

# Congo The Epic History Of A People David Van Reybrouck

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**Slavery and the Missouri Compromise** - Elisabeth Herschbach 2018-08-01

Explores the Missouri Compromise and its relationship to slavery in the United States. Authoritative text, colorful illustrations, illuminating sidebars, and a "Voices from the Past" feature make this book an exciting and informative read.

[In the Footsteps of Mr. Kurtz](#) - Michela Wrong 2009-10-13

Known as "the Leopard," the president of Zaire for thirty-two years, Mobutu Sese Seko, showed all the cunning of his namesake -- seducing Western powers, buying up the opposition, and dominating his people with a devastating combination of brutality and charm. While the population was pauperized, he plundered the country's copper and diamond resources, downing pink champagne in his jungle palace like some modern-day

reincarnation of Joseph Conrad's crazed station manager. Michela Wrong, a correspondent who witnessed Mobutu's last days, traces the rise and fall of the idealistic young journalist who became the stereotype of an African despot. Engrossing, highly readable, and as funny as it is tragic, *In the Footsteps of Mr. Kurtz* assesses the acts of the villains and the heroes in this fascinating story of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

*We Don't Know Ourselves: A Personal History of Modern Ireland* - Fintan O'Toole 2022-03-15

"[L]ike reading a great tragicomic Irish novel." –James Wood, *The New Yorker* "Masterful . . . astonishing." –Cullen Murphy, *The Atlantic* "A landmark history . . . Leavened by the brilliance of O'Toole's insights and wit." –Claire Messud, *Harper's Winner* • 2021 An Post Irish Book Award – Nonfiction Book of the Year • from

the judges: "The most remarkable Irish nonfiction book I've read in the last 10 years"; "[A] book for the ages." A celebrated Irish writer's magisterial, brilliantly insightful chronicle of the wrenching transformations that dragged his homeland into the modern world. Fintan O'Toole was born in the year the revolution began. It was 1958, and the Irish government—in despair, because all the young people were leaving—opened the country to foreign investment and popular culture. So began a decades-long, ongoing experiment with Irish national identity. In *We Don't Know Ourselves*, O'Toole, one of the Anglophone world's most consummate stylists, weaves his own experiences into Irish social, cultural, and economic change, showing how Ireland, in just one lifetime, has gone from a reactionary "backwater" to an almost totally open society—perhaps the most astonishing national transformation in modern history. Born to a working-class family in the Dublin suburbs, O'Toole served as an altar boy and attended a Christian Brothers school, much as his forebears did. He was enthralled by American Westerns suddenly appearing on Irish television, which were not that far from his own experience, given that Ireland's main export was beef and it was still not unknown for herds of cattle to clatter down Dublin's streets. Yet the Westerns were a sign of what was to come. O'Toole narrates the once unthinkable collapse of the all-powerful Catholic Church, brought down by scandal and by the activism of ordinary Irish, women in particular. He relates the horrific violence of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, which led most Irish to reject violent nationalism. In O'Toole's telling, America became a lodestar, from John F. Kennedy's 1963 visit, when the soon-to-be martyred American president

was welcomed as a native son, to the emergence of the Irish technology sector in the late 1990s, driven by American corporations, which set Ireland on the path toward particular disaster during the 2008 financial crisis. A remarkably compassionate yet exacting observer, O'Toole in coruscating prose captures the peculiar Irish habit of "deliberate unknowing," which allowed myths of national greatness to persist even as the foundations were crumbling. Forty years in the making, *We Don't Know Ourselves* is a landmark work, a memoir and a national history that ultimately reveals how the two modes are entwined for all of us.

