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Master in Literature and Interdisciplinary Approaches

The European Imperialism in West Coast Africa

Case Study: Congo (1880-1909)

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Degree of Master in
Literature and Interdisciplinary Approaches**

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to all my precious and dear family

To my parents

To my wife

To my children: Abedlkader and Ishak

And to my classmates especially:

REGUIG Khadidja, SOUFI Amira , CHEHRI Youcef

And Dr CHEHBI Samia

for their unceasing encouragements and support

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Abstarct

The period of nineteenth century was special, where it took a new way as large expansions of colonialism policy, scholars called it the new imperialism. Colonial rules consist of direct military intervention, sending thousands colonials to settle and live there. Each European power such as: France, Britain, Germany, Portugal, Netherlands, and Belgium, etc. As a result of Berlin Conference (1884-1885), the King of Belgium Leopold II decided to target the Congo basin under the International Association of Congo, and the Congo Free State. Therefore, with its imperial tendencies, it intervened in Congo and exploited its people. This research aims to showcase a new form of imperial power called the New Imperialism applied on Congo, and it evaluates the different degrees of this new form of imperialism by using previous theories to help understand the Congolese experience with the Belgium imperial power in late nineteenth century until the death of the King of Belgium Leopold II in 1909. Based on the review of literature and previous theories related to the New Imperialism, a thorough analysis was executed to make sense of the term to pave the way to introduce and compare those theories to the Congo case. The analysis has demonstrated that New Imperialism in Congo was merely a façade that supposedly aimed to develop, civilize and Christianize, but in reality Leopold II considered Congo and its people as private property.

Keywords: Imperialism, the New Imperialism, Congo basin, Leopold II, International Association of Congo, Congo Free State, Berlin Conference

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General Introduction

The human greed and competition to gain power have always been a major topic that is still relevant till this day. On that account, the need to expand one's territory, wealth, or hegemony, was prevalent during different times and ages. One of the most common processes of colonialism is the European Imperialism. As it is widely known, imperialism is the force and the power imposed by powerful countries in order to control the weak countries through different ways: military forces, or moral. The latter is often harnessed to extend their boundaries and take lands and territories. Those lands' resources are exploited, namely, underground and surface materials. The European expansion activities of nineteenth century from 1870 to 1910, the industrial innovations and modernity of weapons; as rifles and steamboats gave them strong push and enabled them to conquer and colonize, not just the most Africa, but also extending beyond that where called the "Scramble for Africa" where, almost African population find themselves under European authority, colonial administration.

The period of nineteenth century was special, where it took a new way as large expansions of colonialism policy, scholars called it the new imperialism. Colonial rules consist of direct military intervention, sending thousands colonials to settle and live there. Each European power such as: France, Britain, Germany, Portugal, Netherlands, and Belgium, etc. wanted a share cake of African continent. Scholars showed cause, motives and reasons for conquered Africa in theories, economical: where they believed conquer of Africa came as result of Industrial Revolution, and Africa continent has big sources of raw materials to supply European factories, social: the European looked to African people as savage their duty civilized to them by spread the Christianity, built schools and show the western civilization, appeared and practice the social Darwinism. National prestige: the politicians of last decades of nineteenth century celebrated through imperial pride and glory where they used discourse of to

promote the national prestige and pride among the other colonial countries under eye of pride also to move away the attention of their population from local social tensions, while depending on sending explorers, small numbers of troops, missionaries, and administrators in purpose developing these settlements.

Although the policy of modernization brought to Africa new technology and commercial benefits by Europeans during centuries from 15th century especially by Portuguese, French and Britain's, began with establishment of sugar plantation in West Africa. Therefore, mobilization of Portuguese changed from Christianization and trade to slave trade. The trade stayed on the coasts of Kongo kingdom, while the centre of the continent was unknown staying dark and isolated from the European interference.

The European presence in Congo, took part in the era of European Imperialism expansion activities from 1870 to 1910. The Berlin Conference (1884-1885), was a turning point in African history, where the European powers agreed to divide African continent based on their interests without caring the complex of these societies or their own traditions. Lands around the Congo basin, was a sample of countries that have suffered from Berlin conference and ravages of Belgian colonialism under rule of the King Leopold II who encouraged and supported the missionary activities, with help of the British explorer Henry Morton Stanley in 70s of nineteen century, and under the name of Congo free state, Leopold put his rule on Congo where plundered and exploited the wealth and its people.

This research examines the nature of European Imperialism in West coast Africa taking Congo as a case study. To do this, it investigates the old and focuses on the new imperialism in Congo. This topic has been selected for certain reasons, first of them is, the scant information about Congo and the effects of the new imperialism on the region. While, previous research has superficially treated new imperialism in Africa, this thesis will offer new insights into the

conversation of the imperial influence on Africa, namely, Congo. Second, by reviewing previous and current theories about New Imperialism, this research will delineate certain aspects of this new notion and then apply it on Congo. Moreover, it will scrutinize the pre-colonial and during colonialism of Belgium on Congo.

I have arrived at few questions that will be answered on this thesis. First, how was the New Imperialism executed on Congo in the late 19th century? Second, to what extent theories of New Imperialism are applied to the intervention of Belgium on Congo? Third, how did Berlin Conference, with its colonial tendencies, alter the African history especially the Congo basin?

To help answer the mentioned questions, I have arrived at three hypotheses. First, the New Imperialism in Congo has immensely changed Congolese society, culturally, economically, and politically. Second, the Berlin Conference (1884-1885) marked a turning point for Africa and namely Congo basin. Third, European based theories on Imperialism denotes a justification of unjustified actions towards Africans, especially, Congo.

My research comprises three chapters; each chapter will help forge an answer of the research question. First chapter will offer a definition of old and new Imperialism. Moreover, it will present significant theories to make sense of the main term discussed in this chapter. It will introduce the Economic Theory, then the psychological theories by highlighting Social Darwinism, Evangelical Christianity, and Social Atavism. In addition to that, it discusses the diplomatic theories such as, national prestige, balance of power, global strategy. Finally, this first chapter will explain African dimension theory to better understand the second chapter. On that account, the second chapter will provide an introduction as well as a studied background of pre-colonial Congo. This chapter will introduce pre-colonial Congo illustrating by that a historical preview of its geography in Africa. Therefore, an elaborate discussion will be highlighted about the old kingdoms of the Congo: Kongo, Luba, and Lunda. Finally, the third

chapter will highlight the intervention in Congo by Belgium. In the same context, it will offer an insight about the effects that played a role in this intervention, namely, by the International Association of the Congo. This final will focus in explaining the influence of Berlin Conference (1884-1885) and its outcomes on the Congolese case.

Chapter one: Imperialism

Introduction

This chapter will offer a definition of old and new Imperialism. Moreover, it will present significant theories to make sense of the main term discussed in this chapter. It will introduce the Economic Theory, then the psychological theories by highlighting Social Darwinism, Evangelical Christianity, and Social Atavism. In addition to that, it discusses the diplomatic theories such as, national prestige, balance of power, global strategy. Finally, this first chapter will explain African dimension theory to better understand.

