

# Colonisation & Decolonization of Africa



# Colonization of Africa

# Questions

1. “Africa was chopped into states artificially created by accidents of European competition” .Comment **(2013)**

# Synopsis

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Motives/Reasons for Colonization of Africa**
- 3. Effects of European Colonization on Africa**

# 1. Introduction

- **Ancient & Medieval times:**
  - States/communities/traders from **S.Europe & West Asia** colonised parts of Africa.
  - Alexander, the Great-**Alexandria**(Egypt)
  - **Turks & Arabs**: Traded with Africa, converted much of North Africa to Islam.
  - But no European or Asian colonies were established.
  - **1880's:Scramble for Africa** or exploitative colonization of Africa
  - **Portuguese:Cape Verde & Mozambique**-for their colonial trade with Asia

- **French**:one of the first to conquer and establish colonies.Eg.**Algeria** in 1830
- **1880 onwards**:**England,France,Germany,Belgium etc** divided Africa into **Colonies, Protectorates and spheres of influence**





# Scramble for Africa

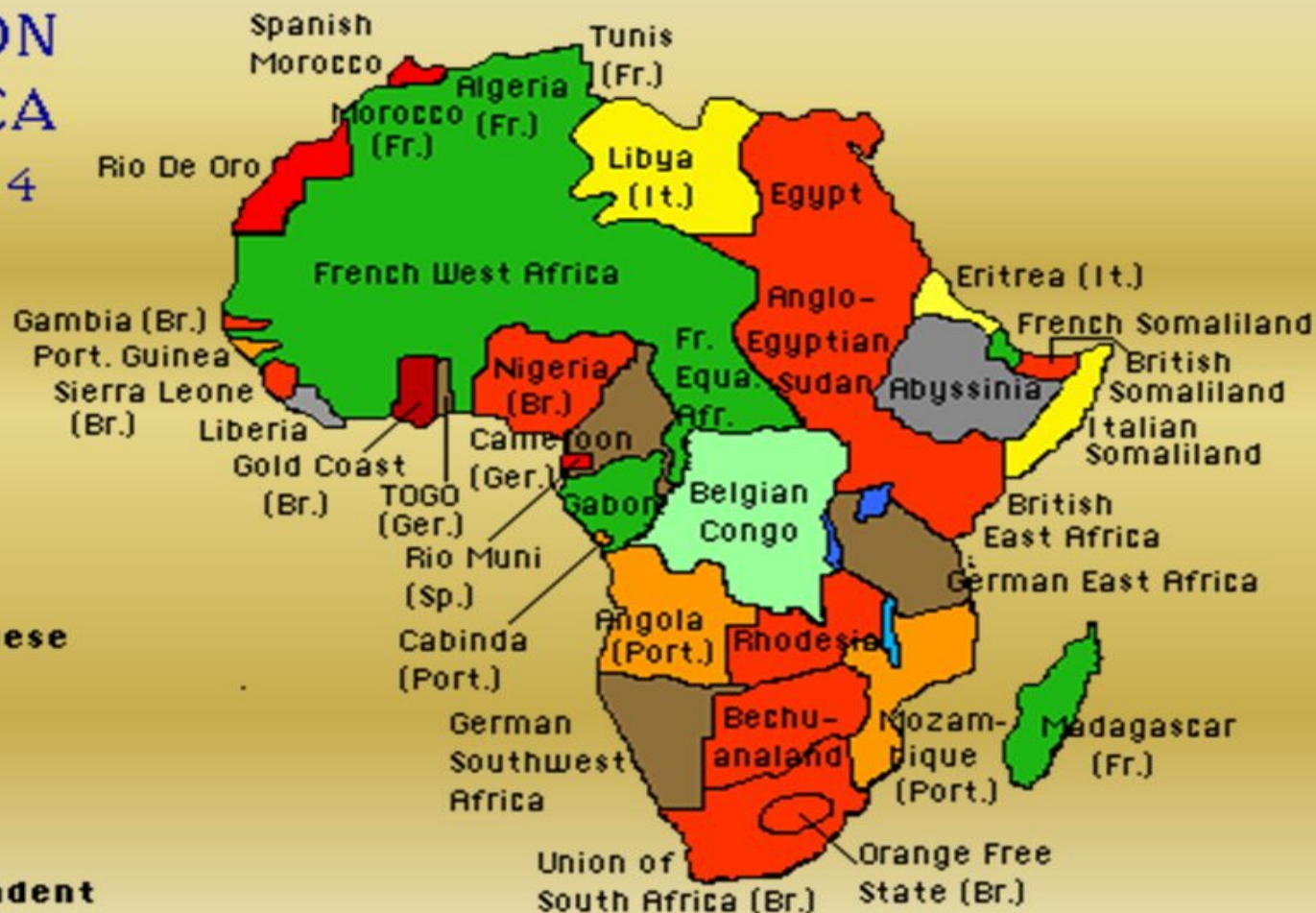
French Colonies	British Colonies	Portuguese Colonies	German Colonies	Spanish Colonies	Belgian Colonies
Ivory coast Libya Tunisia Algeria Mali, <i>Central African Republic,</i> Chad Senegal	South Africa Nigeria Uganda Kenya Ghana Sierra Leone Egypt (partly shared with the French)	Angola Mozambique Cape Verde Sao Tome	Namibia German Congo Guinea-Bissau	Morocco – <i>(later became a French Protectorate)</i>	Congo Rwanda-Burundi

# PARTITION OF AFRICA

1885 - 1914

## Colonial Powers

- British**
- French**
- German**
- Portuguese**
- Italian**
- Belgian**
- Spanish**
- Independent**