Frederick Douglass for Kids - Nancy I. Sanders

2012-06-01

Few Americans have had as much impact on this nation as Frederick Douglass. Born on a plantation, he later escaped slavery and helped others to freedom via the Underground Railroad. In time he became a bestselling author, an outspoken newspaper editor, a brilliant orator, a tireless abolitionist, and a brave civil rights leader. He was famous on both sides of the Atlantic in the years leading up to the Civil War, and when war broke out, Abraham Lincoln invited him to the White House for counsel and advice. *Frederick Douglass for Kids* follows the footsteps of this American hero, from his birth into slavery to his becoming a friend and confidant of presidents and the leading African American of his day. And to better appreciate Frederick Douglass and his times, readers will form a debating club, cook a meal similar to the one Douglass shared with John Brown, make a civil war haversack, participate in a microlending program, and more. This valuable resource also includes a time line of significant events, a list of historic sites to visit or explore online, and Web

resources for further study. Nancy I. Sanders is the author of many books, including *America's Black Founders* and *A Kid's Guide to African American History*. She lives in Chino, California.

*Do Not Disturb* - Michela Wrong 2021-03-30

A powerful investigation into a grisly political murder and the authoritarian regime behind it: *Do Not Disturb* upends the narrative that Rwanda sold the world after one of the deadliest genocides of the twentieth century. We think we know the story of Africa's Great Lakes region. Following the Rwandan genocide, an idealistic group of young rebels overthrew the brutal regime in Kigali, ushering in an era of peace and stability that made Rwanda the donor darling of the West, winning comparisons with Switzerland and Singapore. But the truth was considerably more sinister. Vividly sourcing her story with direct testimony from key participants, Wrong uses the story of the murder of Patrick Karegeya, once Rwanda's head of external intelligence and a quicksilver operator of supple charm, to paint the portrait of a modern African dictatorship created in the chilling likeness of Paul Kagame, the president who sanctioned his former friend's assassination.

*The Democratic Republic of Congo* - Michael Deibert  
2013-09-12

Over the past two decades, the Democratic Republic of Congo has been at the centre of the deadliest series of conflicts since the Second World War, and now hosts the largest United Nations peacekeeping mission in the world. In this compelling book, acclaimed journalist Michael Deibert paints a picture of a nation in flux, inching towards peace but at the same time solidifying into another era of authoritarian rule under its enigmatic president, Joseph Kabila. Featuring a wealth

of first-hand interviews and secondary sources, the narrative travels from war-torn villages in the country's east to the chaotic, pulsing capital of Kinshasa in order to bring us the voices of the Congolese - from impoverished gold prospectors and market women to government officials - as it explores the complicated political, ethnic and economic geography of this tattered land. A must-read for anyone interested in contemporary Africa, *The Democratic Republic of Congo: Between, Hope and Despair* sheds new light on this sprawling and often misunderstood country that has become iconic both for its great potential and dashed hopes.

*Dancing in the Glory of Monsters* - Jason Stearns  
2012-03-27

A "tremendous," "intrepid" history of the devastating war in the heart of Africa's Congo, with first-hand accounts of the continent's worst conflict in modern times. At the heart of Africa is the Congo, a country the size of Western Europe, bordering nine other nations, that since 1996 has been wracked by a brutal war in which millions have died. In *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters*, renowned political activist and researcher Jason K. Stearns has written a compelling and deeply-reported narrative of how Congo became a failed state that collapsed into a war of retaliatory massacres. Stearns brilliantly describes the key perpetrators, many of whom he met personally, and highlights the nature of the political system that brought these people to power, as well as the moral decisions with which the war confronted them. Now updated with a new introduction, *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters* tells the full story of Africa's Great War.

*A Brief Political and Geographic History of North*

*America* - Lissa Jones Johnston 2008

With the help of roadmaps to identify and locate places that no longer exist on a present-day world map, presents North America's historical progression through time, showing an evolution to the present day.

