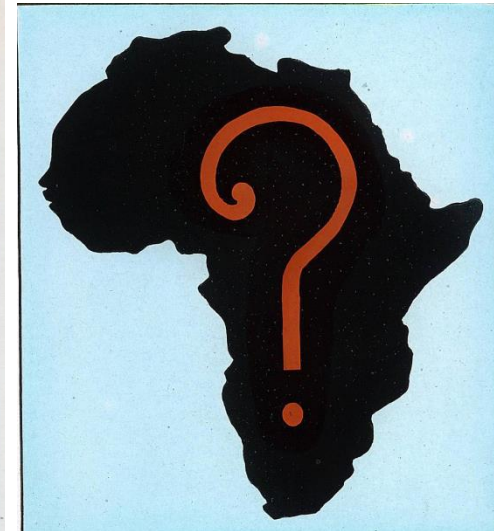


# Aim #16: How did European Imperialism Impact Africa?

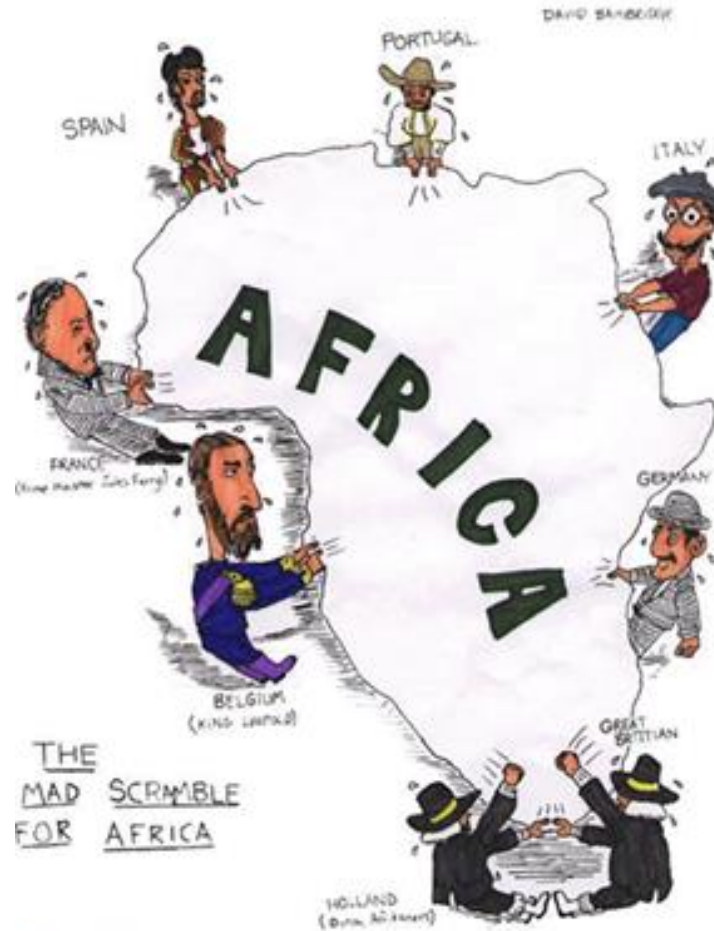
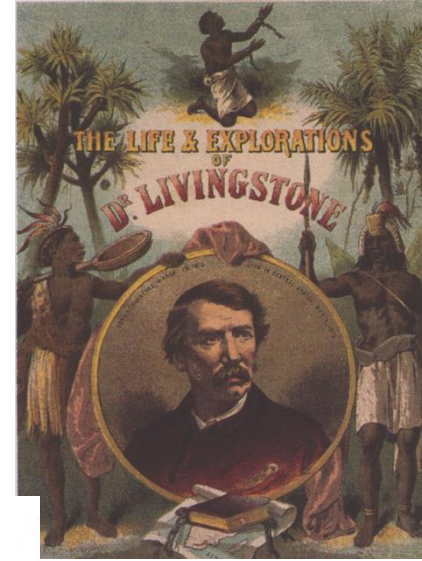


Source: <http://www.boondocksnet.com> (adapted)

