

African Union

Chair: Alex Crossan

Vice Chair: Annie Dudley

Topic A: Natural Resource Mining

Topic B: Effects of Colonization

Table of Contents:

Letter from the Chair.....	3
Members in Committee.....	4
Committee Background.....	6
Topic A: Natural Resource Mining.....	7
Topic Background.....	7
Current Issues.....	11
Current Solutions.....	12
Questions to Consider.....	14
Topic B: Effects of Colonization.....	15
Topic Background.....	15
Current Issues.....	21
Current Solutions.....	24
Questions to Consider.....	25
Bibliography.....	26

Letter From the Chair:

Dear honorable delegates,

My name is Alex Crossan, and I'm very excited to welcome you to LYMUN XI! I am your chair for the African Union (AU) committee, and I can't wait to see what sort of collaboration and change will take place throughout the day here at LYMUN XI.

Here at LT, this is my second year doing MUN, and I run the club's social media accounts. (Go follow @lthsmun on instagram!!) I am currently a junior, and am involved in Model UN, SAVE promise club, and student voice facilitation here at LT. Outside of school, I am on a competitive rock climbing team, a violin performance group, and my youth group. I also love to bake and spend time with my cats!

I chose the African Union because I didn't know much about the geopolitical landscape of Africa before researching this topic and thought it would be a great opportunity to learn more about this complex continent and the many different directions this committee could take. I chose topic A because the mining industry in Africa is a very complex topic and is very important for the African economy. For topic B, I wanted to focus specifically on the effects of colonization on Africa because I feel that it is very important to understand the history that continues to affect the developmental process of Africa to this day.

As a reminder, your position papers have to be submitted either online the night before or be handed in the morning of the conference, and you will not be eligible for an award if one is not submitted on time. I can't wait to see you all in committee, and as always, if you have any questions feel free to shoot me an email at cro513835@d204.lths.net.

Good luck researching and don't hesitate to reach out!!

Alex Crossan

Members in Committee:

1. Cameroon
2. Central African Republic
3. Chad
4. Democratic Republic of Congo
5. Gabon
6. The Comoros
7. Eritrea
8. Ethiopia
9. Kenya
10. Madagascar
11. Rwanda
12. Somalia
13. South Sudan
14. Sudan
15. Tanzania
16. Uganda
17. Algeria
18. Egypt
19. Libya
20. Morocco
21. Tunisia
22. Angola

23. Botswana
24. Eswatini
25. Mozambique
26. Namibia
27. South Africa
28. Zambia
29. Zimbabwe
30. Burkina Faso
31. Côte d'Ivoire
32. Gambia
33. Ghana
34. Guinea
35. Guinea-Bissau
36. Liberia
37. Mali
38. Niger
39. Nigeria
40. Senegal

Committee Background

The African Union originally started as the Organisation of African Unity in 1963 by 32 African Nations. The organization was founded to create a united Africa, promote development, and to eliminate colonialism. The organization was a large step in the right direction, making significant strides in removing colonization from Africa. Ultimately, the organization needed strengthening; With no collective armed forces and an inability to enforce decisions, a new body was called to take its place.

The African Union was established in 2002 with similar goals to the original OAU but had a few key differences. The African Union is focused on sustainable development for all of Africa. It aims to promote international cooperation and bring stability to the continent. The



union works to raise the standard of living for its people and to accelerate Africa's role in the global economy. A plan called Agenda 2063 was created in 2013 to outline the goals and long term initiatives of the African Union. The union itself has 55 members, and 42 are represented in this committee. The African Union has many decision making organs, and this committee will act as the

Assembly of Heads of State and Government, which is responsible for implementing the AU's policies and decisions. The committee generally makes decisions by a consensus, but if that is not possible, a two-thirds majority vote is required to make a decision.