**Crossing the Congo** - Mike Martin 2016

The story of three friends journeying across 2,500 miles of the toughest terrain on the planet in a very old Land Rover called 9Bob. Over two months in 2013, they completed the only north-south crossing of the Congo River Basin in decades, travelling from Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to Juba, in South Sudan, a journey they had been told repeatedly was 'impossible'. On the way, they faced fierce challenges, ranging from jungle terrain, kleptocracy, fire ants, illegal mining and burrowing parasites, to factional disputes, destroyed bridges, non-existent roads and intense suspicion from local people. These difficulties, and others, found them building rafts and bridges to cross rivers, playing tribal politics, bargaining for Land Rover parts in scrapyards, and conducting makeshift surgery in the jungle--both on 9Bob and on one another. Conjuring all their combined ingenuity and resolve, they got through. But the Congo is raw, and the journey took its toll, exerting a psychological pressure on them that they hadn't expected. And although they all lost something in the Congo, this book is ultimately about the power of teamwork to overcome tremendous odds.

Harriet Tubman's Escape: A Fly on the Wall History -

Thomas Kingsley Troupe 2017-01-01

Across fields, over fences, and through dark forests É Two cartoon flies accompany eBook readers as they follow Harriet Tubman's daring escape from slavery, providing equal measure of facts and fun while telling the story

of this heroic moment in American history.

**The River Congo** - Peter Forbath 1991

A chronicle of the primitive splendor, historical atrocities, explorations, and modern-day struggles associated with the African river

The Fate of Africa - Martin Meredith 2011-09-06

First published in 2005, *The Fate of Africa* was hailed by reviewers as "A masterpiece...The nonfiction book of the year" (The New York Post); "a magnificent achievement" (Weekly Standard); "a joy," (Wall Street Journal) and "one of the decade's most important works on Africa" (Publishers Weekly, starred review). Now Martin Meredith has revised this classic history to incorporate important recent developments, including the Darfur crisis in Sudan, Robert Mugabe's continued destructive rule in Zimbabwe, controversies over Western aid and exploitation of Africa's resources, the growing importance and influence of China, and the democratic movement roiling the North African countries of Tunisia, Egypt, and Jordan.

Congo Stories - John Prendergast 2018-12-04

From the author of the New York Times bestselling and award-winning *Not on Our Watch*, John Prendergast co-writes a compelling book with Fidel Bafilemba--with stunning photographs by Ryan Gosling--revealing the way in which the people and resources of the Democratic Republic of Congo have been used throughout the last five centuries to build, develop, advance, and safeguard the United States and Europe. The book highlights the devastating price Congo has paid for that support. However, the way the world deals with Congo is finally changing, and the book tells the remarkable stories of those in Congo and the United States leading that transformation. The people of Congo are fighting back

against a tidal wave of international exploitation and governmental oppression to make things better for their nation, their neighborhoods, and their families. They are risking their lives to resist and alter the deadly status quo. And now, finally, there are human rights movements led by young people in the United States and Europe building solidarity with Congolese change-makers in support of dignity, justice, and equality for the Congolese people. As a result, the way the world deal with Congo is finally changing. Fidel Bafilemba, Ryan Gosling, and John Prendergast traveled to Congo to document some of the stories not only of the Congolese upstanders who are building a better future for their country but also of young Congolese people overcoming enormous odds just to go to school and help take care of their families. Through Gosling's photographs of Congolese daily life, Bafilemba's profiles of heroic Congolese activists, and Prendergast's narratives of the extraordinary history and evolving social movements that directly link Congo with the United States and Europe, Congo Stories provides windows into the history, the people, the challenges, the possibilities, and the movements that could change the course of Congo's destiny. Chosen by Amazon as the Best Book of the Month for December 2018 in Biographies & Memoirs, History, and Nonfiction. Featuring the life story of Dr. Denis Mukwege, winner of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize

**Consuming the Congo** - Peter Eichstaedt 2011-07  
Going behind the headlines and deep into the brutal world of the Congo, this expose examines why eastern Congo is the most dangerous place on the planet. While the Western world takes for granted its creature comforts such as cell phones or computers, five million Congolese needlessly die in the quest for the valuable

minerals that make those technologies work. Much of the war-torn country has largely become lawless, overrun by warlords who exploit and murder the population for their own gain. Delving into the history of the former Belgian colony, this book exposes the horror of day-to-day life in the Congo, largely precipitated by colonial exploitation and internal strife after gaining independence. It offers not only a view into the dire situation but also examines how the Western world, a part of the problem, can become a part of the solution."

