

**France claims to Northwest Africa:**

Germany, you are correct in that Britain should not get to control the entire eastern and southern half of Africa. For this reason alone, we support your claims, particularly to the Angolan land in the east. Between you and Portugal, hopefully we can keep that British Empire in check.

We French are interested in owning African land in Northwestern Africa. Like the Portuguese, we too have been trading with Senegal and the Gambia since the 1560s. In 1695 we took control of the Gambia from the British, breaking up her monopoly of the area. We've controlled 43 forts in West Africa since 1721, after Portugal, the Dutch, and England all abandoned the area. Furthermore, we French are confident that this assembly will recognize our claim to Algeria, since we conquered it in 1830. Several French explorers have crossed the Sahara Desert. Our men have reached Timbuktu, Lake Chad, and the Senegal River, so it only makes sense that the entire area of northwestern Africa be given to us. We also claim the land of Tunisia, as we are hoping to build a Trans-Saharan railway from Tunisia, across Algeria and the Sahara, all the way to our lands in Senegal on the Atlantic Coast. Furthermore, we claim Madagascar. We plan to send French colonists and administrators to all our French colonies are set up school, missions, churches, hospitals, and other civilizing improvements. We plan on teaching Africans the French language, and look forward to spreading the French culture abroad.

**French claims to Congo:**

Well, we certainly appreciate the work for your King is doing, we French have been exploring Congo as well! Pierre De Brazza went to Africa at the same time Mr. Stanley did, exploring for France and the Paris Geographical Society. He explored the Ogove river south of the Gaboon, and then the entire region of Congo, moving east to west, creating civilizing stations all along the way. De Brazza also established friendly relationships with the African chiefs of the area. We to have treaties, that place Congo not in Belgium hands, but in French hands! The city that Stanley names Leopoldville is right next to two cities we French own: Brazzaville and Franceville!

### **Berlin Conference French Speech: Instructions to students**

On \_\_\_\_\_ you will be participating in a mock-Berlin Conference. The real conference was held in 1884, and it decided which European countries got to rule over which parts of Africa. No Africans were invited to the Berlin Conference. You will read about French claims to Africa and then give a speech about those claims.

#### **Reading and Speech preparation**

Answer the following questions in your notebook, using complete sentences. Be sure you thoroughly understand the questions/answers, because your speech must include information from each question.

1. Where were the first French settlements in Africa?
2. Which colonies were abandoned by European countries, later occupied by the French?
3. What areas in Africa does France claim?
4. Describe plans for a Trans-Saharan Railway
5. Describe French colonialism in Algeria
6. Where did French explorer Rene Caillie explore and claim for France?
7. Explain Pierre De Brazza's French claim of Congo

#### **Berlin Conference Speech and Participation**

Write a speech to give during the Berlin Conference.

- Your speech must be in first person (“We French discovered...”)
- Your speech must be at least one minute long (no longer than 5 minutes)
- Your speech must include information from each question
- Your speech must include at least one quote (use “quotations”) from *Partition of Africa*

#### **Speech:**

- Speak so everybody in the room can hear you
- Use eye contact, gestures, and your voice to engage others in your speech
- Take turns speaking during the general debate.

#### **During the Berlin Conference:**

- Listen to all speeches, but non-verbally react as someone from your country would react to each speech
- Only speak when it is your turn, or during general debate time.
- Complete the “Berlin Conference” worksheet throughout the Berlin Conference.

#### **Map: Draw in the areas that French claims**



## France: Speech guide

### France claims to Northwest Africa:

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We French are interested in owning African land in Northwestern Africa. Like the Portuguese, we too have been \_\_\_\_\_

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Furthermore, we French are confident that this assembly will recognize our claim to Algeria because \_\_\_\_\_.