Topic A- Natural Resource Mining

Topic Background:

Africa is a continent full of a large percentage of the world's natural resources. With 92% of the world's platinum reserves being located in South Africa and Zimbabwe, and many other metals such as cobalt, manganese, bauxite and graphite located in various nations such as Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea,

Mineral	Clean energy technology	Share of global reserves in Africa	African countries with reserves
Platinum group metals	Green hydrogen	92%	South Africa, Zimbabwe
Cobalt	EVs	56%	DRC, South Africa, Zambia, Madagascar
Manganese	EVs, wind	54%	Gabon, South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana
Chromium	Geothermal, solar, wind	36%	South Africa
Bauxite	Wind, solar	24%	Guinea
Graphite	EVs	22%	Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania
Zirconium (ores and concentrates)	Green hydrogen	15%	South Africa, Senegal, Mozambique
Vanadium	Steel, batteries	13%	South Africa
Copper	EVs, wind, solar	6%	DRC, Zambia
Lithium	Batteries	4%	DRC, Zimbabwe, Mali
Nickel	EVs, wind	4%	Madagascar, South Africa
Tellurium	Solar	3%	South Africa
Rare earth	Wind	1%	Tanzania, South Africa, Madagascar, Burundi

Madagascar, Mozambique, and Tanzania. The continent's most profitable mineral resources are diamond and gold. In 2021, the continent produced 680.3 metric tons of gold, and constituted 65% of the global diamond production. The mining industry is of high importance to the economy of Africa; minerals account for about 70% of total African export value.

Many jobs are supported by the mining industry, but hazardous working conditions make it a difficult sector to work in. There are many different techniques used to mine natural resources. The most common type of mining used in Africa is artisanal mining. It is estimated that 8 out of 10 miners work as artisanal or small-scale miners, and artisanal mining is the 3rd largest job sector in Africa. Artisanal mining is an informal mining industry, where people work freelance in open pit or tunnel mines, with primitive tools and extremely dangerous conditions. Around 100 million people worldwide work as artisanal miners, mainly in developing nations. Other types of mining in Africa include block caving, strip mining, and subsurface mining. These methods are often more high-tech and usually have a formal labor market.

Pre-Colonial History:

Mining has occurred in Africa since ancient times, dating back to 40,000 years ago starting with the Akan people in Western Africa, who became one of the most powerful groups in Africa pre-colonialism. Their gold was from one of the 3 largest goldfields in the region, and brought wealth to the Akan people. Their strategic location on the west coast of Africa allowed trade to sub-saharan Africa and to Europe. Eventually, this wealth and precious metals attracted Portuguese colonizers to what is now Ghana.

Colonial History:

News of gold and other resources spread to Europe, attracting many other countries to colonize Africa. These European nations enslaved the native Africans and forced them to work in the mines. The people of Africa stayed poor, while the colonists profited from trading the minerals and metals abroad. This created a large wealth gap that continues to affect the development and success of many African countries. The native people were not allowed to move up in the mining chain, while white miners were given the opportunity to participate in skilled trades. Later on, many European mining companies, such as De Beers and Anglo American, became very successful and powerful. They exploited the natural resources and African people, often using forced labor and harming the natural environment.

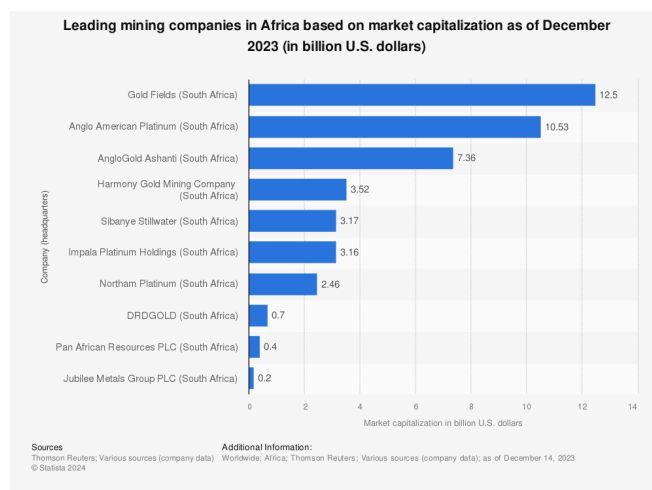
Post-Colonial History:

After European colonists left Africa, many nations attempted to nationalize their mining industries in order to gain ownership of their rich and abundant resources and fuel their economies. These nationally run mines were not very successful, young governments had little experience in managing resources compared to the large international companies. Corruption

started to emerge as well, misallocation of resources and political instability negatively impacted the development of wealth through mining.

