

Влияние европейской «схватки за Африку» на африканские государства

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Европейская «схватка за Африку», происходившая в 1880-1914 гг., оказала значительное влияние на африканские общества, экономический уклад и политические институты. В статье рассматриваются доколониальные особенности развития африканских обществ, факторы, способствовавшие колонизации Африки европейскими державами, и наблюдаемые по сей день последствия этого периода. В Африке до колонизации наблюдалось большое цивилизационное разнообразие, отражавшее существование сложных социополитических структур и развивавшихся культурных практик. Проникновение европейских держав на Африканский континент и колонизация привели к возведению искусственных границ, нарушавших устоявшиеся этнические и культурные связи, что способствовало сохранению и нарастанию конфликтности и нестабильности в регионе. «Схватка за Африку» была обусловлена главным образом экономическими причинами, так как европейские государства были заинтересованы в добыче природных ископаемых и в открытии новых рынков для поддержания роста промышленности. На успех в продвижении вглубь континента повлияли технологические достижения, в том числе внедрение пароходов, а также инновации

в медицине. Формальное разделение Африки на колонии и сферы влияния произошло в ходе Берлинской конференции 1884-1885 гг., причем европейские державы не принимали во внимание устоявшиеся в африканских обществах структуры управления и социокультурные условия. Последствия такого подхода сказываются на функционировании современных политических институтов в Африке. Экономическая эксплуатация способствовала становлению «добывающих» отраслей экономики, что повлияло на непреходящий уровень бедности и экономического отставания африканских государств в настоящее время. Колониальные власти занимались прежде всего добычей природных ресурсов в ущерб местному развитию, что способствовало установлению зависимости Африки от Европы. Сохраняющееся наследие колониализма оказывает глубокое влияние на социально-экономическое развитие Африки, а также на продолжающиеся этнические конфликты и неустойчивость государственного управления. В исследовании подчеркивается важность понимания исторических условий колонизации для решения современных проблем развития в Африке. Указано на необходимость рассмотреть в будущих исследованиях особенности постколониального развития африканских государств.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА

Схватка за Африку; колониализм; доколониальный период; экономическая эксплуатация; этнические конфликты.

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The Impact of the European “Scramble for Africa” on African States

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ABSTRACT

The European “Scramble for Africa”, which took place from 1880 to 1914, brought about profound changes in African societies, economies, and political frameworks. This research investigates the precolonial environment, the driving forces behind European colonisation, and the enduring consequences of this historical epoch. Africa was originally marked by a variety of civilisations that exhibited intricate socio-political structures and vibrant cultural practices. The incursion of European powers resulted in the imposition of artificial borders, which disrupted pre-existing ethnic and cultural affiliations. This disruption has contributed to persistent conflicts and instability in the region. The Scramble was fundamentally motivated by economic factors, with European nations pursuing raw materials and new markets to support their industrial economies. Technological advancements, including steam-powered vessels and medical innovations, enabled a more profound exploration of the continent.

The Berlin Conference, held between 1884 and 1885, established the formal division of Africa, neglecting the existing indigenous governance structures and cultural contexts. This event has resulted in lasting implications for modern political environments. The economic exploitation characteristic of this period gave rise to extractive economies, resulting in pervasive poverty and underdevelopment across African nations. Colonial authorities emphasised the extraction of resources, often at the expense of local development, resulting in a reliance on European markets. The enduring impact of colonialism profoundly influences the socio-economic landscape of Africa, manifesting in persistent ethnic conflicts and governance challenges. This research emphasises the significance of comprehending the historical backdrop of colonialism in order to tackle Africa's present developmental challenges and points to the necessity for additional investigation into the continent's post-colonial path.

KEYWORDS

European Scramble for Africa; Colonialism; Precolonial Africa; Economic exploitation; Ethnic conflicts.

INTRODUCTION

The first recorded encounter between Europeans and Africans occurred during Diogo Gomes's travels in 1456–1562, laying the groundwork for centuries of trade and exploration. Rodney's research indicates that small wars like the one in modern-day Angola didn't start until 1579, and even then, they were more characterised by cordial exchanges and commercial transactions than by violent conquests. Prior to the massive arrival of European colonists in the late 19th century, precolonial empires, kingdoms, and societies flourished for centuries throughout Africa, giving rise to a rich and complex historical narrative. Africa, being the second-largest inhabited continent in the world, has a long and complex history that has influenced its current state. Africa's precolonial era (16th-19th centuries) was characterized by a variety of civilizations with sophisticated economies, complex sociopolitical structures, and rich cultural traditions. With over 3,000 ethnic groups and languages spoken, the continent also exhibited a high degree of diversity^[1]. However, the effective presence of the European powers in the late 19th century brought about significant changes, leading to the scramble for Africa and eventual colonial dominance. This period had a profound impact on Africa and its people, shaping the continent's socio-political, economic, and cultural landscape.

The period of European colonisation of Africa, which started with the Scramble for Africa, began in the late 1800s and lasted into the 1960s.^[2] The events of this

period can be distinguished between the Scramble for Africa itself, which occurred between 1880 and 1914, and the subsequent era of effective colonialism in Africa. In this work "Scramble for Africa" refers to the activities of the Europeans in Africa between 1880 and 1914 when European nations divided the African continent into colonies and protectorates, mostly to prevent internal warfare and with little awareness of local realities. As for effective colonialism in Africa, which lasted until the 1960s, it entailed European powers imposing colonial control and exploitation, resulting in resource extraction and the formation of colonial knowledge systems, European political systems, and cultures. During the effective colonisation era, Eurocentric knowledge of Africa dominated and formed the future views about Africa by Africans and non-Africans, causing Afrocentric researchers to make efforts to produce decolonial African knowledge. In sum, the Scramble for Africa focused on territorial acquisition, while the subsequent effective colonisation extended to establishing power structures and knowledge systems in the African continent. For the sake of clarity, this paper focuses on the period between 1880 and 1914, with an introductory analysis on precolonial Africa.