1.1. Definition of Imperialism:

The term comes from the Latin word *Imperium*, which means supreme power. The Cambridge dictionary defines the term imperialism first as a system in which a country rules other countries sometimes having used force to obtain power over them, second, when one country has a lot of power or influence over others, especially in political and economic matters. Whereas, the Oxford dictionary define the word as a system in which one country controls other countries, often after defeating them in a war, e.g. Roman imperialism. Another definition provided by Oxford dictionary that regards imperialism as the fact of a powerful country increasing its influence over other countries through business, culture, etc; for instance, cultural and economic imperialism.

So, imperialism is the force and the power imposed by powerful countries in order to control the weak countries through different ways: military forces, or moral. The latter is often harnessed to extend their boundaries and take lands and territories. Those lands resources are exploited, namely, underground and surface materials.

In the 1800s, after the spread of the Industrial Revolution pushed the Europeans countries to look for new markets to sell their production and more raw materials to supply their own

factories, these and other causes led them to veer their eyes on virgin lands on African coasts by using their power to control them. The world witnessed in this period a remarkable change in the history, shaping by that the African continent. Africa was colonized and conquered, thus a generation of their people was partitioned and subjugated.

From these definitions one is able to notice that there are several kinds of imperialism that use military, political, cultural, and economic forces. However, many scholars suggest two evident types which are old imperialism and the new imperialism.

1.2. The Old Imperialism

Scholars determine the period from the 1400s to the 1880s as the period of the old imperialism. At that time, the new world's exploration was in the hands of some European countries like Spain, Portugal, Great Britain, Holland and France. These countries had great navy powers, which allowed them to send explorers to these lands, to that virgin land. Spain and Portugal occupied South America and the Caribbean zone where they established settlements, while North America was occupied by France and Britain, and who pushed their powers. Violently against the indigenous people. They killed millions by large-scale act of genocide. The main interest was wealth and seeking for gold. Explorers and missionaries supported the imperial based on their belief in "Glory, God, and Gold."¹(Wellman 1956), the European countries ambition did not lead them to the American continent only, but also to the far east (Asia) where they looked for new markets. The fact that the Mediterranean Sea was dominated by the Muslims, pushed the European countries to look for another way to reach Asia (flavours and other goods), turning around Africa was their only solution. Along African coasts they discovered new and infinity of supplies for their national treasures also an opportunity of wealth and glory with gold, ivory, and diamonds. For that stations and coast

¹ "Glory, God, and Gold" is a book written by Paul I Wellman January 1, 1954 , refer to the popular excuses and reasons for imperial expansion

castles were built, in west and south Africa to connect with local population. Meanwhile one of the worst human atrocities began and was slave trade. The imperials found trade as a path to conquer the area and its precious sources. They exchanged their useless merchandises made in Europe with valuable materials.

At first, the European activities in Africa were limited to trade only, but with time, it developed to colonization leading to the rise of empires like Spain , Portugal , France, Great Britain and Holland.

The exploitation of Africa included even the people there, a massive number of mother land owners were exploited with inhuman treatments, through the transatlantic to the New World, the American continent. This was known as slave trade. Also, they massacred many slaves as what happened in north America with Indians by the British rule, and Spain in South America.

By the end of the eighteen and the beginning of nineteen centuries, European nations became great empires and dominate of huge regions over the globe adventuring regions in oceans, islands, and territories settled as colonies. Also the development of the Industrial Revolution led them to conflicts of interests in many places especially in West Africa. For these reasons and others, a new vigour of imperialism began.

1.3. New Imperialism

The period of the 1880s witnessed crucial movements in African history. After the rise of capitalism in the western world, historians determined that this decade marked the birth of various kinds of imperialism and categorized it in theories: economic, psychological, diplomatic, and the African Dimension.

1.4. The Economic Theory

The expansion of industry in Western European countries was illustrated in factories' mass production. More and more goods were produced, thus this state led them to look for new

markets to sell their surpluses. Since capitalism depends on capitals' dynamic, they got loans from banks, so that the industrialized nations and capitalists outside the geographic area, and political boundaries, expanded their economic businesses. Ultimately, they started looking beyond. As a result, they found Africa, and its non-industrialized nations where they could distribute their goods in turn for profit, and invest their money, and consequently obtain raw materials for free or lower prices, rather than plunder it from the owners for their firms.

This theory provided by Marxists scholars, as an anti-capitalist imperialism movement, Rosa Luxemburg pointed out that imperialism was the final stage of capitalism (Uzoigwe 21), also George Ledebour noted that “[Weltpolitik]² was an upsurge of all capitalism toward the policy of plunder” (20), this points was argued by John Atkinson Hobson, the fundamental ideas that banks guarantee their money back from loans, wherein businessmen import and export the goods and raw materials, and the capitalist invest their money which put pressure on governments and countrymen; pushing them towards the policy of imperialism and invasion of non-industrialized societies (59).

1.5. The psychological theories

The Europeans believed that they were superior non white race, and that they had the burden to bring the civilisation, they thought that it was up to them to civilize and change the savage life of African people, in addition to their duties, they were trying to spread Christianity into non European country in order to extend their imperial expansion.

1.5.1. Social Darwinism

British scientist Charles Darwin, in his Theory of Evolution (1859), in his book “The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life” believes that there is a significant difference between the strong and the

² *Weltpolitik*: the term used by the German Social Democrats on the agenda of their annual party congress held at Mainz (Germany) in 1900, that is, the policy of imperial expansion on a global scale,

weak in their survival i.e. the survival of the fittest (Spencer 444). Supporters of his theory, pointed out that all kinds species of life and mankind among them, in order to prove and perpetuate their existence to stay alive is highly dependent on its struggle and natural selection, hence the best and the strongest will be selected. In that account, the Europeans applied Darwinian Theory to suggest the supremacy of the European race. Therefore, the invasion of Africa is seen by them as obligatory. In other words, allegedly, according to them, it is a natural process where the stronger master enslaves and persecutes the weaker. The latter fortify their forceful claim that suggests their responsibility in extending the protection of their so-called pure race (Europeans). In literary discourse, Daniel Defoe's celebrated novel "Robinson Crusoe" (1719) portrays a relationship between Crusoe, a white civilized man, and Friday, an uncivilized black African. Evidently, it is a representation of a relationship of master and slave which produces the myth of colonialism and the colonial relationships. In this novel Crusoe's body is the metaphor of the "imperial figure/ colonizer" so the body of Friday also becomes a metaphor of the "other" or "colonized peoples" (Saeed 2013). Crusoe is depicted to be the saviour of the 'other', which begs for an allusion to the conversion to Christianity as a form to civilize the uncivilized.

1.5.2. Evangelical Christianity

Indeed, the missionaries were the first to arrive in central and West Africa to spread Christianity, because the church regarded it to be a divine order to convert 'uncivilised' people. For them "Africans" were damned and the missionaries, who paved a solid ground for imperials, constituted the paths from African coasts to the centre of continent by the rivers and between jungles, even where the tribes were located and number of population. The studies did not pursue with this theory that the missionaries contributed affectively led to conquest Africa it is limited application.

1.5.3. Social Atavism

This term was endorsed by Joseph Schumpeter. For him New Imperialism was a

consequence of natural desire and inner deep feelings of man to dominate his fellow man. Therefore, imperialism is global national selfishness, continuously to primal instincts social and political in humans, led European countries behaviour for unlimited expansion overseas “Africa” the element less important among mankind species.

