

Belgian Unforgotten Historical Evils Orchestrated Against the Congolese (BUHEOAC) till the Assassination of Famous Black African Nationalists (AFBAN) 19th-20th Centuries

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Abstract: A deeper historical study and understanding of Belgian BUHEOAC and AFBAN in the African Continent were manifested through 28 different Diplomatic Agents with distinguished administrative portfolios beginning with Francis de Winton as an Administrator General (A.G) from 22 April 1884 to Hendrik Cornelis as Governor General (G.G.) whose massacred era came to an end on 30th June 1960. Then, On 1st July 1960, the former Congo Free State (CFS) later Belgian Congo (B.C) became an independent country bearing the name the Republic of the Congo (R.C) with the worst and horrible homicide with total conspiracy masterminded by the Western Capitalist World following the assassination of Patrice Lumumba who was qualified as a pro-Communist African Nationalist during the second half of the 20th Century. Those cannibalistic activities occurred with total complicities of the 7 Belgian Monarchical men alongside with 53 Prime Ministers identified in this study. The activities of the Belgian colonial agents are comparable to the aggressive actions of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini in Africa and elsewhere around the World during the first half of the 20th Century as aggressors and Statesmen who acquired honours from human massacred. Therefore, what are the Belgian Government and Kings thinking of the unforgotten evils of their ancestors against the Congolese? The scrutiny of, diverse sources and documentaries enable us to use a historical analytical approach with statistical tables of the actors involved between 1884 and 1960 as a modest contribution to the 21st Century constant reawaking of reparation requested by the country's siblings.

Keywords: Monarchical order, unforgotten colonialism, diplomatic agent, rubber, forced labour, cannibalism, conspiracy, assassination, neo-colonialism.

INTRODUCTION

In the history of radical and cannibalistic colonialism of the African Continent by Western European countries in their celebrated brutal context of exploration, expropriation and exploitation of the Black Continents' in terms of human and natural resources, the Monarchical system of a small tiny Belgium exaggerated their gross ambitions to the detriment of Africans by slaughtering the Congolese as wild and domestic animals targeted for special sacrifices. It was really a total voluntary inhuman acts committed by the Monarchical Diplomatic Colonial Agents (M.D.C.A) as a means of satisfying their King's and Government desires for their personal development to the detriments of C.F.S as they coined it during King Leopold's era 1885-1908 and from 1909 with the B.C when the real Belgian Government took over as an official colony of extortion. The massacred of the population still went ahead till the independence in 1960 in the name of the

Republic of Congo after which the AFBAN Affair became the worst humiliated issue in World history of neo-colonialism of the second half of the 20th Century evidenced following the masterminded assassination of a full committed Pan-Africanist and Congolese Nationalist known as Patrice Lumumba. This situation alone among uncountable others practices by the colonial agents once more entered the neo-colonial period with aggravated massacred in the name of Communists and Capitalist oriented followers backed by the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic (U.S.S.R) and the United States of America (U.S.A) respectively. Therefore, the Belgian authorities of the 21st Century have to render account and reasonable reparation to the victimized families and the entire Nation which qualify to be unforgettable acts their Kings, agents and Government committed between 1885 and 1960 against the Congolese. In fact, this called for more reflective background in relations to what other prominent researchers interesting to find out and expose Belgian

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evils in Africa did and to bring out clear identification of principal actors to that crime against humanity for 75 years. The history unforgotten atrocities committed by the Belgians in C.F.S. and B.C is not limited to King Leopold but to all the Monarchies who reigned within the period of study. This is to clarify the doubt postulated in history with all blames attributed to him as if he was the first and last King of Belgium. Seven main actors Kings were involved in their respective era of colonial hegemony in collaboration with the Government in power.

These were unbelievable actions undertaken by Royalty which was instead supposed to be the source of protection of the people under colonial domination with all tools and mechanisms of torturing and mass killings undertaken by the different colonial agents appointed. This situation was worsened by an authoritative King in the name of Leopold II between 7 June 1850 and 17 December 1909. Although, the pre-colonial era was managed by Erasme Louis Surlet de Chokier from 25 February 1831-20 July 1831. Thereafter, King Baudouin who inherited Charles as Prince Regent for Leopold III on 20 September 1944 equally registered mass killings of the Congolese during the Second World War of 1939-1945. The later just like his predecessors masterminded the assassination of African Congolese Nationalist (ACN) during the second half of the 20th Century. The list of those colonial agents, Kings and their Prime Ministers who played very havoc roles in the form of cannibalism and unforgotten punishment by cutting children and women hands who were not able to meet up with the quotas affairs in terms of rubber tapping and other cruel colonial gross demands needs reparations and compensations to such crimes against humanities. Those colonial actors who conspired against the Congolese as they called it the C.F.S, C.B and R.C are illustrated on table's No. 1, 2 and 3 ahead of this work.

At the Berlin Conference of 1884–1885, the European powers allocated the Congo Basin region to a private charitable organisation run by Leopold II, who had long held ambitions for colonial expansion. The territory under Leopold's control exceeded 2,600,000 km² (1,000,000 square miles); amid financial problems, it was ruled by a tiny cadre of administrators drawn from across Europe. Initially, the colony proved unprofitable and insufficient, with the state always close to bankruptcy (*Forbath, P, 1977*). Even before his accession to the throne of Belgium in 1865, the future king Leopold II began lobbying leading Belgian politicians to create a colonial empire in the Far East or Africa, which would expand and enhance Belgian prestige. Politically, however, colonisation was unpopular in Belgium as it was perceived as a risky and expensive gamble with no obvious benefit to the country and his many attempts to persuade politicians met with little success (*Vanthemsche, G, 2012*). The red rubber system emerged with the creation of the

concession regime in 1891 and lasted until 1906 when the concession system was restricted. At its height, it was heavily localised in the Équateur, Bandundu, and Kasai regions (*Gerdziunas, B, 2017*). Leopold sanctioned the creation of "child colonies" in which orphaned Congolese would be kidnapped and sent to schools operated by Catholic Missionaries in which they would learn to work or be soldiers; these were the only schools funded by the state. More than 50% of the children sent to the schools died of disease, and thousands more died in the forced marches into the colonies. In one such march 108 boys were sent over to a mission school and only 62 survived, eight of whom died a week later. Indigenous Congolese were not the only ones put to work by the Free State. 540 Chinese labourers were imported to work on railways in the Congo, however 300 of them would die or leave their posts. Caribbean peoples and people from other African countries were also imported to work on the railway in which 3,600 would die in the first two years of construction from railroad accidents, lack of shelter, flogging, hunger, and disease (*De Mul, S, 2011*). A reduction of the population of the Congo is noted by several researchers who have compared the country at the beginning of Leopold's control with the beginning of Belgian state rule in 1908, but estimates of the death toll vary considerably. Estimates of some contemporary observers suggest that the population decreased by half during this period. According to Edmund D. Morel, the Congo Free State counted "20 million souls". Other estimates of the size of the overall population decline (or mortality displacement) range between two and 13 million. Ascherson cites an estimate by Roger Casement of a population fall of three million, although he notes that it is "almost certainly an underestimate". In fact researcher to this this domain of Belgian atrocities in Africa came up with diverse figures like Peter Forbath whose works pointed at least a total of 5 million deaths (*Forbath, P, 1977*). On his part, John Gunther also supports a the later but stood at a minimum death of 8 million and Lemkin posited that 75 percent of the population at the time was killed (*Vanthemsche, G; 2006*).

According to Hochschild, A, (2005).the atrocities in the Congo was one of the most appalling slaughters known to have been brought about by human agency. While Weisbord R. (2003) holds that there was no desire to any specific group of Congolese to be eliminated but death toll of the holocaust was proportionately too high. On his part, Nzongola-Ntalaja Georges(2011) rejected the allegations of genocide in the Free State because there was no policy of deliberate extermination. In spite of their differences in accepting about genocide or not, the Belgian are supposed to be held responsible for the cannibalistic activities they whole heartedly practiced to satisfy their masters through the mechanisms of intensive exploitation with no human face. The legacy of the population decline of Leopold's reign left the subsequent colonial government

with a severe labour shortage and it often had to resort to mass migrations to provide workers to emerging businesses. The atrocities of the era generated public debate about Leopold, his specific role in them, and his legacy. Belgian crowds booed at his funeral in 1909 to express their dissatisfaction with his rule of the Congo. Attention to the atrocities subsided in the following years and statues of him were erected in the 1930s at the initiative of Albert I, while the Belgian government celebrated his accomplishments in Belgium. The release of Hochschild's *King Leopold's Ghost* in 1999 briefly reignited debate in Belgium, which resurfaced periodically over the following 20 years. Statues of Leopold in the Congo, which became independent in 1960, were relocated to the national museum. In 2020, following the killing of George Floyd in the United States and the subsequent protests, numerous statues of Leopold II in Belgium were vandalised as a criticism of the atrocities of his rule in the Congo. On 30 June 2020, the 60th anniversary of Congolese independence, King Philippe sent a letter to Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi, expressing his "deepest regret" for "acts of violence and cruelty" committed during the existence of the Free State and other transgressions that occurred during the colonial period, but did not explicitly mention Leopold's role in the atrocities. Some activists accused him of not making a full apology (**Hochschild, A, 2005**).

