

Henry Morton Stanley: Part I

As one of the few Europeans that has actually been to Africa, I am excited to fulfill my role as geographical expert and tell you all about the wonders of this dark and mysterious continent. As you all know, I have spent much of my esteemed life exploring Africa. In 1870s, I traveled through Zanzibar on my successful quest to find Dr. Livingston. I'm sure you all enjoyed reading about my adventures in my exciting book, *Through the Dark Continent*. I later travelled through northern and central Africa to map out all the lakes and rivers. It was on this trip that I found the source of the Nile.

Several years ago, I returned to Africa, this time venturing to Congo at the head of King Leopold's scientific exploration. I found Congo to be a wild land, a thick rain forest of a jungle in the west, giving way to grasslands to the east. The Africans that dwell in the forest often move from place to place, picking up their homes and moving to where the latest elephant has been killed. They live among wild animals and nearly impassable rivers. Although their homes and possessions are often dripping in ivory, these people have made almost no improvements upon the land. Their land is full of an "inexhaustible treasure of gold, vast quantities of elephant's teeth, honey, riches of gums, ostriches' feather and amber-grease." The riches of Africa would make any white man rich. European guidance is sorely needed.

Henry Morton Stanley Part II: In support of Belgium's claim to Congo

Let us now turn to Congo and accomplish the chief aim of this conference. As I mentioned, I recently returned from Congo where I headed King Leopold's scientific exploration.

Once in Congo, I established trading stations in all the most desirable places. I made improvements on land in Congo. I established the bustling town of Leopoldville, built roads, and have ordered construction be started on steamship ports. A railway is under construction at Stanley Pool on the Lower Congo River. In the name of King Leopold II, monarch of Belgium, I spoke with over 450 Congo basin chiefs and collected trade agreements and treaties from all of them. With "an ample supply of fine clothes, funkey coasts, and tinsel-braided uniforms...with a rich assortments of divers marketable wares...and a couple bottles of gin," I was able to secure a large area of Congo for Belgium's King Leopold II, so that this most philanthropic monarch can bring the light of civilization to Congo.

Berlin Conference 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 represent Henry Morton Stanley, who explored Africa. You will read about his explorations of Africa and then give a speech as Stanley.

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. Who is Henry Morton Stanley? Where did he explore?
2. How does Stanley describe Congo?
3. Why did Stanley explore Congo for King Leopold? How did he get the job?
4. Why did the International Congo Association want Stanley to explore Congo?
5. What did Stanley do in Congo?
6. Why does Stanley want Belgian King Leopold to colonize Congo?

Berlin Conference Speech and Participation

Write a speech to give during the Berlin Conference.

- Your speech must be in first person (“I 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 Stanley

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 Stanley explored



Henry Morton Stanley: Speech guide

As one of the few Europeans that has actually been to Africa, I am excited to fulfill my role as geographical expert and tell you all about the wonders of this dark and mysterious continent. As you all know, I have spent much of my life exploring _____.

In 1870s, I traveled through Zanzibar, where I _____

I later travelled through northern and central Africa to _____.

Several years ago, I returned to Africa, this time venturing to Congo at the head of King Leopold's scientific exploration. I found Congo to be _____

Their land is full of an "inexhaustible" _____

The riches of Africa would make any white man rich. European guidance is sorely needed. Let us now turn to Congo and accomplish the chief aim of this conference. As I mentioned, I recently returned from Congo where I headed King Leopold's scientific exploration.

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Once in Congo, I established _____

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I was able to secure a large area of Congo for Belgium's King Leopold II, so that this most philanthropic monarch can bring the light of civilization to Congo.