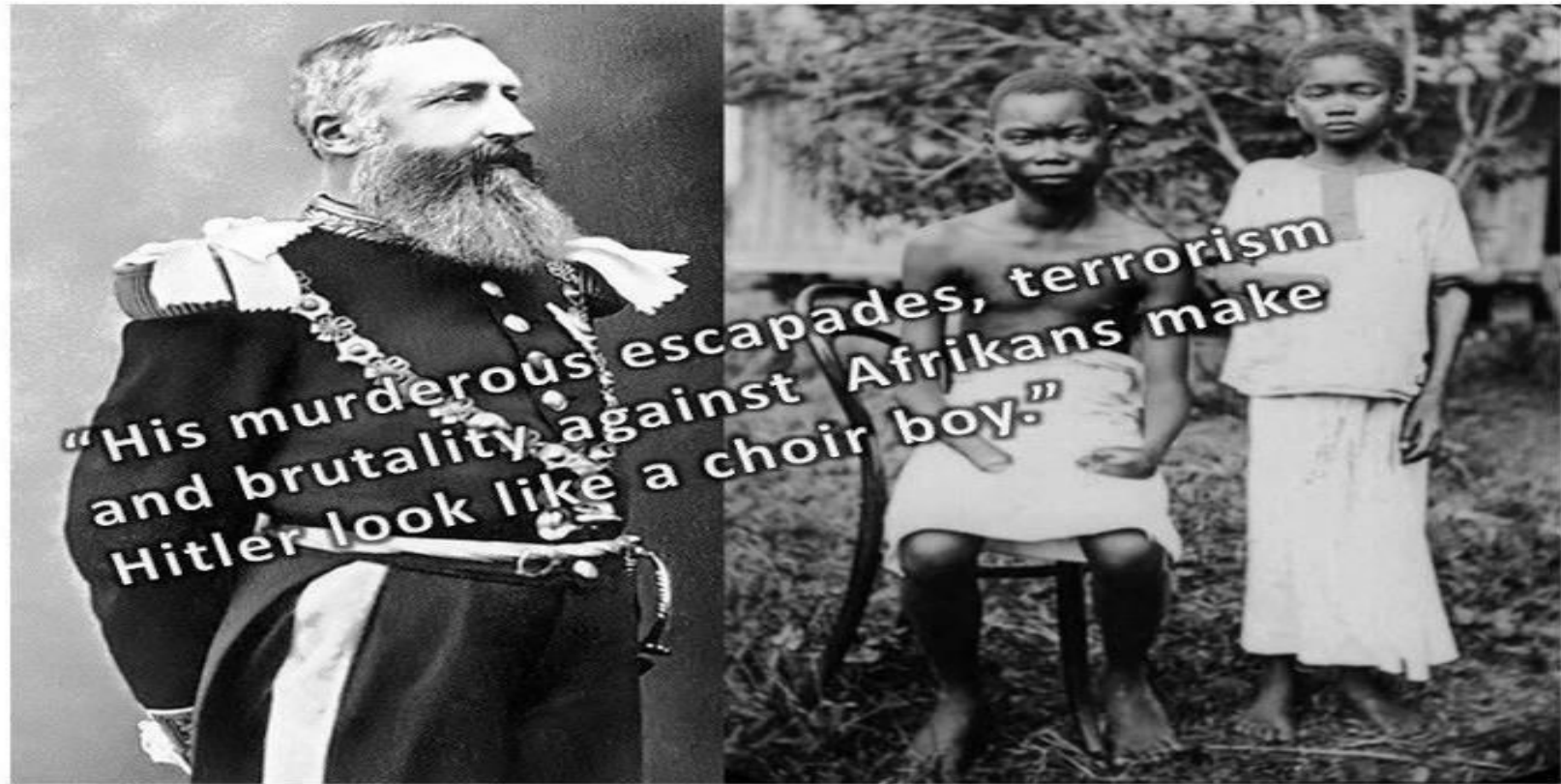


## 2.Motives/Reasons for Colonization of Africa

- **Economic, Political and Social**
  - **19th century**-slave trade>collapsed,abolished;European Industrial Revolution.
  - **Mainly Economic**: Raw materials, search for guaranteed market and profitable investment outlets led to the European scramble, partition and the eventual conquest of Africa.
- 1. Africa till 1860s-principal source of **slave trade and indentured labour**
  - Black Africans forced into slave trade in **Brazil** (Portugal), **Caribbean's** (English) and **U.S.A** (slave traders)
  - Slaves provided **cheap labour** for plantation crops.

2. **Natural resources** and **mineral wealth** of Africa lured European powers
- a) **Diamond, Gold, Copper, Cobalt, Phosphor** and later **oil** were completely monopolised by the European Companies /States.
  - b) **Plantation crops** (**Rubber, Coffee**) were introduced and monopolised by the European powers.
    - **Belgium** was one of the first to do so
    - **King Leopold II of Belgium** profited from rubber plantations in Congo.
    - **1908**:Belgian govt took over rubber plantations due to **brutal exploitation** of plantation labour in Congo

**King Leopold II, a mass murderer, colonized the Congo / Zaire and killed 10 to 15 million Afrikans between 1885 to 1908.**



### 3) **Social factor**

- **Industrialization of Europe**> Unemployment, poverty, homelessness, social displacement from rural areas etc.
- Desire to acquire colonies to export ‘**Surplus population**’.
- ‘**Settler-Colonies**’-Algeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, and in Central Africa-Zimbabwe and Zambia

#### 4) **Religious** i.e., proselytisation

- 1860's: **David Livingstone** (Scottish missionary) - First to go to **Central Africa**
- Livingstone made Europe aware of Central Africa - Lost
- American journalist **Henry Morton Stanley** discovered/found him in Congo; **Stanley funded by Leopold II of Belgium**, realized economic opportunities in Africa
- **Southern parts of Africa, South East & parts of Central Africa** converted to Christianity



## David Livingstone (1813-73)



W<sup>m</sup>HALL

David Livingstone

*From a Portrait by Henry Phillips  
in the possession of M<sup>r</sup> Murray.*

## Henry Morton Stanley (1841-1904)





## 5) **Inter-European rivalry and domestic causes**

Example, **France** colonised **Tunisia, Algeria** and other parts of **North and North-West Africa** due to

- a. Losses it sustained in Asia due to rivalry with England and
- b. To recover from the post-Napoleonic period defeats in Europe.

## 6) Other Causes

- i. The need to acquire **naval bases** and checkmate others
- ii. **Decisions** taken by **local European commanders/officers** (like what Cornwallis and Wellesley did in India disregarding the advice of their British masters) to **occupy /extend/expand** frontiers
- iii. Desire to set up **spheres of influence** (e.g. Germany in Cameroon)
- iv. **Preventive action** (protection of missionaries and economic interests) and
- v. **Differences and disunity** amongst the local Africans themselves.