On his part historical account, Tim Stanley (2012) stated that "when I was a boy we used to play a car game called Name Five Famous Belgians. The game speaks to a lazy stereotype among Britons that Belgium is a country without history or character, lost somewhere between France and Germany. How extraordinary it was to discover, then, that one of this small state's kings was also one of history's greatest mass murderers". Leopold II (1835-1909) wanted his country to join the league of European empires, but the Belgian state refused to finance its part in Western Europe's expensive scramble for Africa. So they outsourced the task to Leopold, who used personal diplomacy to convince the European powers to grant him control of a large portion of the Congo basin. He promised to bring civilisation to the so-called Dark Continent. Christened the Congo Free State in 1885, Leopold's playground was an astonishing 76 times the size of Belgium. (**Stengers, J, 1969**). Comprised largely of unmapped jungle, it was initially a huge financial burden. But when worldwide demand for rubber boomed, Leopold cashed in. Congolese workers were sent out into the jungle to slash down vines and layer their bodies with rubber latex. Later they would scrape it off their skin – often taking flesh and hair with it. The work was labour-intensive and injurious to health; the only economical way to collect it was via the forced mobilisation of Congolese society. The Congo Free State evolved from a vanity possession into a slave plantation). Leopold's hell operated by an insane logic. Villages were set quotas of rubber and the gendarmerie

were sent in to collect it – a process that was sped up by looting, arson and rape. If a village failed to reach its quota hostages would be taken and shot. To ensure that the gendarmerie didn't waste their bullets hunting for food, they were required to produce the severed hands of victims. As a consequence a trade in severed hands developed among the villagers and those police that couldn't reach their quotas (**Tim Stanley, 2012**).

Conceptually Leopold's reign of terror was a bridge between the imperialism of the 19th century and the totalitarianism of the 20th. Like most other empires it began as an exercise in piracy. But the sheer scale of the terror, the role of bureaucracy and the near-genocidal numbers of dead draw comparisons with Hitler's *Lebensraum* and Stalin's war on the Kulaks. The motive was greed rather than ideology, but the organised slaughter and the racist assumptions behind it make it recognisable to those old enough to remember the siege of Sarajevo or the Rwandan genocide. It is a reminder of the many forgotten horrors that lace the narrative of imperialism. The problems that African nations have endured since independence should be contextualised by the lingering trauma of colonisation at its most exploitative. Perhaps its greatest evil was that it concentrated power over so many into the hands of so few – allowing one wretched Belgian to ravage a continent (**Tim Stanley, 2012**).

The relentless pursuit of profits in the Congo by King Leopold II resulted in one of the worst levels of moral decadence for mankind. The colony in the Congo – the Congo Free State – was personal property for the Belgian king and there was little oversight over what happened there. King Leopold II committed heinous atrocities in the name of chasing profits and raising the prestige of Belgium. The genocide in the Congo is one of the most forgotten pieces of history, but the damage has been long-lasting. From 1885-1908, the Congo Free State under the personal rule of King Leopold II was living hell. The Hidden Holocaust: How King Leopold II Murdered 10 Million Africans. Therefore, the horrors in the Congo at the hands of Leopold do not elicit the same outrage as compared to the mentioning of evil men like Hitler (**Takudzwa H. C. June 11, 2020**). He instead shifted his focus to explorers and missionaries. Spurred by the recent reports from Central Africa at that time, he began sponsoring explorers, including Henry Morton Stanley. Leopold then established the International African Association – which was purported to be a "charitable" organization on a mission to "spread humanitarian assistance and civilization" to the natives in the Congo. The organization was handed the rights to oversee the exploration and surveying of territory around the Congo River. In reality, the organization was up to no charity but was solely for profits in the Congo. At the Berlin Conference of 1884-85, the territory controlled by Leopold (totaling 2,350,000 km²) was recognized by other European leaders. The Congo Free State was then

meant to be a free trade area and buffer state between British and French spheres of influence. The takeover of the Congo for Leopold's personal rule had been complete. The Congo Free State was a patchy colony since the Belgian government had not officially annexed it. Being under the personal rule of Leopold, he did as he pleased to maximize profits. At first, the colony specialized in ivory exports, but this was not as profitable as the investors, administrators, and Leopold himself had thought to be. The colonial administration was always in debt, but the invention of the car and the subsequent demand for rubber changed the colonial fortunes of Leopold (**Takudzwa H. C. June 11, 2020**).

Rubber quotas were imposed on villages and the Force Publique was called in to enforce these quotas, which were unrealistic to fill. Failure to meet the quotas was punishable by violence and death. The Force Publique would destroy villages, rape women, take hostages, torture, and extort the people. Men who could not fill their quotas would be mutilated and/or killed. At times whole villages that could not fill their quotas would be burned down to the ground as a lesson for other villages. Women and children would be taken hostage until the men filled their designated quotas. The women would be raped (**The African Exponent Weekly**). The furiously high demand for rubber in the 1890s saw the colonial administrators impose quotas that were unachievable. Those who resisted had to be killed, and that meant the use of arms. Ammunition was expensive to import from Europe, therefore, to account for the bullets used in killing people, soldiers were supposed to bring a hand for every bullet used. For every person shot and killed, providing a hand was evidence of a real killing and not wastage of bullets. The administrators believed some of the bullets would be wasted by soldiers hunting. The basket of hands became a grisly nightmare of Leopold's Red Rubber Terror in the Congo. For proof of the killings done, hands cut off from the victims were supposed to be availed. Sometimes the soldiers would be paid for severed hands because it was proof that they were carrying out the system of terror in the colony. The imposition of colonial rule on Belgium for the King's profits saw a gigantic reduction in the population of the local people – in what has been termed as the first genocide in the world. Since the rubber took center stage, little production of food took place. The result was famine and starvation which killed many more people. Some men who refused to comply with colonial orders were taken to prisons where the conditions were deplorable, resulting in mass death. The white people imported diseases on the local people including smallpox, venereal diseases (syphilis and gonorrhea), and amoebic dysentery. Sleeping sickness was also a major killer. There was no concern for health and the dignity of the person, it was all about chasing profits. (**The African Exponent Weekly**).

Initially, government and commercial agents focused on acquiring ivory, but inventions, one of the only places in the world to have a large supply of wild rubber, and the government and its affiliated trading companies quickly shifted their focus to extracting the suddenly lucrative commodity. Company agents were paid large concessions on top of their salaries for the profits they generated, creating personal incentives to force people to work more and harder for little to no pay. The only way to do that was through the use of terror. In order to enforce the near impossible rubber quotas imposed on villages, agents and officials called on the Free State's army, the *Force Publique*. This army was composed of White officers and African soldiers. Some of these soldiers were recruits, while others were enslaved people or orphans brought up to serve the colonial army. The army becomes known for its brutality, with the officers and soldiers being accused of destroying villages, taking hostages, raping, torturing, and extorting the people. Men who did not fulfill their quota were killed or mutilated. They also sometimes eradicated whole villages that failed to meet the quotas as a warning to others. Women and children were often taken hostage until men fulfilled a quota; during which time the women were raped repeatedly. The iconic images to emerge from this terror, though, were the baskets full of smoked hands and the Congolese children who survived having a hand cut off. (**Angela T, August 11, 2018**).

For 126 years, the US and Belgium have played key roles in shaping Congo's destiny. In April 1884, seven months before the Berlin Congress, the US became the first country in the world to recognise the claims of King Leopold II of the Belgians to the territories of the Congo Basin. When the atrocities related to brutal economic exploitation in Leopold's Congo Free State resulted in millions of fatalities, the US joined other world powers to force Belgium to take over the country as a regular colony. And it was during the colonial period that the US acquired a strategic stake in the enormous natural wealth of the Congo, following its use of the uranium from Congolese mines to manufacture the first atomic weapons, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs. With the outbreak of the cold war, it was inevitable that the US and its western allies would not be prepared to let Africans have effective control over strategic raw materials, lest these fall in the hands of their enemies in the Soviet camp. It is in this regard that Patrice Lumumba's determination to achieve genuine independence and to have full control over Congo's resources in order to utilise them to improve the living conditions of our people was perceived as a threat to western interests. To fight him, the US and Belgium used all the tools and resources at their disposal, including the United Nations secretariat, under Dag Hammarskjöld and Ralph Bunche, to buy the support of Lumumba's Congolese rivals, and hired killers. In Congo, Lumumba's assassination is rightly viewed as the country's original sin. Coming less than

seven months after independence (on 30 June, 1960), it was a stumbling block to the ideals of national unity, economic independence and pan-African solidarity that Lumumba had championed, as well as a shattering blow to the hopes of millions of Congolese for freedom and material prosperity. The assassination took place at a time when the country had fallen under four separate governments: the central government in Kinshasa (then Léopoldville); a rival central government by Lumumba's followers in Kisangani (then Stanleyville); and the secessionist regimes in the mineral-rich provinces of Katanga and South Kasai. Since Lumumba's physical elimination had removed what the west saw as the major threat to their interests in the Congo, internationally-led efforts were undertaken to restore the authority of the moderate and pro-western regime in Kinshasa over the entire country. These resulted in ending the Lumumbist regime in Kisangani in August 1961, the secession of South Kasai in September 1962, and the Katanga secession in January 1963 (Nzongola G. N, 2011).

