

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation

Katanga 1960 63 Mercenaries African Nation: A Turbulent Chapter in Post-Colonial Africa

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation is a phrase that encapsulates one of the most dramatic and complex episodes in Africa's post-colonial history. The story of Katanga, a mineral-rich province in the newly independent Democratic Republic of the Congo (then Congo-Léopoldville), is intertwined with mercenary involvement, political intrigue, and the struggle for sovereignty in a rapidly changing continent. Between 1960 and 1963, the secession of Katanga and the role of foreign mercenaries exposed the fragile nature of African nationhood in the early years after decolonization. Let's delve into this fascinating and often turbulent chapter.

The Background: Congo's Independence and the Birth of Katanga's Secession

When the Belgian Congo gained independence on June 30, 1960, it quickly became apparent that the transition from colonial rule to self-governance would be anything but smooth. The country was vast, ethnically diverse, and rife with internal divisions. One of the key flashpoints was the province of Katanga, which was exceptionally wealthy due to its abundant mineral reserves, including copper and uranium.

Why Did Katanga Declare Independence?

Katanga's secession in July 1960 under the leadership of Moïse Tshombé was largely motivated by economic and political factors. The province's elite feared losing control over their lucrative resources to the central government in Léopoldville. Moreover, Belgian mining companies and political interests supported the breakaway movement to protect their investments. This led to a fragile and contested state within a state, posing a direct challenge to the authority of the central Congolese government.

The Role of Mercenaries in the Katanga Conflict

One of the most notorious aspects of the Katanga secession was the extensive use of mercenaries. These hired soldiers came from various countries, including South Africa, Belgium, and France, and played a crucial role in the military efforts to maintain Katanga's independence.

Who Were the Mercenaries?

The mercenaries involved in Katanga between 1960 and 1963 were mostly former military personnel with experience in World War II or the colonial wars in Africa. Figures like the legendary "Mad" Mike Hoare, a South African mercenary leader, became infamous for their leadership of mercenary

units fighting on behalf of the Katangese government.

These men were motivated by a mix of personal profit, ideology, and adventure. Many were drawn by the promise of lucrative contracts, while others saw themselves as soldiers of fortune or defenders of anti-communist causes during the Cold War era.

Mercenary Tactics and Impact

The mercenaries brought a level of military professionalism and experience that was lacking in the Congolese army at the time. They organized units such as the 5 Commando, which engaged in guerrilla warfare, defended strategic locations, and attempted to suppress United Nations peacekeeping forces.

However, their presence also exacerbated the conflict's brutality. Reports of human rights abuses, heavy-handed tactics, and disregard for civilian life marred the mercenary operations. The involvement of foreign mercenaries complicated international diplomacy and raised ethical questions about the use of private military forces in sovereign conflicts.

The International Dimension: United Nations and Cold War Politics

The Katanga crisis did not unfold in isolation. It was deeply embedded in the geopolitical struggles of the Cold War and post-colonial power dynamics.

United Nations Intervention

In response to the secession and escalating violence, the United Nations launched one of its earliest and most significant peacekeeping missions, known as ONUC (Opération des Nations Unies au Congo). The UN aimed to restore order, prevent foreign interference, and preserve Congo's territorial integrity.

The UN forces clashed repeatedly with Katangese troops and mercenaries, leading to a protracted and often controversial military engagement. The use of mercenaries by Katanga's government was a major obstacle to peace, compelling the UN to intensify its efforts to neutralize their influence.

Cold War Implications

The Katanga conflict was viewed through the prism of Cold War rivalry. The United States and its Western allies were concerned about the spread of Soviet influence in Africa, while the Soviet Union and its allies supported the central Congolese government to varying degrees.

Mercenaries in Katanga were sometimes seen as proxies in this global contest, complicating the

local struggle for autonomy and economic control. The crisis highlighted how newly independent African nations became battlegrounds for larger ideological and geopolitical conflicts.

Legacy of the Katanga 1960 63 Mercenaries African Nation Episode

The Katanga secession ended in early 1963 when UN forces succeeded in reintegrating the province into the Congo. However, the legacy of this turbulent period continues to resonate.

Impact on Congolese Politics and Society

The crisis deepened political fragmentation within Congo and exposed the challenges of nation-building in a post-colonial context. The use of mercenaries set a precedent for future conflicts in Africa, where private military contractors would later become involved in various civil wars and coups.

