

Spring 1987

History 445

History of Equatorial Africa

Mr. Vansina

GENERAL: Readings

Except for the first week, required reading assignments should be completed the week before the classes to which they pertain.

Credits and examinations

3 credits normal. The midterm exam can be replaced by a paper under conditions as follow (a) the topic must be submitted to the instructor and be approved before the end of week 3 and (b) the paper must be submitted on the date of the midterm exam (Friday week 8).

Texts: Required:

D. Birmingham, P. Martin, The History of Central Africa, London (Longman) 1983 Vol. 2 (pap.)

K. Fields, Revival and Rebellion in Central Africa, Princeton 1985 (hardback)

J. Conrad, Heart of Darkness (pap.) various editions.

Nzongola Ntalaja (ed) The Crisis in Zaire: Myths and Realities. New York, (Africa World Press) 1986 (pap.)

Optional:

L.H. Gann, P. Duignan, The Rulers of Belgian Africa: 1884-1914, Princeton 1979 (hardback)

R. Slade, King Leopold's Congo. London (OUP) 1962 (hardcover)

R. Anstey, King Leopold's Legacy, London (OUP) 1966 (hardcover)

V. S. Naipaul, A Bend in the River, New York (vintage) 1986 (pap)

SYLLABUS.

PRELUDE

Week 1: Introduction

M. goal and plan; geography

W. background to the nineteenth century.

F. slides; geography and ways of life (xix th c)

Reading. Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 19, entry Zaire 1119-1126

Ajayi, J. A., Crowder M., Historical Atlas of Africa, maps 1-5, 37, 47

H. M. Stanley, Through the Dark Continent, Chapters XIX-XXIV (my ed.)
London 1890: 326-449

Optional Reading. Ibidem, Angola, Zambia, Congo, Gabon, Cameroun,
Equatorial Guinea.

Week 2: Trade and Space by the 1870's

M. The West Atlantic Trade in Forest and Savanna

W. Zanzibari and Jallaba: Trade from the Nile and the Indian Ocean.

F. slides: The Late Slave Trade in Gabon, 'Explorers'

Reading. H. M. Stanley, o.c., Chapters XXV-XXXIV (my ed.) London 1890:
450-621 Graduate Student Reading. J. Vansina, L'Afrique centrale
vers 1875, - La Conference de geographie de 1876 (ARSOM) Brussels
1976: 1-32; optional 33-169

VIOLENCE AND BIRTH OF AN UNDERCAPITALIZED COLONY (1877-1920)

Week 3: Creating Colonial Space

M. The scramble for Central Africa

W. The furnace of war.

F. slides. Conquest and transport.

Reading: Western Equatorial Africa - The Cambridge History of
Africa, vol, 6: 298-358; P. M. Martin, The violence of empire
Birmingham, D. Martin, P., History of Central Africa Vol. 2 (henceforth
HCA) 1-26 J. Ajayi. M. Crowder, o.c., map 60. Optional reading
Hinde S. L. The Fall of the Congo Arabs. London 1897. Graduate reading
J. L. Vellut, La violence dans l'Etat Independant du Congo - Cultures
et developement xvi (3-4) 671-707. Glance at N. Ascherson, The
King Incorporated New York 1964. 85-end.

Week 4: The human cost of primitive capital accumulation.

M. Looting Forests and the Downfall of the Congo State.

W. Work, Famine, Epidemic, Death.

F. Slides: Raubwirtschaft: Rubber.

Readings. J. Conrad, The Heart of the Matter. R. Harms, The World
ABIR made - African Economic History, 12, 1983: 125-139. Optional
Reading. R. Harms, The End of Red Rubber - Journal of African History
16, 1975: 73-88. Graduate Reading Harms in JAH cited. R. Slade,
King Leopold's Congo 1-128; L. Gann, P. Duignan, The Rulers of Belgian
Africa: 1884-1914,: 116-158.

Week 5: The new dispensation.

M. A new state

W. A new rural order.

F. slides Zambia, colonial order.

Readings. K. Fields, Revival and Rebellion in Colonial Central
Africa. 1-90. Optional reading. M. W. Hilton Simpson, Land and
Peoples of the Kasai. Chicago 1912. Graduate Reading. L. Gann,
P. Duignan, o.c., 3-51, 85-115, 164-197.

Week 6: A clash of civilizations:

M. Mission, school and town.

W. Europeans seen by Congolese, Congolese by Europeans.

F. slides: The arts to 1920.

Readings. K. Fields, o.c., 91-192. Optional reading, H. Sutton
Smith Yakuju: The Very Heart of Africa, London c. 1910 and W. MacGaffey
the West in Congolese Experience - P.D. Curtin, Africa and the West,
1972: 49-74 and ibidem J. W. Fernandez, Fang Representations under
Acculturation: 3-48. Graduate reading J.L. Vellut, Matériaux pour
une image du blanc dans la société coloniale du Congo Belge, 25 (paper);
MacGaffey, Fernandez o.c. B. Yates, The Missions and Educational
Development in Belgian Africa 1876-1908, Ph.D. 1967, or if not
available The Triumph and Failure of Mission Vocational Education in
Zaire 1879-1908

Comparative Education Review 20,2,1976: 193-208. and refs to other articles by her there fn 74 (Language Policy, Industrial Education) Optional Graduate Reading: Anon. Zaire 1885-1985: Centans de regards belges, Brussels 1985.