1. The Roots of Unforgotten Belgian Monarchical Cannibalism in the C.F.S / B.C

The Yeke Kingdom (or Garanganze Kingdom) in Katanga was short-lived, existing from about 1856 to 1891 under one king, Msiri, a Nyamwezi (also known as 'Yeke') from Tabora in Tanzania who got himself appointed as successor to a Wasanga chief west of the Luapula River by defeating the chief's Lunda enemies. Once installed he conquered the neighbouring tribes and expanded the chieftainship into a kingdom, taking over the western territory of Mwata Kazembe and subjugating tribes in the southwest, on the trading route to Angola. When King Leopold II of Belgium and British diamond magnate Cecil Rhodes heard that the Yeke Kingdom controlled east-west trade and was rich in copper and possibly gold, they sent competing expeditions to try to negotiate a treaty with the kingdom. The Stairs Expedition sent by Leopold under the flag of his Congo Free State was the winner of this scramble for Katanga when it met and killed Msiri (putting his head on a pole as a 'lesson' to his people), and installed a successor who would sign Katanga over to Leopold (Joseph A. M, 1893). The chieftainship continues to this day under the title *Mwami Mwenda* ('Mwenda' was one of Msiri's names) .The Kuba Kingdom, or more accurately, the Kuba Federation, was a political entity (one comprising a collection of approximately twenty Bantu ethnic groups) that began to develop out of a number of decentralized, ethnically Bantu states (namely the Luba, the Leele, and the Wongo ethnic groups). The federation's capital was Nsheng, which is now modern Mushenge. The name "Kuba" is derived from the term used by the Luba (whose kingdom lay to the south of the Kuba) for the civilization. Because of its relative remoteness in the southern Congo, Kuba was largely spared the turmoil of both Euro-American and Arab slave trades. As a result, the civilization was able to

maintain itself until the 19th Century. Also due mainly to its location, even after Belgium officially established the Congo Free State in 1885, the Kuba were able to sustain their federation, which comprised some 100,000 square kilometers and had a population of approximately 150,000 inhabitants (René de Pont-Jest, 1892).The Belgians began attempting to gain the acceptance of the Kuba in the early 1880s; however, the gifts Belgium attempted to give were always rejected and king aMbweky aMileng threatened to behead any foreign intruders. As a result of their fear of white foreigners, it was not until the African-American missionary William Sheppard made contact with the Kuba that a foreigner would gain their acceptance. This was mainly due to his African blood and Sheppard was able to live amongst the Kuba for four months. Eventually, after colonial officials were able to enforce their authority upon the Kuba near the end of the 19th century, the entire region became increasingly unstable. However, the well-organized Kuba fought relentlessly against the regime and the area was one of the main sectors of resistance to Belgium throughout its rule (Way back Machine "Mwami M, 2007).

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was one of the main sectors of resistance to Belgium throughout its rule. The Kongo and the Kuba were the largest political entities in the precolonial Congo area. However, there were numerous other, much smaller states scattered throughout the territory in the north and northeast, with Pygmies and other primarily hunter-gatherer populations located mostly in the southern portions of the region (Balandier G, 1968). Of particular note is that the populations of the Eastern regions of the precolonial Congo were heavily disrupted by constant slaving, mainly from Zanzibari slave dealers such as the infamous Tippu Tip (though he would come after the Europeans' entrance onto the scene). The slave trade in this portion of Africa was primarily Arab in nature (in contrast to the European or Atlantic Slave Trade, which took place primarily in West Africa, the Arab slave trade was located on the eastern coast of the continent), with captured persons being shipped off to the Middle East or to holdings of Arabian kingdoms for labour (Thornton, J. K. 2020).

Until the later part of the 19th century, few Europeans had ventured into the Congo Basin. The rainforest, swamps and accompanying malaria and other tropical diseases, such as sleeping sickness, made it a difficult environment for European exploration and exploitation. In 1876 King Leopold II of Belgium organized the International African Association with the cooperation of the leading African explorers and the support of several European governments for the promotion of the exploration and colonization of Africa. After Henry Morton Stanley had explored the region in a journey that ended in 1878, Leopold courted the explorer and hired him to help his interests in the region. Leopold II had been keen to acquire a colony for Belgium even before he ascended to the throne in 1865. The Belgian civil government showed little interest in its monarch's dreams of empire-building. Ambitious and stubborn, Leopold decided to pursue the matter on his own account (libcom.org > history > colonialism-congo-1885-1997).

An unestimated Congolese people died as a result of Leopold's quest for rubber. Van Reybrouck argues that it was "definitely a hecatomb, a slaughter on a staggering scale." Equateur, Bandundu and Kasai on the western side of the Congolese rain forest were the hardest hit, he finds. The Morel and Casement report shows that "the cover-up worsens the crime: it was investigative research which Leopold tried to suppress which brought the issue to international attention. Edward Morel, a shipping clerk from Liverpool who was working in Antwerp, was disturbed by the quantity of rubber coming from the Congo, and the amount of ammunition that was being shipped there. In 1903, the British government sent their consul, Roger Casement, to investigate (King Leopold feared Casement's report). According to the historian William Roger Louis, he tried to get the British Foreign Office to suppress it by threatening to "hand everything over to Germany."

Casement's report, though watered down by the British government, confirmed the atrocities carried out by agents of the Congo Free State, in particular the Force Publique, as they enforced rubber-collection quotas. Casement had earlier been to the Upper Congo in 1887, where there had once been thriving towns, there were now only trails of desolation. Casement's report led to the appointment of an international commission which confirmed that violence in the enforcement of rubber quotas was the rule rather than the exception. It led directly to Leopold being forced to hand over his personal fiefdom to the Belgian state, and the Congo Free State became the Belgian Congo. (Renton, D et als, 2007). However, Morel summarized in strong terms that King Leopold's rule as "the reduction of millions of men to a condition of absolute slavery, by a system of legalised robbery enforced by violence." Taking down a few statues is beside the point: a formal Belgian apology should be the prelude to meaningful reparations to the present Democratic Republic of the Congo as Belgian authorities as well as the Congolese have been reawaking reviewing the previous colonial atrocities and its implications (Rannard, G , 13 June 2020) whose population is still suffering from the monarchical tortures with the country frequently plagued by leadership conflicts and civil wars propagated by late the 20th and early 21st Centuries political elites gross ambitions of power domination.

It should however be noted that Sir Henry Morton Stanley, was teleguided King Leopold II of Belgium to explore the territory in the general context of European imperialism of the mid-19th Century Africa. The eastern regions of the pre-colonial Congo were heavily disrupted by constant slave raiding, mainly from Arab-Swahili slave traders such as the infamous Tippu Tip, who was well-known to Stanley (Ewans, M, 2001). With much imperialistic desired and the calculation of enormous gains in terms of human and natural resources, King Leopold long designed on what would become the Congo and was able to procure the region by convincing other European agents that he was involved in humanitarian and philanthropic activities and promised not to levy any tax on trading activities in spotted lucrative area. What was the King's game was targeted towards the extraction of ivory, rubber and minerals in the Upper Congo Basin for commercial purposes in the European markets. Although, some analyst held that "Leopold's main purpose in the region was to uplift the local people and develop the area to be more profitable to himself". He formally acquired rights to the Congo territory during the Berlin Conference of November 1884 and February 1885 thereby defining the zone as an exclusive sphere of influence (Nzongola N, G, 2007) and personal property and not even of the Belgium as the principal colonial master. Meaning that King Leopold also conspired against his own country and equally needs to be charged for doing that. How then the colonial agents did allowed him to down played them by acquiring

what was supposed to be the belonging of the country Belgium to be built up his person wealth and aggrandizement just like Mussolini and Hitler did? Have the present Belgian Government been able to evaluate the degree of atrocities committed by Leopold and other Kings and what he accumulated as personal wealth drawn from the Congolese and was all invested to the advantage of Belgium are all worried questions which needs total response and compensations from the present Belgian Government and King.

To justify the above historical claims against the former Kings and Colonial Government of Congo (C.G.C), the worst appellation cropped on May 29, 1885 when he took personal initiative naming the colony as C.F.S. To further his ambitions, King Leopold system began the construction of vast infrastructural development projects like railways that ran from the coast to the capital of Leopoldville which took eight years to complete for easy extraction and transportation of the tapped natural resources. Below was the declaration made to harass, intimidate, torture and mass killings of Africans in terms of effective exploitation in the region. This created fear as villagers themselves resorted to atrocities to wage smaller wars and collect hands from neighbouring villages to meet up with their unrealistic rubber quotas demanded by the colonial actors. Just like colonial soldiers were not also free from death if they do not bring the required

quantities of rubber or hands of those who disappointed them. This marked the real origins of the continuous atrocities at post-independence of the second half of the 20th Century. While below were the main executors of the colonial punishment using the colonial forces which were set up.