The Berlin Conference: From South African History Online

- <https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/berlin-conference>

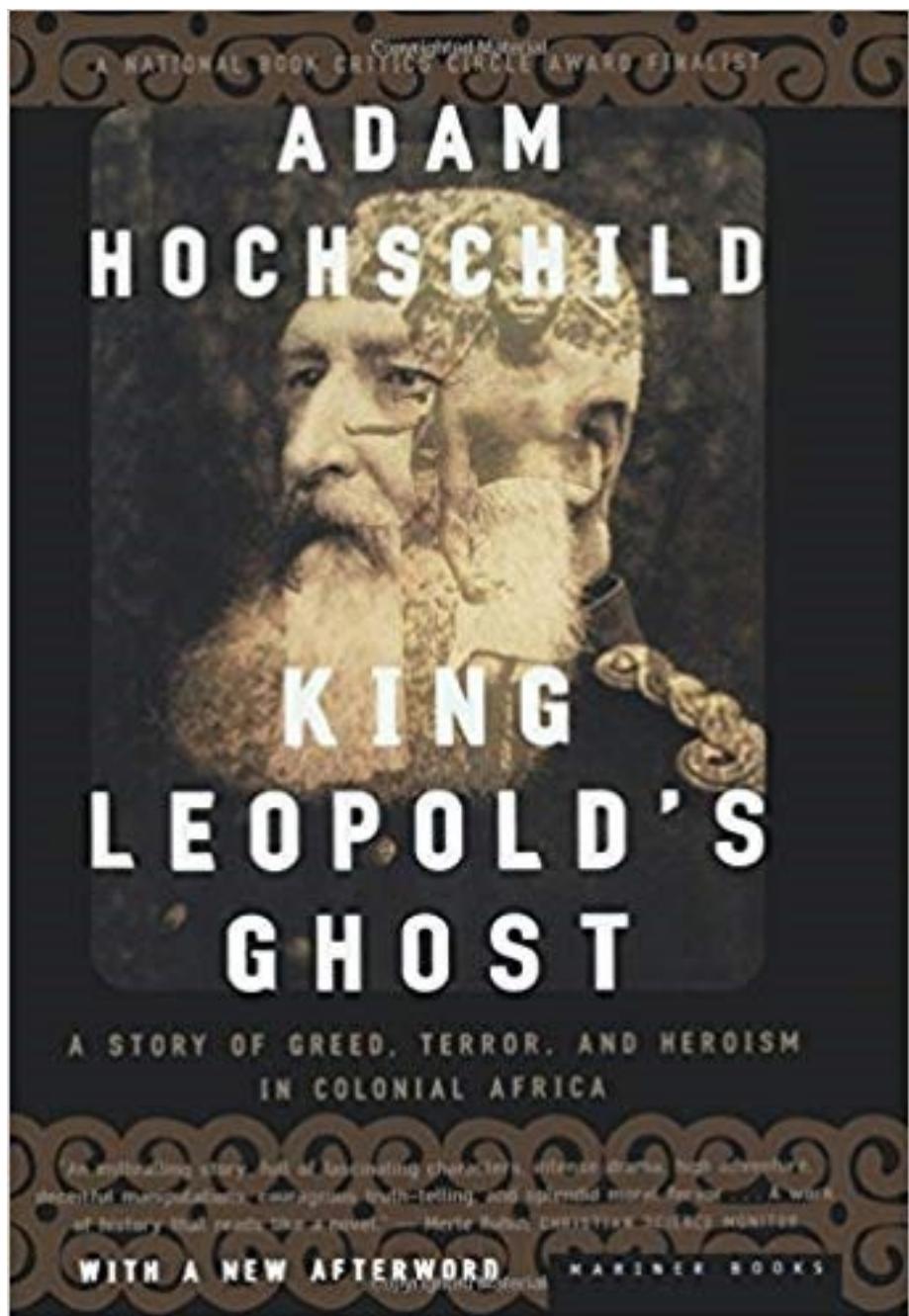
The Berlin Conference can be best understood as the formalisation of the Scramble for Africa. This British coined the term sometime in 1884, and it has since been used to describe the twenty-plus years when the various European powers explored, divided, conquered and began to exploit virtually the entire African continent. European powers were slow to realise the benefits of claiming land in Africa and had mainly kept to coastal colonies. However in 1884–5 the Scramble for Africa had truly begun in earnest when thirteen European countries and the United States met in Berlin to agree to the rules dividing Africa. The outcome of the conference was the General Act of the Berlin Conference.

Prior to the conference, European diplomacy treated African indigenous people in the same manner as they treated New World natives, forming trade realtions with tribal chiefs. This can seen in examples such as the Portuguese trading with the Kingdom of the Kongo. With the exception of the trading posts along the coasts, the continent was essentially ignored. This changed as a result of King Leopold of Belgium's desire for personal glory and riches and by the mid-19th century, Africa was considered ripe for exploration, trade, and settlement.