Several French explorers have crossed the Sahara Desert. Our explorers, particularly Rene Caillie have explored \_\_\_\_\_

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We also claim the land of Tunisia, as we are hoping to build a Trans-Saharan railway

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We also claim Madagascar because \_\_\_\_\_

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### French claims to Congo:

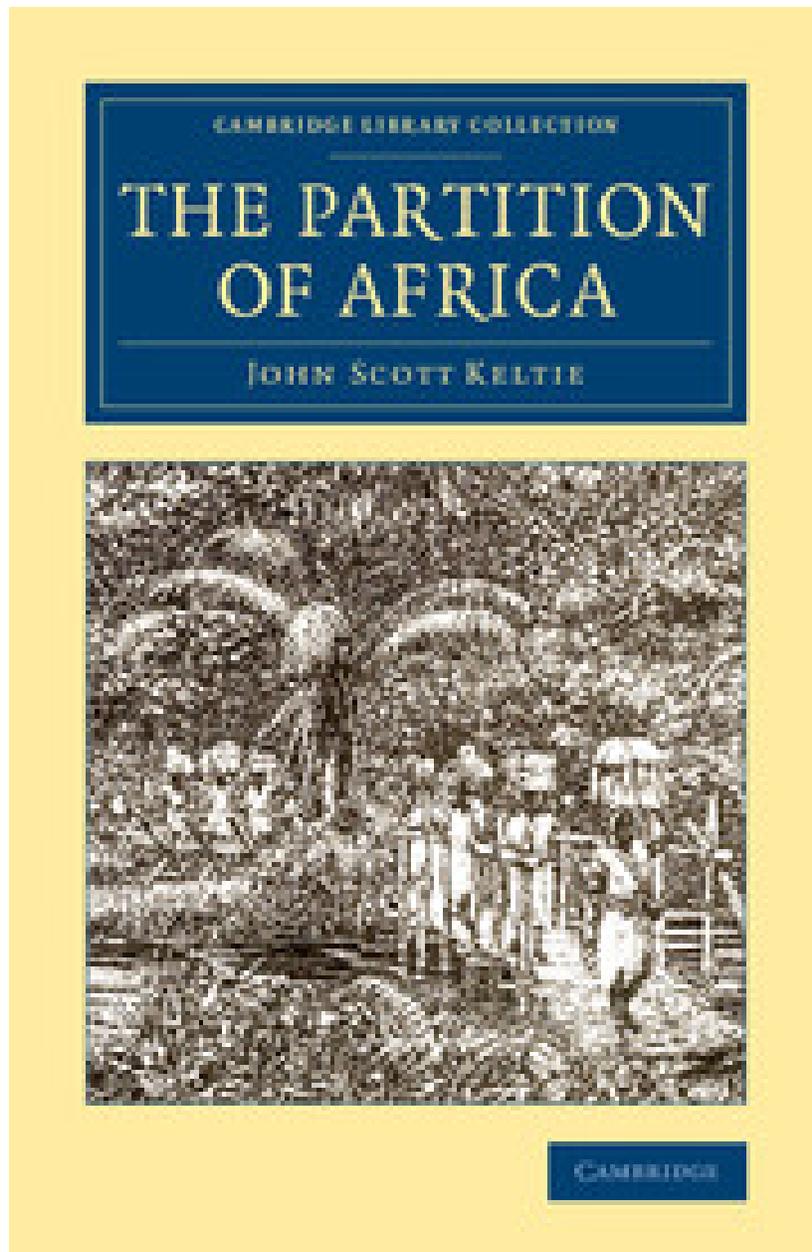
Well, we certainly appreciate the work for your King is doing, we French have been exploring Congo as well! Pierre De Brazza

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We to have treaties, that place Congo not in Belgium hands, but in French hands! The city that Stanley names Leopoldville is right next to two cities we French own: Brazzaville and Franceville!



Full text available at

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Partition\\_of\\_Africa/mskTAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&prints\\_ec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Partition_of_Africa/mskTAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&prints_ec=frontcover)

Relevant pages included here

# France

where the Portuguese had built a fort long before, these Brandenburgers also established themselves and carried on a trade with the interior. But events at home were too much for the Elector and his son and successor, and about 1720 Prussia disappeared from the African arena, not to reappear till about ten years ago, when the colonial aspirations, which had been pent up for 160 years, burst forth, and the young German Empire found herself possessed, within a few months, of an African domain of close on a million square miles.