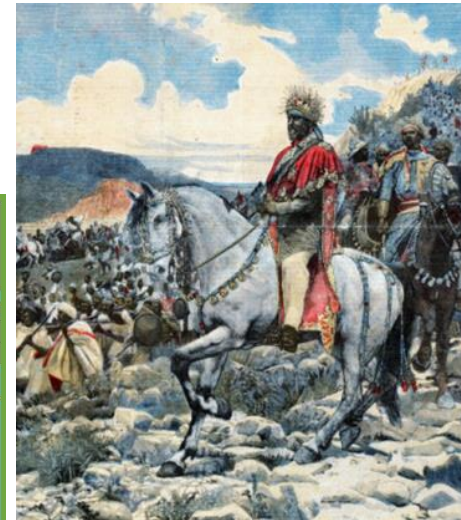
# Africa 1850-Unexplored



# New Contacts



# Conquest of Africa



# Scramble for Africa

1870

Before Berlin Conference



1914

After Berlin Conference





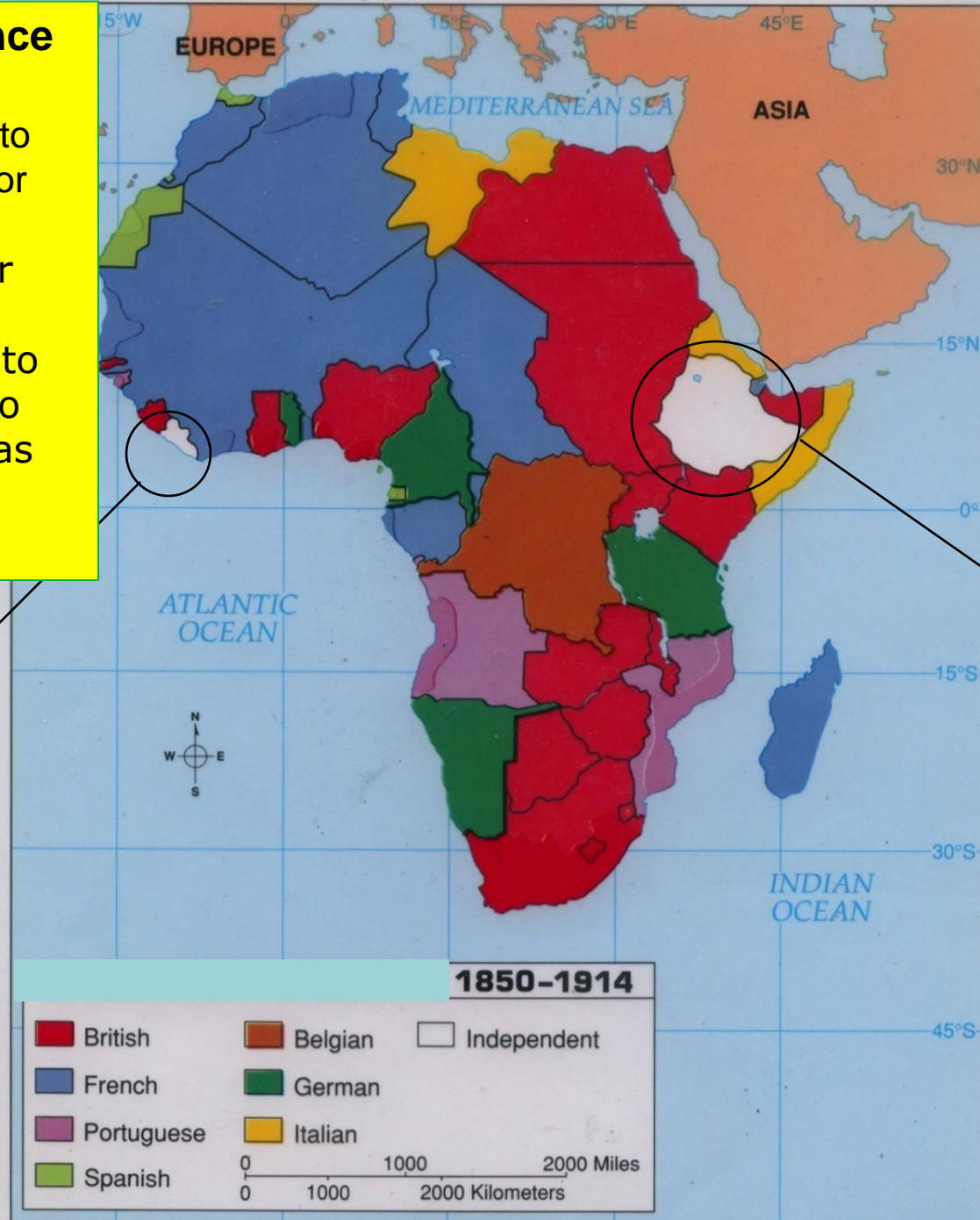
## Berlin Conference 1884

- Europeans met to decide on rules for dividing Africa
- It was further agreed that Europeans had to send officials to control the areas they claimed.

