

COLONIAL AND POST-COLONIAL AFRICA

This is a history of Africa from the late nineteenth century to the present day. In the first half of the course, we will study the imperial scramble to colonize Africa, the broader integration of African societies into the world economy, the social, political and medical impact of imperial policies, Western popular images of Africa in the colonial period, the nationalist struggles that resulted in the independent African states, and the persistent problems faced by those post-colonial states. In the final half of the course, we will investigate three cases: Congo-Zaire and the state as a source of chaos through the Second Congo War; violence, liberation and memories of childhood in late colonial Rhodesia and postcolonial Zimbabwe; the political history of economic development programs and the advent of “resource conflicts,” particularly those involving diamonds.

The books listed below are available for purchase at the Jeffrey Amherst Bookstore. (Copies are also on Reserve in Frost Library). In addition, there are packets of photocopied readings to be purchased from the History Department office in Chapin II.

Philip Curtin, *Disease and Empire*
Caroline Elkins, *Imperial Reckonings*
Peter Godwin, *When a Crocodile Eats the Sun*
Uzodinma Iweala, *Beasts of No Nation*
John Parker and Richard Rathbone, *African History: A Very Short Introduction*
Marie Beatrice Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter*

There will be three class meetings per week. For the first few weeks of the course the Monday meetings will be lectures, and the Wednesday and Friday meetings will be discussions of the readings assigned. The readings assigned for the Monday meetings are *not* optional, as they provide essential background information both for the lecture as well as for the following readings. After the first few weeks, every meeting will be devoted to discussions of the readings. **Class attendance and participation count approximately 25% toward the final grade.**

Each student must be prepared to discuss the readings assigned, and to write five papers. The first two papers will be 3 to 4 pages long and will each be a “reaction paper” to one week’s readings (your choice of weeks) in the first half of the course. The third and fourth papers will each be 5 pages long and will be on two out of the three case studies in the second half of the course. The final paper will be in place of a final examination, and will be due on the last day of exam period. For this final paper, you will choose *one* of your first two papers to revise and expand to a twelve page paper that reassesses the original topic in the light of later readings and the case studies. In addition, students will be expected to participate in discussion boards on Blackboard as well as in discussions in class; Blackboard postings will not be graded individually but participation will be counted into the class participation grade. On Monday, February 11, there will be a pass/fail map quiz in class based on the current political map of Africa. A copy of a study map, plus one blank map for practice, will be handed out in class.

WEEK 1: PRE-COLONIAL SOCIETIES AND MYTHS ABOUT THE PAST

Mon. Lecture
1/28

Wed. John Parker and Richard Rathbone, *African History: A Very Short Introduction*, Chapter 1.
Philip Curtin, *Disease and Empire*, pp. 1-28.

- Fri. John Parker and Richard Rathbone, *African History: A Very Short Introduction*, Chapter 2.
Peter Geschiere, *The Modernity of Witchcraft*, pp. 1-25 (photocopy)

WEEK 2: THE IMPERIAL TAKEOVER

- Mon. Parker and Rathbone, *Africa*, Chapters 3 and 4.
2/4
- Wed. Jeremy Rich, "Leopard Men,' Slaves, and Social Conflict in Libreville (Gabon), c.1860-1879," *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*, Vol. 34, No. 3 (2001), pp. 619-638 (photocopy).
Jean and John Comaroff, "The Medicine of God's Word: Saving the Soul by Tending the Flesh," in J. and J. Comaroff, *Of Revelation and Revolution*, vol. 2, pp. 323-64 (photocopy).



"Dr. Livingstone, I presume."

Video: For Friday's class see *Black and White in Color* on streaming video.

- Fri. Paul Landau, "With Camera and Gun in Southern Africa: Inventing the Image of Bushmen," in *Miscast*, ed. by Pippa Skotnes, pp. 129-141 (photocopy).



"Crying Bushwoman," not dated, probably 1930s, from Killie Campbell Library, University of Kwa-Zulu/Natal.

WEEK 3: ECONOMICS, CULTURE, AND IMPERIAL CONTROL

- Mon. Parker and Rathbone, *Africa*, Chapter 5.
2/11
- Wed. Jean and John Comaroff, *Of Revelation and Revolution*, Vol. 2, pp. 234-273 (photocopy)
- Fri. Jean Allman, "Rounding up Spinsters: Gender Chaos and Unmarried Women in Colonial Asante," *The Journal of African History* Vol. 37, No. 2 (1996), pp. 195-214 (photocopy).
Jane L. Parpart, "'Where Is Your Mother?': Gender, Urban Marriage, and Colonial Discourse on the Zambian Copperbelt, 1924-1945," *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (1994), pp. 241-271 (photocopy).

