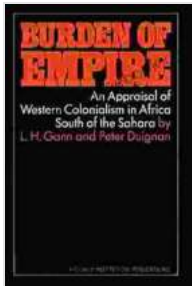


# An Appraisal Of Western Colonialism In Africa South Of The Sahara



**Burden of Empire: An Appraisal of Western Colonialism in Africa South of the Sahara (Hoover Inst Press**

**Publication)** by Pietro Bartolo

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4 out of 5

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Western colonialism in Africa south of the Sahara is a complex and controversial topic that has been the subject of much scholarly debate. The period of colonial rule, which began in the late 19th century and lasted until the mid-20th century, had a profound and lasting impact on the region. The political, economic, and social consequences of colonialism are still felt today, and the legacy of colonialism continues to shape African societies.

## Historical Roots

The roots of Western colonialism in Africa can be traced back to the 15th century, when European powers began exploring the African continent. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to establish a permanent presence in Africa, with the establishment of trading posts along the coast of West

Africa in the 1400s. Other European powers, such as Spain, France, and England, soon followed suit. By the 19th century, European powers had begun to colonize large parts of Africa. The Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, which divided Africa into spheres of influence among the European powers, marked the beginning of the formal period of colonial rule.

## **Political Consequences**

One of the most significant consequences of Western colonialism in Africa was the imposition of European political systems on African societies. This led to the creation of artificial borders that divided African ethnic groups and the imposition of foreign laws and institutions that often did not reflect African values or traditions. The colonial powers also established a system of indirect rule, which allowed them to maintain control of their colonies through local chiefs and traditional authorities. This system created a divide between the colonial rulers and the African population, and it often led to the exploitation of African resources and labor.

## **Economic Consequences**

The economic consequences of Western colonialism in Africa were also profound. The colonial powers established a system of economic exploitation that benefited European companies and their shareholders. African economies were forced to produce raw materials for European industries, and African workers were often paid very low wages. The colonial powers also imposed tariffs and other trade barriers that prevented African countries from developing their own industries. As a result, many African countries remained poor and underdeveloped long after they gained independence.

## **Social Consequences**

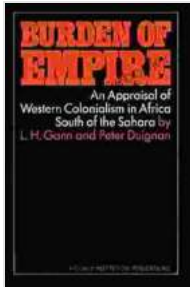
Western colonialism also had a significant impact on African societies. The colonial powers introduced new social norms and values that often clashed with traditional African values. This led to the erosion of traditional African cultures and the rise of new social problems, such as crime and poverty. The colonial powers also practiced a policy of racial segregation, which created a divide between Europeans and Africans. This divide was reinforced by the colonial education system, which taught African children that they were inferior to Europeans.

### **Legacy of Colonialism**

The legacy of Western colonialism in Africa is still evident today. Many of the problems that Africa faces today, such as poverty, inequality, and conflict, can be traced back to the colonial era. The artificial borders that were created by the colonial powers have led to ethnic tensions and conflict. The economic exploitation that took place during the colonial era has left many African countries poor and underdeveloped. And the social problems that were introduced by the colonial powers continue to plague African societies today.

Western colonialism in Africa south of the Sahara was a complex and controversial period that had a profound and lasting impact on the region. The political, economic, and social consequences of colonialism are still felt today, and the legacy of colonialism continues to shape African societies. It is important to understand the history of colonialism in order to understand the challenges that Africa faces today. Only by confronting the legacy of colonialism can Africa move forward and build a better future.

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