Moreover, the Katanga episode underscored the vulnerability of African nations to external manipulation, especially by former colonial powers and Cold War superpowers vying for influence.

Lessons on Mercenarism and Sovereignty

The involvement of mercenaries in Katanga sparked worldwide debates on the legality and morality of private armies fighting in sovereign nations. It raised questions about the accountability of mercenaries and the responsibilities of the international community to prevent such interventions.

Today, discussions about private military companies and their role in international conflicts often hark back to the Katanga experience as a cautionary tale.

Understanding the Complexities of Katanga's Struggle

To truly grasp the Katanga 1960 63 mercenaries African nation saga, one must consider the intersection of ethnic tensions, economic interests, and international politics. The mineral wealth of Katanga made it a prize worth fighting over, while the fragile state structures of post-independence Congo created openings for secessionist movements and mercenary involvement.

This historical episode also reveals how the dreams of African self-determination were challenged by internal divisions and external pressures. It serves as a reminder of the difficulties faced by many African nations transitioning from colonial rule to stable governance.

Key Factors That Fueled the Katanga Crisis

- **Economic Interests:** Control over Katanga's vast mineral resources was central to the conflict.
- **Political Fragmentation:** Ethnic and regional divisions weakened national unity.
- **Foreign Influence:** Belgian companies and Cold War powers played significant roles.
- **Mercenary Involvement:** Professional soldiers of fortune intensified the military dimension.
- **International Response:** The UN's peacekeeping mission was pivotal in resolving the crisis.

Exploring these elements provides a nuanced understanding of why the Katanga secession occurred and how mercenaries shaped the conflict.

Final Reflections on the Katanga Mercenary Era

While Katanga 1960-1963 mercenaries African nation may at first glance seem like a distant and obscure episode, its repercussions echo in many contemporary African conflicts. It illustrates the dangers of fractured nationhood and the complexities introduced by external actors—whether mercenaries, multinational corporations, or international powers.

For students of history, political science, or African studies, the Katanga crisis offers a compelling case study in how post-colonial nations struggled to assert control over their territories, resources, and destinies amid a rapidly shifting global landscape.

Understanding this chapter helps illuminate broader themes of sovereignty, intervention, and the quest for stability in the African continent's modern history.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the Katanga secession from 1960 to 1963?

The Katanga secession was a period from 1960 to 1963 when the mineral-rich province of Katanga in the newly independent Congo declared itself an independent state under Moïse Tshombe, leading to conflict with the central government.

Who were the mercenaries involved in the Katanga conflict?

Mercenaries involved in the Katanga conflict were mostly European soldiers of fortune hired by the Katangese government to support their military efforts against the Congolese central government and UN forces.

Why did Katanga hire mercenaries during 1960-63?

Katanga hired mercenaries to strengthen its military capabilities in order to resist the Congolese government and maintain its independence, as the central army was weak and the province was rich in resources worth defending.

What role did mercenaries play in the Katanga secession conflict?

Mercenaries played a crucial role as commanders and fighters, providing Katanga with experienced military leadership and tactical advantages, which prolonged the conflict against Congolese and UN forces.

How did the international community respond to the Katanga secession and mercenary involvement?

The international community, particularly the United Nations, opposed the Katanga secession and deployed peacekeeping forces to restore Congo's territorial integrity, eventually leading to the defeat of the secessionists and the expulsion of mercenaries.

What was the outcome of the Katanga secession by 1963?

By 1963, the Katanga secession was suppressed following UN military intervention and negotiations, leading to the reintegration of Katanga into the Congo and the withdrawal of mercenary forces.

What impact did the mercenaries in Katanga have on African post-colonial conflicts?

The use of mercenaries in Katanga highlighted the challenges faced by newly independent African nations in maintaining sovereignty and security, influencing future conflicts and international policies regarding mercenary activities in Africa.

Additional Resources

Katanga 1960-63 Mercenaries and the Struggle of an African Nation

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation represents a critical chapter in post-colonial African history, underscoring the complex interplay of secessionist ambitions, Cold War geopolitics, and mercenary involvement in shaping the fate of newly independent states. The secession of Katanga province from the newly independent Republic of Congo not only challenged the sovereignty of the African nation but also introduced foreign mercenaries into a volatile conflict that would have lasting implications for the region and the concept of African unity.

