

PLS 343

Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 4, Lecture 1:
Decolonization

Recap

- Africa's late, rapid, and impactful colonization

Plan for this week

- Late colonialism in Africa
- Decolonization
- Formation of independent African states

Plan for today

- Late colonialism in Africa
- Decolonization

Late colonialism in Africa

- 'Second colonial occupation'
 - Low, D. Anthony and John M. Lonsdale. 1991. "East Africa: Towards a New Order, 1945-1963" in *Eclipse of Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Intensification of white settlement
- Colonial developmentalism:
 - Creation of marketing boards and cooperatives
 - Agricultural schemes:
 - East African Groundnut Scheme, Tanganyika
 - Office du Niger, French Sudan



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_du_Niger#/media/File:Panneau_de_présentation_de_l%27Office_du_Niger_au_barrage_de_Markala.jpg

Late colonialism in Africa

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 28, 1961

CONGO'S BASIC PROBLEMS III

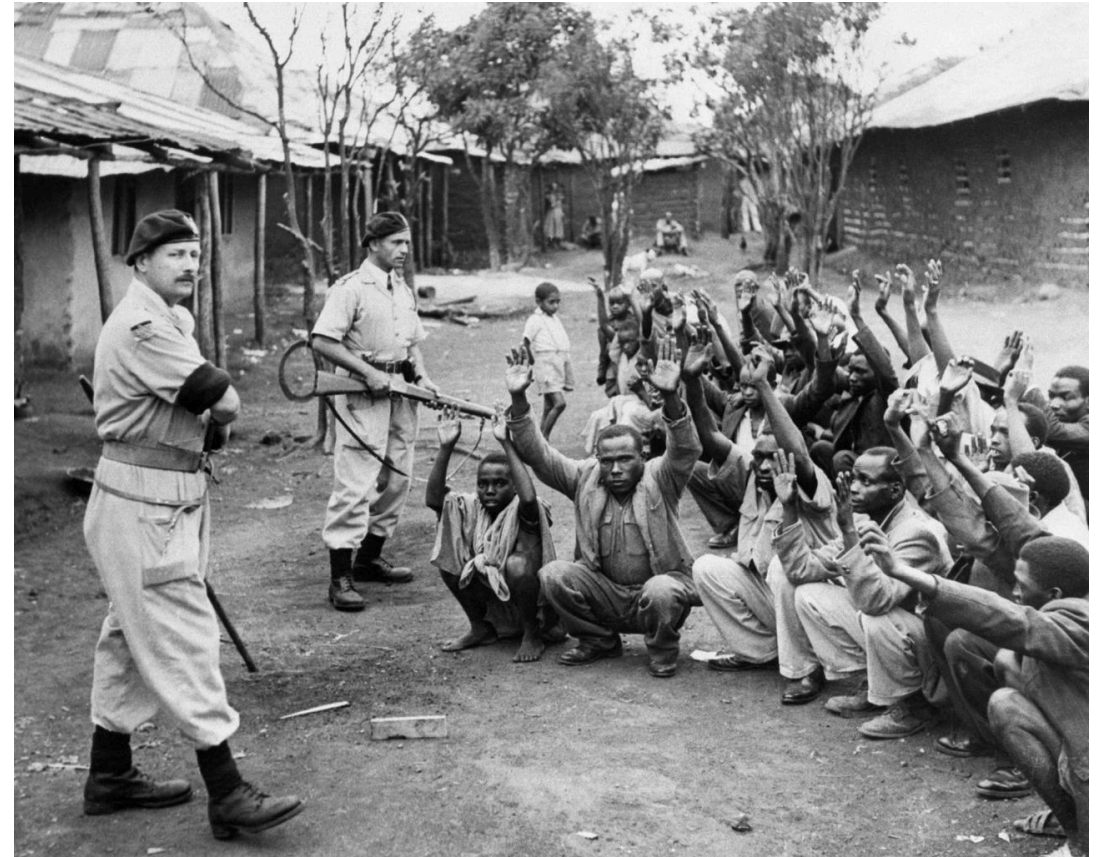
**Prime Need Is Education;
Only 19 Native Congolese
College Graduates There**

Causes of decolonization

- Destruction of World War II and costs of empire
- Colonial powers' defeats in Asia and the success of Asian nationalisms
- Cold War and US / USSR influence
- United Nations Atlantic Charter and changing norms —> neocolonialism
- African nationalism and political mobilization

Forms of African political mobilization

- Political organization:
 - E.g. Kwame Nkrumah in Gold Coast (—> Ghana), Julius Nyerere in Tanganyika (—> Tanzania), Hastings Banda in Nyasaland (—> Malawi), Léopold Sédar Senghor in Senegal
- Armed struggle:
 - Wars in Portuguese colonies
- Mau Mau uprising