Paths in the Rainforests - Jan M. Vansina 1990-10-22  
Vansina's scope is breathtaking: he reconstructs the history of the forest lands that cover all or part of southern Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Congo, Zaire, the Central African Republic, and Cabinda in Angola, discussing the original settlement of the forest by the western Bantu; the periods of expansion and innovation in agriculture; the development of metallurgy; the rise and fall of political forms and of power; the coming of Atlantic trade and colonialism; and the conquest of the rainforests by colonial powers and the destruction of a way of life. "In 400 elegantly brilliant pages Vansina lays out five millennia of history for nearly 200 distinguishable regions of the forest of equatorial Africa around a new, subtly paradoxical interpretation of 'tradition.'" –Joseph Miller, University of Virginia "Vansina gives extended coverage . . . to the broad features of culture and the major lines of historical development across the region between 3000 B.C. and A.D. 1000. It is truly an outstanding effort, readable, subtle, and integrative in its interpretations, and comprehensive in scope. . . . It is a seminal study . . . but it is also a substantive history that will long retain its

usefulness.”—Christopher Ehret, American Historical Review

**Belgium and the Congo, 1885-1980** - Guy Vanthemsche  
2012-04-30

This book explains how and why Belgium, a small but influential European country, was changed through its colonial activities in the Congo, from the first expeditions in 1880 to the Mobutu regime in the 1980s. Belgian politics, diplomacy, economic activity and culture were influenced by the imperial experience. Belgium and the Congo, 1885-1980 yields a better understanding of the Congo's past and present.

A Nervous State - Nancy Rose Hunt 2015-12-18

In *A Nervous State*, Nancy Rose Hunt considers the afterlives of violence and harm in King Leopold's Congo Free State. Discarding catastrophe as narrative form, she instead brings alive a history of colonial nervousness. This mood suffused medical investigations, security operations, and vernacular healing movements. With a heuristic of two colonial states—one "nervous," one biopolitical—the analysis alternates between medical research into birthrates, gonorrhea, and childlessness and the securitization of subaltern "therapeutic insurgencies." By the time of Belgian Congo's famed postwar developmentalist schemes, a shining infertility clinic stood near a bleak penal colony, both sited where a notorious Leopoldian rubber company once enabled rape and mutilation. Hunt's history bursts with layers of perceptibility and song, conveying everyday surfaces and daydreams of subalterns and colonials alike. Congolese endured and evaded forced labor and medical and security screening. Quick-witted, they stirred unease through healing, wonder, memory, and dance. This capacious medical history sheds light on Congolese sexual and

musical economies, on practices of distraction, urbanity, and hedonism. Drawing on theoretical concepts from Georges Canguilhem, Georges Balandier, and Gaston Bachelard, Hunt provides a bold new framework for teasing out the complexities of colonial history.

**The War That Doesn't Say Its Name** - Jason K. Stearns  
2022-02

"The Congolese conflict has been dubbed a "forever war," a conflict that defies resolution. As of 2016, the Congo was experiencing its twentieth year of violent conflict, one of worst humanitarian calamities of our time and climbing the all-time charts. According to one study, 5.4 million people have died between 1998 and 2007 alone, largely from disease, though fighting and violence is ongoing to this day. This study aims to explain the most recent phases of the conflict, why it has lasted for so long, where diplomats and peacemakers have gone wrong in their approach to solving the violence, and how the Congo can help us understand contemporary armed conflict more broadly. Using the Congolese conflict as an illustrative case study, the author argues that three factors determine why conflicts there have persisted in some places while dwindling elsewhere: the cohesion, political culture, and constituencies of the belligerents. He finds that the more fragmented the belligerents, the more protracted the conflict becomes, and as they shift to see the conflict as an end in itself and to perceive violence as an acceptable and necessary tool of politics, the longer the conflict lasts. Finally, he develops a theory for how social constituencies shape negotiations between belligerents and the government by providing guarantees, brokering contacts, and presenting commitment problems"-

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*Mr. Benjamin's Suitcase of Secrets* - Pei-Yu Chang  
2017-05-02

A philosopher finds himself at risk when his country begins punishing people for being different, a circumstance that forces him to escape over hills and valleys while carrying a mysterious, heavy suitcase.

