

## Africa after the Transatlantic Slave Trade, ca. 1830-2000

History 146  
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Fall 2006, day, on campus

### COURSE OUTLINE:

We all know that Africa supplied slaves to the Americas for centuries. But what else is there to the history of Africa? What happened when the slave trade ended? Why did European nations colonize Africa *after* the slave trade had ended? What did colonization mean for Africans and for Africa's place in the world? Why did the colonizers leave again after just one lifetime? Can Africa's current problems be blamed on the colonial period? These questions, and many more, will engage our minds in this course.

As Canadian students, you have little reason to be familiar with African history or in fact any aspect of Africa. This course therefore provides introductory information on geography, living conditions and social structure. The course readings include extracts from fiction, to cover subjective experience. To fully profit from them, it is very important that you attend the lectures.

Tutorials, on the other hand, are essential to clarify the misconceptions you are likely to have about a continent that often gets very bad press. Always take notes of what you find unclear or difficult in the readings and *ask questions*.

**Course assessment:** Four elements will go into the final grade.

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Attendance and contributions in class count for | 20%                |
| A 3-4 page essay                                | 25% (after week 5) |
| A mid-term exam                                 | 25% (after week 8) |
| Final exam                                      | 30%                |

### Textbooks:

Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*  
Frederick Cooper, *Africa since 1940. The past of the present*, for 1940 to now.

There also is a *custom courseware*.

Other useful general introductions are:

Phyllis M Martin and Patrick O'Meara, *Africa*.  
John D Hargreaves, *Decolonization in Africa*  
Stephen Ellis (ed.), *Africa now. People, politics and institutions*  
John Iliffe, *Africans. The history of a continent*.

As for fiction:

Chinua Achebe, *The African trilogy* (from Nigeria)  
Sembene Ousmane, *God's bits of wood* (from Senegal)

Bessie Head, *A question of power* (from South Africa and Botswana)  
Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous condition* (from Zimbabwe)

### Topics week by week:

WEEK 1: Background: the regions of Africa in global context  
WEEK 2: From abolition to partition  
WEEK 3: The imposition of colonial states and the reactions of African societies  
WEEK 4: Economic change under colonial rule: agriculture and mining  
WEEK 5: Social change under colonial rule: urbanization and changing families  
WEEK 6: Religion and education under colonial rule  
WEEK 7: Revision and mid-term  
WEEK 8: The origins of decolonisation  
WEEK 9: Different paths to Independence  
WEEK 10: Struggles for liberation in Southern Africa  
WEEK 11: Development and disappointment  
WEEK 12: States in crisis  
WEEK 13: Religion and globalisation in Africa

### List of lectures and readings: Africa after the Transatlantic Slave Trade

#### The imposition of colonial rule: 1870-1920

5-8 September WEEK 1: Background

6 September 1, An introduction to Africa and African history

**Reading:** Chinua Achebe, *Things fall apart*, chs. 1-5; 7.  
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, extract; Chinua Achebe, critique of  
Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.

11-15 September WEEK 2: From abolition to partition

11 September 2, The shift of the slave trade from West to East Africa  
13 September 3, The 'scramble for Africa'

**Reading:** Robin Law, 'From slave trade to legitimate commerce'.  
Shillington, p. 302-332.

September 18-22 WEEK 3: The responses of African societies

18 September 4, Accommodation and resistance  
20 September 5, The structure of colonial states

**Reading:** Shillington, chapter 23  
David Robinson, *Paths of accommodation*, chapter on Ahmadu Bamba.

25-29 September WEEK 4: Economic change under colonial rule

25 September 6, Mining, industrialisation and migrant labour  
27 September 7, Peasants, farmers, and settlers

**Reading:** Shillington, chapter 22

Leroy Vail, 'Railway development and colonial underdevelopment: The Nyasaland case'. From Robin Palmer and Neil Parsons, *The roots of rural poverty in Central and Southern Africa*.

### **Transitions under colonial rule, 1920-1940**

2-6 October WEEK 5: *Social change under colonial rule*

2 October 8, Old and new cities, and their promises

4 October 9, Environmental policy and environmental change

**Reading:** Shillington, chapter 24

Van Onselen, 'the regiment of the hills' about gangs in Johannesburg

**Essay due 6 October. Choose one of the following questions and discuss it on 4-5 pages:**

What were the consequences of the outlawing of the West African slave trade in 1807 for Africa as a whole over the next sixty years?

'The reasons for the colonization of Africa lay to at least the same extent in Europe as in Africa'. Discuss.

Why and when is it helpful to speak of African societies 'accommodation' of colonial rule, rather than of resistance or collaboration?

9-13 October WEEK 6: *Religion and education under colonial rule*

9 October Thanksgiving. No class.

11 October 10, Islam, Christianity, education and 'tradition'

**Reading:** Louis Brenner, *Controlling knowledge*, extracts.

Derek Pietersen, 'Writing in Revolution', From John Lonsdale and E S Atieno Odhiambo, *Mau Mau and nationhood*.

16-20 October WEEK 7: *Still more change*

16 October 12, Social differentiation and political change under colonialism

18 October 13, MID-TERM EXAM

**Reading:**

E K Lumley, *Forgotten mandate*, extract.

Terence Ranger, 'The invention of tradition in colonial Africa'.

### **Decolonisation and Independence, 1940-2000**

23-27 October WEEK 8: *The origins of decolonisation*

23 October 14, The impact of the Second World War on Africa

25 October 15, Social struggles and the rise of nationalism

**Readings:** Shillington, chapter 25  
Cooper, *Africa since 1940*, chapter 2.

*30 October -3 November WEEK 9: Different paths to Independence*

30 October 16, Peaceful decolonisation  
1 November 17, Decolonisation in conflict

**Reading:** Cooper, chapter 3  
Shillington, chapter 26  
Dennis Austin, *Politics in Ghana*

*6-10 November WEEK 10: Development and disappointment*

6 November 18, The state and the failure of rural development  
8 November 19, The state and the failure of industrial development

**Reading:** J F Bayart, *The state in Africa*, chapter 4.  
James Ferguson, 'Global disconnect: Abjection and the aftermath of modernism'.  
Cooper, *Africa since 1940*, chapter 5.

*13-17 November WEEK 11 Struggles for liberation in Southern Africa*

13 November 20, Liberation wars: Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique  
15 November 21, Apartheid in South Africa, and the struggle against it

**Reading:** Shillington, chapter 27  
Nigel Worden, 'The heyday of Apartheid'  
Tom Lodge et al., 'Soweto' from *All, here and now: Black politics in South Africa in the 1980s*.  
Cooper, *Africa since 1940*, chapter 6.

*20-24 November WEEK 12: States in crisis, and the rise of religion*

20 November 22, authoritarian and 'collapsed' states  
22 November 23, the politicization of Islam and Christianity

**Reading:** Shillington, chapter 28  
Cooper, *Africa since 1940*, chapter 7.  
Bawuro M Barkindo, 'Islamism in Kano City'.  
Extracts from the proceedings of the conference on Islam in Africa

*27 November – 1 December WEEK 13: environmental challenges*

27 November 24, the mixed record of post-colonial agriculture and climate change  
29 November 25, AIDS in Africa

**Reading:** Deborah Fahy Bryceson, 'The scramble in Africa'  
John Iliffe, *The African AIDS epidemic: a history* (extracts)

*4 December – 8 December WEEK 14: conclusion*

4 December 26, Luckless, but not helpless: some conclusions about Africans' place in the world

**No reading.** Final discussion.