WEEK 4: COLONIAL LAW, DISEASE AND WITCHCRAFT

- Mon. Philip Curtin, *Disease and Empire*, pp. 74-112, 202-227.
2/18
- Wed. Richard Waller, 'Witchcraft and colonial law in Kenya', *Past & Present*, 180 (2003) pp. 241-276 (photocopy).
- Fri. Helen Epstein, *The Invisible Cure: Africa, the West, and the Fight against AIDS*, pp. 49-88 (photocopy).

WEEK 5: THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN NATIONALISM

Video: Watch for class on Monday, *The Battle of Algiers*, on streaming video.

- Mon. Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, pp. 35-55, 249-51, 289-310 (photocopy).
- Wed. Michael Lambert, "From Citizenship to Négritude: 'Making a Difference' in Elite Ideologies of Colonial Francophone West Africa," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 35 (1993), pp. 239-262 (photocopy).
- Fri. Gay W. Seidman, "'No Freedom without the Women': Mobilization and Gender in South Africa, 1970-1992," *Signs* Vol. 18, No. 2 (Winter, 1993), pp. 291-320 (photocopy).

WEEK 6: ANTI-COLONIALISM AND NATIONALISM--MAU MAU AND BRITAIN'S GULAG

- Mon. Caroline Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning*, pp. 1-153.
3/3



Photo: "Rounding up Mau Mau Suspects."

Wed. Caroline Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning*, pp. 154-232.

Fri. Caroline Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning*, pp. 233-280, 306-318, 354-367.

WEEK 7: ETHNICITY AND GENOCIDE: RWANDA

Video: Chronicle of a Genocide Foretold, episode 1, to be seen via on-line streaming by class on Monday.

Mon. Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide," *The Atlantic Monthly*, September 2001
3/10 (photocopy).
National Security Archive, (private) on-line site with documents pertaining to U.S. Official inaction during the genocide:
<http://www.gwu.edu/~Ensarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB53/index.html>

Wed. Philip Gourevitch, *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*, pp. 1-46, 149-171 (photocopy).

Fri. Marie Beatrice Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter*, pp. xi-xvi, 3-137.

SPRING BREAK

CONGO/ZAIRE AND THE STATE AS A CREATOR OF CHAOS

Monday: Johannes Fabian, "White Humor," *Transition* No. 55 (1992), pp. 56-61 (photocopy).
3/24 Adam Hochschild, "Mr. Kurtz, I Presume?" *The New Yorker*, April 7, 1997, pp. 40ff (photocopy).

Wed. Nancy Rose Hunt, "Tintin and the Interruptions of Congolese Comics," *Images and Empires*, ed. by P. Landau and D Kaspin, pp. 90-123 (photocopy).
Hergé, *Tintin in the Congo*, 1-62 (on reserve).

- Friday Edouard Bustin, "Remembrance of Sins past: Unraveling the Murder of Patrice Lumumba," *Review of African Political Economy*, Vol. 29, No. 93/94, (Sep.,2002), pp. 537-560 (photocopy).
George Lardner, Jr., "Did Ike Authorize a Murder? Memo Says Eisenhower Wanted Congolese Premier Dead," *The Washington Post*, August 8, 2000, (photocopy).
- Monday 3/31 Mel McNulty, "The Collapse of Zaire: implosion, revolution, or external sabotage?" *Journal of Modern African Studies* 37 (1999), pp. 53-82 (photocopy).
Marie Beatrice Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter*, pp. 138-195.
- Wed. Marie Beatrice Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter*, pp. 196-246.
"A journey into the most savage war in the world: My travels in the Democratic Vacuum of Congo," access on-line:
<http://johannhari.com/archive/article.php?id=863>
Alroy Fonseca, "Four Million Dead: The Second Congolese War, 1998-2004," access on-line: <http://www.geocities.com/afonseca/CongoWar.htm>
- Fri. Nadine Puechguirbal, "Women and War in the Democratic Republic of the Congo," *Signs* Vol. 28, No. 4 (Summer, 2003), pp. 1271-1281 (photocopy)
Human Rights Watch, "Triangle of Death: Victims' Stories," access on-line:
<http://hrw.org/campaigns/drc/2006/katanga/victims.htm>

ASSIGNMENT DUE FRIDAY (if writing a paper on this unit).