1.6. The Diplomatic Theories

These theories offer political explanations, and showcase a fierce competition for hegemony. The latter, with its defiant and intense nature, caused conflicts between European countries, even though sometimes, in the surface scheme of things, they appear to belong to coalitions with one another. Nevertheless, they represent an egoistic spirit which prolongs these concealed conflicts. For that, historians divided it as the following:

1.6.1. National Prestige

One of the most important pioneers of this term is Carlton Hayes (1941). He concluded that «the new imperialism was a nationalistic phenomenon (Hayes 223-224). European leaders enhanced their power and reorganized diplomatic forces inside their countries; to maintain their place i.e. national prestige. Thus, it led them to participate in the partition of Africa. The former imposed a distinct struggle against each other. Hayes elucidates this theory in this following passage: [France sought compensation for European loss in overseas gain. England would offset her European isolation by enlarging and glorifying the British Empire. Russia, halted in the Balkans, would turn anew to Asia, and Germany isolated, and Italy would show the world that the prestige they had won by might inside Europe they were entitled to enhance by imperial exploits outside. The lesser powers, with no great prestige at stake, managed to get on without any new imperialism, though Portugal and Holland displayed a revived pride in the empires they already possessed and the latter's was administered with renewed vigor.] (220) Hayes expresses the intentions of such notion known as the national prestige, regarding it as a ramification of nationalism, that of an atavistic nature, in quest of strengthening international

image. Therefore, Hayes accentuates that European leaders appear to be highly concerned with preserving this image, namely, Empirical one.

1.6.2. Balance of Power

The conflicts between European countries in the Balkans especially Russia, Britain, and the Ottoman Empire, brought them on a very high risk and on the edge of conflict. According to F.H. Hinsley, European nations needed stability at home; politics prevented the policy of force crises and internal drawbacks. Also their conflicts caused by the competitive interests in Africa threatened to ruin European peace, and the preservation of their diplomatic balance and its stabilization. As a result, Hinsley emphasized that European countries manoeuvred outside the European continent during the 1880s. And subsequently, impregnating a new age for Europe.

1.6.3. Global Strategy

Ronald Robison and John Gallagher maintain that the scramble of European's empires on Africa was an issue of global strategy, not an economic matter, stressing "the strategic importance of Africa to India for Britain" (24). The Europeans conquest of Africa, was not because what Africa was able to offer them economically with materials and other valuable sources. In fact, Africa was useless for Europeans, but was indeed a threat to European's interests somewhere else on the globe, they were looking for moral reasons to persuade the general masses that represent generations from Africa and Europe, that conquest of Africa was a justified behaviour.

1.7. The African Dimension Theory

Sir John Scott Kiltie mentioned in his book that the partition of Africa began before the 1880s, when the Portuguese and Dutch established castles on the African coasts in the Gold Coast. Elmina Castle in Gold Coast (Ghana) and in South Africa to secure their ships which

where commuting to India and other destination in South Asia. Furthermore, the motives of this partition stem from purely economic interests. The European treated African partition as a celebrated era of their history. According to other theories, that stressed the economic competition between industrialized, European countries and the connection between Europe and Africa from long time led to the partition. (Uzoigwe 26)

Conclusion

The European's expansion in Africa, partition and conquest, is one of many approaches discussed by scholars and historians in theories of 19th and 20th centuries, processed as logical consequences through history nibbling the continent before 19th century, and began effectively in late 19th century after transitioning from the illegal trade of slaves to trade in import and export goods. But they encountered resistance from Africans. A conspicuous upswing in the European power in many fields, such as, industry and army, led to the invasion of Africa and formed the new imperialism, before exposing the intervention in Africa one is obliged to mention the status quo of that time. Namely, in West Africa, what is known as Republic Democratic of Congo, which will be discussed in the next chapter.

Chapter Two: Pre-colonial Congo

Introduction

This chapter will introduce pre-colonial Congo illustrating by that a historical preview of its geography in Africa. This chapter will also present an account of pre-colonial Congo, in it an elaborate discussion will be highlighted about the old kingdoms of the Congo: Kongo, Luba, and Lunda.

2.1. Historical Background

Congo is geographically located at Western Atlantic Ocean's coasts of Africa stretched till middle of the continent. It passes through a huge valley (Congo valley) with its tributaries and lakes also called the Congo Basin. The latter is situated in the equatorial zone, where rain fall largely daily throughout the year. Rainforests cover the largest surface of these lands, inside Africa before the 19th century, where it was unknown unexplored by the European nations. Therefore, it was called the 'Dark Continent' and stood mysterious and, some authors claimed that Africa contained one eyed people who used their feet to cover their heads, Africa the home of the Roc³ (Hochschild 6), a bird so large that it could carry an elephant through the air.

Indeed, the region of Congo, before it was under European's colonialism, was not vacant. Congo was inhabited by big kingdoms with a population of more than 20 million (Britanica), and contained complex societies living in for a long time throughout history. In a time where Europeans believed that it incorporates farmers, shepherds, hunters and fishermen, when they passed coastally to India, it marked their first contact with locals who lived in the African coasts of the continent. Moreover, the Europeans established bases for rest and supplied their missions (ships) with goods (foods, water.etc) to carry on their journey. However, the inside of the region was unknown until they began sending explorers and missionaries where they found

³ The Roc is an enormous legendary bird of prey in the popular mythology of the Middle East, it appears in Arabic geographies and natural history, popularized in Arabian fairy tales and sailors' folklore.

scalar hierarchical, from king, chiefs to the servants. Societies depended on a system of gathering tributes from villages (JOHNSON 2).

2.2. Pre-colonial Congo

Many scholars and historians contended that there was trade between Africans and Europeans. For that, several bases were established in the coasts for the purpose of trade and maritime transit stations to East Africa and South Asia and India. The former sold them old fire weapons and worthless things: mirrors, combs, clothes, etc. On the other hand, Europeans, especially Portuguese and Dutch, as an exchange they got gold, ivory, and jewellery.

It started basically with good's barter then transformed to transporting Africans as slaves through Atlantic Ocean. Each kingdom that lived in these regions (Western Africa what is called previously "Republic of Democratic Congo" and part of their neighbours) had owned characteristics and special features of life socially, politically and economically; as the following suggest:

2.3. Luba Kingdom

Luba kingdom spread on grass areas that stretched from the River Kwango in north to the River Zambezi in south lands of Kasai, Shila, Kanyok, Shaba, and Songye (Republic of Democratic of Congo and parts from Angola nowadays). The lands were poor in the South, and the season of drought is long, so whenever go towards North find fertile lands but the Sothern is rich in minerals raw copper, iron and salt. Therefore, people lived around mines and on fertile lands beside the rivers and lakes, because they were the main sources of fresh water (greats rivers at equatorial zone) and for crops. The rest inhabited areas in vast plains used mainly in grazing and hunting, thus the territory of kingdom was not determined by political borders which were permanent and pointed. Through time, clashes of wars and conflicts

between the tribes and neighbours for fertile lands, water sources and pastures, led to the expansion and shrinkage of the boundaries. The new lands, as a result of expansion of internal appropriations, they left the original chiefs of chiefdoms and «controlled by one or two Lubian villages with a supervisor chief from the central area». In order to protect the territories, the king created permanent police, even if they did not have an organized army, the king believed that it was important to create one for defence and protection from possible attacks in any time.