2. Principal Actors of the Massacred and Cannibalistic Activities in C.F.S and B.C

Their portfolios started with A.G to G.G, between 1884 and 1908, the portfolio of V.G.G was introduced A.V.G.G and G.G to independence in 1960. Prior to the creation of the Congo Free State, the International Association of the Congo (IAC) had signed treaties with over 300 native Congolese chiefs and in effect exercised sovereignty over a large area. The IAC was headquartered in Belgium and run by a committee under the presidency of Maximilian Strauch. Prior to the creation of the office of Administrator-General, authority on the ground in the Congo had been exercised by a Chief of Expedition, who until April 1884 was Henry Morton Stanley.

List of abbreviations used to qualify colonial agents in C.F.S and C.B

A.G: Administrator General

G.G: Governor-General

V.G.G: Vice Governors-General

A.V.G.G: Acting Vice Governor-General

Table-1: Active Colonial Diplomatic Agents of the C F S / C B 1884-1960

No.	Names Agents	Duration in Office	Pre-Colonial and Colonial Ranks
1	Francis de Winton	22 April 1884-1 July 1885	A.G
2	Francis de Winton	1 July 1885- April 1886	A.G
3	Camille Janssen	April 1886-17 April 1887	A.G
4	Camille Janssen	17 April 1887-1 July 1892	G.G
5	Théophile Wahis	1 July 1892-15 November 1908	G.G
6	Camille Janssen	25 September 1885- April 1886	V.G.G
7	Herman Ledeganck	31 January 1888- January 1889	V.G.G
9	Henri Gondry	January 1889-18 May 1889	A.V.G.G
10	Camille Coquilhat	1890-24 March 1891	V.G.G
11	Théophile Wahis	15 April 1891-1 July 1892	G.G
12	Francis Dhanis	4 September 1896-1897	V.G.G
13	Émile Wangermée	11 April 1897-1 December 1897	V.G.G
14	Alphonse van Gèle	1 December 1897-10 January 1899	V.G.G
15	Paul Costermans	January 1904- March 1905	V.G.G
16	Félix Fuchs	25 December 1902-4 March 1904	V.G.G
17	Albert Lantonniois van Rode	May 1905-1906/7	V.G.G
18	Félix Fuchs	1907-1908	V.G.G
19	Théophile Wahis	15 November 1908-20 May 1912	G.G
20	Félix Fuchs	20 May 1912-5 January 1916	G.G
21	Eugène Henry	5 January 1916-30 January 1921	G.G
22	Maurice Lippens	30 January 1921-24 January 1923	G.G
23	Martin Rutten	24 January 1923-27 December 1927	G.G
24	Auguste Tilkens	27 December 1927-14 September 1934	G.G
25	Pierre Ryckmans	14 September 1934-31 December 1946	G.G
26	Eugène Jungers	31 December 1946-1 January 1952	G.G
27	Léo Pétilion	1 January 1952-12 July 1958	G.G
28	Hendrik Cornelis	12 July 1958-30 June 1960	G.G
	On 1 July 1960, the Belgian Congo became independent as the Republic of the Congo (<i>République du Congo</i>).		

Source: Compiled by us with information from different sources including relevant websites. *Henige David P, 1970. Belgian Congo - Wikipediaen.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgian_Congo.*

Table-2: Belgium Monarchies who laid the Groundwork's of Atrocities in the C F S / C B 1831-1960

	NAMES OF KINGS	PERIOD IN THE THRONE
1	Erasmé Louis Surlet de Chokier <i>Regent</i>	25 February 1831-20 July 1831
2	Leopold I	21 July 1831-7 June 1850
3	Leopold II	7 June 1850-17 December 1909
4	Albert I	23 December 1909-17 February 1934
5	Leopold III	23 February 1934-16 July 1951(abdicated)
6	Charles <i>Prince Regent for Leopold III</i>	20 September 1944-20 July 1950
7	Baudouin	20 September 1944-31 July 1993

Sources: Compiled by us with information from diverse sources and websites. Monarchy of Belgium, Line of succession to the Belgian throne, Crown Council of Belgium, online. Danny Kennedy, Royalty of Belgium, Historipedia ; Gann, Lewis H et al, 1979. *Newbury David*, 1992).

Table-3: Belgium Prime Ministers who collaborated with the Monarchies to Carried out Mass Killings of Africans in CFS / CB

No.	NAMES Prime Ministers	Period in Office
1	Étienne Constantin de Gerlache	1830-27 February 1831
2	Joseph Lebeau	10 March 1831
3	Félix de Muelenaere	1831- 24 July 1831
4	Albert Joseph Goblet d'Alviella	1833-20 October 1832
5	Barthélémy de Theux de Meylandt	1835-1839
6	Joseph Lebeau	18 April 1840
7	Jean-Baptiste Nothomb	1841 1843-13 April 1841
8	Sylvain Van de Weyer	1845-30 July 1845
9	Barthélémy de Theux de Meylandt	31 March 1846
10	Charles Rogier	1847-1848 1850-12 August 1847
11	Henri de Brouckère	1852 1854-31 October 1852
12	Pierre de Decker	1855 1856-30 March 1855
13	Charles Rogier	1857-1867-9 November 1857
14	Walthère Frère-Orban	1868- 3 January 1868
15	Jules d'Anethan	Jun.1870 Aug.1870-2 July 1870
16	Barthélémy de Theux de Meylandt	1872 1874-7 December 1871
17	Jules Malou	1876-21 August 1874
18	Walthère Frère-Orban	1878- 19 June 1878
19	Jules Malou	1884-16 June 1884
20	Auguste Beernaert	1886-1892
21	Jules de Burlet	26 March 1894
22	Paul de Smet de Naeyer	1896 1898-25 February 1896
23	Jules Vandenpeereboom	24 January 1899
24	Paul de Smet de Naeyer	1900-1906
25	Jules de Trooz	2 May 1907
26	Frans Schollaert	1908-1910
27	Charles de Broqueville	1912-18 January 1916
28	Gérard Cooreman	1 June 1918
29	Léon Delacroix	21 November 1918- 20 November 1920
30	Henry Carton de Wiart	20 November 1920-16 December 1921
31	Georges Theunis	16 December 1921-13 May 1925
32	Aloys Van de Vyvere	13 May 1925-17 June 1925
33	Prosper Poullet	17 June 1925-20 May 1926
34	Henri Jaspar	20 May 1926-6 June 1931
35	Jules Renkin	6 June 1931-22 October 1932
36	Charles de Broqueville	22 October 1932-20 November 1934
37	Georges Theunis	20 November 1934-25 March 1935
38	Paul van Zeeland	25 March 1935- 24 November 1937
39	Paul-Émile Janson	24 November 1937-15 May 1938
40	Paul-Henri Spaak	15 May 1938-16 April 1939
41	Hubert Pierlot	3 September 1939-12 February 1945
42	Achille Van Acker	12 February 1945-13 March 1946
43	Paul-Henri Spaak	13 March 1946-31 March 1946
44	Achille Van Acker	31 March 1946-3 August 1946
45	Camille Huysmans	3 August 1946
46	Paul-Henri Spaak	20 March 1947-27 November 1948
47	Gaston Eyskens	11 August 1949
48	Jean Duvieusart	8 June 1950
49	Joseph Pholien	16 August 1950
50	Jean Van Houtte	15 January 1952
51	Achille Van Acker	23 April 1954
52	Gaston Eyskens	26 June 1958--3 September 1960
53	Théo Lefèvre	25 April 1961

Sources: Compiled by us with information from diverse sources including relevant websites.en.wikipedia.org > wiki > List of Prime Ministers of Belgium - Wikipedia, List of prime ministers of Belgium. Contents. 1 Chiefs of government (1831–1918) Chiefs of government (1831–1918) Prime ministers (1918–present)

The Congo Free State was a corporate state privately controlled by Leopold II of Belgium through his Association internationale africaine, a non-governmental organization supposedly dedicated to humanitarian purposes. Under Leopold II's administration, the Congo Free State became the site of one of the most infamous international scandals of the turn of the 20th century. In the Free State, colonists brutalized the local population into producing rubber, for which the spread of automobiles and development of rubber tires created a growing international market. The police force, the Force Publique, routinely mutilated (especially cutting off hands) and murdered the indigenous population to enforce rubber production quotas. The report of the British Consul Roger Casement led to the arrest and punishment of white officials responsible for cold-blooded killings during a rubber-collecting expedition in 1903, including one Belgian national who caused the shooting of at least 122 Congolese natives (**Janssens É et al., 1908**). The parliament of Belgium annexed the Congo Free State and took over its administration on November 15, 1908, as the colony of the Belgian Congo. Congo Reform Association: A movement formed with the declared intention to aid the exploited and impoverished workforce of the Congo by drawing attention to their plight. The association was founded in March 1904 by Dr. Henry Grattan Guinness, Edmund Dene Morel, and Roger Casement. Force Publique: A military force in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 1885 (when the territory was known as the Congo Free State), through the period of direct Belgian colonial rule (1908 to 1960). Early on, they were used primarily to campaign against the Arab slave trade in the Upper Congo, protect Leopold's economic interests, and suppress frequent uprisings within the state, but eventually they partook in horrific abuse of the Congolese people, including frequent mutilation and murder. Congo Free State: A large state in Central Africa from 1885 to 1908 in personal union with the Kingdom of Belgium under Leopold II (**libcom.org › history › short-history-colonialism-congo-1885-1997A short history of colonialism in Congo, 1885-1997 - Libcom**). The archival records of Leopold's Congo Free State were deliberately destroyed before the Belgian state became the colonial power in 1908. It should be noted that Belgian monarchs from 1831 when the first Belgian king, Leopold I, ascended the throne, after Belgium seceded from the United Kingdom of the Netherlands during the Belgian Revolution of 1830. Under the Belgian Constitution, the Belgian monarch is styled "King of the Belgians" rather than "King of Belgium" in order to reflect the monarchy's constitutional and popular function. Since 1831, there have been seven Kings of the Belgians and two regents (**libcom.org › history › short-history-colonialism-congo-1885-1997A short history of colonialism in Congo, 1885-1997 - Libcom**).

