

**A NEW LOOK AT THE CONGO'S COLONIAL HISTORY**

**NEW**

IDESBALD GODDEERIS, AMANDINE LAURO  
& GUY VANTHEMSCHE (EDS.)

# COLONIAL CONGO

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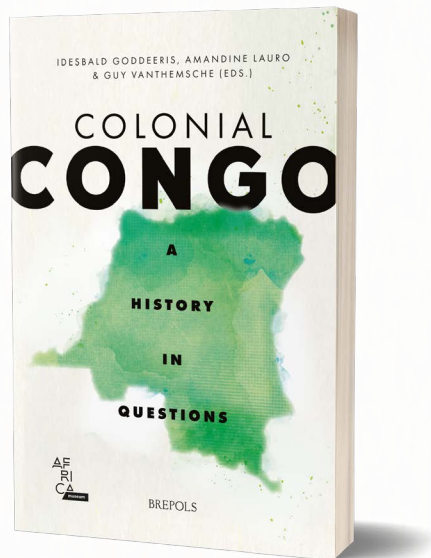
# COLONIAL CONGO

## A HISTORY IN QUESTIONS

Edited by  
Idesbald Goddeeris, Amandine Lauro  
and Guy Vanthemsche

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Colonialism tends to arouse emotional debate, often based on incomplete knowledge of the facts and context. *Colonial Congo* fills this gap by introducing the general reader to the latest academic thinking and research. Answering concrete questions, pre-eminent historians offer a unique insight into the history of the Congo Free State and the Belgian Congo.

How did Leopold II's autocratic government function and what do we know about the victims of his rule? How much profit was made in the Congo and who benefitted the most? What was life like for Congolese men and women during colonial rule and how did they feel about it? Did the Congolese offer resistance, and in what ways? What was colonialism's impact on Congo's natural world? How did colonial policy affect infrastructure, education, healthcare and science? Did missionaries give colonialism a more human face? *Colonial Congo's* explorations of these issues and more are revealed in this eye-opening, indispensable guide.

With contributions by Frans Buelens, Bas De Roo, Marc Depaep, Donatien Dibwe dia Mwembu, Mathieu Zana Etambala, Emmanuel Gerard, Idesbald Goddeeris, Didier Gondola, Benoît Henriët, Johan Lagae, Maarten Langhendries, Amandine Lauro, Annette Lembagusala Kikumbi, Ruben Mantels, Michael Meeuwis, Pedro Monaville, Jean-Marie K. Mutamba Makombo, Isidore Ndaywel è Nziem, Jean Omasombo Tshonda, Violette Pouillard, Jacob Sabakinu Kivilu, Jean-Paul Sanderson, Yves Segers, Julia Seibert, Matthew G. Stanard, Daniel Tödt, Sarah Van Beurden, Leen Van Molle, Reinout Vander Hulst, Guy Vanthemsche, and Georgi Verbeeck.

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*“State of the art of historical research on Belgian colonial past and twentieth-century DRC, the volume is on the forefront of social science research. The volume covers a wide spectrum of issues, from arts to zoology, with every chapter providing an easy-to-follow summary of current scholarly knowledge followed by a very useful bibliographical guide. It lives up to its editors’ engagement to provide the academic knowledge as ‘usable past’ directly ‘from producer to consumer, without intermediaries’. Getting rid of polemical fixation about Belgian colonial past, the volume authors connect Belgian-Congolese history to a wider historical context, an important contribution to general public awareness.*

*In the last chapter, Isidore Ndaywel è Nziem, a leading Congolese scholar, stresses the need to free Belgian-Congolese relations from the ‘colonial situation’ straitjacket. According to him, recognizing shared - even if they are divided - memory as common heritage needs to be the starting point for building a better relationship.*

*This volume is an outstanding contribution to the public history of Belgium’s colonial past and its postcolonial polemics.”*

Professor Emeritus Bogumil Jewsiewicki,  
Laval University

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