**King Leopold's Ghost** - Adam Hochschild 2019-05-14

With an introduction by award-winning novelist Barbara Kingsolver In the late nineteenth century, when the great powers in Europe were tearing Africa apart and seizing ownership of land for themselves, King Leopold of Belgium took hold of the vast and mostly unexplored territory surrounding the Congo River. In his devastatingly barbarous colonization of this area, Leopold stole its rubber and ivory, pumelled its people and set up a ruthless regime that would reduce the population by half. . While he did all this, he carefully constructed an image of himself as a deeply feeling humanitarian. Winner of the Duff Cooper Prize in 1999, *King Leopold's Ghost* is the true and haunting account of this man's brutal regime and its lasting effect on a ruined nation. It is also the inspiring and deeply moving account of a handful of missionaries and other idealists who travelled to Africa and unwittingly found themselves in the middle of a gruesome holocaust. Instead of turning away, these brave few chose to stand up against Leopold. Adam Hochschild brings life to this largely untold story and, crucially, casts blame on those responsible for this atrocity.

**Freedom in Congo Square** - Carole Boston Weatherford  
2017-01-17

Chosen as a New York Times Best Illustrated Book of 2016, this poetic, nonfiction story about a little-known piece of African American history captures a human's

capacity to find hope and joy in difficult circumstances and demonstrates how New Orleans' Congo Square was truly freedom's heart. Mondays, there were hogs to slop, mules to train, and logs to chop. Slavery was no ways fair. Six more days to Congo Square. As slaves relentlessly toiled in an unjust system in 19th century Louisiana, they all counted down the days until Sunday, when at least for half a day they were briefly able to congregate in Congo Square in New Orleans. Here they were free to set up an open market, sing, dance, and play music. They were free to forget their cares, their struggles, and their oppression. This story chronicles slaves' duties each day, from chopping logs on Mondays to baking bread on Wednesdays to plucking hens on Saturday, and builds to the freedom of Sundays and the special experience of an afternoon spent in Congo Square. This book will have a forward from Freddi Williams Evans ([freddieevans.com](http://freddieevans.com)), a historian and Congo Square expert, as well as a glossary of terms with pronunciations and definitions. AWARDS: A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2016 A School Library Journal Best Book of 2016: Nonfiction Starred reviews from School Library Journal, Booklist, Kirkus Reviews, and The Horn Book Magazine

*The Poisonwood Bible* - Barbara Kingsolver 2008-09-04  
'Breathtaking.' Sunday Times 'Exquisite.' The Times 'Beautiful.' Independent 'Powerful.' New York Times An international bestseller and a modern classic, this suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and their remarkable reconstruction has been read, adored and shared by millions around the world. This story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with

them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it - from garden seeds to Scripture - is calamitously transformed on African soil. What readers are saying 'This remains one of the most fascinating books I have ever read.' 'I felt every emotion under the sky with this book.' 'Riveting.' 'This novel left a lasting - YEARS LASTING - impression.' 'This is one of those books that stands the test of time and is worth rereading.' 'Five epic, no-wonder-this-book-is-so-well-loved stars!'

**Everfair** - Nisi Shawl 2016-09-06

An "alternate history novel that explores the question of what might have come of Belgium's ... colonization of the Congo if the native populations had learned about steam technology a bit earlier"--Amazon.com.

**The Origins of AIDS** - Jacques Pépin 2021-01-21

An updated edition of Jacques Pépin's acclaimed account of the events that transformed a chimpanzee virus into a global pandemic.

**Communities Then and Now** - Katie Peters 2021-01-01

This nonfiction title walks readers through a changing neighborhood using eye-catching photos with a tight text-to-photo match. Pairs with the fiction title Grandpa's Photos.