In the 1990s, in order to attract more money into the mining industry, many African nations opened up their mining sectors to foreign investment. During this time, the World Bank provided \$1.1 billion in mining sector grants and loans to 15 of the continent's 17 mineral-rich and low-income countries. The bank was then able to have significant power in how mining should be organized in the continent. The World Bank decided that privatized mining would take priority. This resulted in many international mining companies returning to Africa. Additionally, many nations directly invested into African mines, specifically China. In 2003, China passed the United States to become the world's largest copper consumers, and by the following year consumed 46 percent more than the United States. China has become reliant on sub-saharan mines and minerals necessary to produce new technologies.

Today, a majority of African mines are owned by foreign investors and large mining companies. Top companies in Africa include Gold Fields, Anglo American Platinum, Anglo Gold Ashanti, and Harmony Gold Mining Company. China also owns many mines; in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, China owns 72% of cobalt and copper mines.



Current Issues:

There are many issues surrounding the modern mining industry. Human rights violations, environmental concerns, and corruption are some of the many problems that face the industry.

Human rights concerns: The large-scale human rights violation that occurs in African mines is a major concern in modern society. Millions of Africans risk their lives every day working in dangerous mines. These miners go down into open pits and hack away at the earth with heavy handheld tools, desperately searching for toxic minerals. This work becomes even more dangerous when the workers must enter into small tunnels with little ventilation and even less light. These tunnels have no structural integrity and often collapse, burying people alive. People work long hours for only a few dollars per day, while large companies continue to make billions of dollars in profit.



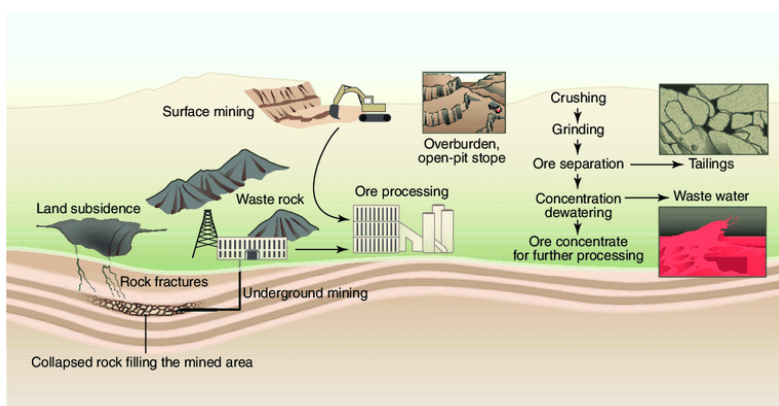
Artisanal mining is technically illegal in industrial mines, but many Africans have no other way of staying alive. Child trafficking is also a prevalent issue surrounding mining. Children in the Congo and surrounding countries are kidnapped by militias and brought hundreds of miles away from their families, and are forced to dig in the mines with their dollar wage funding local militias. There are also major health concerns surrounding this type of mining work. Lead poisoning, manganese caused illnesses, lung problems from smelting nickel, and cardiomyopathy from cobalt are just some of the many dangerous side effects to laboring in these pits. Artisanal mining is the largest source of mercury pollution in the world. While the artisanal miners do get paid a small wage, the jobs they do are not voluntary. There are no other

alternatives to stay alive than to work in the mines. Many villages are solely reliant on the mining industry, where no other jobs are available or profitable. Children are given no choice but to mine, school is unimportant compared to having access to food.

Many minerals, especially diamonds, do not come without a price. Conflict Diamonds, or “Blood Diamonds” are diamonds mined in a conflict/war zone, and then sold to finance terrorism, an insurgency, or an invading army's war efforts. In the past, blood diamonds played a large role in funding the Revolutionary United front, a rebel group during the Sierra Leone civil war in the 1990s, and many other causes of civil unrest in Africa. Many people work in the backbreaking diamond mines for little payment, while the diamonds get sold at a much higher price abroad, putting money in the pockets of militias and corrupt governments.

Environmental Effects:

The topic of the environmental effects of mining is a multi-faced argument. On one side, the local effects of mines can destroy the environment of small communities, and mineral runoff can pollute water sources. On the other hand, the effects of gas-fueled vehicles and the mining of non-renewable resources are equally, if not more detrimental.



Mining is an industry that creates a lot of waste and residue. This waste, called ‘spoils’, consists of extra, processed material that remains after the excavation of the desired ore. These spoils are dumped onto the earth's surface to create mounds of reactive material.