Moreover, Imperialism itself is based on expansionist ideology

### 3. Effects of European Colonization on Africa

#### 1) Economic consequences:

Colonization-African economic system subordinated to the interests of Europe

- i. Portuguese destroyed the Arab monopoly on trading in gold, ivory and slaves.
- ii. Africa till the first decade of 19<sup>th</sup> century became the principle source of slaves (for Americas & the Caribbean's)
- iii. After Slave trade stopped, commodity trade increased from Africa entirely controlled by colonial powers

iv. New crops were introduced into Africa (by Portuguese first) like maize, sugarcane. **Sao Tome** (Portuguese) for a long time used to produce sugar for Europe.



v. Individual farm production > **cash crops** (tobacco, Cotton, palm oil, ground nut) and **plantation crops** (Coffee, rubber)- shortage of food crops

- vi. **Economic output of the colonies** was **linked** not to their own requirements but to the **needs of colonial powers**.
- vii. A huge army of **landless agricultural and plantation labour** was created to suit colonial powers' requirement for cheap labour.
- viii. **Women and children** forced-wage employment on plantations/  
commercial agriculture
- ix. A network of **roads and rails** built by Europeans but only to link  
hinterland Ports
- x. European powers introduced a **money and market economy** into  
Africa
- xi. Africans **lost control of their traditional lands**.

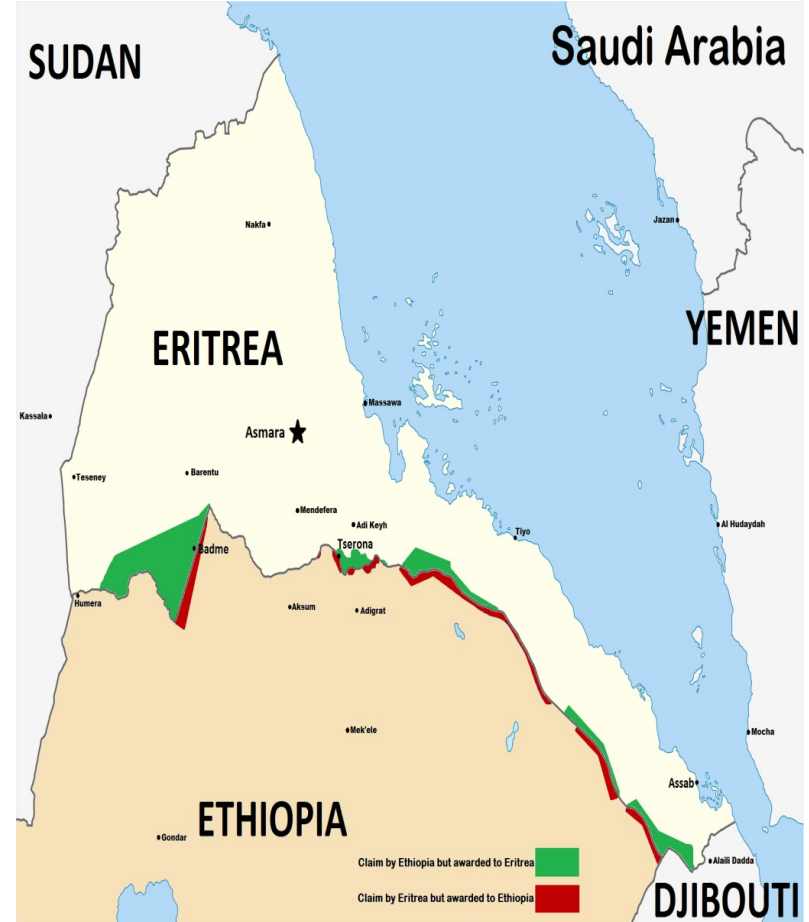
## 2) Social Consequences:

European colonisation of Africa led to **vast cultural changes**

- i. **Traditional animistic religions** were replaced by **Christianity**- almost the entire region in the South beginning from Nigeria was Christianised.
- ii. Many **native African languages/dialects declined** and were replaced by **English, French and Portuguese** except in north of Africa where **Arabic** is spoken in addition to English and French.
- iii. **New diseases** like **small pox, measles, malaria and dysentery** wiped out thousands of Africans. These diseases were introduced by European settlers.
- iv. **Ethnic divisions were exaggerated** by the European '**divide and rule**' policies-e.g, **Tutsis and Bahutus** in Rwanda-Burundi
- v. Europeans brought in **modern system of education** which was made use of by many Africans- '**White man's burden**'
- vi. **Racism** (eg. Apartheid regime in South Africa)

### 3) Political Consequences

1. New political units formed by the European imperialist powers interfered with traditional African village life and imposed political divisions that disregarded African linguistic, ethnic and cultural groups.
  - The artificial boundaries drawn by the Europeans remain a problem in Africa today. Eg. Rwanda & Burundi, Ethiopia & Eritrea, German & Belgian Congo etc