There are many who contend that European colonialism of Africa yielded significant advantages, like the advancement of infrastructure and the availability of contemporary technologies^[3]. This claim is supported by the active participation of European engineers in constructing vital infrastructure such as railroads,

[1] Tymowski M. The Origins and Structures of Political Institutions in Pre-Colonial Black Africa: Dynastic Monarchy, Taxes and Tributes, War and Slavery, Kinship and Territory / M. Tymowski. – Edwin Mellen Press, 2009. – P. 9.

[2] Sanderson G.N. The European Partition of Africa: Origins and Dynamics // The Cambridge History of Africa. – Cambridge University Press, 1985. – P. 96.

[3] Andersen C. Experten der Erschließung: Akteure der deutschen Kolonialtechnik in Afrika und Europa 1890–1943 [Experts in Development: German Colonial Technologists in Africa and Europe 1890–1943] by Sebastian Beese // Technology and Culture. – 2022. – № 3 (63). – P. 889.

contributing to urbanisation and economic progress in the colonies^{[1],[2]}. African populations living nearby modified colonial-era technology like bicycles and firearms to suit their own purposes and goals^[3]. It's important to keep in mind that these benefits frequently come with disadvantages, such as the establishment of hierarchical institutions and the use of coercive methods against African communities. Furthermore, proofs have shown that these technologies were only created for colonial purposes^[4]. The long-lasting effects of colonial control, such as setting state borders, protecting colonial institutions, and creating inequality, are still having political effects in Africa today.

Moreover, the Scramble for Africa can also be linked to major geopolitical influence. The partitioning of Africa by European powers created artificial borders that divided ethnic groups and communities, leading to conflicts and instability^[5]. The exploitation of resources further entrenched significant economic and political control by European powers over the continent to this day.

Therefore, this study seeks to answer the question how did the Scramble for Africa impact on African societies? By examining the impact of the Scramble for Africa, this study aims to provide an analysis of important features of the European Scramble for Africa and its implications.

This study is significant because it provides a comprehensive analysis of the Scramble for Africa, focusing on its precolonial and geopolitical aspects, and

reveals the root causes of Africa's ongoing development challenges. Furthermore, it contributes to the history of international relations by examining the impact of European colonialism for Africa.

The study of the Scramble for Africa is a complex and multifaceted topic that requires a comprehensive research methodology. Various research methods can be used to explore the different aspects of this period, including historical, economic, political, and sociological approaches. A mixed-methods strategy is used in this work, integrating comparative analysis and archival research. To understand the intentions and deeds of European powers during the Scramble for Africa, archival research examines primary sources, including historical documents, letters, and official records, as well as interviews regarding the Berlin Conference and colonial agreements. Books, journals, encyclopedias and internet resources from the University library, Jstor, Google Scholar, and other data bases, were the main sources of this work. Using the tools of descriptive-historical analysis, and content analysis, all of the collected data were subject to in-depth qualitative analysis.

The Scramble for Africa has been attributed to various factors, and numerous concepts have been put forward to explain this phenomenon. One of the most widely accepted theories is economic theory. According to it, the Scramble for Africa was primarily driven by the European need for raw materials and markets for industrialization. European powers saw the African continent as a source of valuable resources such as

[1] Robinson A.L. Colonial rule and its political legacies in Africa // Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics. – 2019. – URL: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.1346>

[2] Ayers A.J. Beyond Myths, Lies and Stereotypes: The Political Economy of a New Scramble for Africa // New Political Economy. – 2013. – №18(2). – P. 1-31.

[3] van Detours L.D. Around Africa: The Connection Between Developing Colonies and Integrating Europe // Materializing Europe: Transnational Infrastructures and the Project of Europe. – London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2010. – P. 27.

[4] Rodney W. How Europe Underdeveloped Africa. – London: Bogle – L'Ouverture Publications, 1972. – 312 p.

[5] Michalopoulos S., Papaioannou E. The Long-Run Effects of the Scramble for Africa // American Economic Review. – 2016. – № 7 (106). – P. 1802-1848.

rubber, timber, and minerals, which were essential for their industrial economies. The rapid growth of industries in Europe created a high demand for these resources, and Africa was seen as a prime source. As a result, European powers engaged in a race to acquire territories and control over the resources in Africa. The economic theories used to justify colonialism include the belief that colonies could serve as a vent for surplus capital in Europe^[1]. Marxists focused on the idea of earning super-profits from investing in colonies. Some claim that imperialism and colonialism were motivated by particular economic objectives^[2]. The classical theories of imperialism discussed that the annexation of colonies was driven by securing sheltered markets for investments and asserting control over trade^[3]. Modern successors to these theories also consider the prospects of monopoly profits as a driving force of imperialism^[4].

The article consists of three parts. It first analyses the state of affairs in pre-colonial Africa to show that before the start of the Scramble for Africa the continent hosted a number of civilisations and polities that had some relations with the Europeans, but were capable of developing on their own. The second part dwells upon the factors that made the Scramble for Africa possible, focusing on commerce and technological development. The third part deal with the implications of the Scramble for Africa, namely for the geopolitical position of European powers, as well as the economic underdevelopment and rising conflict potential of African states.

PRECOLONIAL AFRICA

From the time of the first European invasions until the end of the 15th century, there was a fairly credible account of Sub-Saharan Africa's history. The genesis and migration of African people, their tribal histories, and the endeavours of Europeans, Arabs, and others to find and trade with Africa all constitute the first significant era in African history. The Portuguese discoveries, which opened the way for invasion by other European powers, mark the end of this historical period. The Portuguese were traders and sporadic travellers until the latter half of the 15th century. They sailed around the point (known today as the Cape of Good Hope), investigated the coast, and discovered a route across the Indian Ocean to reach India in the 15th century. Some powers (Britain, Holland, and France) emerged there in the 16th century, and their conflicts with African nations as well as amongst themselves started then. Severe attempts were undertaken in the 16th century to convert African kingdoms to Christianity. Portugal's crops and mines needed labour, hence, they started bringing inexpensive labour from Africa to these nations. But out of self-interest, the British and Dutch drove the Portuguese from their most lucrative stations, taking control of them to serve as slave camps. Thus, it can be concluded that the trade in gold and ivory, as well as the availability of inexpensive labour, made Africa a popular destination for European explorers in the 16th century.