A Picture Book of Harriet Tubman - David A. Adler 2018-01-01

"Gail Nelson is an unobtrusive narrator who lets Harriet Tubman's deeds and personality speak for themselves. And speak they do!" - AudioFile

**Against Elections** - David Van Reybrouck 2018-04-17

A small book with great weight and urgency to it, this is both a history of democracy and a clarion call for change. "Without drastic adjustment, this system cannot last much longer," writes Van Reybrouck, regarded today

as one of Europe's most astute thinkers. "If you look at the decline in voter turnout and party membership, and at the way politicians are held in contempt, if you look at how difficult it is to form governments, how little they can do and how harshly they are punished for it, if you look at how quickly populism, technocracy and anti-parliamentarianism are rising, if you look at how more and more citizens are longing for participation and how quickly that desire can tip over into frustration, then you realize we are up to our necks." Not so very long ago, the great battles of democracy were fought for the right to vote. Now, Van Reybrouck writes, "it's all about the right to speak, but in essence it's the same battle, the battle for political emancipation and for democratic participation. We must decolonize democracy. We must democratize democracy." As history, Van Reybrouck makes the compelling argument that modern democracy was designed as much to preserve the rights of the powerful and keep the masses in line, as to give the populace a voice. As change-agent, *Against Elections* makes the argument that there are forms of government, what he terms sortitive or deliberative democracy, that are beginning to be practiced around the world, and can be the remedy we seek. In Iceland, for example, deliberative democracy was used to write the new constitution. A group of people were chosen by lot, educated in the subject at hand, and then were able to decide what was best, arguably, far better than politicians would have. A fascinating, and workable idea has led to a timely book to remind us that our system of government is a flexible instrument, one that the people have the power to change.

Explore Africa - Veronica B. Wilkins 2019-12-15

"In this book, early fluent readers will learn about the



unique and defining characteristics of Africa. Young readers will learn more about this continent's landscape, biomes, climate, wildlife, culture, and more. A Take a Look! infographic aids understanding, sidebars present interesting, supplementary information, maps help readers locate the continent, and an At a Glance summary provides quick facts for easy reference"--

**Stringer** - Anjan Sundaram 2014-01-07

In the powerful travel-writing tradition of Ryszard Kapuscinski and V.S. Naipaul, a haunting memoir of a dangerous and disorienting year of self-discovery in one of the world's unhappiest countries.

**In the Forest of No Joy: The Congo-Océan Railroad and the Tragedy of French Colonialism** - J. P. Daughton  
2021-07-20

The epic story of the Congo-Océan railroad and the human costs and contradictions of modern empire. The Congo-Océan railroad stretches across the Republic of Congo from Brazzaville to the Atlantic port of Pointe-Noir. It was completed in 1934, when Equatorial Africa was a French colony, and it stands as one of the deadliest construction projects in history. Colonial workers were subjects of an ostensibly democratic nation whose motto read "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," but liberal ideals were savaged by a cruelly indifferent administrative state. African workers were forcibly conscripted and separated from their families, and subjected to hellish conditions as they hacked their way through dense tropical foliage—a "forest of no joy"; excavated by hand thousands of tons of earth in order to lay down track; blasted their way through rock to construct tunnels; or risked their lives building bridges over otherwise impassable rivers. In the process, they suffered disease, malnutrition, and rampant physical abuse,

likely resulting in at least 20,000 deaths. In the *Forest of No Joy* captures in vivid detail the experiences of the men, women, and children who toiled on the railroad, and forces a reassessment of the moral relationship between modern industrialized empires and what could be called global humanitarian impulses—the desire to improve the lives of people outside of Europe. Drawing on exhaustive research in French and Congolese archives, a chilling documentary record, and heartbreaking photographic evidence, J.P. Daughton tells the epic story of the Congo-Océan railroad, and in doing so reveals the human costs and contradictions of modern empire.

