
The Diseases we Face Today

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Diseases Today+ Introduction

- Some of the events that I learned in this course and will take away from the 21 century is how there were many diseases. Some of the diseases that we faced were SARS which was an acute respiratory disease in 2002-2003, In 2013 there was an outbreak of Ebola in Guinea West Africa and the spread took the life of more than 11,000 people, In Mexican “swine flu” took over in 2009, a strain of the influenza virus that crossed over from pigs to humans (Parker 383).
- As of now we are facing what is known as Covid-19. Covid-19 is a new strain of coronavirus. Covid-19 has not been previously identified in humans (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
- The COVID-19 is the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, Hubei province, China. The symptoms are Cough, Fever, Headaches, loss of taste or smell, repeated shaking with chills, sore throat, shortness of breath and muscle pain (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Diseases Today+ Introduction

- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. So far there have been more than 200,000 deaths worldwide (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
- Because of Covid-19 it is advised to social distance, meaning no large crowds should come together. Businesses are closed for long periods of time and schools are postponed until the next school year. Many people are not working and this has affected their income. Many people that are not working or were laid off can not afford to pay rent, groceries and other utilities.
- One of the many countries affected by diseases is the Congo. Some of the biggest problems in the Congo will be AIDS/HIV and Ebola (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Overall, the Congo faces obstacles that not only involve diseases such as poverty, violence, and starvation.

Why the Congo

The reasons why I chose to write about the Congo are:

- It's a country that has struggled a lot from colonization.
- They face a lot of diseases that kill a lot of their people.
- It's a country with a lot of history to research about.
- Wanting to shine a light on the people of the Congo.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Colonization

— Dioselina Almanzar —

About the Congo

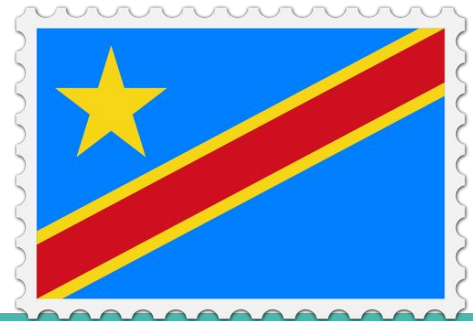
- Located in Central Africa
- Official language is French
- Was also known as Zaire
- Made out of many tribes
- Known for copper, diamonds, and coal

(Pitaro, Ariana, et al)

The Congo and Colonization

- The colonization of the Congo first starts with King Leopold II.
- King Leopold II also imperialized the Congo who wanted the Congo's unlimited amount of natural resources such as copper, diamonds, and coal.
- The government of Belgium was able to control the Congo from 1885-1960, in 1960 the Congo gained independence on June 30, 1960.
- Because of being controlled and imperialized by King Leopold II of Belgium, the Congo still has many effects.

(Pitaro, Ariana, et al)



Tribes VS Monarchy

Tribes in the Congo

- The Luba people: They are also known as the Baluba and they are the largest ethnic group in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- The Mongo people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This group is made out of smaller groups. Relied on agriculture, hunting and gathering, and fishing. At first they centered their beliefs on ancestor and nature spirits, but now it has been replaced with Christianity.

(Sawe, “Ethnic Groups In The Democratic Republic Of The Congo (Congo-Kinshasa))

Monarchy in Belgium

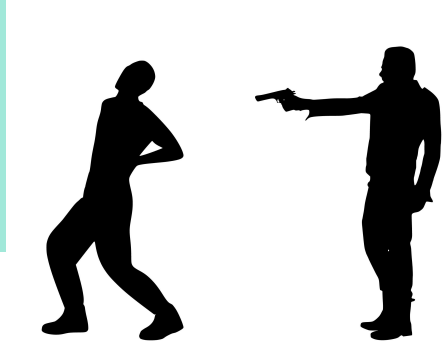
- In Belgium their kingdom was ruled by King Leopold II. Belgium is ruled as a Monarchy. The king and queen are always on the top, and they made the rules.
- At this time the ruling was done by King Leopold II.

(Sawe, “Ethnic Groups In The Democratic Republic Of The Congo (Congo-Kinshasa))

What do the People of the Congo face?



Poverty



Violence



War



Hunger

- When King Leopold II imperialized the Congo years ago, the people of the Congo still face the long- term effects of imperialism.
- Today the Congo has a very poor economy and many of the people work as farmers .
- The violence that occurs in the Congo has affected the agricultural industry in the Congo. The violence has created disadvantages for the poor, and reduced their ability to produce goods and trade.
- Because of the fighting and wars there have been almost four million deaths, about 45,000 deaths a month.

(Pitaro, Ariana, et al)

The Democratic Republic of the Congo and their independence.

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo gained independence on June 30, 1960 from the Belgian Government.
- The independence only happened because the European countries pressured Belgium and Congolese people to free the Congo colony.

(Pitaro, Ariana, et al)

The Independence Continues

- The Congolese people started to figure out that surrounding African colonies were being given independence.
- Belgian Government felt like they had to grant the Congolese people independence in order to prevent further conflict between the Congolese people and themselves.
- In 1956, Belgian professor named A.J. Van Bilsen, published a treaty called the Thirty Year Plan for the Political Emancipation of Belgian Africa.
- The idea was to give the Congo independence over a thirty year period of time. He believed that this would allow them to create a successful self- government for themselves.
- The African group ABAKO (Association des Bankongo) did not like this idea.

(Pitaro, Ariana, et al)

The Independence Continues

- The ABAKO who also controlled the southern region of the Congo and Leopoldville, did not like the plan because it will not bring success to the people of the Congo and also bring them more issues.
- If anyone from Belgium tried to take over the Congo the ABAKO would lead riots against them.
- Belgium did not want another war and granted the Congolese people independence on June 30, 1960.

(Pitaro, Ariana, et al)

How does the Congo look today.

- There is still a large number of poor people and corruption.
- The Congo is listed as one of the last developed countries in the world today when it comes to life expectancy, education, standards of living, maternal mortality, and child mortality.
- great violence due to the economic and political decline even with a crazy amount of peace agreements.
- The people from the Congo face poverty and overall neglect. Because of Systemic corruption, country-wide instability, and conflict that began in the mid-90's, has caused a larger reduction of national output and government revenue, increased external debt, and resulted in the death of over five million people due to famine, violence, and disease.

How does the Congo look today.

- A transitional government in 2003 was formed to improve the economic conditions. There are still economic problems that have uncertain legal framework, corruption, and a lack of transparency.
- Many say that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has a great potential for wealth and has been recovering slowly from the decades of suppression.
- They rely on agriculture to sell. Some of the products include coffee, sugar, palm oil, rubber, tea, cotton, cocoa, quinine, cassava (manioc), bananas, plantains, peanuts, root crops, corn, fruits and wood products.

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