Leopold administered the Congo in a notoriously brutal manner, using it to augment his own personal wealth. The Congo's wealth, which included its numerous rubber trees, was brutally extracted using what was basically slave labour. Granted to King Leopold II of Belgium, the Congo was a "personal" concession for the King, rather than a colony. The King, not the Belgian government, effectively owned and controlled the Congo. Considered one of the worst examples of colonial abuse, many have called for Belgium to apologise and make reparations for the crimes committed during its colonisation of Congo. Leopold II, King of the Belgians from 1865 to 1909, founded and exploited the Congo Free State as a private venture and atrocities were perpetrated there under his rule from 1885 to 1908. After Leopold handed over Congo to the Belgian state, the tiny nation continued to hold sway over an area 80 times its size and half a world away until Congo became independent in 1960. The boldest estimates state that the forced labour system led directly and indirectly to the deaths of 50 percent of the population. Leopold's regime was characterised by notorious systematic brutality (ultimatehistoryproject.com/belgian-congo.html). Men, women and children had hands amputated for failing to deliver their quota of rubber and thousands were sold into slavery. The UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent said in an interim report that Belgium should consider reparations to the Congolese "with a view to closing the dark chapter in history and as a means of reconciliation and healing". It added that the Belgian government needs "to issue an apology for the atrocities committed during colonization." "The root causes of present-day human rights violations lie in the lack of recognition of the true scope of the violence and injustice of colonisation." The UN group also pointed to the reality that racism in Belgium continues today. "(We are) concerned about the human rights situation of people of African descent in Belgium who experience racism and racial discrimination," it said. "There is clear evidence that racial discrimination is endemic in institutions in Belgium." The UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent said in an interim report on Belgium that racial discrimination against Africans "is endemic" in Belgium's institutions and the nation needs to make amends for the crimes committed in the Congo. (Kylie K, 2019).

The history of the Belgian Congo began with King Leopold II of Belgium, who is responsible for its creation. Learn about King Leopold II and the creation of the Congo Free State, imperialism, slavery, genocide, economic exploitation, and the public scandal surrounding atrocities committed there. King Leopold II and the Congo Free State. In the last decades of the 19th century, the largely uncharted African continent was overrun by a sudden wave of European imperialist expansion. Driven by nationalist pride, imperial ambitions, and the hope of acquiring vast new economic resources, the leading nations of Europe each

sought to claim a piece of the African "cake" for themselves. The Berlin Conference of 1884 through 1885 formalized many of the major powers' claims in Africa and granted the coveted Congo River basin to King Leopold II of Belgium. Initially called the Congo Free State, the colony remained a personal possession of King Leopold II from 1885 until 1908 when it was taken over by the Belgian government and renamed the Belgian Congo. But, why all the bother over Africa? Most African colonies at the time, including the Congo Free State, were created primarily for the economic exploitation of natural resources and labor. The major exports from the Congo region included ivory, rubber, and precious minerals, all of which were highly profitable and in great demand in Europe. To maximize the profitability, the interior regions of the Congo that could not be reached by river and steamship were steadily opened up through the construction of railroads (*Andrew P, 2021*).

The Congo Free State as it existed under Leopold II is largely known to history for its brutal exploitation of the native Congolese population and the mass death that resulted. Under Leopold II there were virtually no laws or restrictions protecting the native Congolese and their lands. The peoples of the Congo River basin were forced to work as porters, miners, rubber-tappers, woodcutters, and railway builders for European interests. Because there was little oversight and no form of organized government control, Europeans were free to adopt brutal policies of kidnapping, mutilation, robbery, and murder to extract desired labor and resources from the local population. The harvesting of rubber was a particularly arduous task. Rubber was in great demand in Europe for use in the manufacture of bicycle and automobile tires. But, how could Europeans with limited resources and manpower force large numbers of local peoples to harvest rubber deep in the jungles of Africa? A colonial army called the *force publique* (public force) was created largely from local African people and a handful of Belgian officers in order to marshal labor, quell revolts, and enforce the collection of rubber and ivory ([en.wikipedia.org > wiki > Belgian Congo Belgian Congo - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgian_Congo)). A common tactic used in the Congo Free State was to demand a certain quota of rubber from each village. Missing a quota was punished violently. It was not uncommon for the hands and feet of men, women, and children to be amputated as punishment for not collecting enough rubber or ivory. Hostages were taken from villages and used as leverage when demanding quotas. Villagers knew that not gathering the specified quota of goods could mean the execution of their family. Such inhumane policies drove many villagers of the Congo to revolt and resist colonial rule. Rebellions were put down swiftly and violently, often by killing all those who refused to work. The bodies of rebels were often displayed as a warning to others. While the death toll in the Congo Free State can never be truly known due to a lack of accurate records,

historians have offered estimates as high as ten million dead between 1885 and 1908. Colonial mismanagement and oppression led not only to the killing and maiming of native peoples, but also to overwork, disease, starvation, and a host of other factors that all combined in a massive loss of life (*Catherine S, 2018*).

Belgium is not the first European country we think of when we hear the words "blood-soaked tyranny." Historically, the little country has always been more famous for beer than epic crimes against humanity. But there was a time, at the peak of European imperialism in Africa, when Belgium's King Leopold II ran a personal empire so vast and cruel, it rivaled – and even exceeded – the crimes of even the worst 20th century dictators. This empire was known as the Congo Free State and Leopold II stood as its undisputed slave master. For almost 30 years, rather than being a regular colony of a European government the way South Africa or the Spanish Sahara were, Congo was administered as the private property of this one man for his personal enrichment. This world's largest plantation was 76 times the size of Belgium, possessed rich mineral and agricultural resources, and had lost perhaps half of its population by the time the first census counted only 10 million people living there in 1924 (*Catherine S, 2018*). Nothing about Leopold II's youth suggested a future mass murderer. Born the heir to Belgium's throne in 1835, he spent his days doing all of the things a European prince would be expected to do before ascending to the throne of a minor state: learning to ride and shoot, taking part in state ceremonies, getting appointed to the army, marrying an Austrian princess, and so on. Leopold II took the throne in 1865 and he ruled with the kind of soft touch Belgians expected from their king in the wake of the multiple revolutions and reforms that had democratized the country over the preceding few decades. Indeed, the young King Leopold really only ever put pressure on the senate in his (constant) attempts to get Belgium involved in building an overseas empire like all the bigger countries had. This became an obsession for Leopold II (*Boulger D. C, 1898*). He was convinced, like most statesmen of his time, that a nation's greatness was directly proportional to the amount of lucre it could suck out of equatorial colonies, and he wanted Belgium to have as much as possible before other countries came along and tried to take it. First, in 1866, he tried to get the Philippines from Queen Isabella II of Spain. However, his negotiations collapsed when Isabella was overthrown in 1868. That's when he started talking about Africa. In 1878, Henry Stanley presumed to meet Dr. Livingstone deep inside the Congo rain forest. The international press made both men out to be heroes – bold explorers in the heart of darkest Africa. What went unsaid in the breathless newspaper accounts of the two men's famous expeditions is what they were doing in the Congo in the first place ([www.thoughtco.com > congo-free-state-atrocities](http://www.thoughtco.com/congo-free-state-atrocities)).

A few years before the two expeditions met up, Leopold II had formed the International African Society (IAS) to organize and finance exploration of the continent. Officially, this was a prelude to a kind of international philanthropic enterprise, in which the "benevolent" king would shower natives with the blessings of Christianity, starched shirts, and steam engines. Stanley and Livingstone's expeditions composed a major part of opening up the rain forest to the king's agents. This ruse that King Leopold II was working overtime to get Africans into heaven, worked far longer than it should have and the king's claim to the ironically named "Congo Free State" was formally recognized at the Congress of Berlin in 1885. To be fair, it is possible that Leopold II, a fairly observant Belgian Catholic, really did want to introduce his new chattel to Jesus. (en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Atrocities_Congo Free State -). But he did this in the most literal, and ruthless, way possible: by killing a huge number of them and making life generally unbearable for the rest as they labored to dig up gold, hunted to kill elephants for ivory, and hacked down their native forest to clear land for rubber plantations all over the country. Elsewhere, violence took place on rubber plantations. These establishments take a lot of work to maintain, and rubber trees can't really grow on a commercial scale in an old-growth rain forest. Clear cutting that forest is a big job that delays the crop and cuts into profits. To save time and money, the king's agents routinely depopulated villages – where most of the clearance work had already been done – to make room for the King's cash crop. By the late 1890s, with economical rubber production shifting to India and Indonesia, the destroyed villages were simply abandoned, with their few surviving inhabitants left to fend for themselves or make their way to another village deeper in the forest. The greed of the Congo's overlords knew no boundaries, and the lengths to which they went to gratify it were likewise extreme. Just as Christopher Columbus had done in Hispaniola 400 years earlier, Leopold II imposed quotas on every man in his realm for production of raw materials (Vanderstraeten, L. F., 1985).

