

There was a part of the play you have just seen when I say, *“With the invention of the gun, the rifle, the European has triumphed over the African to such an extent that his descendants would end up on totally the opposite side of the globe from whence he had come.”* I then continue to talk about how, through violence and genocide, the European colonised and settled lands far and wide, with tragic consequences to indigenous peoples everywhere. Ignorance of this kind of history abounds worldwide, and results in the continuing notion of White Supremacy. The rationale behind the recent atrocity in Christchurch, New Zealand typifies this, where a young white man from a neighbouring country (and himself therefore an immigrant son of invaders) can have it in his head that White New Zealand is under threat from followers of a different religion, and can eradicate dozens of them using the modern version of the lethal technology that his ancestors used hundreds of years ago against innocent, peaceful indigenes. The relegation of living beings of difference to one’s race, creed, religion or sexuality to sub-human status in a people’s mind is the same process that was used to embark on the industrial enslavement of people from Africa, and the interesting thing is that somewhere, somehow, justification was found in the Bible for this. Followers of other religions find similar justifications for the most heinous acts of oppression and violence in their own Holy Books, whereas the abounding and unifying theme of all faiths – European-exported as well as indigenously grown - is surely that of peaceful coexistence with other humans and the planet. May the day come soon when it is no longer more profitable to trade in arms and narcotics than it is with education and medicines, and when history is taught and shared as readily as pure entertainment, such that the dangerous cocktail of White Supremacy and lethal weaponry is not just understood but eradicated as much as is humanly possible.