

# FR2311 Africa: Colonialism to Continental Crisis

## Module Guide



**Credits:** 5

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**Office:** ORB1.15

**Office hours:** Tuesday and Wednesday, 1-2

**Module Objective:**

To familiarise students with the long-term consequences of European colonialism in Africa with a focus on the Great Lakes Crisis.

**Module Description:**

Through the study of a diverse range of primary texts, including historical documents, political writings, literary works and newspaper articles, students will learn about the long-term consequences of European colonialism in Africa with a focus on the Great Lakes Crisis. In particular, students will learn how porous, overlapping boundaries—based on culture, trade and language—were replaced with neat, rigid delineations, based on Western imperial interests; how traditional subsistence economies were destroyed by the pursuit of resources needed to fuel European manufacturing needs; how independence led many emerging African nations to stagnate as they found themselves caught between French neo-colonialism and US cold war interests; how the collapse of the communist empire highlighted unanswered questions about legitimacy, citizenship, identity, democracy, and poverty, resulting eventually in the 1994 Rwanda genocide; and finally how fermenting democratic ideas, the realities of persistent institutional authoritarianism, and continued failures and misunderstandings of the international community, provided the conditions for this crisis to spread, leading to what some scholars have termed “Africa’s World War”.

**Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the historical and political trends that have shaped African societies
- Describe and analyse the causes and consequences of conflict in post-colonial societies
- Evaluate critically the role played by colonial and post-colonial powers in African conflicts
- Gain experience in the analysis of political, historical and theoretical texts written in French
- Develop an understanding of complex ideas in their political and historical context
- Engage in critical and analytic reflection and form judgements on the basis of ideas acquired
- Engage in independent research

**Teaching Programme:**

- Lecture A: Wednesday, 4-5, ORB\_202
- Lecture B: Thursday, 11-12, WW\_9

Week	Lecture A	Lecture B
1	Overview	Introduction
2	King Leopold's ghost	Peter Bate, <i>White King, Red Rubber, Black Death</i> (BBC4, 2004) ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ylgjW_pPXg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ylgjW_pPXg</a> ), <i>Le roi blanc, le caoutchouc rouge, la mort noire</i> , (Arté, 2004) ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5tyLJFLbJs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5tyLJFLbJs</a> )
3	Rwandan reality reconstructed	Peter Bate, <i>White King, Red Rubber, Black Death</i> (BBC4, 2004) ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ylgjW_pPXg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ylgjW_pPXg</a> ), <i>Le roi blanc, le caoutchouc rouge, la mort noire</i> , (Arté, 2004) ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5tyLJFLbJs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5tyLJFLbJs</a> )
4	Rwanda genocide: precursors	Glucksmann, Raphaël, Hazan, David et Mezerette, Pierre, (2004) <i>Tuez-les tous ! (Rwanda : Histoire d'un génocide « sans importance »</i> ), <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2VbZxt7H2g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2VbZxt7H2g</a>
5	The genocide	Glucksmann, Raphaël, Hazan, David et Mezerette, Pierre, (2004) <i>Tuez-les tous ! (Rwanda : Histoire d'un génocide « sans importance »</i> ), <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2VbZxt7H2g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2VbZxt7H2g</a>
6	The international response	Glucksmann, Raphaël, Hazan, David et Mezerette, Pierre, (2004) <i>Tuez-les tous ! (Rwanda : Histoire d'un génocide « sans importance »</i> ), <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2VbZxt7H2g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2VbZxt7H2g</a>
7	A mixed season of hope	Umutesi, Marie Beatrice, <i>Fuir ou mourir au Zaïre: Le vécu d'une réfugiée Rwandaise</i> (L'Harmattan, 2000)
8	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Congo War	Umutesi, Marie Beatrice, <i>Fuir ou mourir au Zaïre: Le vécu d'une réfugiée Rwandaise</i> (L'Harmattan, 2000)
9	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Congo War	Médecins sans frontières, 2003, <i>RD Congo: silence on meurt: Témoignages</i>
10	Groping for meaning	Newspaper articles on current Great Lakes events
11	Group discussions	Group discussions
12	Group discussions	Exam Q&A

### Core Reading:

- Weekly seminar readings
- Prunier, Gérard (2009) *Africa's world war: Congo, the Rwandan genocide, and the making of a continental catastrophe*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

## Assessment:

The module will be assessed by examination (100% of total mark) during the summer 2018. The exam will last for 1.5 hours and will test your knowledge and understanding of the long-term consequences of European colonialism in Africa, particularly the Great Lakes Crisis. There will be 5 essay-style questions, each of which will focus on 1 of the 5 key themes that will emerge across the module:

1. The debate over history: colonial history and violence in the Great Lakes region
2. Comparing violence: the Rwanda genocide and Congo Wars
3. The role of the international community in African conflicts
4. Post-conflict justice
5. New leaders, new politics?