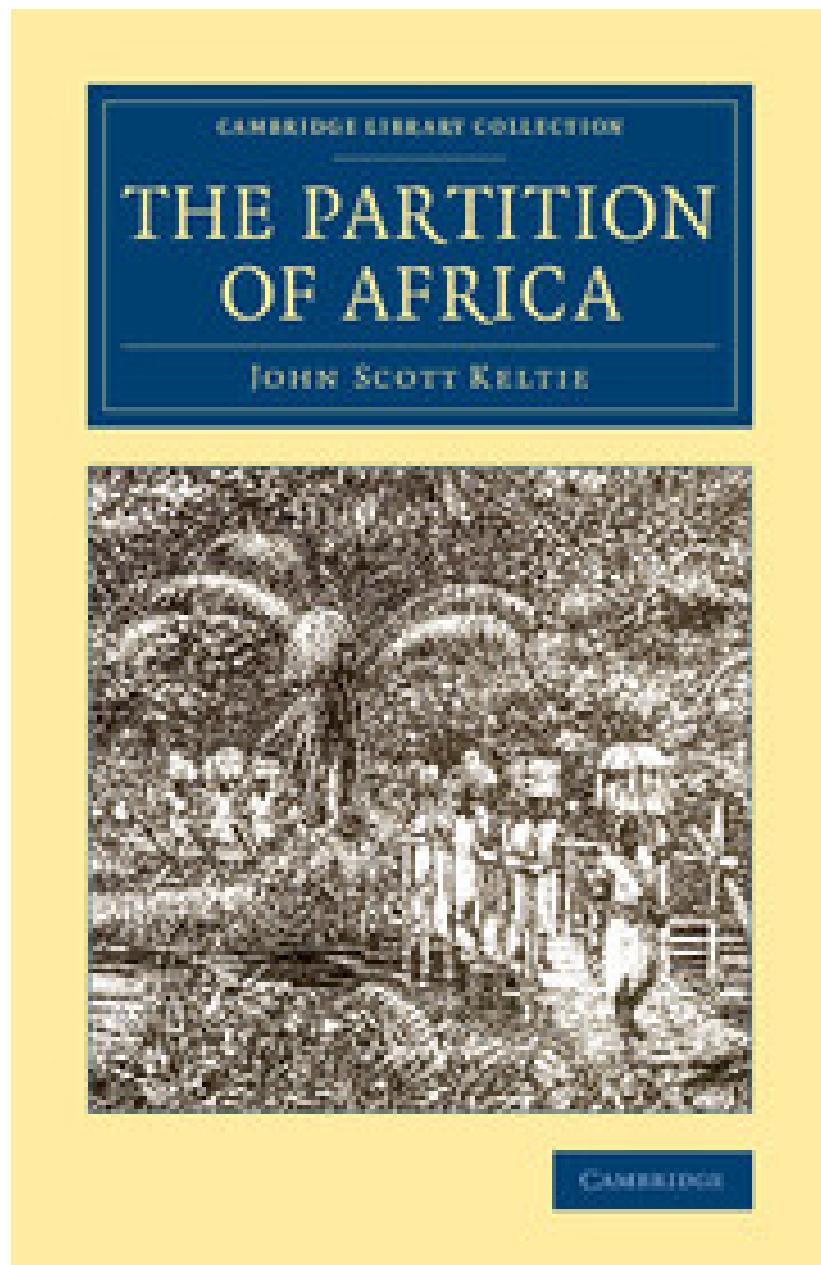
In 1876, Belgium's King Leopold II announced his intent to fund an exploration of the Congo region, and in 1879 Leopold sent Sir Henry Morton Stanley to the area. In the same year, the French began building a railway east from Dakar, hoping to tap potentially huge Sahelian markets. That year France also joined Great Britain in taking financial control of Egypt.

