

Global Jim Crow Taxation and Racial Capitalism

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Center for Taxpayer Rights

*Race and Tax: Looking Beyond the Borders and Tax
Exempt Organizations*

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Boston University School of Law



Origins of the Global Tax System

- The Origin Myth

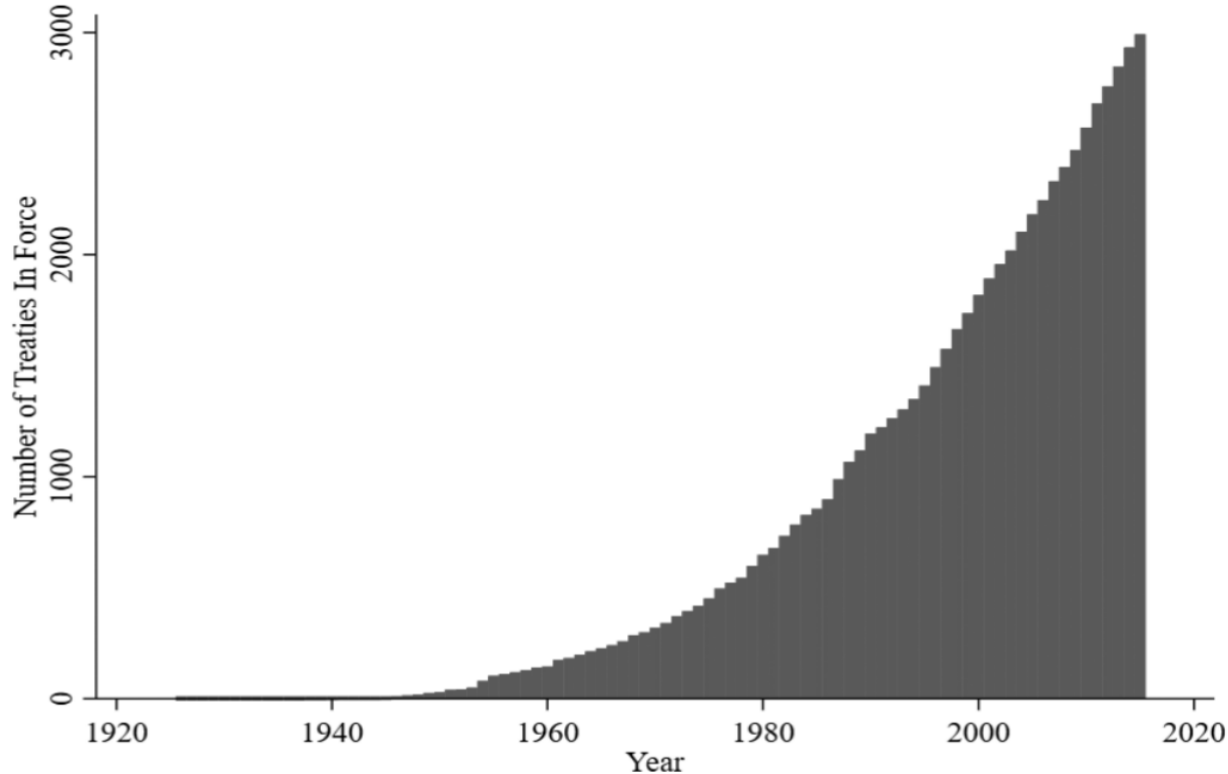
- League's experts designed its treaties for “the sole purpose of mitigat[ing] international double taxation so that governments could benefit from international economic liberalization”

Origins of the Global Tax System

- Graetz—2000 Tillinghast Lecture
 - “Our nation’s system for taxing international income today is largely a creature of the period 1918-1928.... In 1918, the foreign tax credit (FTC) was enacted.... In 1928, the League of Nations issued drafts of model bilateral income tax treaties for the reciprocal relief of double taxation of international income.”