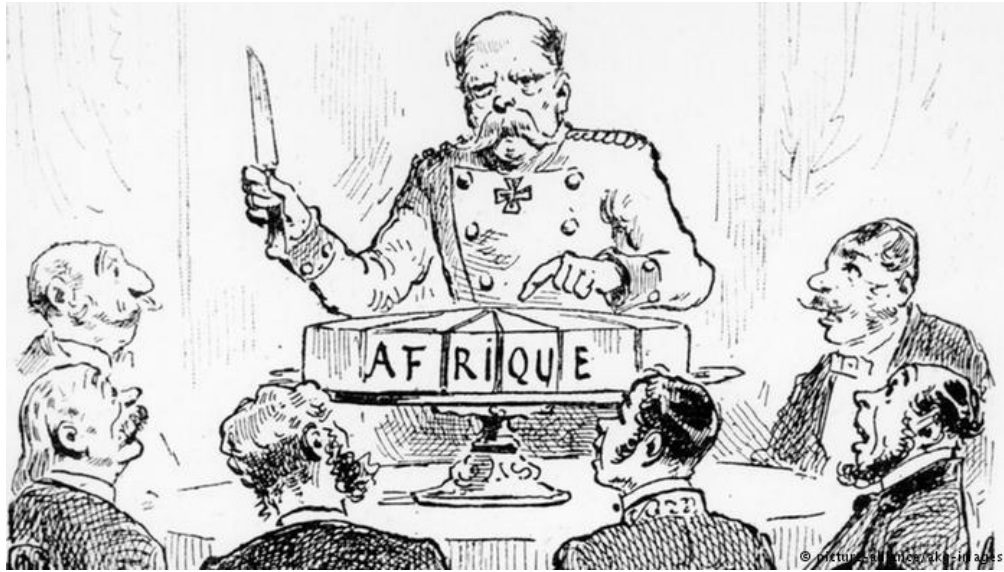
• No Africans were invited to the conference.

**LIBERIA**

**ETHIOPIA**

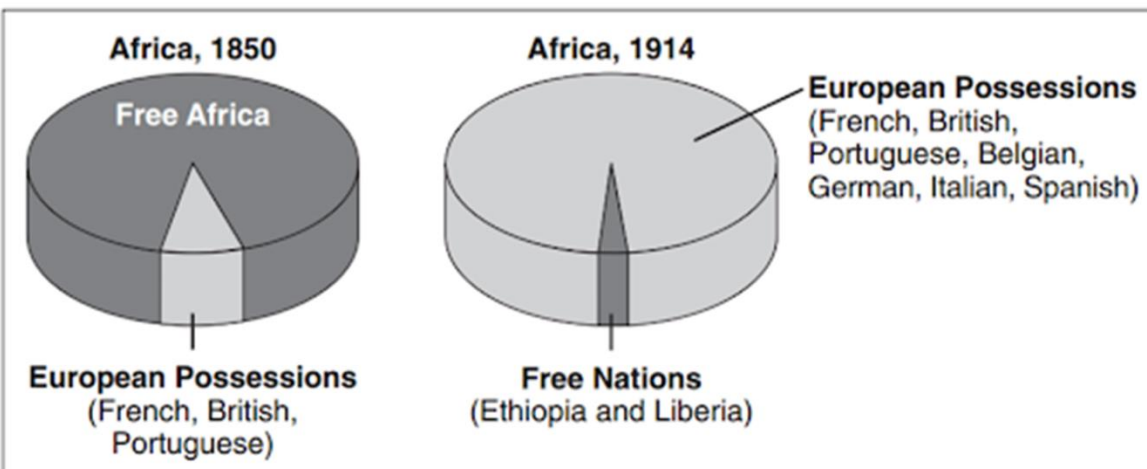


# The Berlin Conference and Scramble for Africa



Though Europeans had trading posts on the coasts of Africa and Asia starting in the 15th and 16th centuries, they were unable to move into the interior of either continent because of resistance from the people who lived there and disease. This changed in the 19th century as the Industrial Revolution fueled European desire for more natural resources like gold, oil, rubber, diamonds, and ivory from Africa to fuel industrial production of goods and new innovations like the steamboat, advanced weapons, and medicine that lessened the effects of diseases like malaria led to the colonization of Africa. European nations competed for control of Africa during a period of time called the **Scramble for Africa** (1881-1914). During the Scramble for Africa, Europeans went from controlling 10% of Africa in 1870 to 90% of the continent in 1914. By 1914, only Ethiopia and Liberia were independent African nations not under the control of European powers.