[1] Rönnbäck K., Broberg O. Capital and Colonialism in Theory // Capital and Colonialism. – Palgrave Macmillan, 2019. – P. 39.

[2] Gottheil F.M. On an Economic Theory of Colonialism // Journal of Economic Issues. – 1977. – № 1 (11). – P. 83.

[3] Svedberg P. Colonialism and Foreign Direct Investment Profitability // International Capital Movements. – London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 1982. – P. 172-194.

[4] Beloff M. The Economic Argument // Dream of Commonwealth, 1921-1942. – London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 1989. – P. 105.

Nevertheless, as of the 1870s, several African states occupied the entire grassy area between the Sahara and the forest, which was roughly 500 miles broad and 2,500 miles long^[1]. These states possessed a highly developed civilization. While some were pagans but influenced by Islam, others were Muslims. Each of them had a few individuals who were conversant in Arabic and had connections to the refined Islamic society. Among them were eminent Muslim academics. It is remarkable that despite this creeping process of exploration, the interior of Africa was virtually unknown to Europe at the time. Going back to the early 1800s, when European politicians were preoccupied with the Napoleonic Wars^[2] the only African river that Europeans knew well enough at the time was the Nile. In the process of investigation, the colonists took over a number of African coast places to serve as trading hubs for the Congo and one or two others that became home to numerous Europeans in 1870–1884.

Precolonial African societies were characterised by diverse political and economic structures, which contributed to their prosperity and stability. Tymowski further explores the origins and structures of these institutions, including monarchic systems, taxation, and tribute collection^[3]. Charle underscores the relationship between political authority systems and economic performance, suggesting that the allocation of resources and control of economic activities by political power can have a significant impact on the overall development and success of African socie-

ties^[4]. Additionally, Tymowski emphasises the role of trade networks and commercial activities in shaping economic structures, further highlighting the complexity and interconnectedness of political and economic systems in Africa that influence economic growth^[5].

Evidently, precolonial African kingdoms such as the Ardra Kingdom in present day Benin Republic, Buganda in Uganda, and the Bailundo Kingdom in Angola survived the Scramble for Africa (1880–1914). These Kingdoms continue to exist as non-sovereign monarchies with varying legal and constitutional situations within their own countries. They maintained an interconnectedness of their political and economic systems in Africa that influenced economic growth^[6].

This interconnectedness played a significant role in shaping the continent's history and culture. Moreover, African societies were diverse and varied in their political and economic structures. Political power was often decentralised, with many societies organised around kinship or clan-based systems. In some societies, however, there were centralised monarchies or city-states. Scholars emphasise the role of centralised political institutions in reducing corruption, fostering the rule of law, and improving public goods provision. Arguing that the precolonial economic systems were also diverse, with many societies practicing subsistence agriculture, pastoralism, or trade, some societies had developed complex systems of trade and commerce, with goods exchanged over

[1] Andersen C. Experten der Erschließung: Akteure der deutschen Kolonialtechnik in Afrika und Europa 1890–1943 [Experts in Development: German Colonial Technologists in Africa and Europe 1890–1943] by Sebastian Beese // *Technology and Culture*. – 2022. – № 3 (63). – P. 889–890.

[2] Karmwar M. 1898 Fashoda Incident. – A.K. PUBLICATIONS, 2016. – P. 15–16.

[3] Tymowski M. The Origins and Structures of Political Institutions in Pre-Colonial Black Africa: Dynastic Monarchy, Taxes and Tributes, War and Slavery, Kinship and Territory / M. Tymowski. – Edwin Mellen Press, 2009. – 228 p.

[4] Charle E. Political Systems and Economic Performance in Some African Societies // *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. – 1970. – № 4, Part 1 (18). – P. 575–597.

[5] Tymowski M. The Origins and Structures of Political Institutions in Pre-Colonial Black Africa: Dynastic Monarchy, Taxes and Tributes, War and Slavery, Kinship and Territory / M. Tymowski. – Edwin Mellen Press, 2009. – 228 p.

[6] Röschenhaler U. African Trade Networks and Diasporas. // *The Cambridge History of Global Migrations*. – Cambridge University Press, 2023. – P. 220–239.

long distances. It is important to note that precolonial African societies were not static and evolved over time^{[1],[2]}.

In this regard, A.B. Adeoye examines the organisational structures, institutions, and administrative systems of precolonial African states, he refutes the idea that there was no historical movement or growth in Africa prior to the entrance of colonialists and emphasises the variety of political organisations and communalism systems that existed. The political and economic structures of precolonial African societies contributed to their prosperity and stability in several ways. Firstly, the communalism and high community modes of production that were prevalent in many African societies fostered a sense of collective responsibility and cooperation, which helped to ensure that everyone's basic needs were met. Secondly, the decentralised government systems that were common in many African societies, based on kinship and lineage systems, ensured that power was distributed more evenly and that leaders were held accountable to their communities^[3]. This helped to prevent the concentration of power in the hands of a few individuals, which could lead to instability and conflict. Finally, the development of trade activities and the expansion of agriculture helped to create surplus production, which in turn led to the growth of the population and the development of specialised skills and crafts. This helped to create a more diversified and prosperous economy, which contributed to the overall stability and well-being of precolonial African societies.