From 1879 to 1885, Stanley went to the Congo as an envoy from Léopold with the secret mission to organise what would become known as the Congo Free State, a mercantile enterprise in the Congo. French intelligence had discovered Leopold's plans, and France was quick to engage in its own colonial exploration. French naval officer Pierre de Brazza was dispatched to central Africa, traveled into the western Congo basin, and raised the French flag over the newly founded Brazzaville in 1881, in what is currently the Republic of Congo. To add to this, Portugal, had a long history in the are through its trade and treaties with the Kongo Empire in the area through its treaties with the Kongo Empire which in essence became a proxy state of Portugal. It quickly made a treaty with its old ally, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, on 26 February 1884 to block off the Congo Society's access to the Atlantic.

By the early 1880s European interest in Africa had increased dramatically. Stanley's charting of the Congo River Basin (1874–77) removed the last bit of terra incognita from European maps of the continent, thereby delineating the rough areas of British, Portuguese, French, and Belgian control. The powers raced to push these rough boundaries to their furthest limits and eliminating any local minor rulers which might prove troublesome to European competitive diplomacy.



Pages 71 – 73 (not included here)



Full text available at

https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Partition_of_Africa/mskTAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&prints_ec=frontcover

Relevant pages included here

Stanley

idea of the articles which constituted the trade of West Africa at this period, and also of the bitter feeling which prevailed in certain quarters against the Company. Some of the charges, indeed, remind one curiously of similar charges made in our own day against another British Company, whose sphere is not far from that of the Company of the seventeenth century.

"Let us now look toward Africa, and take a view of the riches of that place which is undiscovered to the merchant, and particularly, the boundless woods of Cam, which is a red wood fit for dyeing, the prodigious quantities of dry hides of all sorts, of wild and tame cattle, useful in the making of shoes, boots, trunks, saddles, and furniture, etc.; the inexhaustible treasure of gold, the vast quantities of elephants' teeth, bees'-wax, and honey, and the inestimable riches of gums, ostriches'-feathers, and amber-grease, which commodities are all purchased for the goods of the growth and manufacture of England, and are brought directly home, which is a double advantage, as well to the kingdom, as to the royal revenue.

"Or, if we consider the trade of negro servants, which proves so advantageous to the western plantations in the several islands of America, as well as that continent whose chief commerce is sugar, tobacco, indigo, ginger, cotton, and dyeing stuffs, which are the natural product of the New World, whose penury or plenty lies indispensably upon the trade of negro servants from Africa, which the Royal company manage with more than an ordinary slight for their own advantage, taking care that the planters shall never be furnished

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She was still flushed with the fruits of her great victory over France. She was now a united empire, bent on achieving what Germans would call world-greatness. New energy had been infused into her commercial life. Her merchants were on the lookout for fresh fields ; their eyes were eagerly turned to the East and to Africa. But at present the only action was that taken by private adventurers ; Bismarck had more important matters demanding his energies. It remained for another potentate to inaugurate a movement which, within fifteen years, was to make Africa little more than a political appendage to Europe.

The King
of the
Belgians'
ambitions.

When Stanley's first letter came home, Leopold, King of the Belgians, was in his prime. He was just forty years old, and had been on the throne of Belgium for ten years. The King was then, as he is now, a man of restless energy, ambitious of distinction for himself and his little kingdom, greatly interested in the promotion of commerce and the arts, and with a special love for geography. The field for his energies as the sovereign of a small, neutral, and comparatively poor kingdom was limited. He had no great army, no great fleet, no ever-recurring political complications to engage his attention outside his own domain. It was natural that a man of his energies and ambitions should wish for a sphere of more cosmopolitan action than he could find within his own borders, or even in Europe. Possibly also he desired that as his kingdom could not, by any chance, be great politically, it might at least expand commercially ; if it could not stretch its limits in Europe, there

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Lake Tanganyika to Nyangwé, and that as yet he had not looked upon the wide Lualaba, which he was destined to trace down to the Atlantic as the Congo. The King of the Belgians, when he convened the meeting of geographers and philanthropists, knew no more about the Lualaba and its ultimate destination than did any one else who took an interest in Africa ; and, indeed, his attention was not directed to West Africa at all, but to the east coast and to East Central Africa. In the initiation and direction of an organisation for opening up the long-neglected Continent to science, industry, and civilisation, there seemed ample scope for the King's energies and philanthropic aspirations, and for that craving for distinction which kings share with ordinary mortals. If we may judge by subsequent events, underlying these philanthropic aspirations were motives of a somewhat grosser nature, but natural enough in the breasts of kings. It must be admitted that had His Majesty's design been carried out as he planned it, we should have learned more about the heart of Africa in a few years than had been done during the four centuries that have elapsed since the Portuguese began to creep down and around its coasts. But human nature and national jealousies were, as might have been expected, too strong for combined and disinterested international action and for the philanthropical aims put forward by the King.

