

Western Geopolitics Carves Up Africa: The Congo Example

by Uwe Friesecke

The second-largest country of Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is divided today into three parts (**Figure 1**). The northern provinces, Equateur, Orientale, and parts of northern Kivu, are controlled by Uganda. The rest of Kivu, parts of Kasai, Maniema, and the northeastern part of Shaba (Katanga) are controlled by Rwanda. Less than half of the territory to the west and south is still under the authority of the central government in Kinshasa. This state of affairs has very little to do with internal Congolese matters. It is the result of long-range strategic plans of Western policy elites to intensify the looting of the African continent.

The fate of Congo is a tragic example of what could happen to many other African countries, as well as Ibero-America and the rest of the developing sector, if current policy trends out of London and Washington are not reversed.

Forty years ago, in January 1961, Congo's courageous patriot Patrice Lumumba was murdered by Western intelligence services, because he resisted the splitting up of the Congo. He was not willing to make a compromise with the former colonial power, and stood up for the dignity of the Congolese. He knew that if the independent Congo were to succeed in real economic development, it was essential to maintain the unity of the former Belgian colony. When the Belgian colonialists orchestrated the splitting off of mineral-rich Katanga province in 1960, Lumumba went to the United States to ask President Dwight Eisenhower for help. But instead, the West decided to kill him and bring Col. Mobutu Sese Seko to power for the next 35 years.

Mobutu helped the West to plunder the Congo of raw materials, and he allowed the territory of Zaire, as he renamed the Congo, to become the staging ground for Western geopolitics in Africa during the Cold War. Once the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990-91, the Anglo-American alliance proclaimed itself to be the only superpower, and their policy toward Africa took a dramatic turn for the worse. Now, there was no longer any strategic obstacle to subjecting the continent to wholesale looting of raw materials, as during colonial times; only this time, it was done in the name of "democracy."

Wherever the Western powers could, they toppled the old guard of nationalist leaders, such as Kenneth Kaunda in Zambia, and brought new leaders in, who were easier to convince to adopt savage austerity policies against their people. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank intensified the pressure for implementation of structural ad-

justment programs. Currencies were devalued; economies liberalized, deregulated, and privatized. The result was, across the board in Africa, a dramatic increase in poverty, a collapse of the health and educational systems, and an intensification of conflicts and wars, while Africa's wealth—gold, diamonds, petroleum, cocoa, minerals—was taken out of the continent in ever-increasing quantities. (**Figure 2** shows Congo's natural wealth. The role of Congo in the financier oligarchy's gameplan for Africa, is similar to that of Brazil for Ibero-America: Both countries are large and extremely rich in strategic resources. See preceding article in this *Feature*.)

Regional Wars

In October 1990, in the wake of the military buildup for Operation Desert Storm, the U.S. and British governments encouraged and supported the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, in starting a war in Africa's Great Lakes region. First, so-called rebel forces of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), which were trained and equipped by the Ugandan military, invaded Rwanda. U.S. and British military advisers were involved. Today's President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, in October 1990 was flown from Fort Leavenworth in the United States, to the front in Rwanda, to lead the RPF forces. Lynda Chalker, then Minister of Commonwealth Affairs in the John Major government in Britain, was personally in regular direct contact with the Ugandan President. **Figures 3** and **4**, taken from *EIR*'s exposé of July 4, 1997, show how the British, with Museveni as their puppet, were perpetrating a genocidal plan for creating micro-states in Africa.

This war exploded the simmering conflict between the Hutu and Tutsi population group in Rwanda and Burundi. It led to the killing of Burundi's President Melchior Ndadaye in October 1993 and Rwanda's President Juvenal Habyarimana in April 1994, and to the mass killings in Rwanda in the Summer of 1994. The British government then blocked any attempt in the UN Security Council, to reinforce UN troops to stop the killings in Rwanda. The new Clinton Administration in Washington backed Britain in this.

The result of the first phase of the war was more than 1.5 million dead in Rwanda and Burundi, and more than 1 million refugees in neighboring Tanzania and eastern Zaire.