The impacts of precolonial trade networks on Africa's relations with other re-

gions were significant. These networks facilitated the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultural practices, leading to the development of complex economic and social systems^[4]. The trans-Saharan trade routes, for instance, connected West Africa with the Mediterranean and the Middle East, enabling the exchange of gold, salt, and other commodities. Similarly, the Indian Ocean trade network linked East Africa with the Middle East, India, and Southeast Asia, fostering commercial and cultural interactions. With the arrival of European powers, these trade networks underwent substantial changes. The European powers sought to exploit Africa's resources and establish trade monopolies, leading to the disruption of existing trade patterns and the imposition of new systems of commerce^[5].

In the 1870s, several European nations sought to extend their dominance in Africa. Prior to this time, some European nations primarily confined their presence in the coastal regions where they only maintained forts for trading. Great Britain had fort in the area presently known as Freetown in Sierra Leone, established forts along the coast of The Gambia, had a presence at Lagos, in the Gold Coast, and had significant presence in Southern Africa (Cape Colony, Natal, and the Transvaal, which it annexed in 1877). In addition, Southern Africa was home to the autonomous Boer Oranje-Vrystaat (Orange Free State). France had settlements in Dakar and St. Louis in Senegal and had extended its influence up the Senegal River, as well as in the Assinie and Grand Bassam areas of Cote d'Ivoire. It also held a protectorate over the coastal region of Dahomey (now

[1] Abrahamsen R. African Studies and the Postcolonial Challenge // African Affairs. – 2003. – № 407 (102). – P. 189–210.

[2] Gennaioli N., Rainer I. Precolonial Centralization and Institutional Quality in Africa. – The MIT Press, 2007. – P. 21–46.

[3] Adeoye A.B. Organizational Structures, Institutions and Administrative Systems in Pre-colonial African States: A Discourse // International Journal of Innovative Research and Development. – 2019. – № 7(8). – P. 339–345.

[4] Manning P. Review of An Economic History of West Africa by A.G. Hopkins // Canadian Journal of African Studies – 1974. – № 1 (8). – P. 177–179.

[5] Beloff M. The Economic Argument // Dream of Commonwealth, 1921–1942. – London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 1989. – P. 105–121.

Benin) and initiated the colonisation of Algeria in 1830. Portugal had established enduring military outposts in Angola (first arriving in 1482, and later recapturing the port of Luanda from the Dutch in 1648) and Mozambique (first arriving in 1498 and establishing trading posts by 1505). Spain had minor presence in northwest Africa, specifically Ceuta and Melilla, known as *África Septentrional Española* or Spanish North Africa. The Ottoman Empire exerted influence over Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia, although the degree of their rule varied significantly^[1]. The activities of the Europeans at this period did not amount to domination of the continent, as major African empires remain politically independent and only cooperated in trade and commerce.

Traditionally, European nations had mostly focused on establishing modest commercial outposts. Their primary objective was to establish commercial alliances and establish tiny outposts to facilitate their navigation down the African coastline for the purpose of engaging in commerce with Asia. However, this paradigm shifted when individuals such as King Leopold II of Belgium established the International African Association in 1876 with the purpose of investigating the interior regions of Africa. It was during this exploration that they unveiled the vast wealth of natural resources present on the continent. This garnered significant attention on the African continent. However, after King Leopold II's investigations, they began eagerly seeking to acquire vast territories that would provide them access to valuable resources such as gold and wealth. With the cessation of the transatlantic slave trade, some European nations recognised the opportunity to

acquire more territories as a means of preserving their dominance and prosperity. As each nation claimed the territory they decided was theirs, European forces killed thousands of Africans to achieve their goals. This process became known as the "Scramble for Africa"^[2].

FACTORS ENGENDERING THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA

As aforementioned, economic concerns and the desire for territorial control were the main driving forces behind the European powers' race for Africa. Imperialists publicly justified capturing control of Africa in the name of humanitarianism, philanthropy, and Christian missionary work. Before imperial governments took control of large areas of Africa, missionaries, explorers, and private traders travelled the continent. These expeditions were written about in the European press, which increased interest in Africa.

To illustrate with a case, explorer Henry Morton Stanley was assigned the task of finding David Livingstone, a missionary who travelled through much of central Africa and for almost 6 years there was no evidence from him. Stanley was involved in the exploration of the Congo River and opened the area for colonisation by King Leopold II of Belgium^[3]. While such motivations as research or missionary activities might have driven some imperialists, they do not match the policies implemented by imperial governments. In other words, these excuses were not the primary reason why Europe took over Africa. In actuality, it was inspired by European imperial powers' desire to plunder African resources for

[1] Alistair B.-E. Events Leading to the Scramble for Africa // ThoughtCo: site. – 2019. – URL: <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-caused-the-scramble-for-africa-43730> (accessed: 26.07.2024).

[2] Chamberlain M.E. The Scramble for Africa / M.E. Chamberlain. – London, England: Longman, 2nd ed., 1999. – 152 p.

[3] Alistair B.-E. Events Leading to the Scramble for Africa // ThoughtCo: site. – 2019. – URL: <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-caused-the-scramble-for-africa-43730> (accessed: 26.07.2024).

their own gain, conquer new territories to better compete with their colonial rivals, and believe they are naturally superior to African people was what drove the Scramble for Africa. During this period, many European leaders subscribed to biological racism; they believed that the people of Africa could not and should not rule themselves. However, the most significant factors are supposed to be economic ones.

COMMERCIAL PURPOSE

After the cessation of the European trade in slaves, a pressing need emerged for new forms of trade between Europe and Africa. This shift was marked by an increasing awareness among European societies of the moral and ethical wrongs associated with the institution of slavery. Despite this burgeoning consciousness, however, imperialists remained intent on exploiting Africa's vast resources and opportunities for economic gain. With the abolition of the slave trade, these colonial powers looked to forge a new relationship with the continent, one that would be characterized as legitimate trade. In this context, explorations took on a new significance. Adventurous explorers embarked on expeditions across the African landscape, not only to map essential trade routes but also to uncover valuable deposits of raw materials that could be extracted and exported back to Europe. They traversed expansive rivers, navigated through dense jungles, and climbed high plateaus, all the while documenting their findings and gathering intelligence on potential markets for European manufactured goods^[1].