Men who failed to meet their ivory and gold quota even once would face mutilation, with hands and feet being the most popular sites for amputation. If the man could not be caught, or if he needed both hands to work, *Forces Publique* men would cut the hands off of his wife or children. The king's appalling system began to take its toll on a scale unheard of since the Mongol rampage across Asia. Nobody knows how many people lived in the Congo Free State in 1885, but the area, which was three times the size of Texas, may have had up to 20 million people before colonization. (**millichronicle.com** ›, 2018). At the time of the 1924 census, that figure had fallen to 10 million. Central Africa is so remote, and the terrain is so difficult to travel across, that no other European colonies reported a major refugee influx. The perhaps 10 million people

who disappeared in the colony during this time were most likely dead. No single cause took them all. Instead, the World War I-level mass death was mostly the result of starvation, disease, overwork, infections caused by mutilation, and outright executions of the slow, the rebellious, and the families of fugitives. Eventually, tales of the nightmare unfolding in the Free State reached the outside world. People railed against the practices in the United States, Britain, and the Netherlands, all of which coincidentally owned large rubber-producing colonies of their own and were thus in competition with Leopold II for profits. By 1908, Leopold II had no choice but to cede his land to the Belgian government. The government introduced some cosmetic reforms right away – it became technically illegal to randomly kill Congolese civilians, for example, and administrators went from a quota-and-commission system to one in which they received pay only when their terms ended, and then only if their work was judged "satisfactory." The government also changed the colony's name to the Belgian Congo (Vanderstraeten L. F. 1985).

3. The Paths towards Unforgotten Needs of Reparation versus Contemporary Acknowledgement of BUHEOAC and AFBAN Inhuman Acts in C.F.S and B.C

In the recent past, Belgian King publicly opened up with his regretful messages for 'violence and cruelty' during colonial rule over C.F.S and B.C. during which he strongly noted that "colonial period 'caused suffering and humiliation,' King Philippe has written in a letter. King Philippe of Belgium, seen in this March file photo, expressed regret for the violence carried out by the former colonial power when it ruled over the Democratic Republic of Congo. For the first time in Belgium's history, a reigning king expressed regret Tuesday for the violence carried out by the former colonial power when it ruled over what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. In a letter to President Felix Tshisekedi, which was published on the 60th anniversary of the African country's independence, Belgium's King Philippe conveyed his "deepest regrets" for the "acts of violence and cruelty" and the "suffering and humiliation" inflicted on Congo. "To further strengthen our ties and develop an even more fruitful friendship, we must be able to talk to each other about our long common history in all truth and serenity," Philippe wrote. A spokesperson for Tshisekedi had no comment on the letter. (**Benoit Doppagne/Belgium royal pool/Getty Images**).

In addition, Congolese Foreign Minister Marie Tumba told reporters that "this warms the hearts of the Congolese people," and said that through King Philippe, "Belgium has laid the foundation of a Declaration not enough for some Congolese activists and academics said Philippe's message was welcome, although some said it did not go far enough. "The king as well as Belgium should go further than a simple declaration,"

said Jean-Claude Mputu, a Congolese political scientist at the University of Liege found change." The letter was addressed to Democratic Republic of Congo President Felix Tshisekedi and was published on the 60th anniversary of the African country's independence. (**Michele Tantussi/Getty Images**). Mputu called for "strong symbolic means to mark a new beginning" such as the restitution of Congolese works of art. Philippe's letter was sent amid growing demands that Belgium reassess its colonial past (**Thomson Reuters · Posted: Jun 30, 2020 9:13 AM ET | Last Updated: June 30, 2020**).

Belgium reckons with its 'brutal' colonial past — by upending the institution that glorified it. In the wake of the protests against racial inequality triggered by the death of George Floyd in the United States in May, several statues of King Leopold II, who is blamed for the deaths of millions of Africans during Belgium's colonial rule, have been vandalized. A petition called for Belgium to remove all status. A bust of Leopold II was removed from public display in the city of Ghent on Tuesday following a decision from local authorities (www.nytimes.com › 2020/06/09 › worldStatue of Leopold II), as declared "Belgian King Who Brutalized Congo, is earlier this month, regional authorities also promised history course reforms to better explain the true character of colonialism. "Our history is made of common achievements, but has also known painful episodes. At the time of the independent State of the Congo, acts of violence and cruelty were committed that still weigh on our collective memory," Philippe wrote, referring to the period when the country was privately ruled by Leopold II from 1885 to 1908. A statue of King Leopold II of Belgium in the city of Ghent is covered with red paint. The bust was removed from display later Tuesday following a decision by local authorities (Philippe Francois/BELGA/AFP/Getty Images online)."The colonial period that followed also caused suffering and humiliation." Leopold, who ruled Belgium during 1865-1909, plundered Congo as if it were his personal fiefdom, forcing many of its people into slavery to extract resources for his own profit.

The early years after he laid claim to the African country are especially infamous for killings, forced labour and other forms of brutality that some experts estimate left as many as 10 million native people dead. After his claimed ownership of Congo ended in 1908, Leopold handed it over to the Belgian state, which continued to rule over the colony 75 times Belgium's size until the African nation became independent in 1960 (www.africanexponent.com › post › 7586-the-hiddenThe Hidden Holocaust: How King Leopold II Murdered 10 Million). Applause as bust removed. Following a short ceremony punctuated by readings, the monarch's bust was attached to a crane with a strap and taken away from the small park where it stood amid applause. "I want to express my deepest regrets for these wounds of the past, the pain of which

is today revived by discrimination that is all too present in our societies," Philippe wrote, insisting that he is determined to keep "fighting all forms of racism." The king also congratulated Tshisekedi on the anniversary of the country's independence, ruing the fact that he was not able to attend celebrations to which he had been invited due to the coronavirus pandemic. Philippe stressed the "common achievements" reached by Belgium and its former colony, but also the painful episodes of their unequal relationship. (www.cbc.ca › news).

His comments came in a letter to letter to Félix Tshisekedi, president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, to mark the 60th anniversary of independence. They will not be enough to close one of the bloodiest chapters in colonial history. In June, the King's brother, Prince Laurent, defended King Leopold II, who held the Congo Free State as a personal fiefdom from 1885 until the Belgian state took over in 1908. Prince Laurent said that King Leopold never went to the Congo, so he did not see how the king could have caused the Congolese to suffer. The story is painfully well known to the Congolese. Under King Leopold's rule, murder, mutilation and slavery were the hallmarks of the pursuit of the era's most valuable new commodity: This was needed to replace the old "boneshaker" tyres on bicycles and cars with pneumatic tyres, invented by Dunlop, which allowed a much smoother ride. Unlike many other parts of Africa, most of the rubber in the Congo came from vines rather than trees. Once the vines were tapped, they were spent and died. This meant workers had to penetrate ever deeper into the forest to meet the production targets which the Belgians imposed on them (atrocitieswatch.org › **king-leopold-of-belgium**).

"White Papers" like this one were published by the propaganda arm of the Belgian colonial government in Congo during the two or three years after independence. They were usually edited by the high Belgian Surete officer who directed the disinformation campaign against the Lumumba government, its successors, and the UN. Although eventually some Belgian women were raped and a handful of Whites killed in the course of the the disorders caused by the July 1960 mutiny, most of what is in this pamphlet is false or not verifiable by the official Belgian inquiries about the mutiny. Such events happened, not during the initial mutiny but after Belgium had invaded Congo and begun a harsh campaign of retribution during which it killed hundreds of Congolese. The best source is L-F Vanderstraeten 1985, but even that book contains inaccuracies deriving from using materials created by the Belgian Surete Officer (A. C. Roosevelt May 23, 2011).

Nevertheless, African needs an African court to judge Europeans for what they committed in the Continent in terms slavery and post-slavery era till the

apex of radical imperialism and colonization with cannibalistic activities as crime against humanity. European apologies are supposed to be presented openly during ceremonial cleansing rituals organized by different countries in Africa with invitations issued to the officials of the former colonial actors whom in the contemporary era stood as agents of neo-colonialism and once more dictating the democratic will and prescriptions to African leaders and assassinating some for their personal interests of continuous manipulation in the name of globalization. Below is the independence speech delivered by Patrice Lumumba which once more provoked King Baudouin's returned aggression and conspiracy against the new independence leader of the country. In fact, paraphrasing the speech below cannot yield the understanding of 21st Century young generation of African and World historians. It facilitates the youths to be acquainted of what a famous Pan Africanist was up to and could make pronounced his words in deepest interest of his country and putting the then neo-colonialist squarely in their previous evils and the way forward to help his country.