*Death in the Congo* - Emmanuel Gerard 2015-02-10

Fifty years later, the murky circumstances and tragic symbolism of Patrice Lumumba's assassination trouble many people around the world. Emmanuel Gerard and Bruce Kuklick reveal a tangled web of international politics in which many people—black and white, well-meaning and ruthless, African, European, and American—bear responsibility for this crime.

**The Congo and Coasts of Africa** - Richard Harding Davis  
2006

A classic early 20th century account of travels around the Congo, Zanzibar, and other isolated African locations. Includes experiences with local people from many areas. The book includes many interesting period photos.

*Seminole History and Culture* - D. L. Birchfield  
2012-08-01

Readers discover Seminole history and culture in this richly designed, and well-researched volume. Its in-depth exploration of Seminole history begins with prehistoric times and continues to the present. Among

the topics examined are the Seminoles' arrival in Florida in the 1700s, the place of black Seminoles in their society, their struggles to protect their territory from land-hungry Americans, and 21st-century reservation life. The book's exploration of traditional culture and beliefs includes discussion of the role of uncles in raising children and an account of their origin story. Useful features include a detailed timeline, a list of additional resources for readers interested in learning more, and activities designed to promote further thought.

*Land of Tears* - Robert Harms 2019-12-03

A prizewinning historian's epic account of the scramble to control equatorial Africa. In just three decades at the end of the nineteenth century, the heart of Africa was utterly transformed. Virtually closed to outsiders for centuries, by the early 1900s the rainforest of the Congo River basin was one of the most brutally exploited places on earth. In *Land of Tears*, historian Robert Harms reconstructs the chaotic process by which this happened. Beginning in the 1870s, traders, explorers, and empire builders from Arabia, Europe, and America moved rapidly into the region, where they pioneered a deadly trade in ivory and rubber for Western markets and in enslaved labor for the Indian Ocean rim. Imperial conquest followed close behind. Ranging from remote African villages to European diplomatic meetings to Connecticut piano-key factories, *Land of Tears* reveals how equatorial Africa became fully, fatefully, and tragically enmeshed within our global world.

**Congo** - David Van Reybrouck 2014-03-25

Hailed as "a monumental history . . . more exciting than any novel" (NRC Handelsblad), David van Reybrouck's rich and gripping epic, in the tradition of Robert Hughes'

*The Fatal Shore*, tells the extraordinary story of one of the world's most devastated countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo. Epic in scope yet eminently readable, penetrating and deeply moving, David van Reybrouck's *Congo: The Epic History of a People* traces the fate of one of the world's most critical, failed nation-states, second only to war-torn Somalia: the Democratic Republic of Congo. Van Reybrouck takes us through several hundred years of history, bringing some of the most dramatic episodes in Congolese history. Here are the people and events that have impinged the Congo's development—from the slave trade to the ivory and rubber booms; from the arrival of Henry Morton Stanley to the tragic regime of King Leopold II; from global indignation to Belgian colonialism; from the struggle for independence to Mobutu's brutal rule; and from the world famous Rumble in the Jungle to the civil war over natural resources that began in 1996 and still rages today. Van Reybrouck interweaves his own family's history with the voices of a diverse range of individuals—charismatic dictators, feuding warlords, child-soldiers, the elderly, female merchant smugglers, and many in the African diaspora of Europe and China—to offer a deeply humane approach to political history, focusing squarely on the Congolese perspective and returning a nation's history to its people.

*East Along the Equator* - Helen Winternitz 1987

In this brilliant mix of political journalism and travel writing, Helen Winternitz and fellow journalist Timothy Phelps witness what few Westerners have: life in the ecologically rich but financially impoverished American-backed dictatorship of Zaire, the former Belgian Congo.