Mineral deposits and acidic discharge waters drain into drinking water and pollute the soil.

These waste materials can reach thousands of hectares away from the original mine. Dust, mechanical transportation, and water erosion causes the spread of these toxic materials. Mining only takes up 0.3-0.6% of the total land surface of earth, but it has lasting impacts. In order to open a new mine, deforestation and land clearing is necessary to create room for the industry. This causes a loss of biodiversity, water retention, soil control, and endemic habitat fragmentation. Once the mine is actively operating, chemical and water usage is in high demand for mineral processing and purification. Water is used in high capacity, for every 1 kg of gold mined, 691,000 liters of water is consumed. It is evident that mining is harmful to the environment, and many people believe that the effects of mining for minerals necessary for electric vehicle batteries are worse for the environment than a gas powered car, but this has proven to be false. While there are severe problems with the production of these elements, there are equally detrimental effects occurring when drilling for oil, and the wasteful refinement process to create gasoline. Additionally, the total carbon emissions of a gas powered vehicle are much higher than the carbon dioxide emissions that are created to make an electric car. So while the mining industry to create renewable energy resources isn't perfect, it still has benefits for the environment compared to using fossil fuels and other non renewable resources to fuel our modern society.

Current Solutions:

One of the most impactful and successful steps that the global community has taken to prevent blood/illegal diamonds is the creation of the Kimberly process. The Kimberly process is a certification process established in 2002. Its 82 member countries must agree to a thorough certification process, including national legislation and institution, import/export controls, and

agree to transparent statistical data sharing. Member nations can only legally trade with other members to ensure that the standards are upheld. The process has had a lot of success with 99.8% of stones on the open market accounted for through the Kimberley Process. The Kimberly process has effectively lowered crime rates and lowered the amount of money and supplies that rebel groups in Angola and Sierra Leone receive from blood diamonds. However, it is extremely difficult to create a 100% conflict-free diamond. The statistics that must be transparent under the KPC standards have gaps that leave out broader issues. Child labor exploitation and inhumane



labor policies and working conditions. The Kimberley process does an effective job at identifying if conflict diamonds contribute to militia movements instead of diamonds that result in exploitation of labor and working conditions.

There is also the question of smuggling. The Kimberly process can only be applied to raw diamonds, so illegal diamonds can be smuggled directly into a processing factory, evading the oversight of the Kimberley process.

Another solution that has been taken is the implementation of The African Continental Free Trade Area. This free trade agreement, launched in 2021, aims to increase unification of trade within Africa. The free trade agreement eliminates trade barriers with 55 African nations, and strives to develop regional value chains. This agreement can help support mining communities, by increasing production of the processing sector of mining, giving more value to their exports and providing more jobs in mining communities. This Free Trade area is still in its initial stages, and the efficacy of the program is to be determined.

There have been attempts to shift Africa away from non-renewable resources, and into using solar, wind, and hydrogen power to power the continent. With the green movement comes an increase in natural resources necessary for electric vehicles and other new technologies. The African Union has created a framework called the Africa Mining vision, to incorporate sustainable development in the mining process and to increase the manufacturing of raw goods to export higher value products.

There are many other ways that mining can be made more sustainable, such as using electric-powered mining equipment, shutting down illegal mining, using lower-impact mining techniques, and reusing mining waste. Implementing these solutions can act as a step in the right direction to make mining a cleaner industry.

Questions to Consider:

1. How has your country been affected by the recent increase in demand for natural resources?
2. How has your country dealt with international involvement in the mining industry?
3. How reliant is your country on the mining industry? Do they have additional exports that they profit off of?
4. What has your country done to mitigate the effects of environmental damage from mining?
5. How has your country addressed worker's rights in the mining industry?
6. What ways can your country become more profitable from mining?