Map 1 : represent the geographical location of Luba Kingdom



Source: www.wikipedia.org

The society of Luba Kingdom was structured by groups of people lineage, who spoke Bantu and related languages and dialects, formed a village with a tribal system⁴. Together, they formed chiefdom⁵. The latter was headed by headmaster named a Kilolo, and several

⁴ tribal system : traditions which ruled the population of tribes.

⁵ Chiefdom : the territory which a chief rules.

chiefdoms together formed province and provinces which collectively, forged the kingdom. What was remarkable is that each category of politic system and administrative division were headmaster and councils to the top of the regime. In addition, the king possessed all the power. For instance, in some tribal traditions, the king was able to appoint Kilolo as Head of Chiefdoms, sometimes for life and others for four years, though the king was also apt to depose them at anytime. Furthermore, the king was to give titles in important events as the chiefs of tribes and local “governments” local courts practised their own sacred traditions and links, spiritual cults depended on their beliefs on spirits of ancestors (Ogot 598-599) for strength and protection the spiritual nature of the kingdom. Accordingly, another title is presented which is Nsikala. This position was to handle the affairs of the kingdom in case of the death of the king. Historians believe that after the king’s death, a coronation was to be held to appoint the new one the chiefs resign from their office, as well as who appointed them or replaced them. (Vansina 71-73). According to what have been mentioned, one concludes that the king’s position was to ensure the continuity and stability of the kingdom by his given power, to choose the most qualified members from new or previous period of his kingship. Hence, the new king would carry on this tradition by creating his own administration freely. Nevertheless, war leaders and religious rituals for example, were a kind of pyramidal system of authority, between families in the village who were linked under patrilineage, and lineages of relations between villages. Similarly to the European feudal system, there were several pyramids inside one big pyramid where the king resided in its summit.

The king was helped by general councils for administration affaires and to collect tributes. The army and its head, Justice Council⁶, keeper of the regalia and supervisor of rituals, keeper of tradition and particularly of the unwritten constitution, Queen-mother with ritual role,

⁶ Justice Council : A group of people meet in a council headed by the king and help him implement the law on the perpetrator of the crime

each category has a local title that has a considerable amount of power but it was limited. If the chiefs of councils and citizens regarded him unpopular, unruly, or tyrannical, they would legally revolt and stand against him.

The people of Luba, despite being pagans, they believed in a supreme creator and that they should pray to God directly without a intermediate spirits and God. Since it was far to the Mankind affairs, man could establish a direct personal affair with God. Scholars confirmed that “numerous nature and ancestor spirits were believed to have more relevance to the occurrence of natural phenomena and to individual fortunes”. (Murphy 189)

Africans did not wait for European “missionaries” to show them the path to God, they already believed in God.

As one mentioned before that the South contained mines and was rich with mineral treasures which the people of Luba traded, such as: iron, copper, and, salt, etc. In addition, metal was transformed into tools and weapons to protect themselves. Whereas, the North comprised fruits as raffia and palm oil, vegetables and some various seeds, ect. Most of people from Northern and Southern Luba lived near the rivers, so they were fishermen and farmers who breed chickens and goats. Moreover, the revenue of taxes from soils was fairly collected.

2.4. The Kingdom of Kongo

The kingdom is geographically located in the West centre of the African continent, that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean’s coasts (along the coast of modern-day Cabinda to the Northern part of modern-day Angola). In the West and beyond the River of Kwango in the East, Gabon in South to Benguela plateau in large parts of North of Angola nowadays. (JOHNSON 18), these regions have a very rainy climate the season of rainfall is long and the drier is short, also landforms are diverse and scattered in tropical primitive forests that contain a

divergence in life. Animals and plants are not found in any place on the globe that is crossed by one of the greatest rivers in the world, the River Congo. The land is favoured by habitats. As a result, this led to the different distribution from a terrain to another, to keep this big area pointed out in order to balance powers and manage administration to cover it.

Map 2: represent the geographical location of Kongo kingdom



Source: www.wikipedia.org

The areas from the coast towards the centre are wealthy and rich with mineral raw materials from copper and iron. Scholars suggest that the population of the Kongo Kingdom was about two millions, whereas, other identify three millions (Britannica) and a half who settled in the South of the Congo River. The latter produced yams, banana, vegetables and palm kernels. While, in the East they cultivated grains, and the chiefdoms settled between the coasts along

the river Congo Bank from upstream in the North region called Mayombe (Ogot 547- 549). The coastal supplied the other groups inside the kingdom in those rainforests with fish and salt. Each group in the Kingdom had special features in supplying and purveying the others with minerals, palms oil, etc. Archaeologist found evidence that confirmed that the Kongolian even dealt with other foreign kingdoms where they settled along the Nile River, which had an economic system as any place in the world at that time.

The Kingdom of Kongo was a powerful and well-known civilization in Africa before European's colonial era. The Portuguese navigators led by Diego Cão⁷ arrived at the estuary of the Congo River (Green 18). In retrospect, the kingdom of kongo began by small Vungu chiefdom in the North of River Congo, and then later expanded its territory by coalition with other small kingdoms. The main coalition was with Loango chiefdom and also in the North of the river, small chiefdoms conquered some other groups and newly formed provinces.

Indeed, the kingdom was divided and structured to three social classes: the nobility, villagers and slaves. That impact on lifestyle and law status of the kingdom population, the nobles formed the ruling class of the kingdom. The king and his kindred, the chiefs of provinces also were from his children either predecessors or relative, the nobles determined the residence access to the land and leadership of the villages (Ogot 551) one concludes that the king called "Manikongo" had the absolute power, a centralized decision, in military, and the collection of taxes. The slaves were king's guard, every council, whether in village or province leader, was a judge and carried administrative duties. Moreover, the establishment of judicial system confirmed the importance and desire for equal treatment and laws among the citizens in whole kingdom (Vansina 41-42).

⁷ Diego Cão: was a Portuguese explore, He made two voyages sailing along the west coast of Africa in the 1480s, exploring the Congo River and the coasts of the present-day Angola and Namibia.

ancestor worship, and spirits in royal cemetery grove, worship of royal charms... (Ogot 554) and they had beliefs in their religion, for instance, according to them the king was responsible for rainfall and garnered fertile of soils. The Portuguese sent about 400 missionaries who arrived in Kongo to spread Christianity especially in rural zones at least most of them converted to Christianity. Historians emphasize that people of the Kongo Kingdom were intelligent in scientific and mathematical studies, where they used to walk days to determine the distance and the lunar months in order to count time (Johnson 20).

The region played a big role more than any other place in transatlantic slave trade from the African continent to the New World “North and South America”. Slaves were shipped along the rivers that were located in Kongo Kingdom “Congo River and its tributaries”, the African’s themselves contributed in this tragedy. Hence, the criminals and prisoners were sold to the Europeans, that brought them significant bargains with each other. However, as an attempt to develop Kongo, youngsters were sent to Portugal for education and experience (Johnson 20) to modernize the Kingdom of Kongo the “king asked for priests, school teachers, and masons, and for technicians to help him with military matters.” (Vansina 50), the leaders they had desired to educate the kingdom (they built nobility schools) in the interest of improving the situation of the kingdom. Besides, they adopted new and modern tactics in the army, and also they began to teach masons how to build and construct modern infrastructure, such as roads. Politically speaking, they started by reshaping the relationship of lineages for political power, which led to reshaping the kingdom in all aspects of Kongolese life especially when they converted and used the Catholic Christian religious teachings (that impacted the opponents of conservatives, leading to the rise of tension because the conversion to Christianity did not mean the abandonment of their religious ancestor spirits) (Toby Green 22). All that to show themselves and respectful role among the empires and African kingdoms but the

Europeans had bad intentions just to exploit resources in Africa economically, but the local culture was still well conserved.