THE MODEL COLONY IN THE AGE OF NATIONAL CAPITAL. 1920-1960

Week 7: Chronicle of a Colony

M. War, Boom, Bust, War.: 1920-1945

W. Towards Independence: 1945-1980.

F. Slides. The Belgian Congo.

Readings. K. Fields, o.c., 198-284.; A. Ajayi, M. Crowder, o.c., maps 62-72 B. Jewsiewicki, Belgian Africa, - The Cambridge History of Africa Vol. 7. 461-493. Optional Reading: T. Marvel, The New Congo New York 1947. (for an American apologist). Graduate Reading

C. Young, Politics in the Congo. Princeton 1965.

Week 8: Poles and Backwaters ?

M. The Mining Economy

W. The Agricultural Economy

F. MID TERM EXAM

Reading J.-L. Vellut, Mining in the Belgian Congo - HCA:126-162;

B. Jewsiewicki, Rural Society and the Belgian Colonial Economy,

-HCA: 95-125. Graduate Reading: B. Fetter, The Creation of Elisabeth ville: 1910-1940, Stanford 1976, C. Perrings, Black Mineworkers in

Central Africa, New York 1979. R. Anstey, King Leopold's Legacy,

London 1966, p. 1-121.

Week 9: Colonial Society

M. A Tale of Two Worlds: Town and Village

W. A Tale of Protest: Labor, Peasants, Elites.

F. slides: Elites and cities.

Reading W. G. Clarence Smith, Capital accumulation and class formation in Angola-HCA 163-199; L. Vail, The Political Economy of East-Central Africa-HCA: 224-231, 243-250. M. Lyons, From Death Camps' to Cordon sanitaire - Journal of African History, 26 (1) 1985, 33-49. Optional Reading. H. Powdermaker. Coppertown, New York 1962. esp. 151-219. Graduate Reading. R. Anstey, o.c. 143-264; IDEM, Belgian Rule in the Congo and the aspirations of the évolué class L.H. Gann, P. Duignan Colonialism in Africa Vol. 2: 194-225; J-L. Vellut, Le Katanga industriel en 1944: malaises et anxiétés dans la société coloniale -Anon. Le Congo belge durant la seconde guerre mondiale, (ARSON) Brussels 1983: 495-523; Optional Reading: E. Higginson The Making of an African Working Class: The UMRK and the African Mine Worker: 1907-1945 PhD 1979: P. Lumumba, Le Congo, terre d'avenir, est-il menacé? Brussels. 1961.

Week 10: Cultural Aspirations.

M. Churches: European and African

W. Education and Urban Leisure.

F. Slides: Tourist art, as a commentary on society.

Reading. R. A. Austen, R. Headrick, Equatorial Africa under Colonial

Rule-HCA: 27-94 Optional Reading. J. M. Janzen, W. MacGaffey,

An Anthology of Kongo Religion, Lawrence Kansas 1974. Graduate Reading.

W. MacGaffey, Modern Kongo Prophets, Bloomington 1983. G. Feltz,

Un échec de l'implantation scolaire en milieu rural: le cas de la

Lulua et du Katanga Central, 1920-1960 -Candian Journal of African

Studies, 13, 1979: 441-459. B. Jules Rosette, African Apostles.

Cornell 1975.; R. Anstey, o.c., 122-142.

INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL CONGO AND ZAIRE.: 1960-1986

Week 11: Neocolonialism

M. Congo Cauldron: 1960-1965

W. Zaire saved by Mobutu ? : 1965-1986.

F. Slides: Central Africa after 1960.

Reading: Nzongola Ntalaja, The Crisis in Zaire, 1-36, 219-296.

C. Young, The Northern Republics, 1960-1980-HCA: 291-335;

Optional Reading: V. S. Naipaul, A Bend in the River, 1980.

Graduate Reading: C. Young, T. Turner, The Rise and Decline of the Zairian State Madison, 1985, 3-77; 363-395

Week 12: Development: Wealth for Some and Debts for All.

M. The formal economy.

W. The informal economy: How to survive.

F. slides: New Wealth, New Disruptions.

Reading: Nzongola Ntalaja, o.c., 67-156. Graduate Reading. C. Young, T. Turner, o.c., 276-362. G. Gran, Development by People, New York 1983

Week 13: Patrimonial Society.

M. The National Bourgeoisie.

W. And the others.

F. Art as social critique.

Reading: Nzongola Ntalaja, o.c. 39-66; 157-180; Optional Reading:

J. Vanasina, Mwase's Trials - Daedalus, 1982: 49-70; Graduate Reading:

C. Young, T. Turner, o.c. 78-275; M. Schatzberg, Politics and Class in Zaire, New York 1980. D. J. Gould, Bureaucratic Corruption and

Underdevelopment in the Third World: The Case of Zaire Elmsford 1980.

Week 14: Authenticity

M. Church, School, and Health.

W. Leisure and Work.

F. slides; Modern Art

Reading: Nzongola Ntalaja, o.c., 191-216; W. MacGaffey Religion and Society in Central Africa, Chicago 1986: 191-217. Graduate Reading:

Biaya T.K. De l'aube des temps jusqu'alors. Histoire contemporaine des Luluwa par Nyunyi wa Lwimba - Canadian Journal of African Studies 18, 1, 1984: 23-34, O. Debhonvapi, Société zairoise dans le miroir de la chanson populaire - ibidem, 122-130; Optional reading. The Whole Issue 18 (1) 1984 of CJAS Just Cited.

Week 15: What Now?

M. Zaire and Central Africa in the Colonial Century

W. What of the Future?

F. Discussion.

Reading: None Graduate Reading. T. M. Callaghy, The State-Society Struggle. New York 1984.