Competition for control over Africa led to disputes between European countries and those disagreements led to the **Berlin Conference** (1884-1885). The Berlin Conference of 1884-85 was a meeting held in Berlin, Germany and organized by Otto von Bismarck, first chancellor of Germany. The purpose of the Berlin Conference was to regulate European colonization and trade in Africa by identifying which European nations would be allowed to control which parts of Africa. During the Berlin Conference, the European nations divided Africa up between themselves on maps, often drawing lines on the maps without any knowledge of the people who lived there and dividing up cultural, linguistic, and ethnic groups. No Africans were invited to the Berlin Conference and no Africans took part in deciding how the continent would be “carved up.” In the following decades, European governments sought to take over and control the sections of Africa that they agreed upon in Berlin in a little over three months.



1. What was the Scramble for Africa?
2. Who organized the Berlin Conference?
3. Why was the Berlin Conference organized?
4. Who attended the Berlin Conference? Who was not invited to attend the Berlin Conference? Why were they not invited?
5. What impact did the Berlin Conference have on Africa?



1. What was the Scramble for Africa?

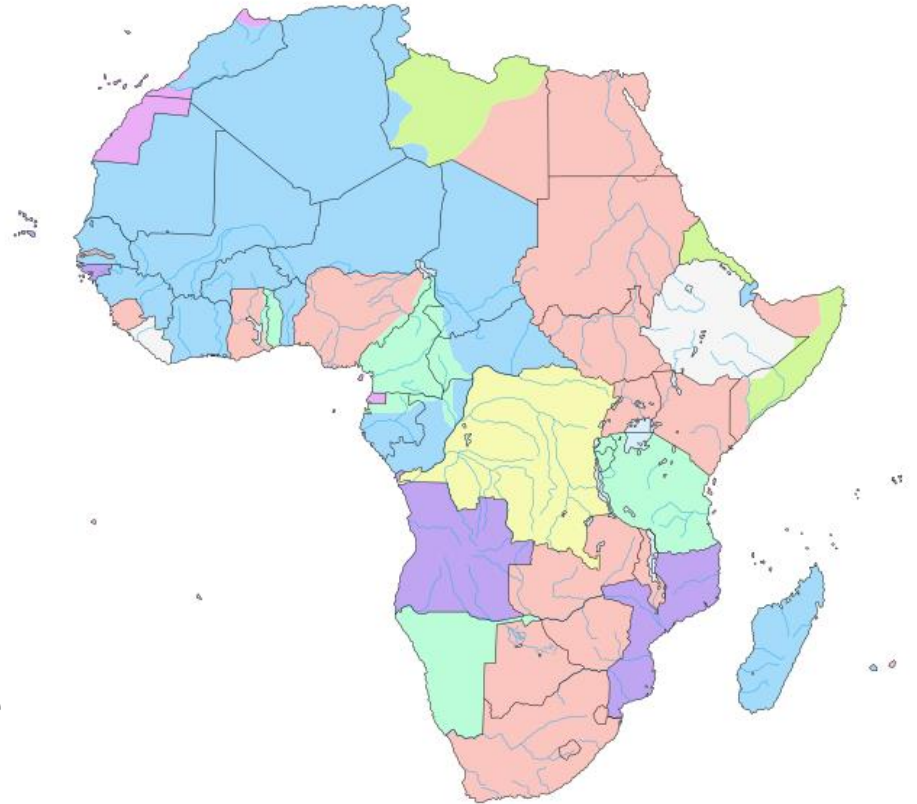
2. Who organized the Berlin Conference?