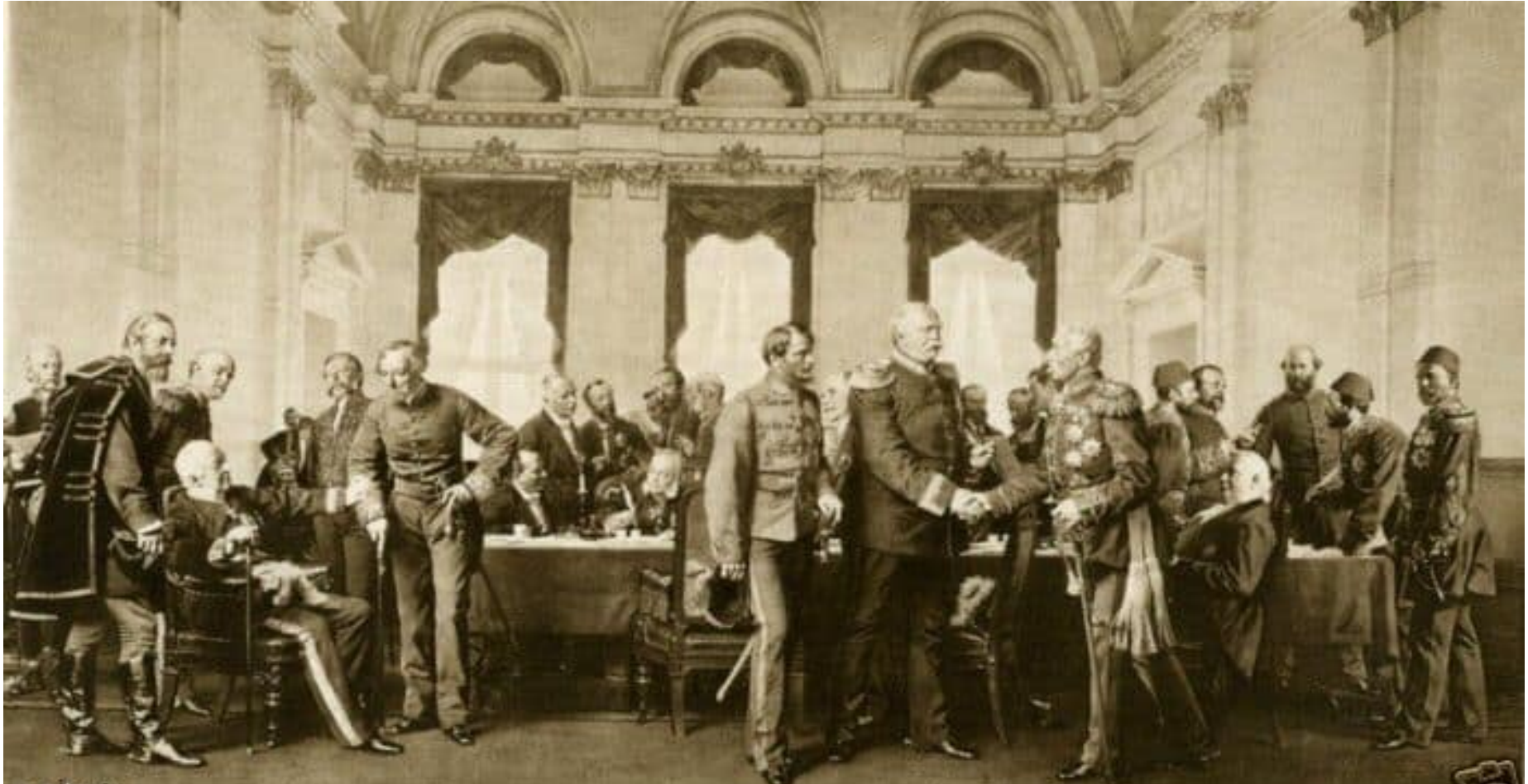




2. Colonization led to **intense** and at times **bloody competition** amongst European powers to divide Africa amongst themselves, competition for control over **waterways, spheres of influence, strategic military bases** and **resources**(what was called scramble for Africa) led to **Inter-Imperialist conferences**.

**Eg, Berlin West African Conference (Berlin Conference)-**  
**Nov 1884 to Feb 1885** called by German Chancellor **Otto von Bismarck**.

# Berlin West African Conference Nov1884-Feb1885



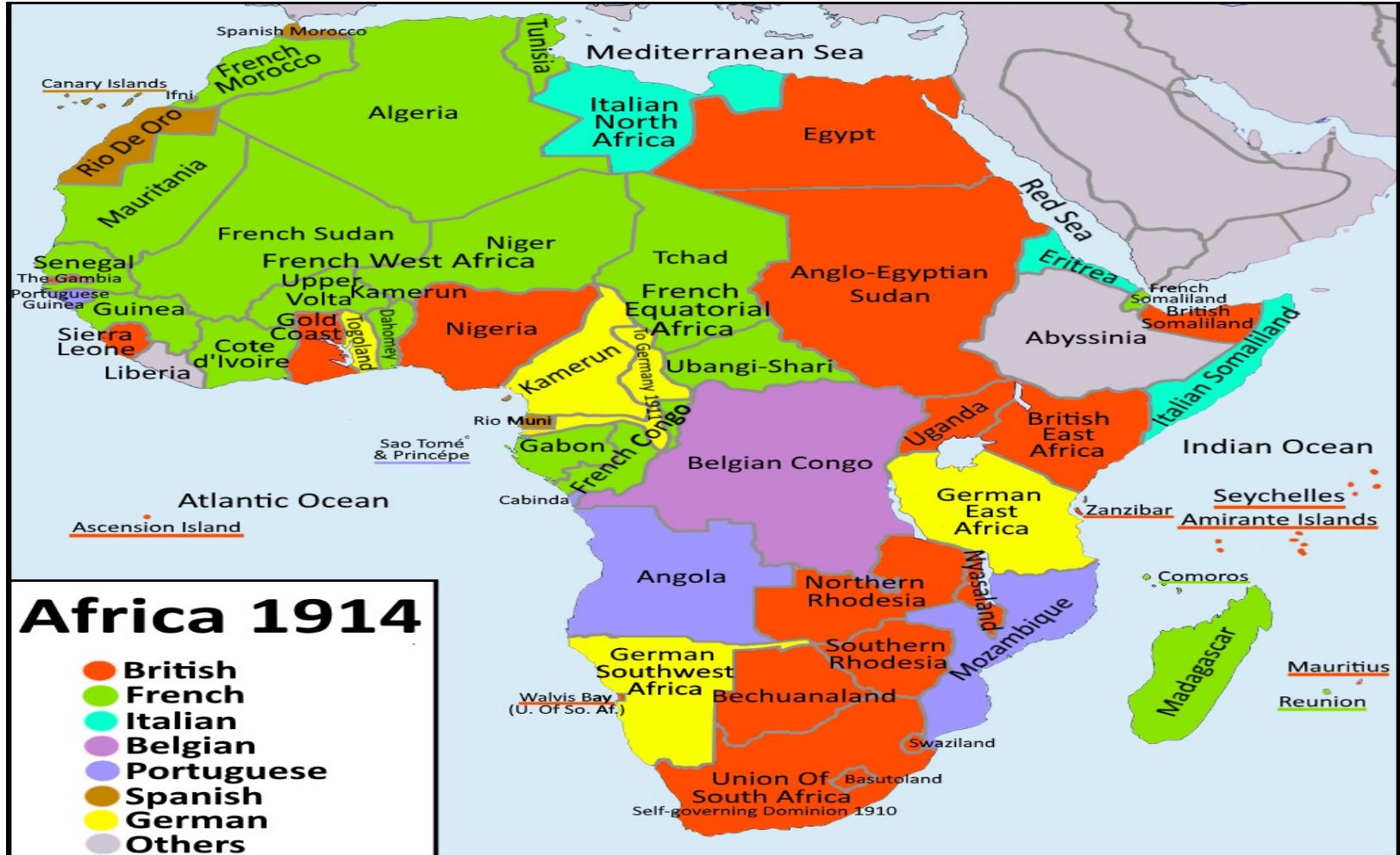
- The conference produced a treaty-**Berlin Act** with **provisions** to **guide the conduct of the European inter-imperialist competition** in Africa.
- Some of its **major articles** were:
  - a) The **Principle of Notification** (notifying) other powers of a territorial annexation
  - b) The **Principle of Effective Occupation** to validate the annexation
  - c) **Freedom of Trade** in the **Congo Basin**
  - d) **Freedom of Navigation** on the **Niger and Congo Rivers**
  - e) **Freedom of Trade** to all nations
  - f) **Suppression of the slave Trade** by land and sea

