EDITORIAL

Black History, Black Psychology and the Future of the World

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This month we recognize Black History Month. But more than feeling good about the historical achievements of Black people, we must also recognize that the reclamation of Black History involves the re-writing of White history.

History, you see, has been used as the knowledge base which gave strength to the ideologies that justified racial exploitation, slavery, imperialism, colonialism and the subordination of women.

As we reclaim Black History, we debunk the lies, myths and distortions of "The West" in ways that create a new ideological climate that is more conducive to the liberation of mind and spirit.

Even more important, we must recognize that the misinformation that characterizes the story of Western civilization has resulted in a "new world order" that is marked by an arrogant, capricious and dangerous relationship with our environment. The false doctrine of "Manifest Destiny" has produced societies that--almost literally--place their excrement on the dinner table. This can be seen, for example, in toxic wastes in landfills and at the bottom of our oceans.

Our challenge, as Black psychologists, is more than the promotion of Black history and the elevation of the African character. It involves creating the "corrective medicine" necessary for reversing the current power relationships that have placed members of one group in control of the earth's material and human resources. Those individuals and groups have proven themselves incapable of ruling with truth, justice, righteousness, harmony, propriety, balance or order.

As Black psychologists and social scientists, this is our responsibility; this is our mandate. A luta continua lasima tushinde mbilishaka (The struggle continues and we will conquer without a doubt).