“This Magnificent African Cake...”*
Partition and Conquest

*metaphor attributed to King Leopold II during the 1984-5 Berlin Conference, reference being to the partitioning of the continent between the various European powers.

- also chosen as title for Davidson’s ‘Africa’ segment (excerpts to be shown in class)
Pre-cursors to Conquest

Many Different Histories: Portuguese

*Mid-15th c. explorations:*

- development of slave trade

- Jesuit missionary activity: 16th-17th c. established trade, negotiated alliances, conversions in West, Central Africa

- major settlement Angola: building on both slave trade, missionary activity
Many Different Histories: Portuguese (cont.)

- Concerned to tie Africa into ‘Seaborne Empire’ of the East (Indian Ocean, India, Indonesia)

- Encountered Muslims in East Africa: engaged in military battles to win ‘footholds’ on Indian Ocean coast

- Success limited: major settlement Mozambique

- By 19th c. ‘settlers’ fully Africanized
Pre-cursors to Conquest

Many Different Histories: British, French, Dutch

- followed trading footsteps (less interested in ‘conversion’ prior to 18th-19th c)

- all involved West Africa from 16th c: British, French predominant by 17th

-Dutch active Cape of Good Hope from mid-17th c: established Capetown to service ships engaged in Eastern trade
Pre-cursors to Conquest

British, French also in North Africa: challenged weak Ottoman Empire

-Napoleon in Egypt (1798): led to French support Mohamed Ali Pasha, modernization in 19th C.

- 1857 joint-capital venture in with British to construct Suez Canal
Pre-cursors to Conquest

British, French also in North Africa: challenged weak Ottoman Empire (cont.)

-French in Algiers (1830): colony ‘coastal’ but saw it as gateway to Sahara and bridge to West Africa

-by 1870s, attracted sizable number French settlers: ‘here to stay’ in African Mediterranean overseas province
End Napoleonic wars (Europe, 1805): Britain ‘won’ Dutch territory South Africa

- established colony: British law ended slavery

- original ‘Dutch’ settlers: Africanized, intermarried

- joined by French, German refugees fleeing European religious persecution
Pre-cursors to Conquest

End Napoleonic wars (Europe, 1805): Britain ‘won’ Dutch territory South Africa (cont.)

- complex society developed: own language ‘Afrikaans’; own culture ‘Afrikaner’

- Outsiders referred to both as ‘Boer’

- Conflict, clashes with British (especially over slavery): Boers moved to interior and north
Pre-cursors to Conquest

British missionaries, merchants followed into region: 1867 diamonds discovered, 1886 gold

-both attracted British, European (especially German) commercial interest

-both needed more labour than available locally: drew on poor Europeans, Africans from neighbouring regions

-both needed capital investment to develop

BUT: both lay in Boer-controlled territories
South Africa and Rhodes

Cecil Rhodes:
- initial fortunes in Diamonds, established monopoly De Beers Co.
- invested in goldmines but could not monopolize because of Boer control
- drew Britain (and Commonwealth) into ‘Boer War’ 1898-1902

Pre- cursors to Conquest

European Interests (political and commercial):

- French-British competition, played out in Egypt-Sudan: Fashoda (1880s, 1896)

- ‘A place in the sun’: Germany entered game

- Berlin Conference 1884-85: established ‘rules of the game’

- to “claim Africa”: must have ‘foothold’ on the ground (settlement, treaty)
What moved Europeans to turn commercial footholds (‘Informal Empire’) into ‘colonies’ (‘Formal Empire’)?

-West Africa: commercial/merchant pressures

-South Africa: Boer War

-East Africa: Omani politics, slave trade, German competition

-Central Africa: Belgian competition
‘The Scramble for Africa’

To Generalize:

- expansion of exploration, expansion of missionary activity

- both contributed to establishing ‘treaties’, agreements with Africans

- led to increasing involvement Europeans local societies, politics, economies
Growth of European Industrial Economies:

- intense European competition for BOTH resources, markets

- rise Germany as industrial competitor to Britain

Africa viewed as:

*Resource Rich*

*Labour Rich*

*Consumer Rich (potentially)*
“The Scramble for…”
The ‘Scramble’:

1884-5 Berlin Conference:
to resolve emerging competition
The ‘Scramble’:

-reflected new role of unified Germany: Bismark's search for ‘Place in the Sun’

-claimed coastal footholds: South West Africa, Togo, Cameroons, East Africa

Special attention given to:
-river basins (eg. Niger, Nile, Congo, Zambesi)

- explored by various European powers; gave definition to whole regions
The ‘Scramble’: 

Agreements based on existing ‘claims’:

- settlements of any kind (coastal, commercial, ‘permanent’ like Portuguese)
- treaties established by 19th c. explorers
- formal (even informal) trading relations

Decision accelerated competition between Europeans and Europeans, as well as between Africans and Europeans
‘The Scramble for Africa’

Video:

Basil Davidson’s
“Africa: This Magnificent Cake”

[see Readings]
Why did Europeans turn ‘footholds’ into ‘colonies’?