The important geopolitics location of the kingdom in the world made it more likely to receive greed of great powers. Therefore, it underwent many military conflicts that happened between the three kingdoms on the Kongolese soils (Kongolese, Portuguese, and Dutch). The conflict which culminated in two defeats led the kingdom to the tunnel of civil wars (Toby Green 22). After a period of rehabilitation, it developed to organize its legal trade network of shipping via rivers and ports to transport the local agriculture products from fruit , wood , fish , salt , bear , and clothes, etc.

2.5. Lunda Kingdom

Lunda Kingdom was stretched from River Kwango to beyond the River Laupula in western African continent. It began as a group of small villages, the eldest who ruled the council and responsible for the supernatural for good life in the villages because they looked at them as the wisest and who have cognisance. In addition, most of the eldest are appointed through hereditary. As for the king, power was distributed equally to help rule the kingdom. Therefore, the headmen were not only appointed by hereditary, but also by matrilineal⁸ hereditary that shows the importance of women's role in the society of kingdom socially and politically (Vansina 80).

Previous studies point out that the king of Lunda had a system to collect taxes, and he made a special installation of posts to collect tributes. Hence, the villages were separated to political districts. Elaborately speaking, the collector of those tributes had no spiritual rights but he collected the taxes from local councils of districts which belonged to them and gave it to the central services. They even assigned another person to control the collectors to provide a fair

⁸ Matrilineal: the king were tracing descent through the maternal line

process transaction for everyone (Vansina 80), and sometimes march with military detachments to force villages to pay tributes (Ogot 602).

The king had sacred features to rule the kingdom, he was liable to install the headmen, as well as, depose them anytime he wanted in case they did not execute their duties,

3 : represent the geographical location of Lunda Kingdom and its neighbours



Source : www.wikipedia.org

or if they were not suitable with his own interests and perspectives. Therefore, he was responsible for all ranks, such as, granting titles. He had the absolute power to organize the councils and summon them for meetings when it was necessary. However, the king had always surrounded himself with numerous of councils, officials, and guards to help him even assign

war leaders. For instance, the generals sent their warriors to remote locations in order to win new territories, border guards to protect the kingdom from the attacks from the enemies, and religious titleholders were depended on to keep the stability, and protect the kingdom.

Lunda Kingdom in this period had international relationships, it made trade ties with Europeans especially Portugal. Trading gave them raw materials such as: copper, iron, ivory, gold, slaves, and some tropical products as fruits. In return for manufactured goods and weapons, they also received new plants to the region like: tomatoes, corn, and pineapples after gaining new techniques in farming and corps. As a result, Lunda used it to feed the rising population. By annexed new territories after guaranteeing its expansions when conquering neighbours tribes and provinces to obtain more paths to the coasts and build ports along river for free trade processes by weapons that they got it (Murphy 190).

Conclusion

During the early 1800s West African got weak in various fields, its population got lower as result of slave trade, and they were also used to exploit them as labours in mines and harvest local agricultural products to supply European's factories. Another fact is that the Europeans more over they established a new stations and on coastal areas was it can be easy to expend their trade holdings, also the exploration the interior of the continent, and discovered the cure medicines against equatorial diseases on the other hand, helped them to took control over the raw materials sources.

To prevent the friction between the colonial countries they called for a conference in Berlin, they agreed on the partition of African continent. As a case of study, it will be discuses the Belgian intervention in Congo in the following chapter.

Chapter Three

Belgian Intervention in Congo

Introduction

King Leopold's father believed that not being able to conquer an African country will never make Belgium recognized among the great colonizers. He made 50 attempts to get himself an African colony, but he failed. After Leopold the first deceased, his son continued what the father started, and he succeeded. The current chapter seeks to inform readers about the steps King Leopold the Second followed to control the Congo area.

3.1. Intervention in Congo

Despite the fact that Belgium adopted the imperialistic spirit a long time after Britain, France, Portugal, and Germany, which were considered as the most powerful countries in Europe in all fields, it was able to take control over the Congo Basin from 1865 to 1909. King Leopold II of Belgium was afraid to lose an important source that supplied his home factories.

Henry Morton Stanley after years of experience in exploring the different parts of the African continent, that he did for the favour of the different news papers of the United Kingdom; he tried to write several times to convince Queen Victoria that despite the difficulty and danger, Congo is a worthy country to be colonized; however, he never succeeded until King Leopold saw his works. Stanley was sent on a mission to colonize the Congo in 1879 on behalf of King Leopold the Second of Belgium.

In order to achieve his goal and make the Congo dream a reality. King Leopold and the other fourteen European countries met at the Berlin Conference in 1884 that Bismarck the German Chancellor called for. King Leopold took the chance to suggest the Congo idea. He informed the other countries about his aim to send missionaries to the Congolese people using his own fortune. He also gave them the total freedom to explore and trade from his country.

3.2. The Establishment of the International Association of the Congo

Henry Morton Stanley wanted fame; and to do that, he worked as an explorer for King Leopold the second of Belgium. Stanley led an expedition force in 1874 to map out the Congo Basin. He started exploring the western side of Africa. The force expedition consisted of armed European men and hundreds of local people to carry the needs of the trip; they were treated brutally and forced to carry boats in the dangerous African lands.

The purpose of the trip was not to make relationships with tribes' chiefs and local people like Stanley pretended. He succeeded to reach the Atlantic coasts via the Congo River and mapped out the geographical area. The path the troops and steam boats could reach in the inside of central Africa and the boats that could carry the raw materials arrived to east of the continent at Zanzibar (Hochschild 1999).

Under the name of Leopold the Second, King of Belgium, Henry Morton Stanley and the Committee as fellowmen made treaties with the tribes' chiefs with his own language to deceive the chiefs who could not know the meaning of what was he written in the treaties. King Leopold II established the Committee for Studies of the Upper Congo, and later renamed it "the International Association of the Congo" to pave the path for Europeans to enter the African continent along the River of Congo. Stanley succeeded to establish stations on the Upper Congo River and that was what led King Leopold to call for the right to impose his authority on the Congo area. King Leopold the Second was known for witnessing a failure in his personal life which made him seek material gains only, and Congo represented a satisfaction for his greed for power.

King Leopold did not want to control Congo on behalf of Belgium, but wanted to make it his own property. So that he has a direct access to profit and make his own fortune. He was not honest in telling the world about his real greedy intentions. So, he told them that the purpose behind colonizing was to spread Christianity and civilize the uncivilized.

The map below shows the areas Henry Morton Stanley Explored



Source: www.wikipedia.org

France on the other side had its own imperial ideas too, adopting the same idea Belgium did with rulers in the western region of Africa, and that disturbed the British authorities. Germany increased the conflict between France and Britain when it recognized that Britain aimed to conquer Egypt. Britain was afraid from Belgium imposing its authority on Congo, and wanted Portugal to conquer Congo. The European countries were divided into two groups. The ones who were against the policy of Leopold II and his authority on Congo, and the ones who were against the policy of Britain that gave the rights to Portugal because it was the first on the region. To prevent war between European countries, Africa was put on the table of negotiation to be divided among them.