Forms of African political mobilization

- Trade unionism and industrial action
- Peasant unrest:
 - Noncooperation and sabotage
 - Resistance to agricultural 'improvements'
 - Tax resistance

The politicization of African peasantry according to Bates

- Diversion of profits
- Negative externalities:
 - Erosion
 - Crop diseases
 - Collective rights to grazing and fisheries
 - Quality standards

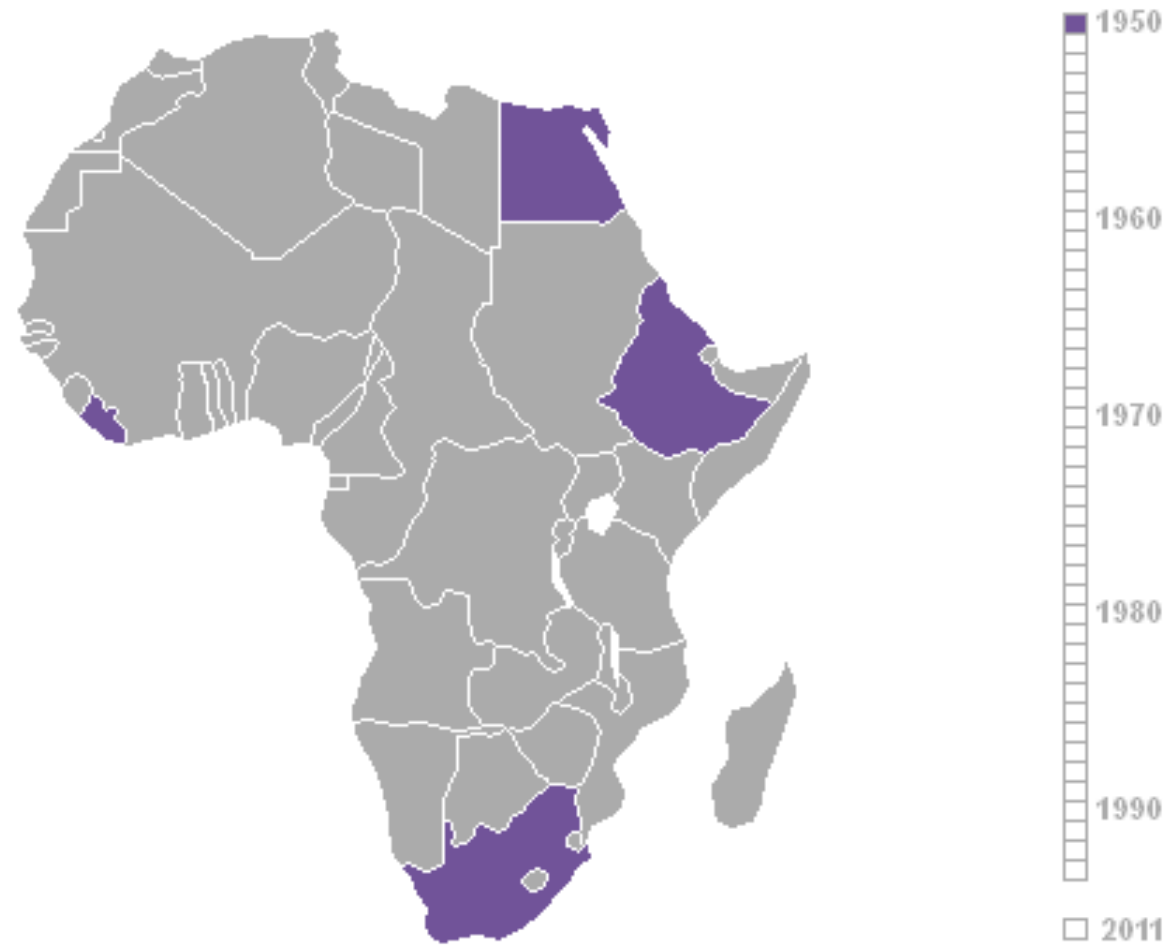


The politicization of African peasantry according to Bates

- Disputes over land rights:
 - White settlement
 - Corporate concessions
 - Seizure of 'waste' land
 - Collective vs. individual land ownership
- Taxation:
 - Head tax
- —> Antagonism towards colonial governments



Dynamics of decolonization



Dynamics of decolonization

- Conflict:
 - Settler colonies vs. others
- Speed:
 - Rapid decolonization of former Belgian, British, and French colonies
 - Protracted independence struggle against Portugal (and Spain)
 - Special cases of South Africa (and South West Africa —> Namibia), Rhodesia (—> Zimbabwe), Western Sahara, Chagos Islands



Takeaways

- Eleventh-hour intensification of colonialism and the powerful forces of decolonization