At the Brussels meeting of 12th September 1876, which, as has been said, may be regarded as the initiation of the partition of Africa, the nationalities represented were Great Britain, Belgium, Austria-

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The poor Abbé was unfortunate, and had to abandon his barrel organ ; he took refuge at last with Captain Hore, the representative of the London Missionary Society on Lake Tanganyika, and in the captain's house he died. That the Abbé had more in view than the conversion of the heathen, there can be little doubt ; the French Government is not given to subsidising missionaries from a purely religious point of view. As it was, his mission was without result, so far at least as concerns the spread of French influence in this part of Central Africa. One result of Stanley's great expedition in East Africa was the increase of British mission stations, and the spread of British influence at Zanzibar and in the interior, where, every traveller testified, the Sultan was regarded as paramount.

Stanley
and the
King of the
Belgians.

It was, however, on the other side of the Continent that Stanley's journey produced the most immediate results so far as the partition of Africa is concerned. No sooner, he tells us, had he stepped out of the train at Marseilles than he was accosted by commissioners from the King of the Belgians, who was naturally intensely interested in the great waterway into the heart of the Continent which Mr. Stanley had revealed. It was not, however, until June that Mr. Stanley was able to visit His Majesty, and not until November did the farther extension of the King's great purpose take definite shape. On the 25th of that month Mr. Stanley met the King and several representative gentlemen of various countries, presumably members of the International

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merchants of various nationalities, or at least had received considerable subscriptions from various mercantile firms, who no doubt hoped to profit by the enterprise which Mr. Stanley was to lead. But even before Mr. Stanley reached the Congo, it was resolved by the Committee to "return every subscription to the merchants of all nationalities who had previously expressed by their various subscriptions their sympathy with the project." Thus the new Congo undertaking was gradually becoming an almost purely Belgian enterprise. There remained connected with it only those who managed the affairs of the International African Association ; and later on (1882), Mr. Stanley tells us, the Committee, "having satisfied itself that progress and stability were secured, assumed the title of 'Association Internationale du Congo,' which, be it remembered," he continues, "was originally started with the philanthropic motive of opening up the Congo basin, and of exploring and developing, according to the extent of its means, the resources of the country around each station as soon as it was founded." We presume that the "grander enterprise" referred to above went even beyond this admirable scheme—a scheme, the success of which would depend almost entirely upon the leader, and certainly, to a considerable extent, on the calibre of the men who served under him.

That the King, the moving spirit, the life and soul of all this stupendous enterprise, whatever may have been his original motives, had now something more in view than the mere promotion of geographical knowledge and the development of Africa's resources, seems

A purely
Belgian
enterprise.

Inter-
national
Congo As-
sociation.

Stanley

Banana, he found the factories of English, French, Dutch, and Portuguese firms, who had been carrying on trade on the Lower Congo for over a century. Vivi, the limit of navigation on the lower river, was reached on the 26th of September, and preparations were at once made to establish the first station of the Congo Committee here; by the 24th of January 1880 it was finished, and Mr. Stanley was free to proceed up the river to select sites for other stations. Leopoldville was founded on Stanley Pool, treaties made with native chiefs, explorations of the southern tributaries made, and other work done, when Mr. Stanley returned to Europe to make the position clear to the Committee, and urge the construction of a railway from the lower river past the cataracts to the Pool.

Proposed creation of a Congo State.

By this time the "Comité des Études" had developed into the Committee of the "Association Internationale du Congo." Before Mr. Stanley had been long with the Committee he had convinced them not only that a railway was absolutely necessary, but that the final step in the evolution of the so-called International Association must be taken if success were to attend the King's enterprise on the Congo. Many treaties had been made with native chiefs, and many more would be made on his return. But it was now time that the Powers of Europe should be appealed to to acknowledge the work as valid, to recognise the Association not simply as a civilising and exploring company, but as a governing body. In short, it was seen that the time had come for constituting the Congo territory into a State with recognised status, of which the