Origins of the Global Tax System

Figure 2: Number of Treaties in Force by Year



Origins of the Global Tax System

- December 14, 1960
 - OECD Charter
 - General Assembly's Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV))

Origins of the Global Tax System

■ Expertise

- “the OEEC had no experts in the field” but “the UN staff suitably skilled”
- the UN “flagged the possibility of seconding an International Tax Section official for a few months to furnish the OEEC Secretariat with technical support”

Origins of the Global Tax System

- John Maynard Keynes
 - Described a UN conference focused on the creation of the World Bank and IMF
 - “the most monstrous monkey-house assembled for years”

Origins of the Global Tax System

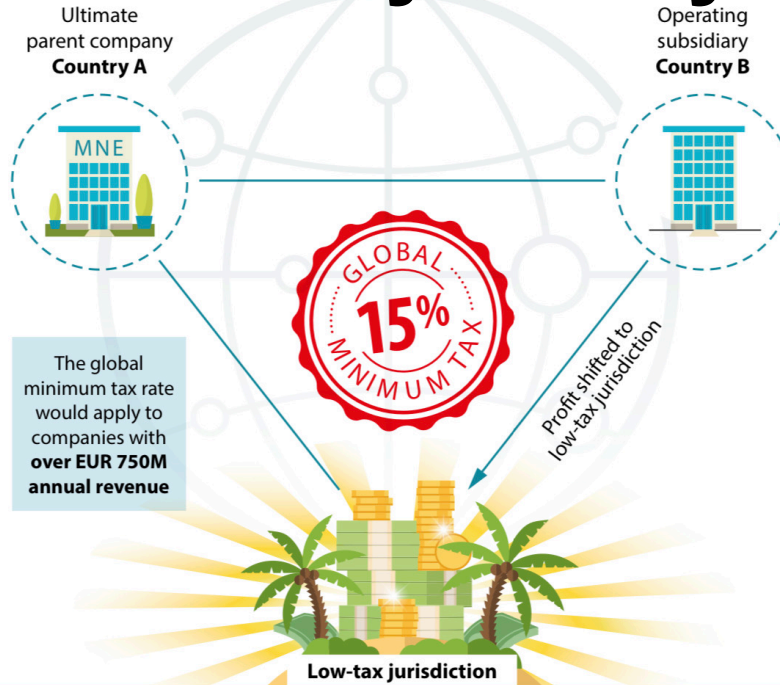
- In 1957, Kwame Nkrumah renamed a newly independent Gold Coast “Ghana” after an ancient empire and announced that “the Black man is capable of managing his own affairs.”
- Europeans and Americans were “[d]istrustful of newly independent governments and non-white rule, fearing resentment, increased taxation or possibly even nationalization”



