Congo Masquerade: The Political Culture of Aid Inefficiency and Reform Failure

African Arguments
The novel opens with Aunt Polly scouring the house in search of her nephew, Tom Sawyer. She finds him in the closet, discovers that his hands are covered with jam, and prepares to give him a whipping. Tom cries out theatrically, “Look behind you!” and when Aunt Polly turns, Tom escapes over the fence. After Tom is gone, Aunt Polly reflects sadly on Tom’s misdeeds and how she lets him get away with too much.

Tom comes home at supper, looking very white and dejected. His aunt asks him how his day was. He quickly reports that he was not skipped school after all, and his aunt asks him what he did. He tells her that he was ill about his adventures. During supper, Aunt Polly asks him to go back and get the dinner, but first, Tom’s half-brother, Huck, who is called Tom’s “mate,” comes in. Tom has warned the boy to disguise himself to escape his punishment. Tom goes out of the house in the middle of the meal, leaving Tom with the job of cooking the dinner. When he returns home in the evening, Tom finds Aunt Polly waiting for him. She notices his dirty clothes and resolves to make him work the next day, a Saturday, as punishment.

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whitewash the fence. Jim passes by, and Tom begs to let him do some of the whitewashing in return for a “whale alley,” a kind of whistle. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his tasks.
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