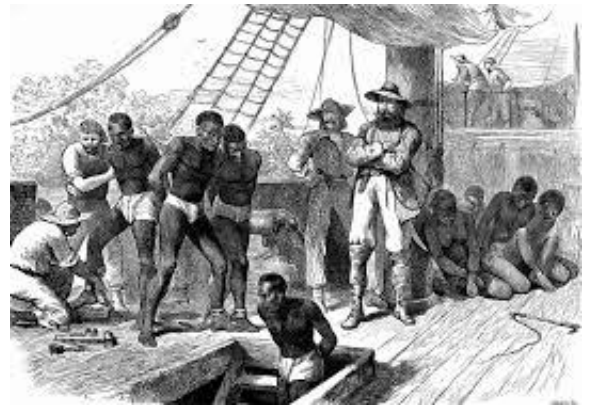
7. How can your nation work with other countries to prevent corruption in the mining industry?
8. What steps can your country realistically take to improve the lives of artisanal miners?

Topic B- Effects of Colonization

Topic Background:

Colonization is defined as the action or process of settling among and establishing control over the indigenous peoples of a specific area. The continent of Africa has been heavily influenced by the colonization. Despite Africa's colonial period being relatively short, it had lasting impacts that are still evident throughout the continent today. For most African countries, colonialism was from the 1870s-1960s, with some outliers. This period was a major turning point in relations between European countries and African countries.

In most cases, colonization was very violent and aggressive. Europeans frequently tricked African countries into giving up land, and only in rare cases did African countries get anything in return. There were four main reasons for European colonization. The first of these is economic benefit; Africa is filled with all kinds of



untapped natural resources that Europeans wanted to use to become wealthy. Africa contained valuable minerals, lumber, crops, and animals. The next is racism; the Europeans believed that they were inherently better than the African people. Another reason was to spread Christianity throughout Africa. Catholic and Protestant missionaries settled in Africa in hopes to convert the indigenous peoples from their local religion into Christianity. Many European missionaries believed it was their duty. The final reason was to enhance cartography and to improve their global power and influence. Through these motives, Africa was quickly conquered by Europe and put at a severe economic disadvantage.

Africa was colonized by Great Britain, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Belgium and Italy. These countries divided up portions of the continent without considering the already-existing peoples, creating unnecessary tension and conflict that still affects Africa today.

Colonization History:

In ancient history, Africa was first colonized by the Greeks and Phoenicians. The Greeks had a large presence in Egypt. They established a mercantile colony in Naucratis and several other areas. With the arrival of Alexander the Great, the city of Alexandria was created. The area became a global city and was a hub for trading and military headquarters for the Greeks during their conquest of Egypt. The Phoenicians also created numerous colonies along the northern coast of Africa, namely Utica and Carthage, where the Carthaginians went on to establish more colonies down the Atlantic coast. Carthage was a successful city until the Romans arrived and destroyed the city. The Romans and the Byzantines ruled the area until the 7th century until they were defeated by the Arabs, introducing Islam during the Medieval period.

In the 14th century, European kingdoms began to take greater interest in the continent. Primarily, the Portuguese and Spanish began to explore and map areas of West Africa to find a sea route to access trade in Asia. Portugal and Spain established formal trading posts on the Gold Coast. Slave trade began in the 16th century and was a top factor in the expansion of European powers. Portuguese trading posts, such as Elmina, became extremely integral to the international slave trade. In order to supply labor to their American colonies, the Portuguese and Spanish shifted their focus in Africa to almost completely to the slave trade. Other nations in Europe had increasing interest in Africa, and its valuable goods such as gold, ivory, rubber, diamonds, copper, cocoa, cotton, tobacco, lumber, palm oil, spices, fruits, and other minerals. This led to the

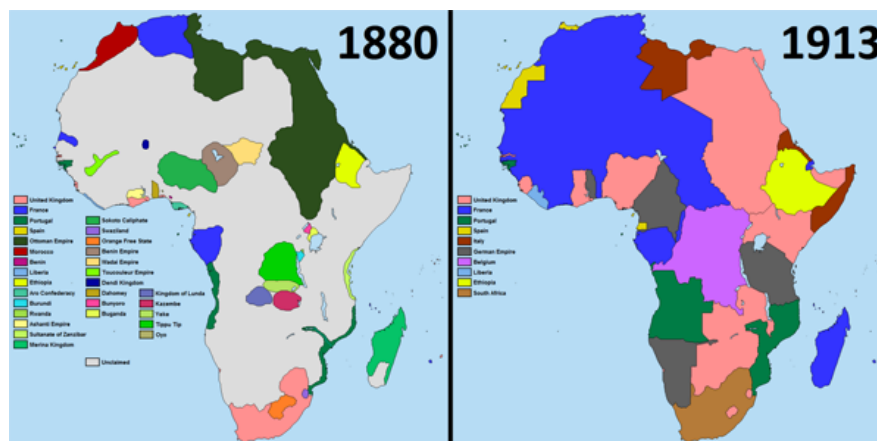
establishment of more trading posts from Britain, the Netherlands, and France, specifically on the west coast of Africa.

