

Africa under Colonial Rule, 1884–1952

I. Subjugation 1884–1920

A. 1884–1885: Congress of Berlin

1. Imperialist Powers Meet to Agree on Partition of Africa
2. Triggers the “Scramble for Africa”

B. 1885–1901: Colonial Invasions

1. Harsh Military Subjugation of Independent Peoples
2. By 1901, Most Colonial Frontiers Are Fixed

C. 1901–1914: Installation of Colonial Power

1. Use of Military Power to Extend Colonial Control
2. Continued Resistance Put Down (“Pacification”)
3. Railroads Built to Export Minerals
4. Settlers Begin to Take Land from Africans

D. 1914–1918: World War I

1. Africans Fight in Europe
2. Conflicts in Africa
3. Germany Loses Its Colonies to Belgium, France, and Great Britain
 - a. Mandates of League of Nations

II. Stagnation 1920–1945

A. 1919–1929: Colonial Powers Extend Their Control

1. Colonial Governments Develop Civil Services
 - a. “trousered natives” vs. “savages”
 - b. *assimilados* (Port.); *évolués* (Fr.) = educated Africans
2. New Mines Opened by Large Companies
3. Layers of Exploitation
 - a. Cash crop economies
 - b. Trading companies, local middlemen, banks, shippers insurance companies
 - c. Development of systems of migrant labor
4. More Railroads Built by Forced Labor

5. Large Influx of Settlers (Settler Colonies vs. Peasant Colonies)
 - a. Algeria
 - b. Angola
 - c. Kenya
 - d. Northern Rhodesia (Zambia)
 - e. South Africa
 - f. Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)
6. Early Attempts at National Liberation
 - a. Morocco
 - b. Somalia
7. Early Forms of Nationalist Protest (North and West Africa)
 - a. National Congress of British West Africa (1920)
 - b. Senegal – “public letter writers”
8. Other Types of Popular Resistance
 - a. Role of religious organizations (Simon Kimangu, d. 1951)
 - b. Nigeria’s Women’s War (1929)
 - c. Resistance movements adopted ideas from various sources

B. 1929–1939: Great Depression

1. General Collapse of Imperialist Economies
2. Colonial Powers Introduce New Forms of “Imperial Protection”
3. African Workers Begin to Unite for Better Wages and Working Conditions
4. Italian Army Invades Ethiopia (1935); Haile Selassie flees (1936)
5. Liberia – “Virtual Colony” of Firestone Rubber Co.

C. 1939–1945: World War II

1. Military Campaigns in North Africa
2. Forced Labor Increases
3. Colonial Powers Weakened
4. U.S. and USSR Enter African Relations
5. League Mandates Re-constituted as “UN Trusteeship Territories”

III. Pre-Liberation 1945–1952

A. 1945–1952: Africa’s Nationalists Formalize Their Demands for Independence

1. Encouraged by the Atlantic Charter of 1941
2. Parties Formed by “Educated Few” Develop into Mass Movements
3. Gold Coast (Ghana)
 - a. 1951: Convention People’s Party gains internal self-government of Ghana
 - b. Leading parties in southern Nigeria achieve same soon after
4. Deep Social Crisis
 - a. Resulting from forced labor
 - b. Flight to the towns
5. South Africa
 - a. Afrikaner National Party comes to power (1948)
 - b. Launching of full-scale *apartheid*