

History 861
IMPERIALISM: THE CONQUEST AND PARTITION OF AFRICA
Fall - 1993

Thursdays 4:00-6:00
2631 Humanities (check 5th
floor seminar rooms each week)

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and by appointment

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to some of the major theoretical works on the conquest and partition of Africa. Most of these are very eurocentric, and we will deal with that issue throughout the course. However, they are works that historians of Africa should know.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is divided into three parts. During the first two weeks we will introduce ourselves and our work and discuss the format of the course and the writing of history. Beginning in the third week, part two, we will engage in intensive reading on the topic. Each week one or two students will be responsible for leading the discussion on the works to be discussed, distributing a written discussion or outline of the main work(s) in mailboxes the morning of the day before the class meeting. The other students will be expected to have considered the written material presented to them so that the discussion will be worthwhile for all concerned. Each of you will be responsible for leading at least one of these discussions. The week following the session in which you lead the discussion, you will hand out a summary (3-7 pages) of the readings and class discussion to each student and the instructor. These written materials will be helpful for you when you are preparing for qualifying exams. The written discussions should include points covered in class that may not have been covered in the readings or were disputed in class discussion.

The third part of the course will revolve around your individual research papers. You will be responsible for choosing, in consultation with the instructor, a topic dealing with the imposition of colonial rule or its workings in the particular geographical area on which you are concentrating. Decolonization is also a possibility. It is hoped, of course, that you will choose a topic that is related to your dissertation or M.A. thesis topic or that will help you explore possibilities in the selection of these topics.

Your preliminary bibliographies, in the bibliography style presented in Turabian, are due on October 14. They will be returned to you the following week.

Rough drafts of your research papers should be available to the class at least two days before your class presentation. The student critiquing your paper will present a written critique to the presenter and two copies to the instructor the day of the

critique, giving an oral presentation of the critique to the class. If you take one of the earlier class presentations, the paper can be a little more "rough" than those presented on one of the later dates. Final drafts (two copies) are due December 15 at noon. These deadlines are to help you keep on track and avoid the dreaded incomplete. Please make us both happy and stick to them. The final paper should be 15-25 pages (c. 225 words/per page), double-spaced with one-inch margins and not including the bibliography. If your word processing program allows you to do footnotes rather than end notes, that would be appreciated. It is not required.

Classroom Participation is an important part of your grade (though it will not outweigh the importance given to your performance on written work)! Your discussion in class is an indication of whether you have done the readings and thought about them!

Some Questions for consideration

Is there a mono-causal theory explaining the political partition of Africa?

Should the partition of Africa be considered separate from the European partition of Latin America and parts of Asia?

What is the historical significance of the political partition, and does it outweigh--or is it as important as--the economic dominance established over Africa by European powers?

What is the role of technology and the industrial revolution in the political partition of Africa?

How did the political partition--and the reasons for their participation in it--differ between various colonial powers?

How did African responses to the partition differ and what were some of the reasons for these differing responses?

Course Meetings and Readings

September 2 - Introduction to the course and each other

September 9 - Research and writing in history: Brad Hughes of the Writing Lab

Readings: Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. Fifth edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987. (available for purchase in bookstore)
C. Wright Mills, "On Intellectual Craftsmanship," Appendix in The Sociological Imagination (H61 M5 1977/1967)

Recommended: David Sternberg, How to Complete and Survive a Doctoral Dissertation, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1981. (LB2386 S74)

September 16 - European Exploration and Africa Partitioned

Philip D. Curtin, The Image of Africa: British ideas and action, 1780-1850. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1973. (DT502 C7) (Pages 3-27; 123-76; 198-226; 189-342.)

Robert I. Rotberg, Africa and Its Explorers: Motives, Methods and Impact. Cambridge, 1970. (DT3 A36 1970)

Donald Simpson, Dark Companions: the African contribution to the European exploration of East Africa. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1976. (DT425 S55 1976)

Explorers to be considered:

Heinrich Barth, David Livingstone, Richard Burton, V. L. Cameron, Henry Morton Stanley, René Caillié, Richard and John Lander, John Hanning Speke, Mungo Park, James Bruce

Recommended:

Christopher Hibbert. Africa Explored: Europeans in the Dark Continent. Penguin, 1982.

Alan Moorehead, The White Nile. New York: Random House, 1960, 1971, 1983.

Alan Moorehead, The Blue Nile. New York: Random House, 1962, 1972, 1983.

September 23 - General overviews of "Imperialism."

Readings: Richard Koebner and Helmut Dan Schmidt. Imperialism: the Story and Significance of a Political Word, 1840-1960. London: Cambridge University Press, 1965. (JC359 K6)

A. P. Thornton: Doctrines of Imperialism. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1965. (JC359 T45) (All students read Chapter One.)

Joseph A. Schumpeter. Imperialism. New York: Meridian Books, 1951. (JC359 S36) (Various editions available) (All students.)