It must be said that the French were from the first <sup>The</sup> more persevering and determined than any other power <sup>French.</sup> in their attempts to push their way into the interior. A settlement (St. Louis) was formed at the mouth of the Senegal by the Company which had been chartered in France, just as similar companies had been chartered in England and Holland, one great object of all being the export of slaves to America. As with England, so with France; the first companies failed, but others were formed in rapid succession, and French influence spread in this part of the west coast. Under Brue and other enterprising explorers stations were established far up the Senegal, the great object being to reach Timbuktu, as the English endeavoured to do by way of the Gambia. Arguin and Goree were taken from the Dutch, and many difficulties placed in the way of English operations. It may fairly be said that France has never relaxed her efforts to secure the domination of the Senegambian region and the countries watered by the Niger. The operations which are being

occupied a few fortified places between Delagoa Bay and Mozambique; for, as we shall see, she had to abandon all the coast further north. The Dutch held their own at the Cape, and French and Dutch and English struggled for supremacy on the west coast, which, during the eighteenth century, continued to be the chief field of contention among the European powers in Africa. Let us see briefly what was the position in West Africa in the first half of the century.

Between Cape Blanco and St. Paul de Loanda there were in all forty-three forts or stations. Settle-  
ments in  
West  
Africa. The first European settlement on the mainland was at Arguin, on the Gum Coast, as it was called, in about 20° north latitude. This had originally belonged to Portugal, then to the Dutch, then to the French, then to the King of Prussia, who offered it to England for £100,000, but from whom it was ultimately bought by the Dutch for £30,000. It was, however, taken by the French in 1721. France may be said to have been supreme from here to the Gambia, having a fort on the Senegal, and settlements and plantations for a long distance up the river. There was even then another fort and settlement at Goree, near Cape Verd.

England's west coast possessions then as now began at the Gambia, where the Royal African Company had a good fort on James Island, with sundry factories higher up on each side of the river. There had also been a fort on the Sierra Leone river, but it had been abandoned in 1728; as had, too, the fort on Sherboro river. Farther round, on the Guinea Coast, we find English forts at Dixcove, Secondee, Commenda,

event in the partition of Africa. As a new highway to India it greatly enhanced the value of Egypt, and led to a more intense rivalry than before between England and France for paramount influence in that country. Moreover, it greatly increased the strategical value not only of Aden, but of the ports on the opposite coast of Africa, and of the island of Socotra, which was taken under the wing of England in 1876, though it was looked upon as under British influence long before that. The greater island of Madagascar, farther south, continued to receive attentions from France at intervals during the whole of the period under notice. The various attempts at establishing a footing on the main island failed, though the island of Ste. Marie on the east coast was reoccupied in 1819, Nossibé on the west coast taken possession of in 1840, and Mayotte in 1841.

Madagas-  
car.

Position in  
1876.

Thus, then, the progress of partition among the European powers had been comparatively slow and insignificant during the sixty years that had elapsed since 1815. Germany as a colonising power had not yet set foot upon the Continent. Great Britain had certainly pushed her influence and jurisdiction northwards from the Cape as it stood in 1815, but it was reluctantly and slowly. Her west coast colonies were mere patches. True, her influence was felt extensively in the Niger region and in the Zanzibar dominions, but it was unofficial and unsecured by treaties. Her supremacy in Egypt had been more and more marked. France was the only Power that showed any eagerness for steady annexation and any foresight as to future

had their houses on the coast and the so-called Oil Rivers. These remained aloof from the United Company.

At the same time it must be said that German traders also had their stations on the coast, chiefly Hamburg houses, whose principal trade was in the vilest of spirits, with which they flooded the country. At the Berlin Conference they exercised a powerful influence on the attitude of Bismarck, and afforded the prince some excuse for the annexations upon which he entered in 1884.

Two notable events in connection with French extension took place in 1881. France had long dreamed of establishing a route from her Senegambian provinces to her Mediterranean possession, Algeria. If she could succeed in constructing a railway across the Sahara, it would, in her estimation, draw down to the Mediterranean the whole of the trade of the Central Sudan, and so greatly discount the value of the Niger as a trade-route. In order to investigate the practicability of a railway, Colonel Flatters was sent out from Algeria in 1881 to survey a route; but he had not got far into the desert before he and his party were attacked and massacred by the fierce and independent Tuaregs. This unfortunate disaster gave the deathblow for the time to all Trans-Saharan railway schemes; though that such a railway will be attempted, and that soon, is in the highest degree probable. In the same year that the Flatters expedition came to so untimely an end, France obtained some compensation in the annexation of Tunis, on which she had long cast

A Trans-Saharan railway.

