

Example

Congo: A People Repressed

(be creative)

Your Name



Mrs. Ingles

World History Period ____

Date it is Due

Congo: A People Repressed

I. Background on Imperialism

A. Definition of Imperialism

B. Motives of Imperialism

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- **You will do these on your own. See you “Motives of Imperialism” ws.**
- **You do NOT need to cite the information from you class notes.**
- **Make sure they are in complete sentences.**

II. The Congo was imperialized by: King Leopold II of Belgium as his personal colony and then Belgium government.

A. Belgian King Leopold II’s personal rule

1. At the Congress of Berlin (1884-1885) Belgian King Leopold II was given the right to rule (“Zaire”).

1st word on works cited

2. “The Congo was converted into the personal property of King Leopold”

(Lemarchand 31).

Page # (if there is one)

3. Under Leopold’s rule, the enslavement of Africans increased. They were removed from their villages and forced to work on rubber plantations. Protestant missionaries were among the first to provide evidence of the harsh treatment (Lemachand 34).

B. Belgian government

1. In 1906 several investigations were published that began to influence the Belgian public that the King’s control of the Congo was cruel. Many Belgian politicians began to feel that they had a moral responsibility to annex the Congo in order to end the harsh treatment of the Africans (Lemachand 34).

2. In 1908, due to international criticism of the Leopold's treatment of the Congolese people, specifically on the rubber plantations, Leopold's personal rule ended. "The territory was transferred to Belgium as a colony called the Belgian Congo" ("Congo").

3. Throughout this time, all of the upper level administration consisted of white Belgians. Lower level consisted of indigenous people who were controlled by the Belgians (Vanthemsche).

III. Five key events (with date)

A. 1876: Leopold II started the International Geographic Conference for geographers and explorers. He then had them survey Africa, specifically the Congo for resources (Vanthemsche).

B. 1884-1885: The Congress of Berlin gave Belgian King Leopold II control of the Congo ("Zaire").

C. 1908: The Belgian government took control over the Congo Free State ("Congo").

D. January 1943: During WWII the Belgian Congo became a key supplier of rubber to the Allied Powers after Malaya fell to the Japanese. It also was the main supplier of uranium to the United States during WWII, which was used to as the Americans secretly worked on the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb (Vanthemsche).

E. June 30, 1960: The Democratic Republic of Congo gained their independence from Belgium ("Zaire").

IV. Key leader: King Leopold II

- A. His interest in the Congo was based solely on gaining more wealth for himself. So “he sold business people the rights to take raw materials. They took great amounts of the Congo’s natural rubber” (Carrington 671).
- B. Leopold's had a private army in the Congo that would terrorize the Africans to force them to work as slaves for resource extraction and killed and abused natives at their own digression (“Congo”).

V. Map of that nation’s imperial control



VI. Political cartoon

King Leopold II of Belgium is a snake wrapped tightly around his subjects in the Congo Free State, squeezing them to death. This cartoon symbolizes the harsh, cruel treatment of the Congo people under the domain of King Leopold.



Works Cited

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