

United States - Congo relations

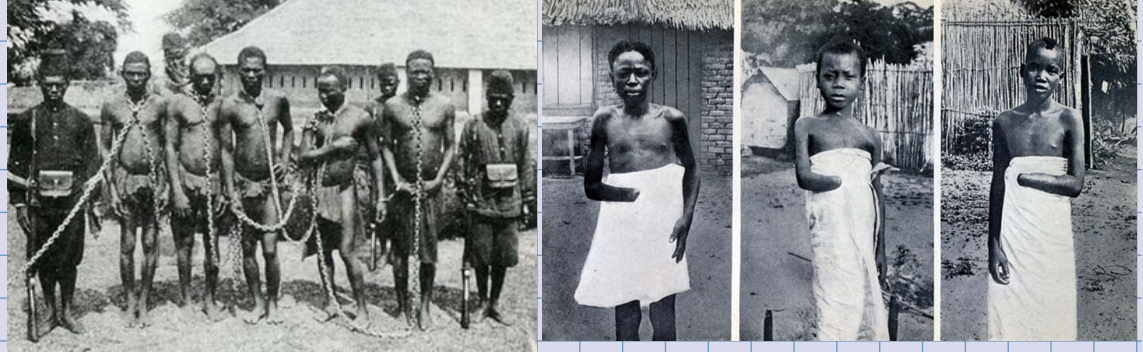
background: colonialism in Africa



- originally named the Belgian Congo
- Leopold II of Belgium established and ran a personal colony (Congo Free State) → 1885 - 1908 for financial gain → then the Kingdom of Belgium officially ruled the Congo in a brutal regime 1908-60

belgian rule in the Congo

- characterized by forced labor, physical brutality, and torture in service of extracting lucrative natural resources (i.e. rubber)



resistance + independence

- the struggle against colonialism intensified after WWII as well as the Cold War period
- Congo achieved independence w/ Patrice Lumumba (the nation's prime minister)

* see Lumumba assignment in Docs *

Key Questions

TO THINK ABOUT



Sources for Answers

Background

1. Scan [this clip on the assassination of Patrice Lumumba](#).
2. Read "[CIA's Covert Operations in the Congo, 1960-1968: Insights from Newly Declassified Documents](#)"

Primary Sources

3. Read Lumumba's [last letter](#) to his wife, Pauline
4. Using [FRUS](#), find at least one document related to Lumumba

□ how did the U.S. foreign policy establishment perceive Lumumba, and why was it invested in his overthrow and assassination?

□ how did the U.S. perception of Lumumba compare to the vision of Congolese sovereignty that he expressed in the letter to his wife?

□ To what extent was the CIA involved in Lumumba's capture and death?

□ How, precisely, did the agency contribute to engineering regime change in the Congo in 1960?

US intervention

- interested in Congo's resources (uranium & cobalt - used for nuclear weapons)