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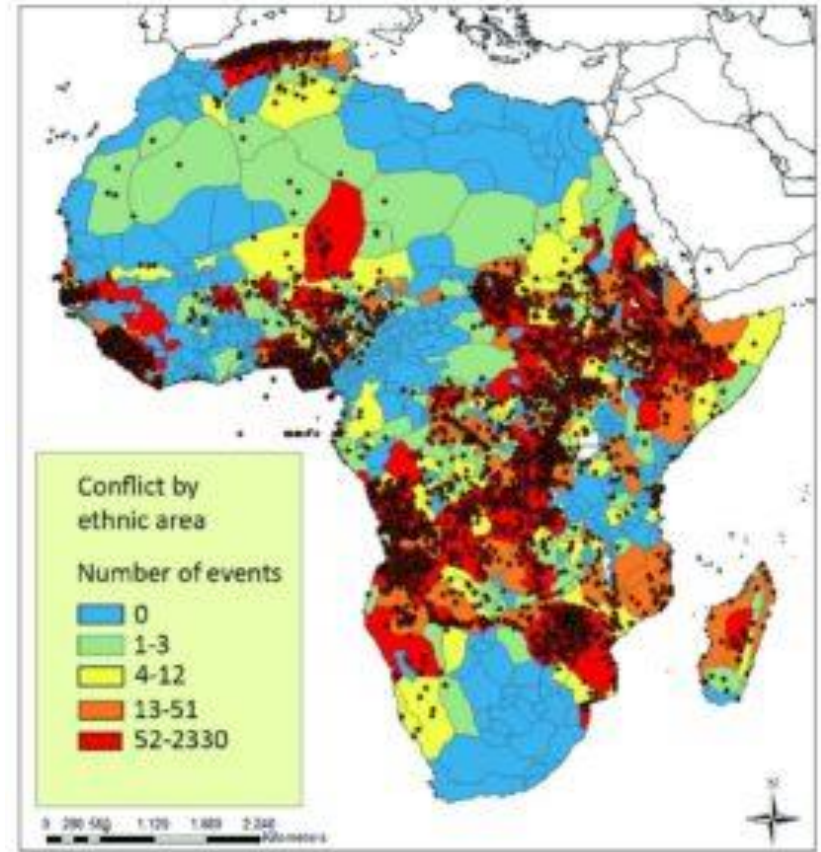
5. What impact did the Berlin Conference have on Africa?

## Africa, 1913

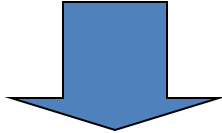


A map of Africa in 1913, reflecting the decisions made at the Berlin Conference and the actions taken by Europeans in the following decades. The black lines show modern-day boundaries in Africa.

# Effects of Conquest

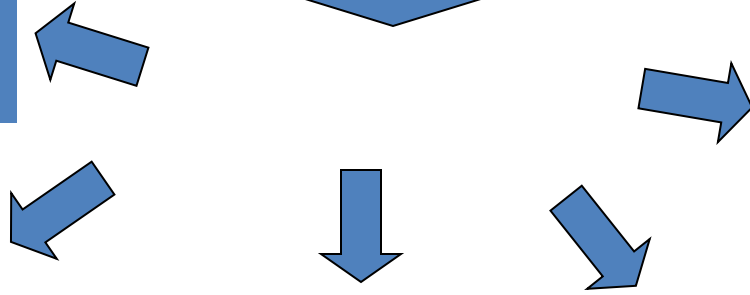


EUROPEANS  
CONQUERED  
AFRICA



AFRICANS LOST  
RIGHT TO RULE  
THEMSELVES

AFRICANS HAD  
TO PAY TAXES  
BUT COULD NOT  
VOTE



AFRICANS FORCED TO  
ADOPT EUROPEAN  
CUSTOMS, LANGUAGE  
AND WAYS OF LIFE

AFRICANS  
FARMERS LOST  
THEIR LANDS  
TO EUROPEANS

AFRICANS  
WERE FORCED  
TO WORK FOR  
EUROPEANS AT  
LOW WAGES

Cash Crops

Less Food Grown =  
Famine, Need to Import  
Food/Lost Self Sufficiency

Rely on Single Crop =  
Hurt Economy



XXXX XXXX

OOOO  
OOOO  
OOOOO



With little regard for ethnic or linguistic boundaries, Europeans split Africa among themselves over the course of 20 years.