Men and women of the Congo, Victorious independence fighters, I salute you in the name of the Congolese Government. I ask all of you, my friends, who tirelessly fought in our ranks, to mark this June 30, 1960, as an illustrious date that will be ever engraved in your hearts, a date whose meaning you will proudly explain to your children, so that they in turn might relate to their grandchildren and great-grandchildren the glorious history of our struggle for freedom. Although this independence of the Congo is being proclaimed today by agreement with Belgium, an amicable country, with which we are on equal terms, no Congolese will ever forget that independence was won in struggle, a persevering and inspired struggle carried on from day to day, a struggle, in which we were undaunted by privation or suffering and stunted neither strength nor blood. It was filled with tears, fire and blood. We are deeply proud of our struggle, because it was just and noble and indispensable in putting an end to the humiliating bondage forced upon us. That was our lot for the eighty years of colonial rule and our wounds are too fresh and much too painful to be forgotten. We have experienced forced labour in exchange for pay that did not allow us to satisfy our hunger, to clothe ourselves, to have decent lodgings or to bring up our children as dearly loved ones. Morning, noon and night we were subjected to jeers, insults and blows because we were "Negroes". Who will ever forget that the black was addressed as "tu", not because he was a friend, but because the polite "vous" was reserved for the white man? We have seen our lands seized in the name of ostensibly just laws, which gave recognition only to the right of might. We have not forgotten that the law was never the same for the white and the black, that it was lenient to the ones, and cruel and inhuman to the others. We have experienced the atrocious sufferings, being persecuted for political

convictions and religious beliefs, and exiled from our native land: our lot was worse than death itself. We have not forgotten that in the cities the mansions were for the whites and the tumbledown huts for the blacks; that a black was not admitted to the cinemas, restaurants and shops set aside for "Europeans"; that a black travelled in the holds, under the feet of the whites in their luxury cabins. Who will ever forget the shootings which killed so many of our brothers, or the cells into which were mercilessly thrown those who no longer wished to submit to the regime of injustice, oppression and exploitation used by the colonialists as a tool of their domination? All that, my brothers, brought us untold suffering. But we, who were elected by the votes of your representatives, representatives of the people, to guide our native land, we, who have suffered in body and soul from the colonial oppression, we tell you that henceforth all that is finished with. The Republic of the Congo has been proclaimed and our beloved country's future is now in the hands of its own people. Brothers, let us commence together a new struggle, a sublime struggle that will lead our country to peace, prosperity and greatness. Together we shall establish social justice and ensure for every man a fair remuneration for his labour. We shall show the world what the black man can do when working in liberty, and we shall make the Congo the pride of Africa. We shall see to it that the lands of our native country truly benefit its children. We shall revise all the old laws and make them into new ones that will be just and noble. We shall stop the persecution of free thought. We shall see to it that all citizens enjoy to the fullest extent the basic freedoms provided for by the Declaration of Human Rights. We shall eradicate all discrimination, whatever its origin, and we shall ensure for everyone a station in life befitting his human dignity and worthy of his labour and his loyalty to the country. We shall institute in the country a peace resting not on guns and bayonets but on concord and goodwill. And in all this, my dear compatriots, we can rely not only on our own enormous forces and immense wealth, but also on the assistance of the numerous foreign states, whose co-operation we shall accept when it is not aimed at imposing upon us an alien policy, but is given in a spirit of friendship. Even Belgium, which has finally learned the lesson of history and need no longer try to oppose our independence, is prepared to give us its aid and friendship; for that end an agreement has just been signed between our two equal and independent countries. I am sure that this co-operation will benefit both countries. For our part, we shall, while remaining vigilant, try to observe the engagements we have freely made. Thus, both in the internal and the external spheres, the new Congo being created by my government will be rich, free and prosperous. But to attain our goal without delay, I ask all of you, legislators and citizens of the Congo, to give us all the help you can. I ask you all to sink your tribal quarrels: they weaken us and may cause us to be despised abroad. I ask you all not to shrink from any sacrifice for

the sake of ensuring the success of our grand undertaking. Finally, I ask you unconditionally to respect the life and property of fellow-citizens and foreigners who have settled in our country; if the conduct of these foreigners leaves much to be desired, our Justice will promptly expel them from the territory of the republic; if, on the contrary, their conduct is good, they must be left in peace, for they, too, are working for our country's prosperity. The Congo's independence is a decisive step towards the liberation of the whole African continent. Our government, a government of national and popular unity, will serve its country. I call on all Congolese citizens, men, women and children, to set themselves resolutely to the task of creating a national economy and ensuring our economic independence. Eternal glory to the fighters for national liberation! Long live independence and African unity! Long live the independent and sovereign Congo! (Patrice Lumumba, June 30, 1960).

(Patrice Lumumba, The Truth About a Monstrous Crime of the Colonialists, Moscow, Foreign Languages Publishing House, 1961, pp. 44-47. Thomas Schmidt. Patrice Lumumba, Speech at the Ceremony of the Proclamation of the Congo's Independence, June 30, 1960, Speech at the Ceremony of the Proclamation of the Congo's ...<https://www.marxists.org> > 1960/06).

The idea of bringing this full quotation is also to enable the contemporary youths of Belgium and their Government to know that the intensity of their complicity are still too high in the minds of Congolese and non-Congolese and while not majority of Africans who have interest in the understanding of their past history of colonialism. Lumumba acquired both the civic merit card and the matriculation status in Kisangani, but these achievements of upper mobility in the colonial situation were a sham because racism continued to raise its ugly head through the color/wage bar. Although entrusted with a job usually reserved for Europeans as manager of the money orders service, Lumumba's salary was determined by his race, not his functions. He earned the equivalent of \$100 USD in 1956, somewhere between one-tenth and one-fifteenth of the salary of a European civil servant doing a similar job. His European colleagues also received free housing, a car, and a fully paid, six-month vacation back home to Belgium every three years. These and other realities of the colonial situation eventually made him abandon his naive hope of seeing whites and the *évolués* working hand in hand to lift up the "ignorant masses" in a Belgian-Congolese community and pushed him in the direction of African and Congolese nationalism. In general, Congolese nationalist leaders were strong believers in nonviolence, and Lumumba was no exception. This is why they were all shocked by the mass uprising for independence on January 4, 1959 which erupted in Leopoldville, present-day Kinshasa, after members of an anticolonial party

were denied the right to assemble. Celebrated today as the Day of Martyrs, it was the first major outbreak of violence in the independence movement and marked a turning point for the anti-colonial struggle. Later on, these leaders understood that mass violence was a bargaining chip in their confrontations with the colonial masters, as the latter found it difficult to maintain law and order in the vast Congo once the masses had rejected colonial authority and were unwilling to obey colonial administrative directives (**Nzongola-N.G. 2011**).

With Western European mineral empire running from Katanga to the Cape, international mining companies did not like the idea of having a radical nationalist government in the Congo which could likely reduce their profit margins with higher taxes and royalties in order to improve the livelihood of ordinary Congolese. This is why these companies, which had rejected efforts by white settlers to get a piece of the pie as their counterparts in South Africa, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), and South West Africa (Namibia) had done, switched gears by forming an alliance with racist white settlers and right-wing lobbies in the United States and the United Kingdom. This alliance not only endorsed the long-held dream of white settlers to gain political power in Katanga, but also provided the funds needed to sustain the secessionist drive in Katanga, with help from Belgium, Britain, and France. In fact, the origins of the Congolese Crisis lie in a chance alliance between Belgian settlers and corporations, uniting with business and state interests from the white-ruled states of Southern Africa. This alliance can be described as a "counter-revolution against national liberation," given that it was formed to oppose the radical nationalism sweeping the continent. The Congo Crisis cannot be understood without reference to the Belgian-engineered Katanga secession in collaboration with international mining companies, which recruited white mercenaries to join Belgian troops in backstopping the secession. The UN refusal to use force to expel Belgian troops and the mercenaries led to the dispute between Prime Minister Lumumba and UN secretary-general Dag Hammarskjöld, who shared the same worldview as major Western powers and was very hostile toward Lumumba, as shown by the cable traffic in UN archives. So why did this combination of previously competing international and local actors ultimately come to agree that Lumumba's assassination was necessary? (**Nzongola-N.G. 2011**).

They considered Lumumba to be the single most important obstacle to their scheme of establishing neocolonialism in the Congo, as they started on July 11, 1960 in Katanga. Lumumba delivered many memorable speeches and also wrote many moving letters. In 1960, he wrote to his wife from prison: "The day will come when history will speak. But it will not be the history which will be taught in Brussels, Paris, Washington or the United Nations. It will be the history which will be

taught in the countries which have won freedom from colonialism and its puppets. Africa will write its own history and in both north and south it will be a history of glory and dignity.” Was Lumumba also able to articulate a specific vision for how he intended to transform the state and Congolese society during the brief period in which he served as prime minister? We do get a glimpse of his vision for postcolonial Congo in several of his major speeches and letters. While preoccupied with the unity, independence, and sovereignty of the Congo, due of course to the counterrevolutionary situation facing the country from July 10 to 11, 1960 (the Belgian military invasion and the Katanga secession, respectively), his main concern was how to transform the inherited structures of the state and the economy in order to improve the quality of life of ordinary Congolese. Like Amílcar Cabral, Thomas Sankara, and Steve Biko, Lumumba’s martyrdom transformed him into a powerful symbolic force that continues to inspire radical movements across Africa. Witnessing Lumumba’s meteoric rise and tragic assassination as Africans and in the wider world, have reckoned with the historical trauma (Nzongola-N.G. 2011) that came from witnessing the assassination which no-colonial actors committed in other part of Africa goes ahead to put more emphases in the deeper study and research of this nature for popular demands and request for the 21st Century reparations in terms of grant, aids, subventions and infrastructural development of the countries concerns without any string or prescriptions defined by the previous African colonial criminals from the late 19th to mid-20th Century.