Tunis.

covetous eyes. It is unnecessary to enter upon the details of this annexation, or to insist on the frivolous excuse on which Tunis was attacked. France had made up her mind that Tunis was necessary for her expansion in North Africa, and she took it, with the tacit consent of the other European powers, whose approval she considered it advisable to obtain, and with no scruples as to the "integrity" of the Turkish empire, which in 1894 she professed herself so anxious to maintain. In this way at one swoop she added 45,000 square miles to her African empire. Italy, who had also developed colonial aspirations, would have treated Tripoli as France did Tunis, but the Powers disapproved, and she had to be content with only a small beginning at the bay of Assab, on the Red Sea coast, opposite Aden, which she took over in 1880 from a private shipping firm that had had a station there since 1865. In this way she became a near neighbour to the French territory at Obock, on the bay of Tajura, which, however, was not actually occupied till 1883, though it had been nominally a French possession since 1862.

Assab and  
Obock.

farther than the first rapids left that great river to sweep its broad way unutilised across the Continent for another sixty years. Even if he had succeeded in revealing its magnificent upper course, it is doubtful if the time had come for Europe to scramble for its control. It can hardly be said that the interesting discoveries made in North Africa and the Niger region up to 1860 had much effect in arousing the covetousness of Europe.

French  
conquests:  
Algeria.

The French Conquest of Algeria, begun in 1830 and completed only after long years of sanguinary struggle, was a benefit to the civilised world, and probably no other Power envied France the possession of that haunt of corsairs and home of Moslem fanaticism. The truth is that France, for many years, was more eager than any other European Power for dominion in Africa. She was, indeed, the only Power that sought to rival England in the creation of a colonial empire; she has striven hard to make up by annexations elsewhere for all that she lost to England through the wars of last and the beginning of the present century. Unfortunately for her, there remained nothing to be annexed that could be compared to the territories she had lost. Neither in Asia nor the Pacific has she been able to find anything that can be put in comparison with India and Australia, where early in the century she endeavoured to forestall us. Algeria as a colony of settlement can never rival Canada, nor even, except perhaps for southern Europeans, British South Africa. It has a desert for its "Hinterland." Algeria has, no doubt, prospered greatly under French rule, though it will be long ere France is

able to recoup herself for the outlay of the £150,000,000 sterling which its conquest has cost her. But the resources of the country are being developed ; agriculture is spreading ; by means of irrigation the cultivable area is being extended far into the desert, and in time a line of oases may run from Algeria to the bend of the Niger. The idea of connecting by railway Algeria with the French possessions in Senegambia is not a new one. In 1880 and 1881 the unfortunate Flatters expedition was sent out to survey a railway route between the two territories. The scheme is again under consideration, and, no doubt, another attempt will be made to accomplish it.

While France was consolidating her position in Algeria, she was steadily extending her influence in the Senegambian interior. So long as fifty years ago she made attempts to open communications between Senegambia and Algeria, but without success. The Senegambians, like the Cape colonists, were continually on their defence against the natives of the interior, who, under their Mohammedan leaders, such as El-Haj Omar, did their best to drive the French into the sea. But there could be little doubt of the ultimate result. When Colonel (afterwards General) Faidherbe retired from his long governorship of the colony in 1865, the French occupation extended to the Upper Senegal ; French influence was recognised by treaty from Cape Blanco to British Gambia ; the coast region from St. Louis to the British frontier, and even at Casamansa on the south, and for a considerable distance into the interior, had been brought under subjection ; an administration had

## CHAPTER VIII

### SIXTY YEARS OF PREPARATION

Activity after 1815—French conquests: Algeria—Senegambia—Gambia and Sierra Leone—Liberia—The Gold Coast—Lagos—The Niger—The Cameroons and the Cape—South Africa—Livingstone's work—The Zanzibar region—Opening up of Central Africa—Early German aspirations—British influence at Zanzibar—The Red Sea—Egyptian conquests—The Suez Canal—Madagascar—Position in 1875.