- The treaty, drawn up **without African participation**, provided the basis for the subsequent **invasion, colonisation and partition** of Africa by various European powers.
- 3. Prolonged exploitative colonialism led to various **protest movements and demands for autonomy** in Africa (**peaceful, violent and armed resistance** etc.)
- ❑ On the **positive side**, we must note that the European powers did introduce **modern education, western medicine, modern health systems, connectivity and sanitation**, though many of these developments were introduced to suit their needs.

# Decolonization of Africa

# Questions

1. The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of western-educated Africans. Examine (2016)



## □ Early Resistance against European Powers

- Late 19<sup>th</sup> (b/w 1880's-1900)-several violent resistance movements against colonial powers led by tribal chiefs/leaders and native religious leaders in Africa.





# Resistance Movements

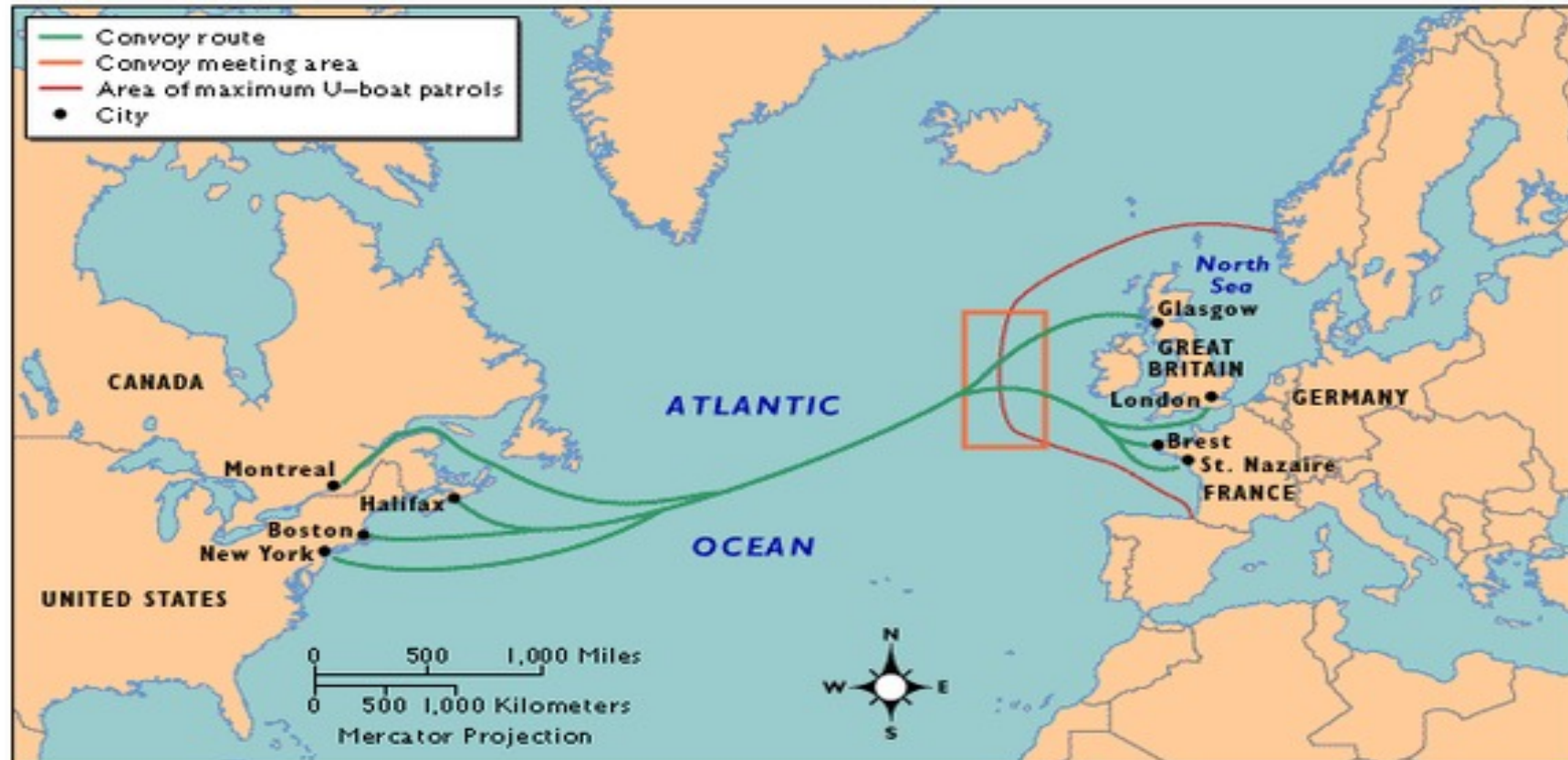
Rebellion	Against	Place
Asante	British	Ghana
Chimurenga	British	Zimbabwe
Menalamba	French	Madagascar
Samori Toure (1866-1900)-20 yrs	French	West Africa (Mali, Ivory Coast & Guinea)
1895:Ethiopians	Italians	Battle of Adowa
Maji Maji	Germans	Tanganyika (Tanzania)
Zulu	Dutch	South Africa