**French:** 1881, declared Tunisia protectorate
- challenge to Ottoman empire in North Africa

**British:** 1882, drawn into Egypt to put down Islamic revolt against government
- established control over region
Why did Europeans turn ‘footholds’ into ‘colonies’?

But:

- Suez canal remained under French control
- beginning of ‘showdown’ at Fashoda
Chronology of the Scramble:

- French and British face-off at Fashoda. French backed down rather than risk war.
Faces of Conquest

Next stage, physical occupation: *Conquest multi-faceted, reflecting variety of European interests, experiences*

- means of conquest differed

- reactions to conquest differed

- consequences of conquest differed according to European colonial force and African indigenous reactions
North Africa: competing with Ottoman Empire (Middle East)

- weakening in power, Ottomans (‘Turks’): became part of ‘Scramble for Africa’

- reasserted ties with Tripoli in 1881, strengthened garrison

- jostling for influence in Sudan (through Egyptian claims): plans to colonize in Horn region
North Africa

Tunisia and Egypt:
- saw commercial, political alliances with French, British as way to achieve independence from Ottoman control (and perceived ‘exploitation’)

Tewfik Pasha, Khedive of Egypt 1879-92. The British supported him in his struggle with the army for control of Egypt thus strengthening their influence and control in the region.
Morocco (not part of Ottoman Empire):
- Strategic, commercial, diplomatic importance to Spanish, British, French

- Sultan played one off against the other: independent until Germany intervened, 1905 and 1911

- Britain: agreed to French/Spanish partition in exchange for Egypt

- Germany ‘bought off’ with French Congo.
General Lyautey meets Colonel Mangin in front of the walls of Marrakesh in 1912.

Principal means of ‘conquest’: treaties established with local chiefs:
- Congo: epitome of process
- Belgian ‘explorer’ Stanley competing against French ‘explorer’ de Brazza
West Africa:
- trading companies like Royal Niger Company acted as Government agents signing agreements for ‘exclusive trading rights’ with local rulers

Royal Niger Co. Headquarters (Southern Nigeria)
West and Central Africa

Where local chiefs, African merchants did not co-operate: turned to military force

- gunboats deployed in Niger Delta (Nigeria), Zanzibar (Island, East Africa)

- ground troops used elsewhere (eg against Asante in West African Gold Coast, against ‘Tukolor’ Soudan [readings], against Matabele in Southern Africa)

- importance European military technology should not be exaggerated but . . .
“Whatever happens – we have got The Maxim Gun – and they have not!”

[Hillaire Belloc, British Writer & Poet, 1898]
American invention (1885):

- used by British 1889

Southern Africa

- 1893-4 Matabeleland: four Maxim guns defeated 5000 African warriors

- accelerated process of conquest where use was practical
West and Central Africa

‘Colonial’ Troops: most *not* Europeans (cont.)

- many former slaves seeking means to survive

- Africans attracted by salaries, food, ‘treasures’ of war:
  - French ‘tirailleurs’: Algerians, Senegalese, Tunisians (1884)
  - British Hausa Troops, later West African Frontier Force
‘Colonial’ Troops: most *not* Europeans (cont.)

- Benefits to European governments: limited economic, political costs of Conquest

- Impact on Africans: ‘face of conquest’ often African (‘black’, ‘brown’) not European (‘white’)

- Had long-term significance for local African societies
Algerian Tirailleur

Formed in 1841; fought in all major 19th C. wars alongside France

Aided in conquest of North Vietnam (below)
Colonel Mangin and the *Tirailleurs* Senegalese in Morocco, 1913.