CONCLUSION

It should be noted that between 1885 and 1908, King Leopold under taken stringent measures to exploit the C.F.S by making it a money making territory first for himself and not for the Belgians. Sources of his rapid extortion includes farming of ivory, rubber and intensive and harsh laboring activities undertaken by the local population. This was actually a form of slavery after the official abolition of slavery and slave trade. According to Mark Oliver (2017), things quickly got out of hands when Leopold introduced harsh colonial policies with brutal reign of terror and mutilations which resulted to over 10million deaths within a period of 23 years. Worst again, the King used the British explorer known as Henry Morton Stanley to established the C.F.S where the local population have him suspected when writing in his notebook then ordered him to burn or have himself and collaborators killed. This was instead a reverse to the population as Stanley immediately resorted to shooting of guns and burning of 32 towns and killing of the Congolese as these facts were checked by Jamie Frater in 2017. His men went further to kidnapped African women and flogging men to death. This marked the beginning of C.F.S troubles and darkness as he first considered the Congo as a dry land and was prepared to turn it more profitable in his own making through different

mechanisms by first turning two third of the population into his private land with forced labour for himself and not general imperialist Belgium as a Western European country which acquired a territory in Africa ten times her size in the map of Europe. King Leopold worsen the situation by stopping giving to locals pennies per pound of rubber while he introduced tax in the harvesting rubber with huge quotas of 20 days a month without any payment. Towards the last decade of the 19th Century he could sell more rubber than he harvested due to such extortive strategies. The law he introduced also harm his African soldiers because every time a worker was killed, the African soldiers had to chop off and deliver the hand through a system of filling baskets with victim’s hands or failure to do that the soldier became the principal victim to the Governor, commissioners who may also determine the type of punishment to the their victims. In fact, between 25 and 100 lashes with a whip made up of hippopotamus hide that could break the skin quickly were used as some locals died.

Our findings showed that the report of the British Consul Roger Casement led to the arrest and punishment of white officials responsible for cold-blooded killings during a rubber-collecting expedition in 1903, including one Belgian national who caused the shooting of at least 122 Congolese natives. The parliament of Belgium annexed the Congo Free State and took over its administration on November 15, 1908, as the colony of the Belgian Congo. Congolese Foreign Minister Marie Tumba told reporters that "this warms the hearts of the Congolese people," and said that through King Philippe, "Belgium has laid the foundation of a CBC's Journalistic Standards and practices about CBC News concerning the activities of the Belgian colonial agents in C.F.S and B.C in the course of their cannibalism crimes committed in that African territory. More evidently, the Belgian king, according to historical accounts including Adam Hochschild’s 1998 book, “King Leopold’s Ghost,” and the Hon. Elijah Muhammad’s 1965 book, “Message to the Black Man,” was responsible for the deaths of 10 million Congolese at the turn of the century.

This was also very surprisingly to other Europeans who travelled to Congo and witnessed what was happening while the Belgians were also wicked by not taking care of their workers which resulted to many death caused by different diseases as men were forced to work and harvest rubber in areas infested with tsetse flies which affected many and even across other part of Africa with sleeping sickness which killed about 500,000 Congolese alone. In addition, when the quotas of rubber was not met by the villages, soldiers were sent to march there during people were slaughter and villages burnt down to ashes as more than 45 towns were burnt to the satisfaction of Leopold and others were decimated by soldiers for no good reason but with claims that the rubber brought to the colonial master

agents was not the best quality. Therefore, psychological terror was highly used by the Belgians against the Congolese. Men were hanged on the palisades of the village while women and children on the form of a cross with cannibalism used to keep people in line. Nevertheless, King Leopold did not enter Congo as an invader but through charity with the existing IAA as humanitarian organization promising to make life better which instead became the contrary following the massive massacre of the Congolese. Then, a Century worthy for progress according to the King was instead worthy evil practices resulting to more than 10 million deaths which the Belgian Kings and colonial agents of different portfolios enclosed in this research committed. The Belgian colonial educational policies are responsible for constant political instability in the Congo- Kinshasa, Congo-Zaire and present day DRC.

Therefore, the C.F.S was a personal Concession rather than a colony to King Leopold which can be considered as a form of conspiracy to both Africans and the Belgians as no specific representative of a colonial master was supposed to own a colony in his personal name as he did. Rather, it was supposed to be the oversea colony of Belgium. But if the Belgian Kings Government accepted this manipulation and some are declaring that Leopold never went to Congo himself, but his agents appointed as G.G and A.G.G among other portfolios did the groundwork of 3Es for him. They helped to dirty the history of Belgian colonization in the African Continent and the entire recent Government of that country has to bear the responsibilities to pay heavily for the cannibalisms committed by their predecessors between 1885 and 1960. This could also be argued that Patrice Lumumba and other famous nationalists of that country also suffered from Belgian conspiracy in the Post-Independence assassination with a cover of Communist agents opposing capitalist agents. However, there is no way that the Belgians can be pretending to be defending the aggressive and aggressors Monarchical Kings and Colonial agents from an unforgotten history of cannibalism and massacre which they committed for 75 years in the C.F.S and B.C before granting confusing independence in the name of R.C which set the groundwork for constant civil wars and political and social uprisings during the second half of the 20th Century and presently in the 21st Century. This will help a new generation of African historians to intensively trace the activities of those evil colonial actors. The Belgian government actually apologized to the Congolese people for our involvement in the assassination of Lumumba (The first president of Congo after his independence) and we also apologized for our responsibility of the genocide in Rwanda (As a reaction to the murder of 10 Belgian soldiers we withdraw our troops.

In the period from 1885 to 1908, many well-documented atrocities were perpetrated in the Congo Free State which, at the time, was a colony under the personal rule of King Leopold II of the Belgians. These atrocities were particularly associated with the labour policies used to collect natural rubber for export. Together with epidemic disease, famine, and a falling birth rate caused by these disruptions, the atrocities contributed to a sharp decline in the Congolese population. February 20, 2019. The UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent said in an interim report on Belgium that racial discrimination against Africans “is endemic” in Belgium’s institutions and the nation needs to make amends for the crimes committed in the Congo (**Kylie Kiunguyu**).

According to Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja what is needed from all the accomplices in Lumumba’s murder is, first of all, an acknowledgment of the crime they committed against him, his family, the Congo, and Africa; an apology for the harm done in this regard; and an effort to honor the Congo’s first democratically elected leader by promoting his legacy through schools, public education, and cultural events in all the countries whose leaders took part in his disappearance, beginning with the Congo itself. Following mass demands for a democratic election, the Congolese National Movement headed by Lumumba decisively won the Congo’s first parliamentary contest. The left-nationalist leader took office in June 1960. But Lumumba’s progressive-populist proposals and his opposition to the Katanga secessionist movement (which was led by the white-ruled colonial states of southern Africa and proclaimed its independence from the Congo on July 11, 1960) angered an array of foreign and local interests: the Belgian colonial state, companies extracting the Congo’s mineral resources, and, of course, the leaders of white-ruled southern African states. As tensions grew, the United Nations rejected Lumumba’s request for support. He decided to call for Soviet military assistance to quell the burgeoning Congo Crisis brought about by the Belgian-supported secessionists. That proved to be the last straw. Lumumba was seized, tortured, and executed in a coup supported by the Belgian authorities, the United States, and the United Nations. With Lumumba’s assassination died a part of the dream of a united, democratic, ethnically pluralist, and pan-Africanist Congo. The murder of Lumumba and his replacement by the US-backed dictator Mobutu Sese Seko laid the foundation for the decades of internal strife, dictatorship, and economic decline that have marked postcolonial Congo. Patrice Lumumba was a radical leader of the Congolese independence movement who resisted Belgian colonialism and corporate interests. That’s why he was assassinated in a US-backed coup 59 years ago today. More importantly, the greatest legacy that Lumumba left for Congo is the ideal of national unity (**Nzongola-N.G. 2011**). However, all complicities in the atrocities dating from the Berlin Colonial Conference, through the two Great

destructive World Wars of 1914-1918 and 1939- 1945, coordinated by the two international organisations (League of Nations and United Nations), and finally mentors of conspirators of the Capitalist Bloc opposing Communist Bloc in the apex of the Cold War in 1960 are all supposed to be held responsible for all typologies of cannibalistic activities in C.F.S, B.C and seven months old newly Republic of Congo with tools and mechanisms of BUHEOAC and AFBAN.

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