Background: The Emergence of Katanga as a Secessionist State

The Congo gained independence from Belgium on June 30, 1960, amid a turbulent political environment marked by ethnic divisions and weak state institutions. Katanga, a mineral-rich province in the southeastern part of the country, quickly declared its independence under the leadership of Moïse Tshombe. The Katangese secession was motivated by economic interests, particularly control over lucrative copper and uranium mines, and supported by Belgian business interests wary of losing influence.

Katanga's declaration of independence sparked a crisis within the fragile Congolese state, leading to a broader conflict that attracted international attention. The United Nations intervened to preserve Congo's territorial integrity, but the complexity of the conflict soon escalated with the involvement of mercenaries.

Mercenaries in Katanga: Roles and Impact

The Mercenary Phenomenon in Post-Colonial Africa

The Katanga conflict was notable for the prominent use of foreign mercenaries—professional soldiers of fortune hired to fight in the secessionist forces. These mercenaries came primarily from Europe, including former French and Belgian military personnel, and were instrumental in bolstering Katanga's military capabilities against the Congolese central government and United Nations forces.

Mercenaries offered Katanga tactical advantages such as military expertise, discipline, and access to weapons. However, their presence also raised ethical and legal questions about sovereignty, external interference, and the legitimacy of their role in what was essentially an internal conflict within an African nation.

Key Figures and Military Strategies

One of the most infamous mercenaries involved was Mike Hoare, a South African-born soldier who led the 5 Commando unit fighting for Katanga. Under his leadership, mercenary forces conducted several decisive operations that temporarily stabilized the secessionist regime. Their tactics included guerrilla warfare, counterinsurgency, and defensive operations around Katanga's capital, Elisabethville (now Lubumbashi).

Despite their military effectiveness, the mercenaries faced logistical challenges, including supply shortages and the difficulty of operating in unfamiliar terrain. Furthermore, their dependence on foreign support and mercenary forces made the secessionist cause vulnerable to shifts in international political will.

International Dynamics and the Cold War Context

The Katanga secession unfolded during the height of the Cold War, adding layers of complexity to the conflict. Western powers, particularly Belgium and the United States, were wary of Soviet influence in the Congo, which complicated their stance toward the central government and Katanga alike. Belgium covertly supported Katanga's secession, motivated by economic interests and fears of communist expansion.

On the other hand, the United Nations, backed by a broad coalition of African and non-aligned countries, sought to maintain Congo's territorial integrity. The UN's peacekeeping forces, known as ONUC (Opération des Nations Unies au Congo), were tasked with neutralizing mercenary forces and ending the secession.

These international dynamics underscored the fragile sovereignty of post-colonial African nations and the ease with which external actors could influence internal conflicts through proxy forces or mercenaries.

Consequences for the African Nation and Regional Stability

The mercenary involvement in Katanga from 1960 to 1963 had several direct and indirect consequences:

- **Political Fragmentation:** The secession deepened ethnic and political divisions within Congo, undermining efforts to build a unified national identity.
- **Military Precedent:** The use of mercenaries set a precedent for similar conflicts in Africa, where private military contractors became common in subsequent civil wars.
- **International Legal Implications:** The presence of foreign soldiers fighting in internal disputes challenged the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention enshrined in international law.
- **Economic Disruption:** The conflict disrupted mining operations, adversely affecting the country's economy and the livelihoods of local populations dependent on the mineral wealth.

Ultimately, the secession was quashed by 1963 through a combination of Congolese armed forces and UN military operations. Katanga was reintegrated into Congo, but the legacy of mercenary involvement and external interference lingered, influencing how future African conflicts were perceived and managed.

Comparative Perspective: Mercenaries in Other African Conflicts

The Katanga episode was not unique in African post-independence history. Mercenaries were similarly involved in conflicts such as the Nigerian Civil War (Biafra) and later Angolan Civil War, where their presence often prolonged hostilities and complicated peace efforts. Comparing Katanga's mercenary involvement helps illuminate broader patterns in Africa's post-colonial military and political crises.

The Role of Media and Historical Narratives

Media coverage during the Katanga crisis played a crucial role in shaping international public opinion. Reports often highlighted the controversial use of mercenaries, sometimes glamorizing them as soldiers of fortune while at other times condemning their role in perpetuating violence.