You must answer **2** essay questions out of the 5 provided.

## Preparation for the Exam:

- Small group discussions

Small group discussions carried out in weeks 11 and 12 will focus on each of the 5 key themes. Discussions will not be formally assessed but feedback will be given.

- Exam Q&A

There will be a 1-hour exam Q&A session in the lecture B slot of week 12 for feedback and questions.

If you have any questions about the module or the exam, please feel free to speak to me in lectures; during my office hours; at the exam Q&A or by sending me an email.

## Further reading

Chretien, Jean Pierre, (2011), *L'Afrique des grands lacs: deux mille ans d'histoire*,

Clark, Phil, and Kaufman, Zachary, (eds.) (2010), *Transitional justice, post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation in Rwanda and beyond*, London: Hurst

Conrad, Joseph, (1902) *Heart of darkness*, (available for free download as Kindle book)

Des Forges, Alison (1999) *Leave none to tell the story: genocide in Rwanda*, New York, NY: Human Rights Watch,

([https://www.essex.ac.uk/armedcon/story\\_id/Leave%20None%20to%20tell%20the%20story-%20Genocide%20in%20Rwanda.pdf](https://www.essex.ac.uk/armedcon/story_id/Leave%20None%20to%20tell%20the%20story-%20Genocide%20in%20Rwanda.pdf))

Hatzfeld, Jean (2000) *Dans le nu de la vie*, Paris: Éditions du seuil

Hatzfeld, Jean (2003) *Une Saison de machettes*, Paris: Éditions du seuil

Hatzfeld, Jean (2007) *La Stratégie des antilopes*, Paris: Éditions du seuil

Hochschild, Adam, (1998) *King Leopold's ghost: a story of greed, terror and heroism in colonial Africa*, New York: Mariner Books

Lemarchand, René (1970) *Rwanda and Burundi*, New York: Praeger Publishers

Longman, Timothy (2010) *Christianity and genocide in Rwanda*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Mamdani, Mahmood (2002) *When victims become killers: colonialism, nativism, and the genocide in Rwanda*, Oxford: James Currey

Médecins sans frontières, 2003, *RD Congo: silence on meurt: Témoignages*

Melvorn, Linda (2000) *A people betrayed: the role of the West in Rwanda's genocide* London: Zed books

Pottier, Johan (2002) *Re-imagining Rwanda: conflict, survival and disinformation in the late twentieth century*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Prunier, Gérard (1995) *The Rwanda crisis: history of a genocide*, London: Hurst

Prunier, Gérard (2009) *Africa's world war: Congo, the Rwandan genocide, and the making of a continental catastrophe*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Andrea Purdekova, *Making Ubumwe: Power, State and Camps in Rwanda's Unity Building Project* (Studies in Forced Migration) (Berghahn Books, 2015)

Reyntjens, Filip (2010) *The great African war: Congo and regional geopolitics, 1996-2006*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

de Saint-Exupéry, Patrick (2004) *Complices de l'Inavouable: La France au Rwanda*, Paris: Éditions des Arènes

Stearns, Jason K. (2011), *Dancing in the glory of monsters: the collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa*, Public Affairs

Straus, Scott (2006) *The order of genocide: race, power, and war in Rwanda*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press

Thompson, Allan, ed. (2007) *The media and the Rwanda genocide*, London: Pluto Press (part 2)

Umutesi, Marie Beatrice (2000) *Fuir ou mourir au Zaïre: Le vécu d'une réfugiée Rwandaise*, Paris: L'Harmattan

Williamson Sinalo, Caroline (2018) *Rwanda after Genocide: Gender, Identity and Posttraumatic Growth*. Cambridge University Press

Whitworth, Wendy, ed. (2006) *We Survived: Genocide in Rwanda*. Laxton, UK: Quill Press