Recommended: Philip D. Curtin, editor. Imperialism. New York: Walker and company, 1971. (JC359 C85 1971b)

September 30 - Economic Theories of Imperialism: Hobson v. Lenin (2 students)

J. A. Hobson. Imperialism. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1965. (JN276 H6 or H7--any edition)

V. I. Lenin. Imperialism: the Highest Stage of Capitalism. New York: International, 1933. (HB501 L332--any edition.)

Raymond F. Betts, editor. Causes and Dimensions of Empire. Second Edition. Lexington, Mass: D. C. Heath and Co., 1972. (DT31 B39 1972), pp. 116-21. (all students)

D. K. Fieldhouse. "Imperialism, an Historiographical Revision." Economic History Review XIV, no. 2 (Dec. 1961):187-209. (all students)

Richard J. Hammond. "Economic Imperialism: Sidelights on a Stereotype." Journal of Economic History 21 (December 1961):582-98.

M. D. Lewis. "One Hundred Million Frenchmen." Comparative Studies in Society and History IV (January 1962):129-53.

October 7 - Economic Theories of Imperialism: Hopkins v. Fieldhouse

A. G. Hopkins. An Economic History of West Africa. New York: Columbia, 1973. Chapters 4 and 5. (HC517 W5 H66) (all students)

D. K. Fieldhouse. Economics and empire, 1830-1914. London: Macmillan, 1984. (JV105 F52 1984). Pages 1-149, 253-383, 459-477.

Raymond F. Betts, editor. Causes and Dimensions of Empire. Second Edition. Lexington, Mass: D. C. Heath and Co., 1972. (DT31 B39 1972). Introduction, pp. vi-xxi; pp. 116-21. (all students)

D. C. M. Platt. "Economic Factors in British Policy during the "New Imperialism." Past and Present XXXIX (April 1968):120-38.

G. N. Uzoigwe. "European partition and conquest of Africa: an overview." In General History of Africa, Vol. VII. Edited by A. Adu Boahen. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985.

October 14 - Preliminary bibliography for Research Paper due. Will be returned in next week's class

Eurocentric Grand Theories for the African partition

S. E. Crowe. The Berlin West African Conference 1884-1885.

(Missing from the collection--a classic study.) (2 students)

Raymond F. Betts, Editor. The Scramble for Africa. Lexington, Mass: D.C. Heath and Company, 1972, pp. 19-90. (DT31 B39 1972)
(all students)

Henri Brunschwig, French colonialism, 1871-1914: myths and realities. New York: Praeger, 1964. (JV1817 B73 1966)

Ronald Robinson and John Gallagher. Africa and the Victorians. New York: Doubleday, 1968. (DT32 R55 1968)

October 21 - Military and Medical Advance as a Factor in the Partition (all students)

John Ellis, The Social History of the Machine Gun, Chapters I-IV. New York: Arno Press, 1981. (UF 620 A2 E38 1981)

Daniel R. Headrick. The Tools of Empire: Technology and European Imperialism in the Nineteenth Century, Introduction, Chapters 1, 3-7, and 14. New York: Oxford University Press, 1981. (T19 H4)

Philip Curtin, The Image of Africa, pp. 58-87; 177-197. (all students)

October 28 - Resistance and Reaction of Africans

Raymond F. Betts, Editor. The Scramble for Africa. Lexington, Mass: D.C. Heath and Company, 1972. (DT31 B39 1972) pp. 93-116.
(all students)

General History of Africa, Vol. VII. Edited by A. Adu Boahen. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985, pp. 45-62, 149-220. (all students)

Shula Marks. "Khoisan Resistance to the Dutch in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries." Journal of African History XIII, 1 (1972):55-80. (all students)

Michael Crowder. West African Resistance. New York: Africana, 1971. (DT476.2 C77 1971a), pp. 1-18; 268-299. (all students)

Boniface Obichere. "The African Factor in the Establishment of French Authority in West Africa." France and Britain in Africa. Edited by Prosser Gifford and Wm. Roger Louis. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1967.

2 popular, readable accounts to consider: (2 students)

David Levering Lewis, The Race to Fashoda. New York: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1987.

Douglas Porch. The Conquest of the Sahara. New York: Fromm International, 1986.

November 4 - Dominator and Dominated

J. F. A. Ajayi. "Colonialism: An Episode in African History," pp. 497-509 in Colonialism in Africa 1870-1960, Vol. I: The History and Politics of Colonialism 1870-1914. Edited by L. H. Gann and Peter Duignan. Cambridge, 1969. (all students)

A. Adu Boahen. "Colonialism in Africa: its impact and significance," pp. 782-809 in General History of Africa, Vol. VII. Edited by A. Adu Boahen. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985 (all students)

Albert Memmi. The Colonizer and the Colonized. Boston: Beacon Press, 1991. (Several editions available in library)

Frantz Fanon. Wretched of the Earth. New York: Grove Press, 1968. (DT33 F313 1968)--new edition ordered at the bookstore. Recommended for your personal library.

Octave Mannoni. Prospero & Caliban: the psychology of colonization. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1990. (DT469 M264 M313 1964)--new edition ordered at the bookstore. Recommended for your personal library.

November 11 - Technology Transfer, 1st hour. 1st paper, 2nd hour.

Daniel R. Headrick. The Tentacles of Progress: Technology Transfer in the Age of Imperialism, 1850-1904. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.

November 18 - 2 papers

December 2 - 2 papers

December 9 - 2 papers