3.3. Berlin Conference 1884-1885

As mentioned before, the idea of the Berlin Conference was to resolve the territorial disagreements that appeared between European countries in West Africa “Congo region”, the conference was held between November 15th, 1884 and February 26th, 1885 at Berlin in

Germany.

The conference was attended by high-ranking political and diplomatic personalities, and that reflected how great the importance of the conference was. It was represented by the delegates of the following countries: Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, the Ottoman Empire, Austria, Denmark, Netherland, Russia, United States of America, Sweden and Norway (as one country). The conference was ruled and dominated by the five Great Empires: Germany, France, United Kingdom, Portugal, and Belgium. The strange thing was that representatives from the continent that was torn apart were not invited to attend the conference.

On the surface, it seemed to organize the trade and freedom of navigation in West Africa but deeply and real domination was to partition and impose their powers on the profitable parts of Africa with no discussion of the humanitarian issues in the region.

After the Berlin Conference, the African International Association became the Congo Free State. King Leopold II headed the association which gathered a group of European investors, under humanitarian mission aid, to help the Congolese to be civilized, educated, get healthy, and taught to benefits from modern life, and so on. As a result of the 450 treaties made between Belgium and the locals, King Leopold asserted his right to govern these territories(Congo Basin) under the title of Free State, the counties participating at the conference recognized Leopold as its roll. The Belgian king exploited the innovations of Stanley in the area and established bases all along the Congo River and Lualaba River to open the interior, and that is how the steamboats took their ways to the bases and harbours via rivers to bring raw materials and minerals.

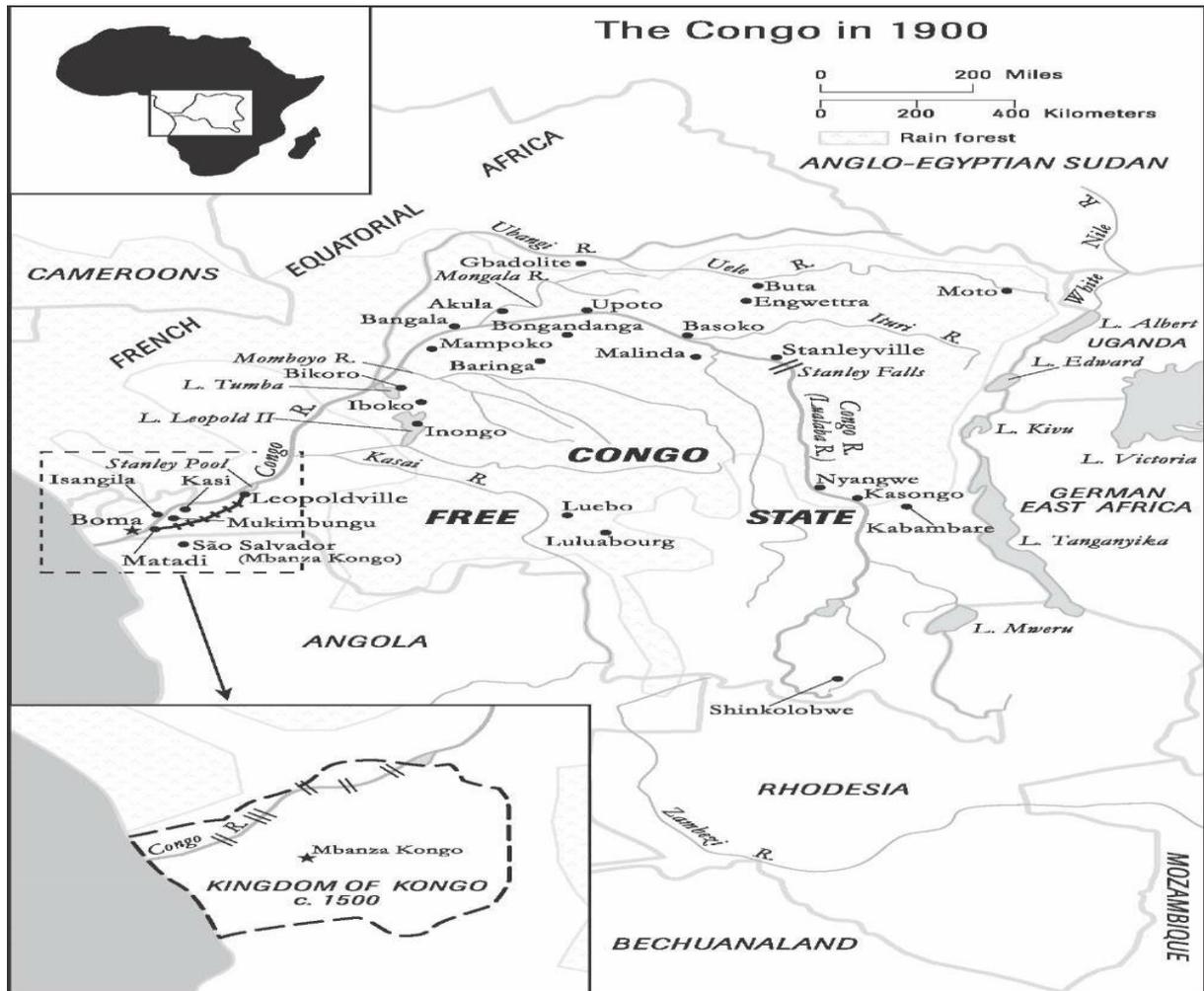
The strange fact that the king never visited Congo and the other European colonial countries ruled the lands overseas by parliament and cabinet. It was a government affair, but

Belgium king ruled Congo by the king capacity (Van Reybrouck 62). In Belgium the king was considered a constitutional Monarch; he had limited power. But, in Congo he was the absolute ruler, after the Conference of Berlin, he began acting as the ruler of the Free State of Congo under the cover of “Association Internationale du Congo” As a result, he was recognized by Europeans, king Leopold II was a symbol of justice and had the ideals.

On the ground, the matters went differently. The Congo Free State existed just on paper “His ideals turned out to be rather pecuniary, his means often extremely shaky(Van Reybrouck 63) Even though he took control over the Congo, Some local leaders rejected to bow to his authority till the end of the so called Free State. The king entered in many territories, and that bothered France, England, Portugal because his greed was unlimited. He wanted more lands in different areas such as the Nile, Victoria Lake in the east and the Zambezi to the south despite the fact that borders were already discussed in 1885 , “Congo’s definitive borders would be established only in 1910” (65). From 1885 to 1890 Belgium was still engaged especially in trade of ivory, they used the stations that were made by Stanley upward 1879. These stations were attacked by tribes several times such as Kwango in the south-western Congo, parts of Katanga in the south, and Uélé to the northeast they did not raise the flags to the new comers.

King Leopold II invested big money from his own to expand his state especially in the new settlement areas, and that helped him more to extend his fist on the region. Also, he did not impose hard conditions in trade to allow free movement of trade to main land (Belgium) so that the costs stay low and the benefits will be at high level, his imperialism was based on economic goals. The revenues moved to Brussels not to develop the Free State as he had called in the Berlin Conference. Leopold used one of his states, Congo, to supply the other, Belgium. He dreamed of stability, strong economic, greatness among Europeans powers, and national pride in his kingdom. With regard to the unstable situation Belgium was going through in this period, King Leopold thought that Congo is the safety valve.