By the late 19th century, a new level of European involvement began in Africa, commonly known as the Scramble for Africa. European interest shifted from coastal trading to conquering inland. Due to the industrial revolution heightening resource demand, Africa's natural resources became apparent to European nations. Additionally, the desire for expansion and global power contributed to the interest in colonizing Africa. Many colonizers claimed that they were saving the Africans from their "savage" ways and converting them to Christianity in order to justify the colonization.

The Berlin Conference:

The Berlin Conference took place from November 1884-February 1885 and was a historical event that altered Africa forever. 14 European nations met to formally divide the continent up into different colonies. It is important to note that no African leaders were

represented or accounted for in this decision. The conference established the concept of "effective occupation" meaning that land could only be



that were drawn did not take into account the pre-existing linguistic, ethnic, and political divisions present in the continent. This would later set up the continent for unnecessary conflict and instability. The Berlin Conference officially removed the sovereignty of pre-existing African nations. This conference established the power dynamics and structure in Africa for nearly a century.

Following the Berlin Conference, many revolts and uprisings sprung up on the continent. One of the most notable is the Herero and Namaqua Genocide, which occurred from 1904-1907



in German South West Africa, now known as Namibia. When the German colonists encroached on the Herero and Nama people, they started a rebellion in January of 1904. Led by their chief, Samuel Maharero, the indigenous people organized to attack German settlers and

soldiers. Germany's reaction was very severe, and an Extermination Order was put into place, stating that none of the Herero people could exist in German territory. This led to the deaths of thousands of Herero and Nama people through starvation, disease, abuse, mass killings, forced labor, and concentration camps. This genocide led to the deaths of around 75,000 Herero and Nama peoples. Germany did not officially acknowledge the genocide in 2021, when a formal apology and financial support for the affected regions was pledged to Namibia. This event is just one example of the violence and mistreatment of native Africans during the period of European colonization.

The Berlin conference led to many of the lasting issues of colonialism today. After the conference, almost the entirety of the continent was under European control. Pre-existing power structures in African tribes were mostly disbanded and replaced with different types of rule. In colonies like French West Africa and Belgian Congo, direct rule was implemented. European officials were stationed in the area to carry out policies, and accepted no input from local African populations. The British employed an indirect ruling structure in colonies like Kenya and Nigeria that used the traditional chiefs of each area to monitor the local government, and were advised to tax and enforce laws. Colonies that had a high level of European settler population used a system of settler rule that gave the governmental power to the prominent settlers leading to the increase of inequality between the settlers and the natives because the settlers were able to control/own large areas of land.

The European colonists also took economic control in the African colonies. A heavy dependence on African resources developed. Rubber, minerals, timber and many other natural resources were highly sought after and profitable to fuel European industries. The colonists imposed taxes and used forced labor to create a constant supply of raw materials to be sold off to Europe, leaving little to no profits for the Africans. Agricultural resources like cash crops of coffee, cotton, cocoa, and sugar were exported to Europe at an unprecedented rate, leaving local Africans susceptible to food shortages and being overworked. European powers controlled all African trade routes, and established monopolies on various goods. This extremely limited the prosperity of local African populations, preventing them from becoming wealthy off of their many exports.

Colonists additionally expanded their control through the implementation of western culture in an attempt to “civilize” the native Africans. Western education was introduced, along

with Christianity. This resulted in the suppression of traditional African cultures and religions. European languages became the official language of the colonies, further suppressing the native culture. In order to maintain this control, military forces were used to suppress African resistance. This suppression led to discrimination. In colonies such as South Africa, where racial segregation was used in the form of an apartheid. In French colonies like Algeria, Europeans lived in separate privileged communities. This segregation allowed for further discrimination. African people were often denied equal access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities, meanwhile Europeans were easily able to obtain high status jobs and benefits. This left less desired and low earning jobs to the native Africans, such as farming, mining, and domestic work.