ALTHOUGH during the sixty years after 1815 the most <sup>Activity after 1815.</sup> important annexation made in Africa by a European power was that of Algeria by France, work was being quietly done which has led to important results within the past few years. During the latter part of the period especially we were enabled, through the exertions of adventurous explorers, to form some idea of the character of the African interior. Even before the Conquest of Algeria in 1830, Caillié had reached Timbuktu, and other explorers—Denham, Clapperton, Laing, and other Englishmen—had crossed the desert, or entered from the west coast, and made known the Lake Chad region, the Niger, and the Central Sudan states. It was in this region and in Abyssinia and the Upper Nile countries that the greatest exploring activity was manifested until Livingstone began his wanderings. Tuckey's failure to ascend the Congo

## CHAPTER X

### FRANCE AND PORTUGAL ON THE CONGO—VARIOUS FRENCH AND ENGLISH ENTERPRISES

M. De Brazza—De Brazza on the Congo—De Brazza and Stanley—A national scramble—Portugal interferes—Portugal's claim to the Congo—Negotiations with England—An Anglo-Portuguese Congo Treaty—The treaty abandoned—International Conference decided on—Bismarck's opinion of Portugal—The position on the Niger—German enterprise on the Niger—A Trans-Saharan railway—Tunis—Assab and Obock.

M. de  
Brazza

WHILE Mr. Stanley was pushing his way up the Congo, and beginning the work which issued in the founding of the Congo Free State, events were taking place which threatened at one time to checkmate him, and render abortive the aims of the King of the Belgians. Count Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza, Italian by birth and parentage, was born in 1852. He received his education in France, and entered the French naval service in 1870. In the years 1875-78 he, in company with M. Marche and Dr. Ballay, carried out a successful exploration of the Ogové river to the south of the Gaboon, in the hope that it would turn out to be a great waterway into the interior. This hope was disappointed, for after a certain distance the stream became broken by cataracts,

and rapidly declined in volume. De Brazza crossed over the hills at the head of the Ogové, and soon found that these formed the water-parting between that river and another which flowed in an easterly direction. This he found to be the Alima, and when he reached it, Stanley had but just arrived in Europe from his momentous voyage down the Congo. Had De Brazza followed the Alima he would also have found himself on the great river, far above its cataracts, and would almost surely have been tempted to see where the magnificent waterway led to. But at the time he had not heard of Stanley's great discovery, and as his health was shattered and his means exhausted he returned to Europe with the reputation of a determined and successful explorer.

Like Stanley, De Brazza did not rest long in Europe. Stanley had almost a year's start of his French rival; the former left Europe in January 1879, the latter in December of the same year. De Brazza by this time knew that the Alima and the Licona, which he also touched on his previous journey, must enter the Congo. As the agent then of the French Committee of the International African Association, and with funds provided by them, he went out to the Ogové to plant civilising stations. Indeed, it was announced at a meeting of the Paris Geographical Society before De Brazza started that his object was to explore the region between the Gaboon and Lake Chad. So it was given out, though there can be little doubt that De Brazza's aim from the first was to reach the Congo. That he lost no time in carrying it out is evident from the fact that on 7th November 1880 he,

De Brazza  
on the  
Congo.

on his way down the river, came upon Stanley pushing in the opposite direction. Stanley at the time knew little about De Brazza. The latter had founded an "international" station on the Ogové, and rapidly crossing over to the Lefini (the Luvu of Stanley), found no difficulty in following that river down to the broad bosom of the Congo. He seems to have been able to establish friendly relations with the chiefs and people around, and succeeded in discovering one chief who, according to De Brazza's own report, claimed to be suzerain of all the country around, even to the south bank of the Congo. Thereupon, on 1st October 1880, the representative of the International Association made a solemn treaty with the chief, whereby the latter placed himself under the protection of France, and accepted the French flag. De Brazza lost no time in crossing over to the south side of Stanley Pool, and there founded a station at Ntamo or Kintamo, close by where Leopoldville now stands, and which his admirers in France named after him Brazzaville. The station on the Ogové he himself named Franceville.

**De Brazza  
and  
Stanley.**

It will thus be seen that M. de Brazza had cast aside all pretence of carrying out the designs of the International Association; he was simply the emissary of France, doing his utmost to steal a march on Mr. Stanley, and secure the mastery of this magnificent trade-route into Africa for his adopted country. During his two days' stay with Mr. Stanley near Ndombi Mbongo, De Brazza seems to have said not a word about the annexations he had attempted to make on behalf of France. It was only when Mr.