Map 5: the Congo Free State Borders in 1900



Source: Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*, A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa

In 1886 Boma became the greatest town capital of Congo, where the administration buildings were established such as: governor's house, post mail, barracks for training troops and others.

3.4. Life style of Boma

People became as Europeans at many faces. When they worked in whites' houses and watched what was going on: in wearing clothes, ways of eating, writing, taking pictures. King Leopold II swore to end Swahili-Arab slave trade, but there were no differences between the life of Congolese children in European houses and the life of slaves in Arabic Peninsula. King Leopold II began sending his subjects to Congo and his troops led the expeditions and

established stations along the river and were ruled by Belgian citizens. Also, he applied the French language as administration language. The Missionaries took with them few children to learn crafts to use them in mines, glassblowing, basins built ships, sometimes organized journeys for expedition to show Europeans the life of Africans, it was kind of humiliation, they returned to Congo with stories about the great stone buildings, cold weather and the snow, steam boats, what Europeans wore in their feet, cows, fish, sheep, seasickness, salt water and many things about life in Europe, also the Belgians cared about how to teach Congolese not enough to put them under their control.

Grenfell was another great explorer after Stanley; from 1884 he began piloting his steamboat in Congo's river tributaries "the Ubangi, the Kasai, the Kwango and other rivers", within two years he covered more than 20000 kilometres (He used local people to help him at the works on boats when shipping, also as mediators between him as a missionary man and the people of tribes they met in the explorations. Many blacks converted to Christianity and completed the circle of communication and helped missionaries to spread the new religion. They played an important role in the religious turnabout and Christianizing Congolese people, that helped the native societies to get rid of old traditions, such as sacrificing slaves as an offering to God, and a kind of tribal traditions and ties that appeared in marriage.

Following the Berlin Conference King Leopold II withdrew from his international association and gave priority to Belgian missionaries (Catholics) that they divided Congo as they wished and exiled the British missionaries (Protestants). Governors called tribes' leaders, ordered them to obey the officials and the missionaries, their schools were under the state protection and obligatory as conditions that four out of every five children completing their studies enrol in the Public Force; the Free State's army was not only for Jesus, but also for the King.

Schools were run like a Belgian military academy. Children after they finished education

stayed and married in the same village where the schools were. They established markets, farms, carpenter's shop, a little hospital, and even a printing press, gathering formed big cities such as Europeans towns in buildings and paved streets and the traditional village lost its ties and features.

King Leopold in the Free State of Congo, created a colonial army under Belgian officers leadership. It was set up in 1885, combined in this armed forces black people, at the first years he dedicated half of his available budget to the army and the army of Free State at first was formed out of a few men who were not equipped, they had simple weapons, rode donkeys.

“In 1889, there were fifteen hundred recruits rising by 1904 to seventeen thousand. The public forces had twenty-five thousand Albini rifles with bayonet, four million rounds of ammunition, 150 cannons, and nineteen Maxim machine guns, making it the largest standing army in Central Africa”(Van Reybrouck 86)The Free State gave a new meaning of life to countless Congolese.

It was from 1890 onward, matters became darker. After years of influence of the Free State on thousands of Congolese lives in the end they were under the iron fist of it. They began facing violence, fear, and death but the Mastermind was enterprise Leopold II.

Leopold II had acquired the Congo in 1885 in the Berlin conference with his main promises, protection of free trade, ban slavery trade, the trade until 1890 kept these promises and the free trade flourished, and to facilitate the trade, the infrastructure and administration must be built in this lands even though he could not win to stop slaves trade, from time to time the missionaries got free children as gifts. Leopold launched in these projects willing to make big profits, he spent huge fortune of his own money on Congo but, he did not win profits, he was disappointed and suffered from a great loss. It was point when he started breaking his promises, the Belgian state invested in Congo construction of railways to hide the loss of its

King. The agreement was if the crisis continued the Belgian state would take control over the Congo. King Leopold executed much series of doctrines, lands, all fortunes and agricultures lands, mines, raw material sources, or any spot discover it contain source of fortune, immediate declared it property of the Free State, this way, he wiped out the free trade, Leopold decisions stole from people all what was precious for them.

The King's army launched wars in east of Congo to obtain lands around Nile but they were defeated and lost many troops and money. Leopold's troops did not get their wages, and sometimes they did not find even what to eat. Blacks and locals revolted against the whites, which killed the revolts in brutal ways, especially the leaders, used blacks as labours (porters) in construction the railways more than thousand died because tropical diseases, bad treatment, and the harsh conditions of work, workers obtained some money as wages, to buy their needs from state shops, in the end of the project some of the workers stayed as Employees, repairing wagon of trains and even Station's leaders. All that to establish new and modern as Europe, a financial system and spread the dealing with money among Congolese people and left the old ways in trade exchange (goods for goods).

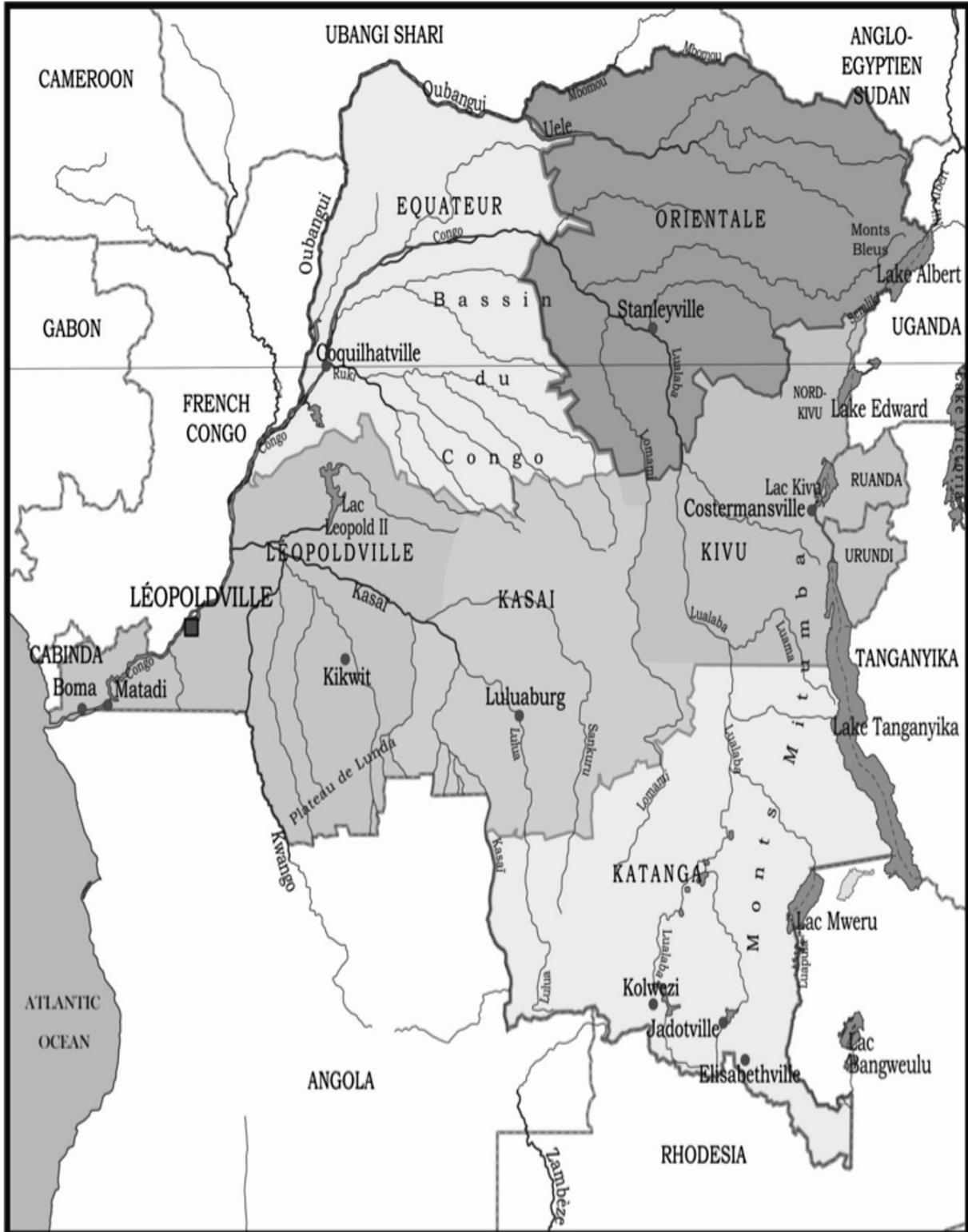
King Leopold in the free trade played the role of the owner of major grounds in Congo. But, he was unable to develop it; as a solution to that he had to change his commercial attentions; give huge concessions to the companies to exploit in Congo. He founded Anversoise company in north of the Congo River, and Rubber Company ABIR in the south. The economic exploitation of Congolese was in the hands of the king and few powerful money owners of Investors designed by the king himself. Also, he was usually the main shareholder in the new firms or at least the one who gets the right to gets the big share of benefits.