End of Colonization

Throughout the period of European involvement, the pressure to revolt against colonial powers built up. Increasing nationalism led by leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah, Jomo Kenyatta, and Leopold Senghor inspired Africans to develop passionate views of self determination and independence in the early 20th century. Additionally, the end of World War II held a significant impact on decolonization in Africa. Europe was economically weakened from the war, and struggled to maintain control over the distant colonies. The establishment of the United Nations after World War II helped to promote values of human rights and self determination. Many African colonies sought support for their independence from the UN due to its anti-colonialism values. Numerous colonies gained independence through nonviolent negotiations and political pressures, such as Ghana, which was the first sub-saharan African nation to gain independence. Other colonies gained independence through violent movements/war. Africans took up arms against colonial rule, resulting in a significant number of deaths. For example, Algerian

independence demonstrations in May of 1945 led to an estimated 20,000-40,000 Algerians killed. On the other hand, other nations like Britain used a method of gradually transitioning out of their colonies. This allowed African leaders to take on government roles.

Lasting Impacts

Colonization had many lasting effects on African societies. Many African communities were forced to leave their native lands by the Europeans so they could extract valuable resources. European control led to the economic disintegration of Africa, their economies were forced to support the wealth of Europe, and not benefit the people of the continent. Lack of infrastructure, little industrialization, and reliance on exports of raw materials negatively impacted the development of economies in Africa. These issues are still prevalent in Africa today. As European occupation ended, most African nations did not redraw their borders that were established at the Berlin conference, leading to inevitable political instability.

Current Issues:

The effects of colonization have had immense and detrimental effects on African societies and success. Issues such as resource dependency, border conflicts, political instability, and poor healthcare all stem from Africa's long history of colonization.

Due to colonization, Africa has a strong dependence on raw exports as their form of economy. Colonists imposed monoculture economies, where the colonies were designed to produce a single resource/commodity. As a result, the economies of the colonies were solely dependent on the success of their one product, and the economy did not meet the needs of the locals. Now due to globalization, much of the world benefits from Africa's cheap exports, and

Africa stays a step behind. For example, in 2022, the top exports of cocoa beans were Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, earning \$3.33bn and \$1.08bn respectively. When compared to the top exporters of chocolate however, Germany made \$6.3bn and Belgium made \$4bn in 2023. Solely exporting raw materials negatively harms African economies because they are unable to make more profit off of a developed product.

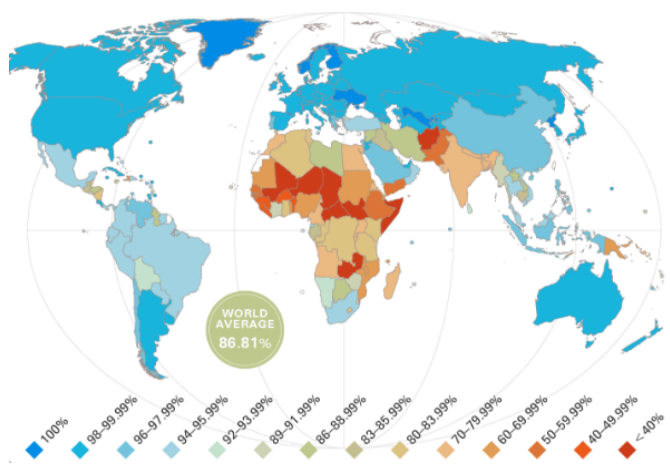
Colonization has led to many ongoing border conflicts in Africa. In the Al-Fashaga region, conflict between Sudan and Ethiopia has held tension for many years. There are 2 different ethnic groups: the Amhara Ethiopians, and the Fur & Beni Amer Sudanese. There have been frequent clashes between the 2 groups because of the vague and poorly drawn borders established during the colonial era. Both groups claim ownership of this region and water resources present. Recently, there have been outbreaks of violence from Sudanese and Ethiopian militias in the region, escalated by Ethiopia's ethnic militia groups in the Tigray region. There are many more recent border tensions that have evolved in Africa. Sudan and South Sudan's tension over the Abyei border region, which is rich in oil, is inhabited by the Misseriya and Dinka Ngok. Despite the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, violent clashes continue to occur. Other disputed areas such as the Bakassi Peninsula, Jubaland, Kayonza & Kisoro, and the Kivu region have stemmed from vague borders from colonial times and continue to cause instability in Africa today.