ZIMBABWE: Colonialism and Violence, Memory and Childhood

- Monday 4/7 Terence Ranger, "Taking Hold of the Land: Holy Places and Pilgrimages in Twentieth Century Zimbabwe," *Past and Present* 117 (November 1987), pp. 158-194 (photocopy).
- Wed. Timothy Burke, "'Our Mosquitoes Are Not So Big': Images and Modernity in Zimbabwe," in *Images and Empires: Visuality in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa*, ed. by P. Landau and D. Kaspin, pp. 41-55 (photocopy).
David Lan, *Guns and Rain*, pp. 1-8 (photocopy).
- Friday David Lan, *Guns and Rain*, pp. 29-71, 207-229 (photocopy).
Heike Schmidt, "Healing the Wounds of War," *Journal of Southern African Studies* 23 (1997), pp. 301-310 (photocopy).
- Monday 4/14 Peter Godwin, *When a Crocodile Eats the Sun*, pp. 3-154
- Wed Peter Godwin, *When a Crocodile Eats the Sun*, pp. 155-261
- Friday Peter Godwin, *When a Crocodile Eats the Sun*, pp. 262-341
"Zimbabwe I: This Land Is Our Land," *Africa Confidential* (photocopy).
"A Heartbeat Away," *Africa Confidential*, 17 December 2004 (photocopy).
Mark Doyle, "Tough Issues Dog Ambitious Summit," BBC on-line:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7135721.stm>

ASSIGNMENT DUE FRIDAY (if writing a paper for this unit)

RESOURCE CONFLICTS AND DEVELOPMENT QUANDRIES

Video: see for class on Monday, *Blood Diamonds*, a History Channel documentary on the role of diamonds in financing African conflicts (on-line streaming).

Monday Ernest Harsch, "Conflict Resources: from 'curse' to blessing," *Africa Renewal*, Vol.20 #4
4/21 (January 2007); read on-line:

<http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol20no4/204-conflict-resources.html>

Parker and Rathbone, *African History*, Chapter 6.

Wed. Assis Malaquias, "Making War & Lots of Money: The Political Economy of Protracted Conflict in Angola," *Review of African Political Economy*, Vol. 28, No. 90, (Dec., 2001), pp. 521-536 (photocopy).

John Pickrell, "Gems of War," *Science News*, Vol. 162, No. 6 (Aug., 2002), pp. 90-92 (photocopy).

Fri. Howard French, "The Mercenary Position," *Transition*, No. 73 (1997), pp. 110-121 (photocopy).

Alfred B. Zack-Williams, "Sierra Leone: The Political Economy of Civil War, 1991-98," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 20, No. 1, (Feb., 1999), pp. 143-162 (photocopy).

Monday: Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion*, pp. 1-37 (on reserve).

4/21 Story on U.S. public opinion on aid to Africa:

http://www.americans-world.org/digest/regional_issues/africa/africa3.cfm



"In Ivory Coast, two young girls prepare food for workers in the coffee fields." Photo by Christopher Anderson for *The New York Times*, December 12, 2004 (<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/12/12/weekinreview/12seng.html>)

Wed: David Landes, *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations*, pp. 422-441 (photocopy).

D. Lim, "One Angry African Puts Big Money on Trial," *New York Times*, February 11, 2007; read on-line:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/11/movies/11denn.html>

C. Dugger, "World Bank Neglects African Farming, Study Says," *New York Times*,

October 15, 2007; read on-line:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/15/world/africa/15worldbank.html>

- Fri. Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion*, pp. 38-96 (on reserve).
 Celia Dugger, "Ending Famine, Simply by Ignoring the Experts," *New York Times*,
 December 2, 2007; read on-line:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/world/africa/02malawi.html>
 Sharon LaFraniere, "World Bank Reports Progress in Sub-Saharan Africa," *New York Times*,
 November 15, 2007; read on-line:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/15/world/africa/15africa.html>

ASSIGNMENT DUE FRIDAY (IF WRITING A PAPER FOR THIS UNIT)

POST-COLONIAL AFRICA: A Reappraisal

- Monday Jacques Pauw, *Dances with Devils*, pp. 199-217 (photocopy).
 5/5 Sharon LaFraniere, "African Crucible: Cast as Witches, Then Cast Out," *New York Times*,
 November 15, 2007. Read on-line and see accompanying slideshow:
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/15/world/africa/15witches.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Video: For discussion in class on Wednesday, see *Ezra* via on-line streaming video.

- Wed Uzodinma Iweala, *Beasts of No Nation*, pp. 1-73.



"In Liberia, and throughout West Africa, warlords commonly conscript children as soldiers." Photo by Michael Kamber for *The New York Times*
http://www.nytimes.com/2004/12/12/weekinreview/12seng.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

- Fri Uzodinma Iweala, *Beasts of No Nation*, pp. 74-142.
 Parker and Rathbone, *African History*, Chapter 7.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT, IN LIEU OF A FINAL EXAM, DUE LAST DAY OF EXAM PERIOD: May 16