These explorers identified key population centers, often situated near rich natural resources, that could serve not only as strategic points for trade but also as locations where European goods could be introduced and sold. They recognized that as Africa's economies began to stabilize after the turmoil of the slave trade, a burgeoning market for textiles, tools, and other industrial products could emerge. Thus, the groundwork was laid for a new economic paradigm that sought to maximize profit while promoting a façade of mutual benefit and legitimate trade between European nations and African societies.

Plantations and cash crops dominated the era, and the labour force of the area was employed in the production of goods for Europe, such as rubber, coffee, sugar, palm oil, and lumber. Furthermore, the advantages were more alluring if a colony could be established, giving the European country a monopoly.

The rapid demographic growth and increased migration from Europe to Africa created a sensitive issue in Europe, leading to a scramble for resources and territories^[2]. The commodity price boom in Africa during the 19th century shifted the economic landscape in favour of European colonialism, resulting in Africa's specialisation in primary commodities^{[3][4]}.

DEVELOPMENT IN TECHNOLOGY

Technological development is one of the primary causes of the Scramble. In the early 19th century Europe did not have enough facilities and opportunities to completely overcome the African states

[1] Ewout F., Jeffrey G., Pieter W. An Economic Rationale for the African Scramble: The Commercial Transition and the Commodity Price Boom of 1845-1885. – National Bureau of Economic Research, 2015. – 40 p.

[2] Hansen P., Jonsson S. Demographic colonialism: EU-African migration management and the legacy of Eurafrica // Globalizations. – 2011. – № 3 (8). – P. 261-276.

[3] Chamberlain M.E. The Scramble for Africa / M.E. Chamberlain. – London, England: Longman, 2nd ed., 1999. – 152 p.

[4] Manning P. Review of An Economic History of West Africa by A.G. Hopkins // Canadian Journal of African Studies – 1974. – № 1 (8). – P. 177-179.

that resisted their penetration. However, in 1840 the first iron warship to sail across the ocean, the British ship *Nemesis*, sailed into Macao (South China). This event opened an era of new technological opportunities. The way that Europe and the rest of the globe interacted with each other was altered. The *Nemesis* had two strong steam engines, an iron hull, and a shallow draft of five feet. It was highly armed and could traverse non-tidal parts of rivers, providing access to the interior. In 1858, Livingstone travelled up the Zambezi River in a steamer and had the parts transferred to Lake Nyassa by land. Henry Morton Stanley and Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza were also able to explore the Congo thanks to steamers.

Alongside technical advancements in navigation, European colonists confronted formidable obstacles presented by the threats of tropical illnesses unique to Africa, which led to the continent being ominously dubbed the “White Man’s Grave”. Malaria and yellow fever were especially deadly, with historical records showing that just one in ten Europeans survived their first year in Africa during the 18th century. The alarming mortality rate presented a significant obstacle to colonial initiatives.

Nevertheless, medical improvements substantially changed this course. The identification of quinine, extracted from the bark of the cinchona tree in South America, offered an efficacious preventative for malaria, enabling European explorers and settlers to endure the dangers of tropical illnesses^[1]. Notwithstanding these gains, yellow fever continued to pose a significant concern, as no unique therapy was accessible.

The persistent health crises impeded European aspirations in some regions of Africa, rendering the construction and upkeep of colonies a challenging task. Consequently, whereas technical advancements offered essential instruments for exploration and conquest, the obstacles presented by tropical illnesses highlighted the intricacies of the Scramble for Africa, exposing a terrain characterised by both opportunity and danger in the drive for imperial aspirations.

IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA

The abovementioned economic factors facilitating and encouraging the colonisation of Africa engendered geopolitical consequences for the great powers’ rivalry. Geopolitics can be referred particularly to the dominance of territorial waters and land. It consists of an influence on a specific geographical area, taking into account political and economic interests as well as possible risks. Belgian expeditions, including that led by Henry Morton Stanley, prompted a surge of European adventurers, including German writer Carl Peters, to do the same for other European countries^[2]. The acquisition of territory by Belgium was extensive and caused concern for Great Britain and France. Despite already owning India, Great Britain was reluctant to take on more territory in Africa but felt compelled to do so due to the actions of other nations^[3]. Other European powers, such as Germany and France, believed that controlling parts of Africa would be the key to strengthening themselves in competition against Great

[1] Alistair B.-E. Events Leading to the Scramble for Africa // ThoughtCo: site. – 2019. – URL: <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-caused-the-scramble-for-africa-43730> (accessed: 26.07.2024).

[2] Ibid.

[3] French D. The British Empire and the Meaning of ‘Minimum Force Necessary’ in Colonial Counter-insurgencies Operations, c.1857–1967. – Cambridge University Press, 2019. – P. 46–66.

Britain and France, who were the dominant powers at the time, and German explorers also started to venture into Africa.

In this context, German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck invited the major imperial powers of the world in 1884 for a conference on the African question. The conference main purpose was to decide how Africa would be divided between the European countries while avoiding war with each other. At the conference, these powers were to agree on mutual recognition of sovereignty over African territories if certain requirements were met, as if the imperial power occupied them militarily^[1].

The Berlin Conference signifies the end of the epoch of influence and coastal occupation. Along with the fall of Britain's industrial monopoly, it also heralds the growth of its competitors. The accords established in Berlin continue to have an impact on African country boundaries today. The partitioning of Africa during the Berlin Conference disregarded the interests and sovereignty of African nations, leading to long-lasting consequences for the continent. They occasionally gathered Africans who had never previously been unified under the same administration^[2], and they occasionally separated existing groupings of people. In other words, the Conference divided people who wanted to be together or combined ethnic groups that were enemies.