Historical narratives have since evolved to critically examine the influence of mercenaries as tools of neo-colonialism and proxies for external powers rather than mere adventurers. This reevaluation is essential for understanding the complex legacy of Katanga's 1960-63 conflict within the broader discourse on African sovereignty and Cold War geopolitics.

Legacy of Katanga 1960-63 Mercenaries in Contemporary Context

The Katanga conflict remains a potent case study for modern discussions about mercenary use, private military companies, and foreign intervention in fragile states. Contemporary African nations continue to grapple with issues of security and sovereignty in environments where non-state armed actors, sometimes supported by foreign entities, influence political outcomes.

Understanding the Katanga 1960-63 mercenaries African nation episode offers valuable insights into the risks and challenges of mercenary involvement in internal conflicts, the importance of international legal frameworks, and the need for robust state institutions to prevent similar crises.

The story of Katanga is a reminder that the intersection of resource wealth, ethnic tensions, and external intervention creates volatile conditions that can destabilize emerging nations and complicate their paths toward stable governance and development.

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katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: *Mercenaries and Security Contractors in the 21st Century* Eugenio Cusumano, Christopher Kinsey, Robert Parr, 2025-03-31 This book examines the debate over private security contractors, using historical and contemporary cases, including several non-Western examples. Since the end of the Cold War, security privatization has grown in its geographical outreach, breadth, and scope. This pervasive expansion of the private military and security market warrants a systematic investigation of commercial actors' involvement in the variety of tasks associated with the provision of violence, ranging from combat to vessel protection and cybersecurity. Combining theoretical and empirical approaches, the essays in this volume provide a historical investigation into private force that extends beyond Europe and the United States. By focusing on recent developments, such as the extensive involvement of Russian mercenaries in Ukraine, new evidence from the Global South, and the added historical depth given to the study of commercial providers of warfare, this volume questions the endurance of norms like the mercenary taboo and the state monopoly of violence. In doing so, it sheds new light on the past, present, and future of private security. This book will be of much interest to students of private security studies, military studies, security studies, and international relations.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: *The End of the British Empire in the Middle East, 1952-1971* Wm. Roger Louis, 2025-03-28 A comprehensive account of the decline and fall of the British Empire in the Middle East from 1952 to 1971.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: *Theory of Irregular War* Jonathan W. Hackett, 2023-12-25 From Afghanistan to Angola, Indonesia to Iran, and Colombia to Congo, violent reactions erupt, states collapse, and militaries relentlessly pursue operations doomed to fail. And yet, no useful theory exists to explain this common tragedy. All over the world, people and states clash violently outside their established political systems, as unfulfilled demands of control and productivity bend the modern state to a breaking point. This book lays out how dysfunctional governments disrupt social orders, make territory insecure, and interfere with political-economic institutions. These give rise to a form of organized violence against the state known as irregular war. Research reveals why this frequent phenomenon is so poorly understood among conventional forces in those conflicts and the states who send their children to die in them.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: *Second-Generation Liberation Wars* Yaniv Voller, 2022-02-24 An exploration of the strategies that both governments and insurgents employed in the liberation wars in Iraqi Kurdistan and South Sudan.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: *Genocide in the Modern Age* Zachary A. Karazsia, 2025-01-30 This book explores why some episodes of mass political violence and genocide are so much deadlier than others and under what conditions perpetrators in government and society opt for brutality as a means of accomplishing their goals. Introducing the new concept of mass political violence to explain genocide and other mass killings in the modern world, the author investigates how perpetrators sustain the capacity to enact violence on a large-scale, irrespective of motives. Cases including the Holocaust, Soviet Union, Rwanda, Cambodia, the Lord's Resistance

Army, the Islamic State, the Ottoman Empire of the 1890s, Mao Zedong's revolutionary violence, the Congo Crisis, and Darfur are used by the author to identify four types of mass political violence perpetrators – state actors, state-society coalitions, state-sponsored groups, and non-state actors to explain historical trends and identify which perpetrators are most likely to emerge in a given socio-political context and sustain violence over time. Comparative and grounded in case studies, this book will interest policymakers, diplomats, governmental advisers, practitioners, and industry researchers. It will also be invaluable to students and scholars of Political Science, International Affairs, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Human Rights, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, Political Psychology, Religious Studies, Gender Studies, Public Policy, Media Studies, and Criminology.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: The Future of African-European Relations