Congo's economic was no longer depending on Ivory, the transaction from wooden and iron wheels after invention of cars, and the jungles of Congo was rich for trees, from which rubber is extracted; it was a gift for Belgium and King Leopold. The industrial countries in Europe and

the USA asked more and more from this substance to supply their cars and bicycles factories. In 1891 Congo was producing some hundreds of tons; the quantity rose up to 6600 tons in 1901, and that made the Free State become a big economic centre. In the end, King Leopold got his benefits from his investment, and shown that the colony is good source for economic welfare, national glory, imperial reputation. The Belgian king built in his kingdom a new royal palace, huge park and big museum in Brussels inspired from the famous places in Europe's big cities. Meanwhile, Leopold refused to invested in the Free State from the revenues of rubber, he just sent wine and priceless instruments to government officials. The only thing that occupied his mind was supervising on farming and harvest of rubber that depended on the handworks of local people who were forced to go to the jungle for rubber collection from trees and process it. He designed the public forces(Africans had limited military training and were taught how to use weapons to control farmers and collectors, the labourers were paid for the quantity of rubber collected; no rubber, no wages. For that they forced on themselves to collect more, under the terror of weapons, the investors abused local population, tortured and even murdered them without any mercy, sometimes when men were sent to jungle, women and children were taken as hostages until workers deliver enough quantity of rubber baskets. If they bring insufficient amount of rubber, they get killed or any member of their family would also die. Women were subjects to sexual violence and torture. The natives' lives were worthless; floggings were an official disciplinary measure and physical punishment was ordinary in schools with uprising the flag of the Free State, the whites treated them cruelly but, all that mostly executed by the blacks. Congolese instead received a pay for their efforts and were motivated to continuing produce, the authorities neglected them. The rubber must go to the main land freely without cost.

At The beginning of the 20th century the pictures of Congolese at newspapers and magazines black people cutting off hands and heads, bodies tied to the trees, travelled over the world and

Map 6: The Political Borders of Congo in 20th century



Source: Frankema, E., & Buelens, F. *Colonial exploitation and economic development*. Routledge, 2015. p5.

casually killing witnessed atrocities of Leopold rubber policies in Congo, the voices in Europe

to be raised toward the Belgian ruler, the free state administration contained racist members, torture, violations of power and massacres happened; for example, René de Perme an officer member in public forces, he d in a bath of blood in vain and without purpose, he slaughtered the house workers for a small mistake without mercy , shouted from his veranda's house toward the passers, the execution operations was occupied daily, Léon Fiévez after only four months in his public services, killed 572 person, burned 162 villages, plunder the fields of local farmers , it spread the diseases as sleeping sickness ,malnutrition among locals. As a consequence, natives lost their agriculture fields, and the policy of rubber system was called the bloodstained rubber policy

The majority who went to Congo from Belgium were youth looking for adventure; they were from lower and middle social classes from country sides or ex-military who were looking for fortune and wealth. After reports arrived to the royal palace at what really happened in Congo, the free state Condemned these Leopold behaviours and action in Congo by words, in reality they couldn't master on their its subordinates, as result of Leopold policy, Congo lost a big number from its population, some of them run to jungles, fled from rubber collection ... Historians called it "Genocide".

In 1904, the king of Belgium allowed to send international committee to investigate about behaviours of the Free State contained. Judges selected from outside of Belgium. Indeed for acquit and lift the responsibility on Leopold, and surly will absolve him of all blame, after months of its works in Congo, the report was very real explained the policies of Free State. The international pressure was upraising on Leopold. The choice was given was left his lands overseas and let Belgium to rolled Congo in 1906, slowed the procedures in the end he ordered to burned the archives of the Free State.

Conclusion

As result of the free state policy in Congo basin in its term, by the year 1908, about thirty

thousand people had learned to read and write, sixty thousand children were attending schools, more than half million served in army, millions converted to Christianity, many native people affected by rubber policy and had been struck down by sickness and infectious diseases and death. Leopold II died in 1909 left behind horrible effects on Congolese people, and period changed the history of Congo.

General Conclusion

Imperialism, for a long time, has been the most effective means by which great powers like England, Spain, France, America, and Portugal controlled vulnerable nations like the African countries. The imperialists changed their way in colonizing others, and that created what is called the old imperialism and the new imperialism.

The present study aimed to show how was the new imperialism applied through the Belgian intervention in the Congo region; which is one of the richest countries of the African continent. It aimed to show how Belgium used different strategies to enter Congo and exploit both human power and land sources to strengthen its economy in Belgium. The research also aimed to expose how violent were the King of Belgium towards the Congolese people without forgetting that the first reason Congolese claimed when they headed to Congo was to civilize not to torture. Therefore, the empirical findings in this study provide a new understanding of the New Imperialism find in Congo, where it represented a different form of the domination of European countries, precisely speaking, Belgian intervention in Congo. This study provides the first comprehensive assessment of the Congolese experience as a symbolically “free state” under the new imperialism represented by Belgium forces (Public Forces). In addition, the findings of research demonstrated the emblems that were mentioned in Berlin Conference (1884-1885) that of civilizing Congolese, and bettering the lifestyle in Congo, were mere words on paper.

It was hypothesized that the theories of the new imperialism such as the economic, psychological, diplomatic, national prestige, and the African dimension were realized in the African countries. Belgium did not conquer Congo directly, but it went under the pretext of spreading Christianity and civilization. The intervention of Belgium in Congo proved that all the theories were applied. Therefore, the hypothesis was proved to be applicable in certain

contexts related to the Congo case.

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