The summit demonstrated the "great powers" concern for unrestricted trade and navigation in the Congo region. The powers started to recognise at this point

that their nebulous demands, or "spheres of influence", would not be enough to dominate territory. To bolster its territorial claims, the conference needed solid control. In the words of Leonard Woolf, "the European nations fell upon Africa like a pack of snarling, fearful, quarrelling jackals"^[3].

However, the decisions taken in Berlin could not totally prevent further conflicts between the powers. The acquisition of African colonies allowed imperial states to increase their military capabilities, control key trade routes, and establish spheres of influence. In fact, the imperial powers came close to going to war with each other for control of these distant lands: Great Britain and France almost went to war in 1898 for control of the Sudan, while Great Britain and France together went to war with Germany in 1906 over Morocco.

The Fashoda Incident, also known as the Crise de Fachoda (French), was the result of imperialist territorial conflicts between Britain and France in East Africa between July 10 and November 3, 1898. The French mission to Fashoda on the White Nile aimed to take control of the upper Nile basin and therefore exclude Britain from Sudan. The French side and the British-Egyptian soldiers (who outnumbered the French 10 to 1) met on good terms, but back in Europe, it became a horror of war. The British stood steady while both empires were on the verge of war, with fiery rhetoric on both sides. The French withdrew under great pressure and secured Anglo-Egyptian control of the area^[4].

Similarly, the First Moroccan Crisis, also known as the Tangier Crisis, was an

[1] Bah T. Colonial imperialism: the partition of Africa at the 1885 Berlin Conference and its consequences for African Muslims // *The Different aspects of Islamic culture*, v. 6, pt. I: Islam in the World today, Retrospective of the evolution of Islam and the Muslim world. – Ed. by A. Ali, I. D. Thiam, Y. A. Talib. – UNESDOC Digital Library, 2016. – P. 135.

[2] Kassaye Nigusie W.M., Ivkina N.V. Post-colonial Period in the History of Africa: Development Challenges: Advances in African Economic, Social and Political Development // *Africa and the Formation of the New System of International Relations* / ed. by Degterev D.A., Timothy M.S., Vasiliev A.M. – Springer, 2021. – P. 39–54.

[3] Woolf L. *Empire and Commerce in Africa: A Study in Economic Imperialism*. – London: Routledge, 2021. – 398 p.

[4] Karmwar M. 1898 Fashoda Incident. – A.K. PUBLICATIONS, 2016. – 110 p.

international crisis that occurred between March 31, 1905, and April 7, 1906, concerning Morocco's status. Germany wanted to oppose France's expanding grip over Morocco, which made it difficult for France and Great Britain to relate cordially with Germany. This deteriorated German relations with France, and Britain improved the Anglo-French Agreement prior to World War I. The Algeiras Convention of 1906, which involved primarily European nations and confirmed French control, addressed the issue in Morocco^[1].

The scramble and colonialism in Africa, notably exemplified by the Berlin Conference of 1884–1885, were pivotal in integrating Africa into the global system to benefit their colonisers. Hence, the struggle for Africa continues in the 21st century, with Western monopolies and their governmental supporters being significant drivers, resulting in increased marginalisation and subordinate integration into the global economy^[2]. Additionally, the border configuration brought about by the scramble has had long-lasting economic and political repercussions, including ethnic partitioning and civil conflict, which the emerging powers are exploiting to seize control of portions of Africa through sponsored breakaway clamour in what appears to be a new scramble for Africa^[3].

COLONIAL BOUNDARIES AND ETHNIC CONFLICTS

The present political scene of Africa has been shaped in great part by colonial boundaries and ethnic conflicts, therefore

underscoring how the legacy of colonisation still influences state government and social connections all throughout the continent. The difficulties that have surfaced inside the framework of African governance cannot be seen as a result of the natural development of African civilisations; rather, they may be found in the historical processes of colonisation^[4].

The separation of Africa into many areas during the colonial era produced artificial borders that the colonial powers enforced without true respect for the ethnic or cultural reality of the continent. These manmade boundaries have had major consequences as they created conditions ready for conflict. The establishment of new national borders suddenly drove ethnic groups that had coexisted peacefully or created alliances into hostility and conflict. This was a calculated tactic used by European colonists to consolidate power; by setting several ethnic groups against one another, they aimed to create a system of government keeping colonial authority^[5].

Ancestral homelands were divided under this approach, whereby populations were broken apart or compelled into new alliances with tribes they had traditionally seen as competitors or enemies. As a result, many people caught themselves in civil strife driven by political representation, land, resources, and grievances; society divides grew along ethnic lines. As rivalry for political and economic power grew among the newly designated groupings, such conflicts resulted in in extensive prejudice based on

[1] Collins R.O., Burns J.M. European colonial rule in Africa // A History of Sub-Saharan Africa. – Cambridge University Press, 2013. – P. 295–307.

[2] Ayers A.J. Beyond Myths, Lies and Stereotypes: The Political Economy of a New Scramble for Africa // New Political Economy. – 2013. – №18(2). – P. 3.

[3] Michalopoulos S., Papaioannou E. The Scramble for Africa and Its Legacy / The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics. – Palgrave Macmillan, 2020. – P. 1–11.

[4] Mupendana P. K., Sapogov V. M. Post-colonial Law and State Trends and Challenges in Africa // Bulletin of the Moscow State Regional University (Jurisprudence). – 2022. – № 2. – P. 15–24.

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ethnicity^[1]. Moreover, the colonial systems built during this period have survived outside of the colonial era and shaped the creation of sovereign African governments. These legacies help to shape the political and ethnic terrain of modern Africa, therefore influencing ongoing problems with governance, instability,

and ethnic conflict. Many African countries have struggled with the effects of colonial borders and the ethnic conflicts they generated even after earning their freedom, which frequently show themselves as political upheaval, social strife, and civil war^[2].