*Historical Animals* - Julia Moberg 2015-02-10

Throughout history, animals have shaped the world as we

know it. But rarely have they received the recognition they deserve. Until now. This inside look at history's most famous animals features wacky verse, cool facts, historical stats, and zany cartoon art. Meet Alexander the Great's horse Bucephalus, who was his battle companion for nearly 30 years. Learn about Mozart's starling bird that helped him write music by singing along as he composed. Read about the Ethiopian goats that discovered the coffee bean, Marco Polo seeing dragons in China, and a dog named Boatswain that saved Napoleon's life. From the cobra that killed Cleopatra to Cairo, the dog that helped hunt down Osama bin Laden, Historical Animals has these stories and more!

**Africa's World War** - Gerard Prunier 2008-12-31

The Rwandan genocide sparked a horrific bloodbath that swept across sub-Saharan Africa, ultimately leading to the deaths of some four million people. In this extraordinary history of the recent wars in Central Africa, Gerard Prunier offers a gripping account of how one grisly episode laid the groundwork for a sweeping and disastrous upheaval. Prunier vividly describes the grisly aftermath of the Rwandan genocide, when some two million refugees--a third of Rwanda's population--fled to exile in Zaire in 1996. The new Rwandan regime then crossed into Zaire and attacked the refugees, slaughtering upwards of 400,000 people. The Rwandan forces then turned on Zaire's despotic President Mobutu and, with the help of a number of allied African countries, overthrew him. But as Prunier shows, the collapse of the Mobutu regime and the ascension of the corrupt and erratic Laurent-D?sir? Kabila created a power vacuum that drew Rwanda, Uganda, Angola, Zimbabwe, Sudan, and other African nations into an extended and chaotic war. The heart of the book documents how the

whole core of the African continent became engulfed in an intractable and bloody conflict after 1998, a devastating war that only wound down following the assassination of Kabila in 2001. Prunier not only captures all this in his riveting narrative, but he also indicts the international community for its utter lack of interest in what was then the largest conflict in the world. Praise for the hardcover: "The most ambitious of several remarkable new books that reexamine the extraordinary tragedy of Congo and Central Africa since the Rwandan genocide of 1994." --New York Review of Books "One of the first books to lay bare the complex dynamic between Rwanda and Congo that has been driving this disaster." --Jeffrey Gettleman, New York Times Book Review "Lucid, meticulously researched and incisive, Prunier's will likely become the standard account of this under-reported tragedy." --Publishers Weekly Katanga 1960-63 - Christopher Othen 2015-09-07

In King Leopold II's infamous Congo 'Free' State at the turn of the century, severed hands became a form of currency. But the Belgians didn't seem to have a sense of historical shame, as they connived for an independent Katanga state in 1960 to protect Belgian mining interests. What happened next was extraordinary. It was an extremely uneven battle. The UN fielded soldiers from twenty nations, America paid the bills, and the Soviets intrigued behind the scenes. Yet to everyone's surprise the new nation's rag-tag army of local gendarmes, jungle tribesmen and, controversially, European mercenaries, refused to give in. For two and a half years Katanga, the scrawniest underdog ever to fight a war, held off the world with guerrilla warfare, two-faced diplomacy and some shady financial backing. It even looked as if the Katangese might win. Katanga 1960 tells, for the

first time, the full story of the Congolese province that declared independence and found itself at war with the world.

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa - Walter Rodney  
2018-11-27

The classic work of political, economic, and historical analysis, powerfully introduced by Angela Davis In his short life, the Guyanese intellectual Walter Rodney emerged as one of the leading thinkers and activists of the anticolonial revolution, leading movements in North America, South America, the African continent, and the Caribbean. In each locale, Rodney found himself a lightning rod for working class Black Power. His deportation catalyzed 20th century Jamaica's most

significant rebellion, the 1968 Rodney riots, and his scholarship trained a generation how to think politics at an international scale. In 1980, shortly after founding of the Working People's Alliance in Guyana, the 38-year-old Rodney would be assassinated. In his magnum opus, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, Rodney incisively argues that grasping "the great divergence" between the west and the rest can only be explained as the exploitation of the latter by the former. This meticulously researched analysis of the abiding repercussions of European colonialism on the continent of Africa has not only informed decades of scholarship and activism, it remains an indispensable study for grasping global inequality today.