Political instability has been caused in Africa partially due to colonization. When Africa was first colonized, Europeans destroyed existing government systems and implemented foreign systems that did not work best for the african people. These systems were authoritarian and centralized governments, which led to weak state institutions that struggled to hold authority after independence. Many of these state institutions were taken over by militia groups/military

Region	Coup attempts	Successful	Failed
Africa	220	109	111
Latin America	146	70	76
East Asia	49	27	22
Middle East	44	21	23
Europe	17	8	9
South Asia	16	10	6
China	100	25	75

coups. There have been 492 successful/attempted coups that have happened in the world since 1950, and Africa has seen 220, with 109 of them being successful. The weak governments that European colonists left to the African people were highly vulnerable to corruption, creating a chain of instability throughout the continent.

European colonization has also led to limited education access in Africa. For around 100 years, there was extremely minimal investment in the education of native African people, which



has created a large educational gap between Africa and the rest of the world. This education gap can be seen especially when looking at global literacy rates: African nations tend to have much lower literacy rates than countries in other areas of the world. Along with education,

healthcare is also steps behind much of the world. Under European colonialism, the extreme focus of resource extraction and labor was prioritized over the health of the native peoples. When the continent became de-colonized, weak healthcare infrastructure was left behind. Today, many African nations are working with underfunded and underdeveloped healthcare centers that are necessary to aid the current health issues that many Africans deal with such as disease, malnutrition, and non-communicable diseases.

Neocolonialism is a large topic that continues to affect Africa and its sovereignty. Many nations remain economically dependent on the extraction of their resources, which are becoming increasingly controlled by foreign corporations. These corporations use profits to help their home countries, instead of reinvesting the money into African communities. Some of these

corporations acquire large tracts of land in the continent for resource extraction, which can cause displacement of local communities and little to no economic benefits. This continues the ongoing cycle of economic dependency. Many African nations have also taken out loans through the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank. These loans oftentimes have strict guidelines that may limit the sovereignty of a nation or increase its debts. Foreign military presence also plays a role in African neocolonialism. The US, France, and the UK have had active military involvement in Africa through conflict intervention or supporting specific regimes, which attacks the sovereignty of these nations. China has played an increasingly prevalent role in Africa, specifically through its Belt and Road initiative, a network of railways, energy pipelines, digital infrastructure, and roads that aims to connect the world and put China on the center stage. Many African countries have joined the initiative, allowing China to have unprecedented control over these nations. China has gained this power through debt and political leverage, becoming stronger while developing nations become increasingly dependent.

Current Solutions

Diversifying African economies is an essential part of countering the detriments of colonization. By developing technology, manufacturing, and service sectors, African nations will be able to become self-reliant on their own products, not solely be dependent on exports to other continents. Economic diversification remains a struggle however, because it can be costly and the nations are structured to export their resources in high quantities. Additionally, lack of infrastructure and dependence on foreign aid makes this a challenging but necessary step to strengthen the continent.

Promoting fair trade agreements and debt relief programs can help aid against the economic system of dependency that African countries have been placed in due to colonial

structures. This, alongside investments to local businesses, can reduce reliance on foreign companies. The African Union has the ability to join nations together and strengthen the collective economies of the continent. Plans like Agenda 2063, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the Free Movement Protocol all aim to promote economic collaboration within Africa.



The African union also has the ability to lead peacekeeping initiatives. More heavily implementing this resource can help prevent militias from gaining power, and help stabilize areas of tension that were created out of

colonization.

To account for the significant erasure of indigenous culture and languages by colonists, investing in education systems that promote local heritage practices can be implemented. Teaching students about their native languages and traditions will help preserve and develop pride in African identities that were previously diminished by colonial powers.

Questions to Consider:

1. How has your nation been affected by colonization?
2. What issues are most prevalent in your nation that stem from colonization?
3. What steps are being taken internationally to reprimand the consequences of colonization?
4. How can the United Nations help your country succeed when considering the negative effects of colonization that have impacted your country?

5. How can your nation work toward further developing and diversifying its economy?
6. What role does your country wish its former colonizer would play in the development of the nation?

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