[Myron Echenberg, *Colonial conscripts (Portsmouth NH, 1991)*:31]
Senegalese *Tirailleurs* invading Dahomey (today’s Benin) 1892
Hausa Troops returning from Kumasi to Cape Coast: either after 2\textsuperscript{nd} (1863-4) or 3\textsuperscript{rd} (1873-4) Anglo-Asante War (Gold Coast)
East Africa:
- another ‘empire’
  present to challenge
Europeans: Omanis of
Arabia

-Settled and ‘colonized’
coast, interior in 19th
century
East Africa

British negotiating with Omanis (Island of Zanzibar) from mid-19th Century:

- key issue: ending Slave Trade (largely successful)

- also competing with Germans on mainland (Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda)

- East African partition (following Berlin Conference) gave Tanganyika to Germans
East Africa

Omani Sultan of Zanzibar forced to ‘chose’:

- took British ‘protection’ against inevitable German conquest

- here too ‘British African’ troops used: Slaves, ‘freed slaves’ among soldiers

(see story of Rashid bin Hassani, ‘Resources’: speaks to nature of ‘ending of slavery’ and colonial use of slave soldiers in the process of conquest)
African Rulers: Allies in Conquest

Important to remember:

- African rulers ‘used’ European trading partners (men, ships, weapons) against their own enemies

- pressured Missionaries to use influence with European authorities to acquire arms
Important to remember (cont.):

-Where Europeans saw partition as conquest, African chiefs saw new agreements as assuring access to European wealth and power to be deployed in their own interests

-and in some cases... they were successful!
African Rulers: Allies in Conquest

Colonial Africa
Circa Late 1800's

- Independent States
- English Colony
- Italian Colony
- French Colony
- Portuguese Colony
- Spanish Colony
- Belgian Colony
- German Colony
- Boer Colonial Territory
Resistance to Colonialism

Whether Colonial Rule established through:

- military conquest
  - negotiation with local chiefs
  - treaties

- or some combination thereof . . .

*Within a few years all Colonial regimes faced resistance.*
Resistance to Colonialism

Abd al-Qadir: (1832-47) *jihad*
Algeria [French]
Resistance to Colonialism

Al-Hajj Umar Tall
(d. 1864)

[see ‘Louis Archinard’ in Readings]
jihad (1852/3 – 1890) ‘Tukolor Empire’
West Africa [French]

[see also ‘Louis Archinard’, Readings – set in Segu]
Resistance to Colonialism

Samori Touré

*jihad* (1882-98)

West Africa [French]
Resistance to Colonialism:

Muhammad Ahmad Al-Mahdi: Jihad
(1870s; d. 1885): Ottoman Egypt-Sudan. Established Mahdist State Fought British-Egyptian Sudan (1881-98)

British Gen. Gordon – beheaded in Khartoum (1885)
Collaboration or Resistance?

*More Complex in Muslim ['Islamic'] areas:*

- some leaders saw acceptance of ‘state’, even Christian state, as preferable to ‘statelessness’, warfare, chaos

- Islam ‘religion of the book’: needs environment wherein Islamic law can be respected and implemented -- key to living as ‘good Muslim’
Resistance to Colonialism

Collaboration or Resistance?

More Complex in Muslim ['Islamic'] areas:

- others actively resisted: jihad or ‘holy war’ against Christians
Resistance to Colonialism

Islamic *jihad* most successful form of resistance:

- ‘holy war’ promised rewards (immediate, afterlife)

- Islam basis for state (*caliph*) and society

- Taxation system gave financial support for long-term resistance, state building
Resistance to Colonialism

Islamic *jihad* most successful form resistance:

**West Africa/Sudan:**

- 19th c. characterized by Islamic state building
  
  – new armies, states well positioned to turn against infidel Christian colonizers

*Fear of Islamic Resistance remained throughout Colonial era in French, British territories*
Resistance to Colonialism:

Sefu (right), son of Tippu Tip (above):

(1892-4) Slave Trader (worked with Zanzibar Sultan) resisting in Congo [Belgian]
Resistance to Colonialism

Shona, Ndebele: (1896-7) Southern Rhodesia [British]

The spirit mediums, Nehanda and Kaguvi, in prison before they were hanged for their roles as ‘instigators’ of the risings.

(Frederikse, None but Ourselves, 42)
Resistance to Colonialism:

Herero, Nama:

(1904-7) South West Africa [German]
Resistance to Conquest:

Bambatha (Zulu):
(1906) South Africa
[British]
Resistance to Colonialism:

‘Maji Maji’ :

(1905-7) East Africa
[German]
Resistance to Colonialism

Tuareg, Sahara:

(1916-17) West Africa
[French]

(photo 1906)
Resistance to Colonialism

‘Women’s War’
(‘Aba Women’s Riots’):

(1929) Southern Nigeria [British]
Resistance to Colonial Rule