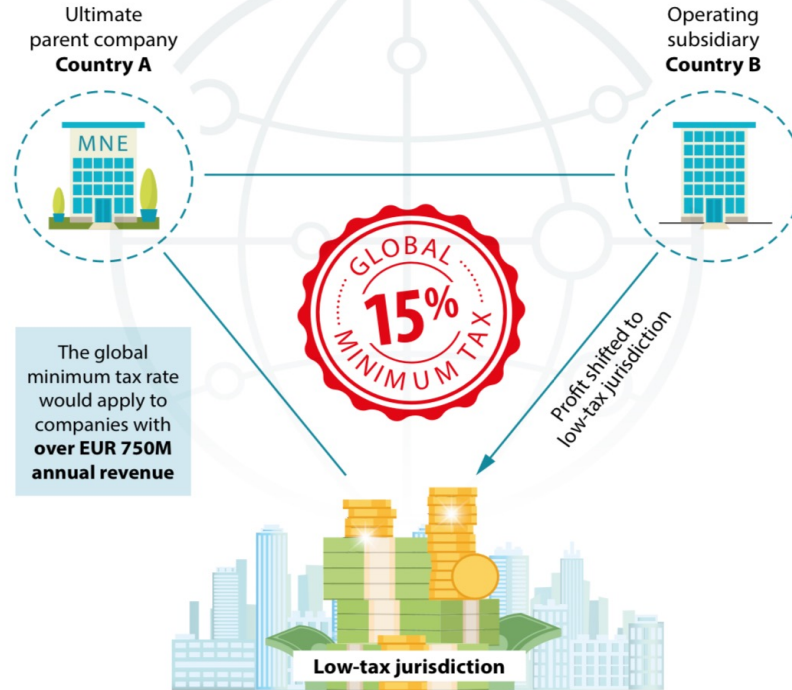
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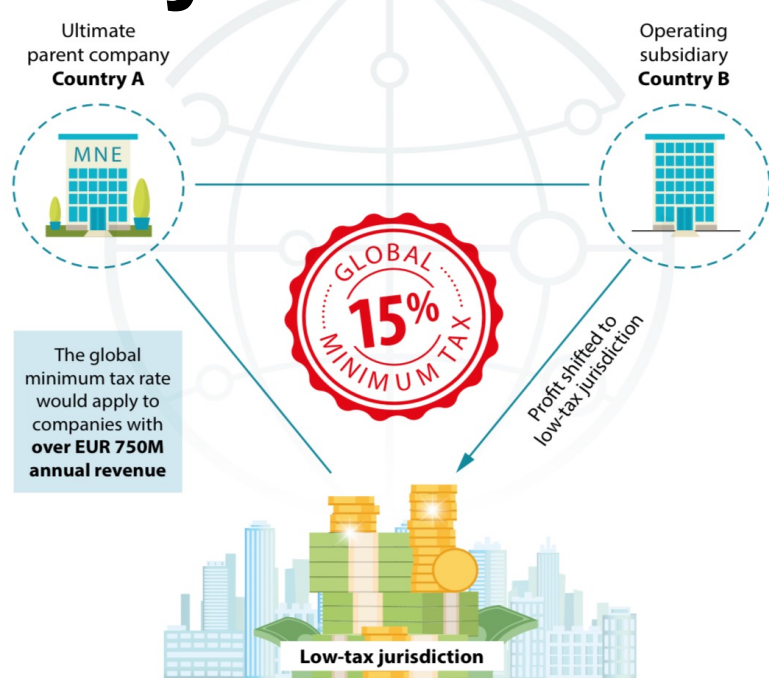
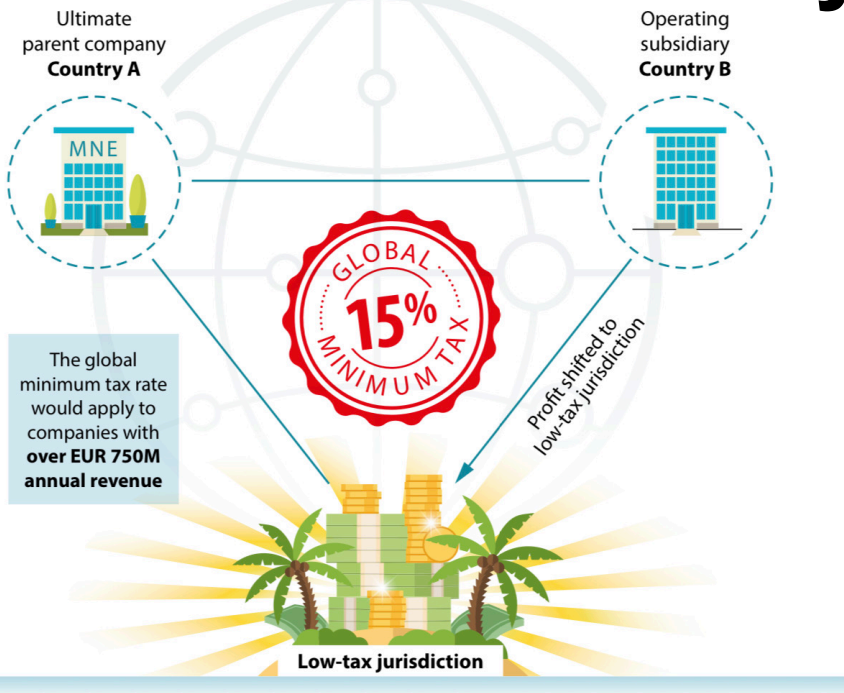
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Thank you!

Questions or comments?
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