# Congo





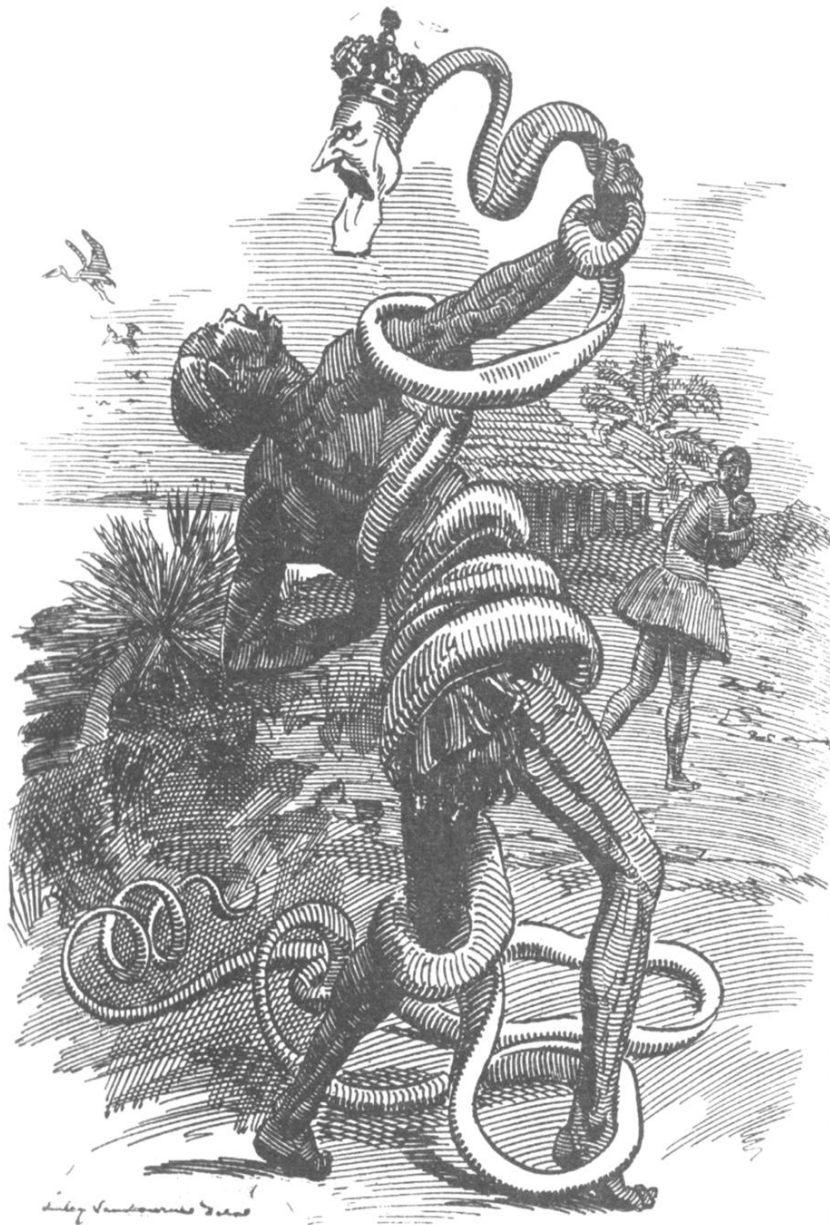
King Leopold of Belgium



CONGO  
RUBBER







IN THE RUBBER COILS.

SCENE—The Congo "Free" State.

BELOW: British missionaries with men holding hands severed from victims named Bolenge and Lingomo by A.B.I.R. militiamen, 1904.





its. When he died in 1909 at age 74, much of the world despised him. American poet Vachel Lindsay wrote this epitaph:

Listen to the yell of Leopold's ghost  
Burning in Hell for his hand-maimed host,  
Hear how the demons chuckle and yell  
Cutting his hands off, down in Hell.

"The European colonizers of Africa were not only armies of occupation, but also economic exploiters, cultural chauvinists, usurpers of power, and disrupters of political growth in Africa, Imperialism has profoundly influenced the development of African society in numerous respects: years of foreign domination... in Africa left political, economic, and social scars that are still conspicuously evident in contemporary African society. These "scars" are only a fading reminder of the travesties that occurred in 19th and 20th century Africa, including mass murder, enslavement, European depletion of natural resources, which subsequently destroyed many African economies, and the disintegration of many traditional African cultures."

Historian Leonard Gadjwkp



### **The Submission of King Prempeh: The Final Act of Humiliation, 1896**

After taking the city of Kumasi in Ashanti, (in present-day Ghana), Governor Maxwell, from the United Kingdom compels King Prempeh and the Queen Mother to make an act of submission to him in accordance with Ashanti custom - they accordingly bend down in front of him and Sir Francis Scott and Colonel Kempster and clasp their legs.