□ **Decolonisation of Africa- end WWII-1960's**  
(except for S.Africa, Zimbabwe, Angola & Mozambique)

# Factors for Decolonization of Africa

- 1) **Japan's conquests in Far East**>shortage of raw materials (rubber, minerals);
  - **Africa**>forced to **compensate** for this shortage-benefited
- 2) Europeans>**U-boats**(Atlantic)-WW II.
  - Reduced the amount of raw materials being transported to Europe, prompted the **creation of local industries** in Africa.
- 3) **Local industries**>creation of **new towns**, existing towns doubled in size, **trade unions**, **urbanization**>**literacy**-**pro-independence newspapers**.

## Convoy System



- 4) **Aug 14, 1941: Atlantic Charter**-F.D.Roosevelt & Churchill>post-war world>-**Autonomy of imperial colonies(USA)**
- After war **Pressure on England** to abide by it.
- 5) After WW II>England, France, Germany weakened, lost political will and military might to rule their colonies.

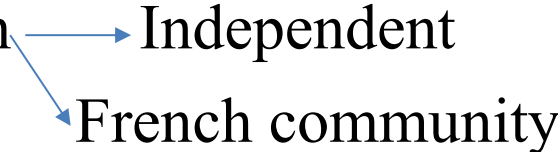
## 6) Western educated African leaders(elite)>Struggles for Independence.

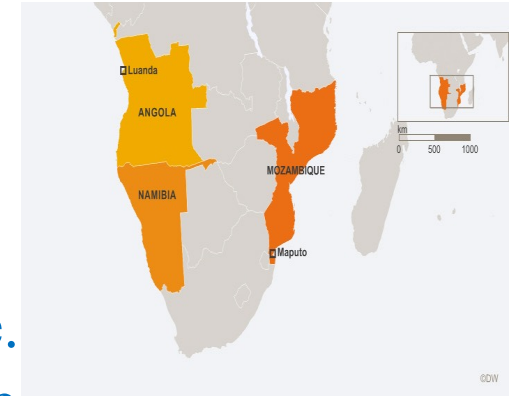
- Pan-African Movements (Caribbean & USA)-**Negritude**

<b>Nationalist Leaders</b>	<b>Country</b>
<b>Jomo Kenyatta</b>	Kenya
<b>Kwame Nkrumah</b>	Gold Coast (Ghana)
<b>Léopold Sédar Senghor</b>	Senegal
<b>Félix Houphouët Boigny</b>	Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)
<b>Nnamdi Azikiwe</b>	Nigeria
<b>Amilcar Cabral</b>	Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde

# Brief Account of Decolonization Sequence

## A. French Africa

- 1956: Tunisia given independence
- 1958: colonies given option → Independent  
→ French community
- West & Equatorial Africa: Guinea, Morocco, Mali, Senegal & Ivory Coast etc
- Algeria\*: War of Independence (1954-62) - FLN (Front de Liberation Nationale)
- 1960: Madagascar: War of Independence (Malagasy Uprising)



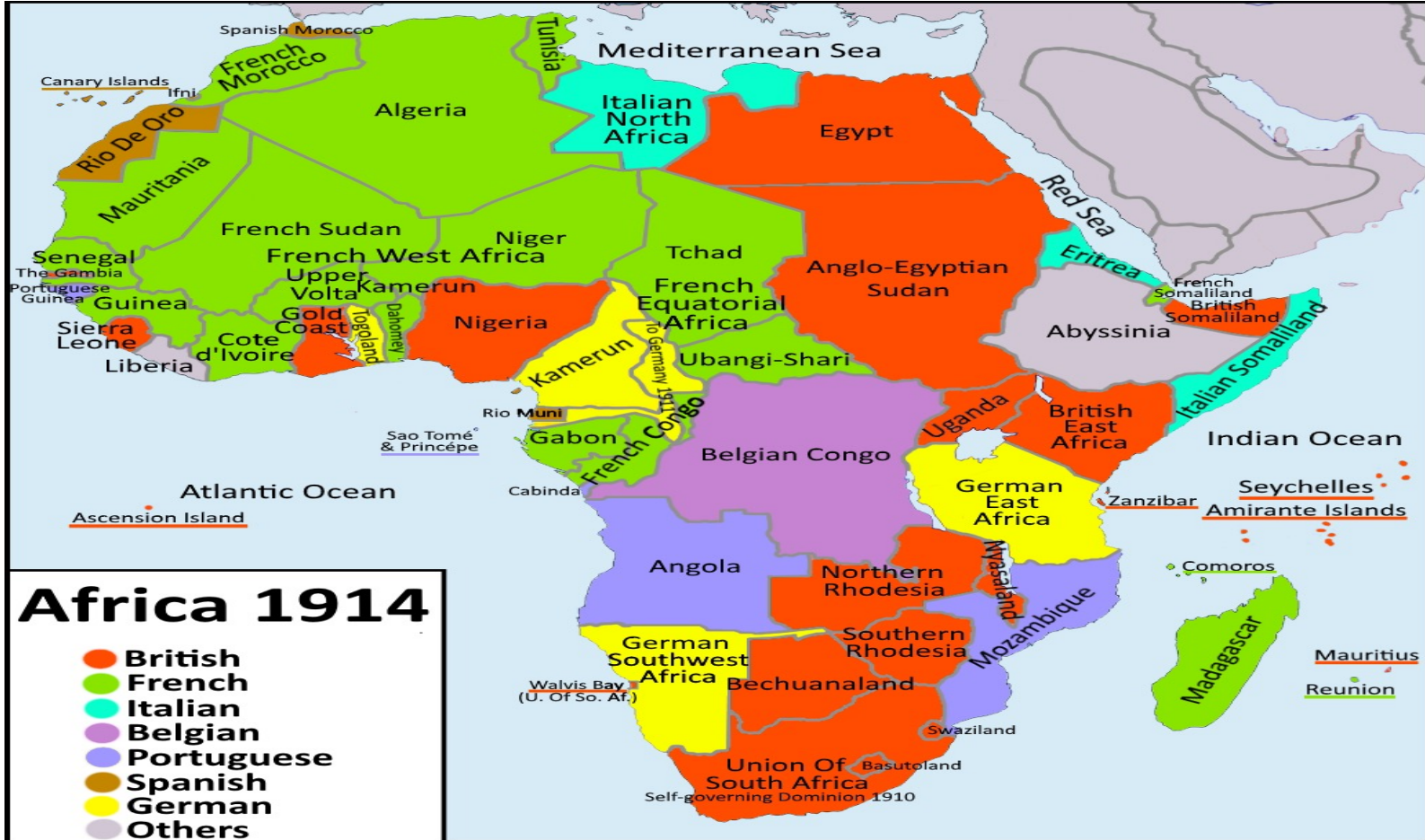
## B. Portuguese Africa:

