fossil-rich sediments. The Great Rift Valley is known for being the source of the volcanic ash deposits. By dating the fossil-rich sediments Leakey grandson Richard successfully dated his discoveries around Lake Turkana in Kenya as well as the team led by Donald Johanson that discover Lucy, the skeleton in Ethiopia in 1974 (Fuss, Spassov and Begun, 2017).

Lucy and other fossils discovered around the Great Rift Valley were assigned to a new species called *Australopithecus afarensis*, which is dated back to 3.2 million years ago (Lopez, Dorp and Hellenthal, 2015). According to the phylogeny, the *Homo habilis* ancestor was the *A. Afarensis*. Two million years ago the human kind most primitive member *H. Habilis* evolved to form humans (University of Southern California, 2013). As such, the southern ape, *A. Africans* as well as other species with strong skulls and teeth having gorilla crests on their craniums was also assigned to the extinct side branch of the family tree (Stewart and Stringer, 2012).

Different kinds of wildlife typify the Kenyan Rift Valley region



*Figure 11: Giraffe in Maasai Mara Park in the western cliffs of the Eastern Rift Valley*



*Figure 12: White Rhino in Lake Nakuru Park in the western cliffs of the Eastern Rift Valley*



*Figure 13: Buffalo in Lake Nakuru Park in the western cliffs of the Eastern Rift Valley*

The Great Rift Valley will remain a history book showing the deep past of humanity.

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**Commentary by Caleb L. Page CEO , Global Foundation to Upgrade Underserved Primary and Secondary Schools (GFUUPSS)**

The author, Dr. Sarah Namukoa, a Kenyan native, provides a very concise description of the origin of man in her homeland, some 3 million years ago. This study shows the evolutionary journey of humans from their origin in Africa to this very moment in time, over 3 million years ago. Human existence and survival is unique and requires introspection. If the early human species did not survive the earth 's harsh environment, the predators, animals, and other deadly creatures, what would be the state of Planet Earth today? It is very difficult to imagine. The human species by design intervention is now the ruler of planet Earth and all its resources.

Today the earth does not have a singular place of the human species that once thrived in the Rift Valley millions of years ago. Human species which once thrived in the Rift Valley...low in numbers, have populated all corners of the earth. Renown anthropologists (see video) postulated that Africa is the cradle of humanity and that the rest of the earth was populated by migration of mass exodus of Africans from the African Continent.

The question is, why have historians neglected this historic milestone and a place as the Rift Valley in their history books? Why does such a significant milestone and place as the rift valley not taken center stage in the curriculum of all children worldwide? Why are children from kindergarten not taught the importance of this historically significant event? We erect monuments, memorials, and statues to pay tribute to individual accomplishments. We rave in awe at the various wonders of the

planet, yet fail to pay tribute to the significance of our being and the place of our origin as deserving of a monument.

The Rift Valley deserves a monument to reflect the origin of the human species, our survivability, a Mecca where human from parts of the planet gather in friendship, like a family gathering.

#### Conclusion

The Rift Valley represents a tree, and the branches are the humans who left the African continent for other regions of the planet. Humans are one family and are the branches from the tree. The Rift Valley represents the tree of our existence. Our children deserve to know this.

**Go to [www.everychildcanachieve.org](http://www.everychildcanachieve.org) or at <https://www.gofundme.com/suport-underrepresented-kids> and Contribute.**

**Comments on this Article would be appreciated.**

# Reference page

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