Dirk Brand, Doris Dialer, Annegret Eppler, Andreas Pattar, 2025-08-05 This book explores the future of African-European relations with a focus on achieving equity in a global context. Drawing on the expertise of policymakers, institutional stakeholders, scholars, and practitioners from both the global south and the global north, this contributed book offers unique insights into successful cooperation strategies between Africa and Europe. By offering case studies and clear perspectives, the book covers topics such as the implementation of public policies, the role of culture and languages, judicial independence, e-governance, technical cooperation and project management, energy crisis, economic growth, and global health. Moving beyond conventional development rhetoric and geopolitical divides, this book creates a common narrative for fostering an equitable global society. This book goes beneath the general development rhetoric, exploring the underlying dynamics of African-European societies, their local practices, and cultures. It also critically examines the post-pandemic global health architecture and the energy crisis from an African-European perspective. Additionally, it includes a dedicated chapter on the influential role of culture in shaping African-European relations.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: A History of Genocide in Africa Timothy J.

Stapleton, 2017-04-17 Based on a series of detailed case studies, this book presents the history of genocide in Africa within the specific context of African history, examining conflicts in countries such as Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Rwanda, and Sudan. Why has Africa been the subject of so many accusations related to genocide? Indeed, the number of such allegations related to Africa has increased dramatically over the past 15 years. Popular racist mythology might suggest that Africans belong to tribes that are inherently antagonistic towards each other and therefore engage in tribal warfare which cannot be rationally explained. This concept is wrong, as Timothy J. Stapleton explains in *A History of Genocide in Africa*: the many conflicts that have plagued post-colonial Africa have had very logical explanations, and very few of these instances of African warring can be said to have resulted in genocide. Authored by an expert historian of Africa, this book examines the history of six African countries—Namibia, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and Nigeria—in which the language of genocide has been mobilized to describe episodes of tragic mass violence. It seeks to place genocide within the context of African history, acknowledging the few instances where the international legal term genocide has been applied appropriately to episodes of mass violence in African history and identifying the many other cases where it has not and instead the term has been used in a cynical manipulation to gain some political advantage. Readers will come to understand how, to a large extent, genocide accusations related to post-colonial Africa have often served to prolong wars and cause greater loss of life. The book also clarifies how in areas of Africa where genocides have actually occurred, there appears to have been a common history of the imposition of racial ideologies and hierarchies during the colonial era—which when combined with other factors such as the local geography, demography, religion, and/or economics, resulted in tragic and appalling outcomes.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: The Polish Mafia Christopher Othen,

2024-11-07 Welcome to a world of tracksuits, Kalashnikovs and organised crime. After the fall of communism, the most dangerous Mafia you've never heard of ran Poland as its own private