Angola and Mozambique > Armed resistance.

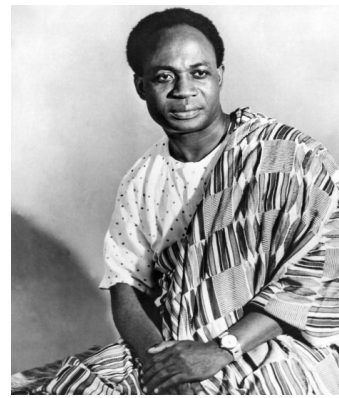
- 1975: Angola > MPLA (People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola) movement against the Portuguese  
(Till 1990s > Civil war between MPLA (Soviet union) & UNITA (U.S.A. & South African white regime))
- 1975: Mozambique > FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front) led the independence movement



# British Colonies (Red)



## Kwame Nkrumah



### C. British Colonies

- ❑ **1957:Ghana:**(earlier Gold Coast)-First British African Colony to gain freedom>**Kwame Nkrumah**(US educated)-boycotts, strikes to press for independence.
- ❑ **1960:Nigeria** (most populated):Britain granted independence without much blood-shed....(Nnamdi Azikiwe)  
(But political instability>sectarian & Inter-tribal violence, long periods of military rule etc)

Jomo Kenyatta



❑ **1963:Kenya: Jomo Kenyatta**(British educated)

(British>opposition from **Mau Mau**, a secret organization composed of **Kikuyu** (tribe) farmers who lost their lands to the British; put down by military means)

❑ **South Africa:**Colonized by Dutch (Boers) & British (latter established hold)

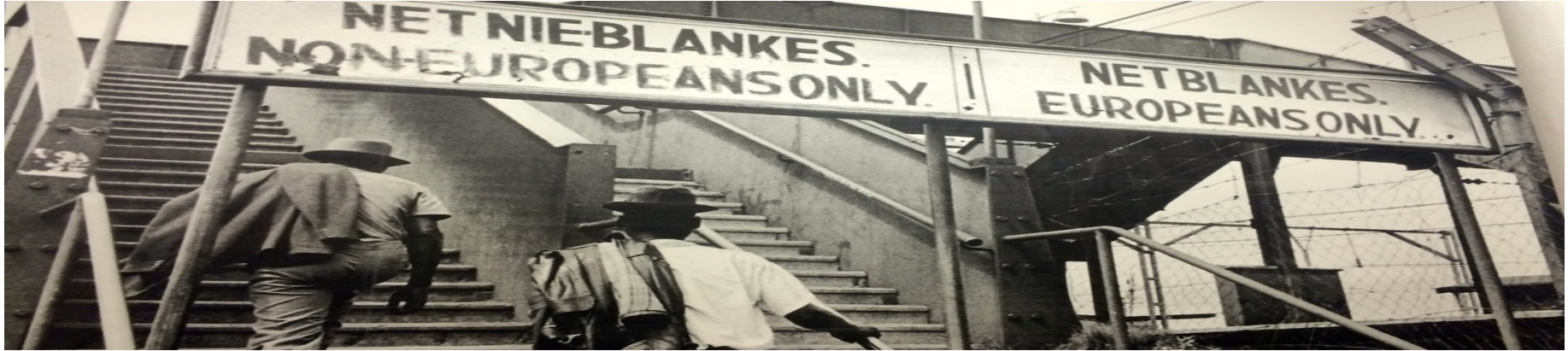
- Gold, coal & diamonds

- 1910: England granted Independence to S.Africa (minority whites only)
- Whites introduced Apartheid (strict racial segregation)
- 1912: African National Congress (ANC)-Nelson Mandela, Steve Biko, Desmond Tutu etc
- 1960-70s- Most countries boycotted
- Early 1990s: President F.W de Klerk lifted apartheid regime, freed Mandela
- 1994: South Africa- 1<sup>st</sup> President- Nelson Mandela