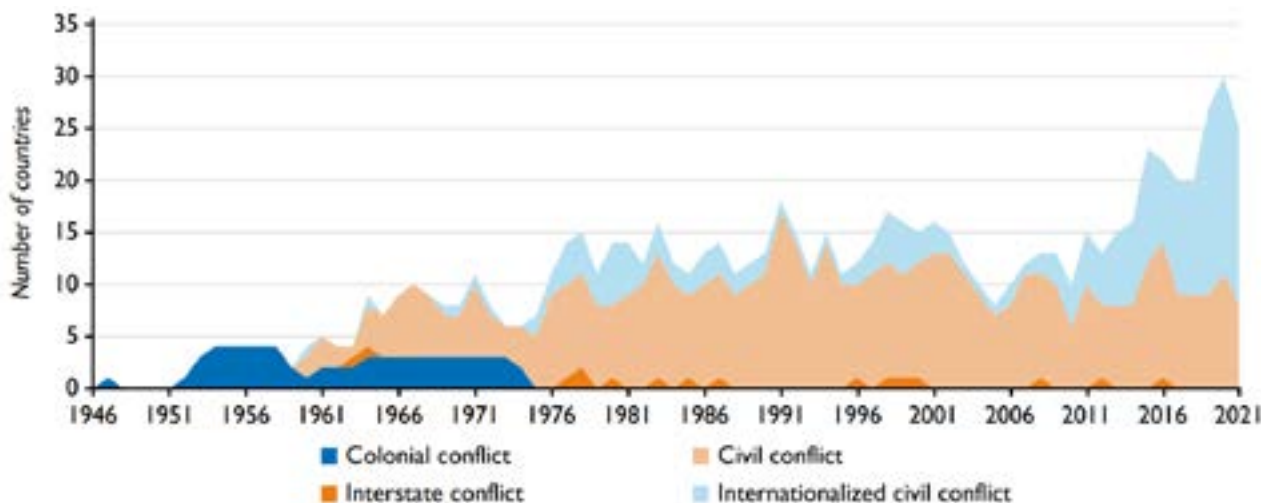


Figure 1: conflicts in Africa, 1946–2021^[3].

Figure 1 depicts the number of conflicts in Africa from 1946 to 2021, categorised as colonial, interstate, civil, and internationalised civil conflicts. The latter two are the most common types of war in Africa, with the majority being low-intensity conflicts. As illustrated in Figure 1, the overall number of state-based disputes decreased from 30 in 2020 to 25 in 2021. Civil wars accounted for 11 of the 30 conflicts in 2020. The remaining 19 were internationalised civil wars, the highest total in Africa since 1989.

More glaring is the fact that since WWII, 103 ethnic conflicts have occurred

in Africa as a result of European colonial lines^[4]. Since World War II, the bulk of civil wars in Africa have been fought on ethnic grounds^[5]. The division of countries and territories, as well as the economic disruption brought about by European colonial rule, have been the main causes of these conflicts^[6]. The artificial borders have divided ethnic groups and led to ongoing disputes over land and resources. The consequences of colonial misrule are evident in the deep scars left by these conflicts, which have been a defining feature of African history.

[1] Oloruntoba S.O. Regional Integration, Borders and Development in Africa // Borders, Mobility, Regional Integration and Development. – Springer International Publishing, 2020. – P. 25.

[2] Michalopoulos S., Papaioannou E. The Scramble for Africa and Its Legacy / The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics. – Palgrave Macmillan, 2020. – P. 1-11.

[3] Palik J., Obermeier A.M., Rustad S.A. Conflict Trends in Africa, 1989-2021. – Oslo: Peace Research Institute (PRIO), 2022. – 38 p.

[4] Ottoh F.O. Ethnic Identity and Conflicts in Africa // The Palgrave Handbook of African Politics, Governance and Development. – New York: Palgrave Macmillan US, 2018. – P. 335.

[5] Guariso A. Resource Inequality and Ethnic Conflict in Africa: New Evidence Using Rainfall Data // World Bank Blogs. – 23.12.2015. – URL: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/resource-inequality-and-ethnic-conflict-africa-new-evidence-using-rainfall-data-guest-post-andrea> (accessed: 04.01.2024).

[6] Depetris-Chauvin E., Özak Ö. Borderline Disorder: (DE facto) Historical Ethnic Borders and Contemporary Conflict in Africa // IZA Discussion Papers. – 2020. – No. 13736. – 98 p.

Additionally, the rise of ethnic identity conflict in Africa can also be attributed to deliberate state policies that marginalise and alienate minority groups within the state. The Rwandan Genocide in 1994, where ethnic tensions between the Hutu and Tutsi populations escalated into a mass killing of Tutsis by the Hutu majority. Similarly, the ongoing conflict in Sudan, particularly in the Darfur region, involves ethnic tensions between Arab and non-Arab groups, resulting in widespread violence and displacement. Ethnic rivalries and resource competition between various ethnic groups, including the Hutu, Tutsi, and Lendu, have fueled the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The ethnic conflicts in Nigeria, including the clashes between the Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo ethnic groups, have resulted in violence, communal clashes, and political tensions. The ethnic tensions and violence in South Sudan, particularly between the Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups, led to a civil war and humanitarian crisis^[1]. What is more, the border design resulted in a large number of landlocked countries, limiting their ability to trade and making them vulnerable to political instability in neighbouring countries^[2].

ECONOMIC IMPACT ON AFRICA

Because the primary goal of the European powers in colonising Africa was to extract its resources for their own

advantage, this resulted in the formation of extractive economies, with African farmers being pushed to plant cash commodities such as cocoa and coffee, exacerbating food shortages in many parts of Africa. Africans were forced to work in horrific conditions on plantations, railroads, and logging to aid the exploitation and exportation of African resources to Europe, leaving little for the local population. This economic exploitation resulted in the impoverishment of African countries, as they were unable to invest in their own development and were left dependent on European powers for their economic growth^[3].