playground and wallowed in all the luxury that Eastern Europe had to offer – until someone at the heart of the gang turned traitor and brought everything crashing down in a bloody round of murder and betrayal. Today Poland is a prosperous modern democracy standing proud at the Slavic edge of the European Union. But in the years after the fall of communism it was a gangster state being bled white by criminals while police and politicians looked the other way. You can't understand Poland until you know what it was like to live here when the Cold War had ended and everyone in this poor, icy corner of Eastern Europe was looking to get rich or die trying.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: Liberal Peace: On Conflict, Gender, and Peacebuilding: Democratic Republic of Congo Case Study Nkwazi. N. Mhango, Evelyn Birabwa M. Namakula, 2024-08-21 In this book, the authors analyse and offer some insights into the history of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The story is told within the context of its conflicts, with an exploration of the complex and multilayered conflict causes and the attempts to resolve the conflict based on liberal peacebuilding. The book delves into an examination of gender relations in the country with insight into the gendered dimensions of conflict in the DRC and how liberal peace failed to resolve the conflict because of hidden agendas and interests by the West and other emerging powers as a typical replica of what has been ongoing in many conflict-laden countries / societies. The book is divided into two major parts. The first part, as noted above, delves into and dwells on the historicity and ontology of the conflict. The second part focuses on the various attempts at peacemaking that have taken place in the country, with emphasis on how liberal peace has failed to resolve the conflict. The book analyses various peacemaking strategies that have been employed and the role of women (or lack thereof) in peacemaking and peacebuilding processes; and finally, the failures, strengths, and weaknesses of international intervention strategies.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: *Human Conflict from Neanderthals to the Samburu: Structure and Agency in Webs of Violence* William P. Kiblinger, 2020-10-20 This book examines human conflict throughout history, the reasons behind the struggles, and why it persists. The volume delves into the causes of human conflict and what can be done about them. Based on detailed descriptions that support insightful interpretations, the book explores significant historical events in the course of human history. By pursuing a “web of violence” approach, it raises and answers questions about the sources of conflict and how it may or may not be resolved through investigations into human agency and practice. It evaluates lessons learned concerning human conflict, violence, and warfare. To illustrate these lessons, the book presents a broad geographical and temporal set of data, including research on the time of Neanderthals in Europe (20-30 thousand years ago); the Late Neolithic civilization on the Mediterranean (6-8 thousand years ago); medieval Ireland; contemporary history of the Western Dani peoples of West Papua; and, finally, recent issues in Brazil, Congo, and Kenya.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: **The Lumumba Plot** Stuart A. Reid, 2024-11-05 The New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice • A spellbinding work of history that reads like a Cold War spy thriller—about the U.S.-sanctioned plot to assassinate the democratically elected leader of the newly independent Congo A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: The New Yorker, The Economist, Financial Times “This is one of the best books I have read in years . . . gripping, full of colorful characters, and strange plot twists.” —Fareed Zakaria, CNN host It was supposed to be a moment of great optimism, a cause for jubilation. The Congo was at last being set free from Belgium—one of seventeen countries to gain independence in 1960 from ruling European powers. At the helm as prime minister was charismatic nationalist Patrice Lumumba. Just days after the handover, however, the Congo's new army mutinied, Belgian forces intervened, and Lumumba turned to the United Nations for help in saving his newborn nation from what the press was already calling “the Congo crisis.” Dag Hammarskjöld, the tidy Swede serving as UN secretary-general, quickly arranged the organization's biggest peacekeeping mission in history. But chaos was still spreading. Frustrated with the fecklessness of the UN and spurned by the United States, Lumumba then approached the Soviets for help—an appeal that set off alarm bells at the CIA. To forestall the spread of Communism in Africa, the CIA sent word to its station chief in the Congo, Larry Devlin:

Lumumba had to go. Within a year, everything would unravel. The CIA plot to murder Lumumba would fizzle out, but he would be deposed in a CIA-backed coup, transferred to enemy territory in a CIA-approved operation, and shot dead by Congolese assassins. Hammarskjöld, too, would die, in a mysterious plane crash en route to negotiate a cease-fire with the Congo's rebellious southeast. And a young, ambitious military officer named Joseph Mobutu, who had once sworn fealty to Lumumba, would seize power with U.S. help and misrule the country for more than three decades. For the Congolese people, the events of 1960-61 represented the opening chapter of a long horror story. For the U.S. government, however, they provided a playbook for future interventions.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: *Modern African Conflicts* Timothy J. Stapleton, 2022-06-30 An essential resource for students or general readers interested in post-colonial Africa, this encyclopedia provides coverage of different regions, countries, wars, battles, factions, leaders, and foreign powers. Armed conflict represents a substantial part of African history since around 1960, yet this history is either insufficiently taught or overshadowed by negative stereotypes about African tribal warfare. This encyclopedia provides concise historical information on conflicts that occurred in post-colonial Africa. The entries cover all the regions of Africa (North, West, Central, East, and Southern); the Cold War and post-Cold War periods; a range of important leaders; various types of conflicts from civil wars and insurgencies to conventional military engagements; involvement of foreign powers; and such themes as airpower, women and war, and genocide.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: *Africa: War and Conflict in the Twentieth Century* Timothy Stapleton, 2018-05-11 This book examines the causes, course and consequences of warfare in twentieth century Africa, a period which spanned colonial rebellions, both World Wars, and the decolonization process. Timothy Stapleton contextualizes the essential debates and controversies surrounding African conflict in the twentieth century while providing insightful introductions to such conflicts as: African rebellions against colonial regimes in the early twentieth century, including the rebellion and infamous genocide of the Herero and Nama people in present-day Namibia; The African fronts of World War I and World War II, and the involvement of colonized African peoples in these global conflicts; Conflict surrounding the widespread decolonization of Africa in the 1950s and 1960s; Rebellion and civil war in Africa during the Cold War, when American and Soviet elements often intervened in efforts to turn African battlegrounds into Cold War proxy conflicts; The Second Congo Civil War, which is arguably the bloodiest conflict in any region since World War II; Supported by a glossary, a who's who of key figures, a timeline of major events, a rich bibliography, and a set of documents which highlight the themes of the book, *Africa: War and Conflict in the Twentieth Century* is the best available resource for students and scholars seeking an introduction to violent conflict in recent African history.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: *Mercenaries, Hybrid Armies and National Security* Caroline Varin, 2014-09-15 This book assesses the use of 'mercenaries' by states, and their integration into the national armed forces as part of a new hybridisation trend of contemporary armies. Governments, especially in the West, are undertaking an unprecedented wave of demilitarisation and military budget cuts. Simultaneously, these same governments are increasingly opening their armies up to foreign nationals and outsourcing military operations to private companies. This book explores the impact of this hybridisation on the values, cohesion and effectiveness of the armed forces by comparing and contrasting the experiences of the French Foreign Legion, private military companies in Angola, and the merging of private contractors and American troops in Iraq. Examining the employment of foreign citizens and private security companies as military forces and tools of foreign policy, and their subsequent impact on the national armed forces, the book investigates whether the difficulties of coordinating soldiers of various nationalities and allegiances within public-private joint military operations undermines the legitimacy of the state. Furthermore, the author questions whether this trend for outsourcing security can realistically provide a long term and positive contribution to national security. This book will be of much interest to students of private military companies, strategic studies, international security and IR in general.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: Decolonisation and Regional Geopolitics