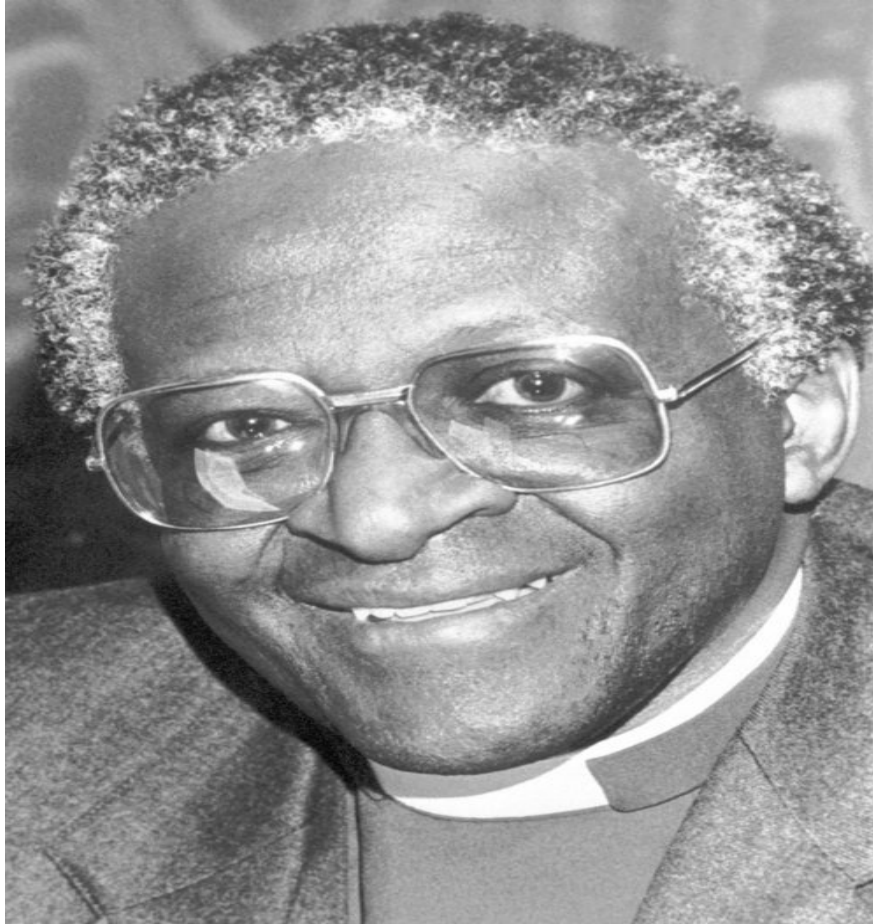
# Apartheid



# African National Congress



# Desmond Tutu



# Steve Biko





# President F.W de Klerk



## □ Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)

1960: Whites (tacit support of British) declared themselves independent-ruled with brute force

1980: Blacks won Independence-Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) -Robert Mugabe  
(Mugabe-dictator)

# ZANU



# Robert Mugabe

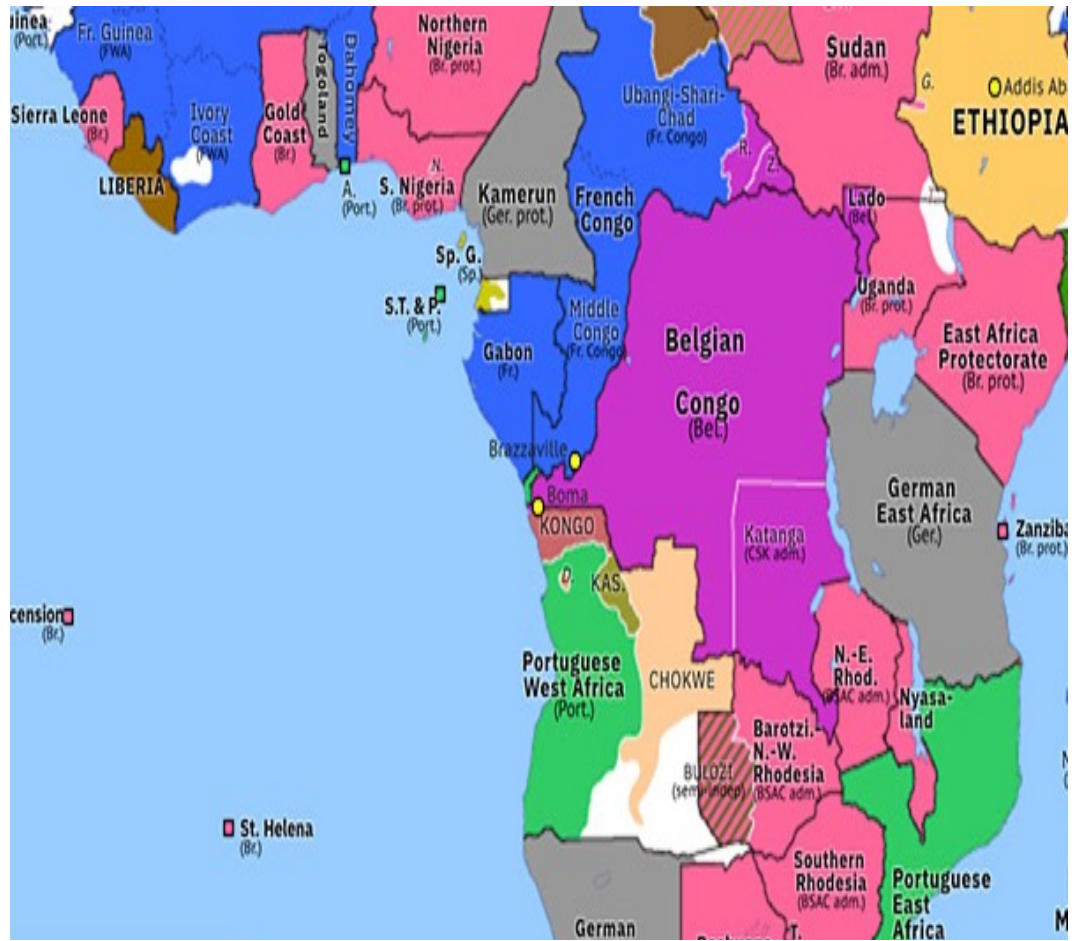


- ❑ **Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana**: Won freedom by peaceful means
- ❖ **1960's: AFRICA YEAR** > **17** countries won freedom from European colonial rule, mostly peacefully (UK, France etc)  
**Gabon, Nigeria, Senegal, Chad, Mali, Madagascar** etc

## D. Belgian Congo

- ❑ Congo: mineral resources (copper), plantation (rubber) wealth > appropriated by Belgium (and even Germany) .
- 1960: Became independent
- PM-Patrick Lumumba (Communist) > West encouraged anti-Lumumba forces; After a period of political turmoil (Lumumba was killed), Joseph Mobutu (pro-western) took over.  
(suffers-weak govt, ethnic strife, civil war)
- ❑ 1960's: Rwanda-Burundi

# Belgian Congo



# Rwanda Burundi





## African National Independence

Featuring the Dates of Independence of Each Nation

**END**