Additionally, during the Scramble for Africa, the European colonial powers of Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, and Portugal had differing approaches and impacts. For instance, France and Britain responded to political challenges with repression, using brutal methods to suppress uprisings and anti-colonial activities^[4]. Belgium's approach to colonial rule resulted in a massive disruption of African societies and the imposition of centralised, authoritarian governments^[5]. Germany aimed to build a global German economy through the design of the German rupee in East Africa^[6]. Portugal, although not a principal actor in the discussion of colonial redistribution, was placed at the centre of debates due to the perception of Portugal as an inadequate colonial power^[7]. Each colonial power had its own strategies and policies, influenced by political and

[1] Ethnicity and ethnic conflict // Emory.edu. – URL: <https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/violenceinafrica/wiki-round-2-causes-of-conflict/ethnicity-and-ethnic-conflict/> (accessed: 26.12.2024).

[2] Michalopoulos S., Papaioannou E. The Long-Run Effects of the Scramble for Africa // *American Economic Review*. – 2016. – № 7 (106). – P. 1802.

[3] Bond P. *Looting Africa: The Economics of Exploitation* / P. Bond, London, England: Zed Books, 2006. – 192 p.

[4] Rodrigues L. B. Colonialismo como laboratório: “A Batalha de Argel” e a tortura como projeto de controle político // *Em Tempo de Histórias*. – 2020. – № 37 (1). – P. 62-74.

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[6] Langewiesche D. “Savage War” as “People’s War”: Nineteenth-century African Wars, European Perceptions, and the Future of Warfare // *The Journal of Modern History*. – 2022. – № 3 (94). – P. 537.

[7] Gonçalves M. The scramble for Africa reloaded? Portugal, European colonial claims and the distribution of colonies in the 1930s // *Contemporary European history*. – 2021. – № 1 (30). – P. 2-15.

economic circumstances, which ultimately shaped their impacts on Africa during this period.

Many Africans were forced to leave their lands and work on European-owned plantations or mines, leading to the loss of their traditional means of subsistence^[1]. This displacement and loss of land ownership had a devastating impact on the economic well-being of these communities, resulting in poverty and food insecurity.

The result of European powers' activities in Africa was widespread underdevelopment and inequality in individual African countries. They invested in infrastructure and development projects that only served their own interests, such as railways and ports, to facilitate the export of resources. This led to a stark contrast between the developed and underdeveloped regions within individual countries, with the bulk of the population living in poverty.^[2]

CONCLUSION

Precolonial African nations were drastically altered in their conventional structures and cultural systems by the European foray into Africa. Significant upheaval resulted with the establishment of European colonial powers, which overthrew native political structures and hierarchies in favour of alien political structures that frequently ignored native traditions and authority. This signalled the start of a turbulent period defined by resource exploitation, in which the abundant natural riches of the continent were taken by force in order to support the economy of European nations. In addition to economic exploitation, African peoples lost their political agency and

sovereignty when European frameworks and control were imposed, with far-reaching effects that are still felt today. Understanding and empathy are essential while examining this historical backdrop, as the colonisation of Africa resulted in much misery and sorrow for its people. The resources that had kept communities alive, the lands that had supported a variety of cultures for millennia, and the autonomy that had allowed society to flourish were all methodically stripped away. This historical era continues to influence the socioeconomic and political conditions that many African countries confront today; it is not just a chapter in history. Therefore, understanding the full scope of the effects resulting from the European race for Africa requires an appreciation of the enormous cost of colonialism.

There is a strong argument that Africa would have developed differently in the absence of colonialism. Supporters of this viewpoint contend that the continent was severely underdeveloped as a result of colonisation rather than seeing actual progress^[3]. African political sovereignty was undermined by European colonial control, opening the door for widespread resource exploitation. African economies were hampered in their growth and were heavily dependent on European markets and goods as a result of the economic policies put in place during this time, which were primarily intended to serve European interests^[4]. As a result, the majority of African republics were forced to serve as providers of raw materials, and their own native economies were inextricably tied to the requirements and wants of their colonisers, locking them in a

[1] Boulton J. The Destruction of Food Resources at the Colonial Frontier // *Aboriginal Children, History and Health*. – New York, NY: Routledge, 2016. – P. 150.

[2] Stanley L., Kenneth L. Colonialism, Inequality, and Long-Run Paths of Development // *National Bureau of Economic Research*, 2005. – 34 p.

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[4] Leander H., James A. Colonialism and Economic Development in Africa // *National Bureau of Economic Research*, 2012. – 38 p.

never-ending cycle of economic stagnation. Colonialism left behind a number of social, political, and economic issues that still afflict the continent today, such as the fragmentation of indigenous economies and the rise of corruption^[1]. It has long been acknowledged that colonialism had a negative overall effect on Sub-Saharan Africa's development, acting as a barrier to advancement and modernisation. Even with these shifting circumstances, Africa still faces formidable obstacles: the continent's poverty rates are startlingly high when compared to other emerging nations, and the continent's attempts to reduce poverty have not been particularly successful. The colonial legacy is a spectre that hangs large, emphasising how critical it is to comprehend the historical backdrop as Africa navigates its destiny amid shifting global ties.

There still is room for further research to answer the questions of why Africa has

not recovered to its full potentials since colonisation, compared to other states that were colonized and gained independence within the same period, in Asia and other parts of the world. The various economic prescriptions put forth by the World Bank and IMF, including Structural Adjustment Programs in the 1980s, did not succeed in fostering development in Africa. Which practices inherited from European colonialists are hindering the development of African states? Why has the continent's attempts to reduce poverty not been successful? Thus, it is essential to conduct a thorough examination of the colonial-economic frameworks bequeathed to the newly independent African nations and to assess how these structures have been altered during the post colonial era to foster Africa's development or preserved to perpetuate European dominance in a neocolonial context.

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