Lazlo Passemiers, 2019-03-11 Decolonisation and Regional Geopolitics argues that as much as the 'Congo crisis' (1960-1965) was a Cold War battleground, so too was it a battleground for Southern Africa's decolonisation. This book provides a transnational history of African decolonisation, apartheid diplomacy, and Southern African nationalist movements. It answers three central questions. First, what was the nature of South African involvement in the Congo crisis? Second, what was the rationale for this involvement? Third, how did South Africans perceive the crisis? Innovatively, the book shifts the focus on the Congo crisis away from Cold War intervention and centres it around African decolonisation and regional geopolitics.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: Pan-African Chronology III Everett Jenkins, Jr., 2001-01-01 This third volume of the Pan-African Chronology set covers 1914 through 1929, a time of two seminal events: World War I and the Black Awakening. In World War I, people of African descent fought for both sides, earning distinction on the battlefields of France as well as in the jungles and deserts of Africa. The Black Awakening, a period from 1919 through 1929, marked the dawning of global awareness of the contributions of African people to the culture of the world. The book is arranged by year and events of each year are grouped by region. It also has two special biographical divisions for W.E.B. DuBois and Marcus Garvey.

katanga 1960 63 mercenaries african nation: The Tragedy of the Congo-Océan Railroad

J. P. Daughton, 2021-09-24 'Masterful' The Economist The Congo-Océan railroad stands as one of the deadliest construction projects in history. It was completed in 1934, when Equatorial Africa was a French colony, and it stands as one of the deadliest construction projects in history. Colonial workers were subjects of an ostensibly democratic nation whose motto read 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity', but liberal ideals were savaged by a cruelly indifferent administrative state. African workers were conscripted at gunpoint, separated from their families and subjected to hellish conditions as they hacked their way through dense tropical foliage; excavated by hand thousand of tonnes of earth in order to lay down track; blasted their way through rock to construct tunnels; or risked their lives building bridges over otherwise impassable rivers. In the process, they suffered disease, malnutrition and rampant physical abuse, likely resulting in at least 20,000 deaths. The Tragedy of the Congo-Océan Railroad captures in vivid detail the experiences of the men, women and children who toiled on the railroad, and forces a reassessment of the moral relationship between modern industrialised empires and what could be called global humanitarian impulses – the desire to improve the lives of people outside of Europe. Drawing on exhaustive research in French and Congolese archives, a chilling documentary record and eye-opening photographic evidence, J. P. Daughton tells the epic story of the Congo-Océan railroad, and in doing so reveals the human costs and contradictions of modern empire.

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