

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. Purpose of Imperialism

**You will do these on your own. See you notes.  
You do NOT need to cite the information from  
you class notes.**

II. The Congo was repressed under King Leopold II of Belgium as his personal colony and then under the Belgium government in 1908.

A. Belgian King Leopold II's personal rule

i. In 1878 after King Leopold heard of Henry Morten Stanley's journey down the Congo River, he called for a survey to investigate the possibility establishing a railroad in the region (Lemarchand 31).

**1<sup>st</sup> word on  
works cited**

**Page # (if  
there is one)**

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

iii. "The Congo was converted into the personal property of King Leopold" (Lemarchand 31).

iv. The King bore the financial cost of the controlling the Congo. Due to the high costs, Leopold made "ever-increasing demands for prostrations from the African population" (Lemachand 32).

v. 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. The Congo under the Belgian government

- i. 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. Other politicians noted the wealth of resources that Belgium would gain if the nation annexed Congo, such as ivory, rubber, and mineral deposits (Lemachand 34).
- ii. 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, and in that year, a law known as the Colonial Charter set up its basic structure of government ("Congo").
- iii. Under the Belgian government most of the atrocities dealt to the Congolese were abolished (Lemachand 36).
- iv. 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).
- v. Through 1960 Belgium gained wealth from the Congo via rubber, diamonds, tin, and copper, and uranium. Yet, the Belgian colonial administration did not work to help the Congolese education system nor develop their social structure ("Zaire").
- vi. In June of 1960, the Belgian government granted the Congo their independence. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was established on June 30, 1960 ("Zaire").

### III. Five key events (with date)

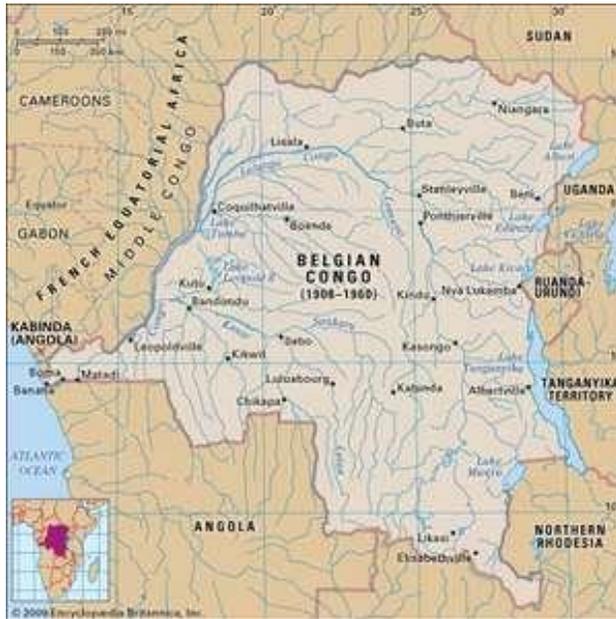
- A. 1876: Leopold II started the International Geographic Conference for geographers and explorers. He then had them survey Africa, specifically the Congo for resources (Vanthemsche).
- B. 1884-1885: The Congress of Berlin gave Belgian King Leopold II control of the Congo (“Zaire”).
- C. 1908: The Belgian 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. This uranium 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

##### A. King Leopold II

- i. 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” (“The Age of Imperialism” 671).
- ii. In 1891 Leopold developed a monopoly on rubber and ivory. He also created a “labor tax” in which the Africans were forced into slavery for Leopold’s regime (Lemachand 34).
- iii. 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

- "The Age of Imperialism." *Holt World History: The Human Journey*. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2005. 660-687. Print.
- "Congo, Democratic Republic of The." *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*, edited by Melissa Sue Hill, 14th ed., vol. 2: Africa, Gale, 2017, pp. 171-193. *World History in Context*, Accessed 7 Feb. 2019.
- Lemarchand, René. *Political Awakening in the Belgian Congo*. Westport, Greenwood Press, 1982.
- Vanthemsche, Guy. "Belgium's African Colonies." *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism since 1450*, edited by Thomas Benjamin, vol. 1, Macmillan Reference USA, 2007, pp. 126-130. *World History in Context*, Accessed 7 Feb. 2019.
- "Zaire, Republic of." *International Military and Defense Encyclopedia*, edited by Trevor N. Dupuy, Macmillan Reference USA, 1993. *World History in Context*, Accessed 7 Feb. 2019.