The second phase of the war began in October 1996, again disguised as a rebellion. Foreign troops, this time Ugandan and Rwandan, invaded eastern Zaire, destroyed all of the

FIGURE 1

Political Division of the Democratic Republic of the Congo



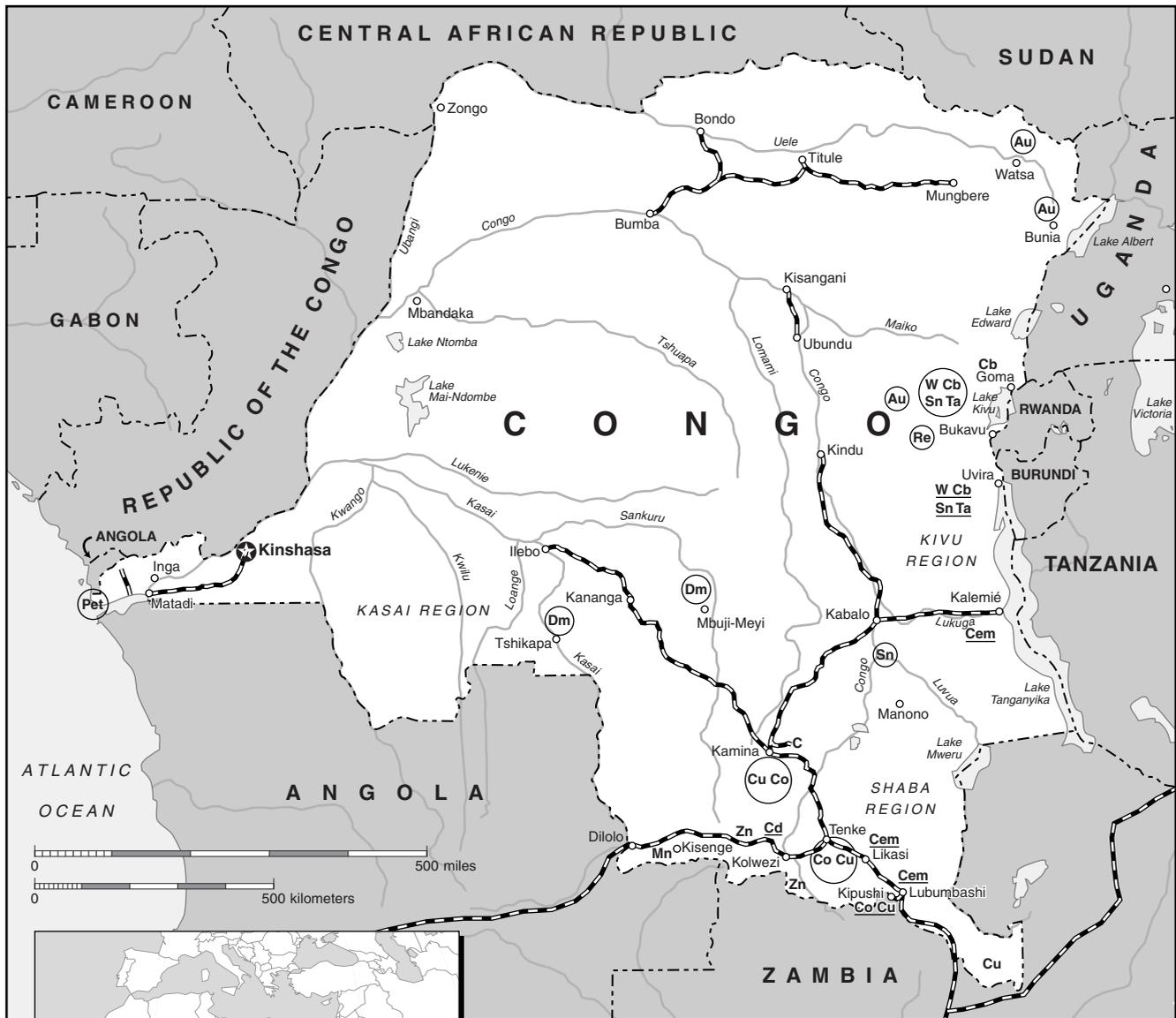
Rwandan refugee camps, and began a march on Kinshasa. With the help of British and U.S. intelligence, and support of Commonwealth mineral companies like Barrick Gold and American Mineral Fields, Laurent Kabila was chosen to head the rebellion in Zaire and topple dictator Mobutu—a plan which succeeded in May 1997. During this war, hundreds of thousands of Hutu refugees were killed in eastern Zaire. Again, Anglo-American military advisers were involved on the side of the Uganda-Rwanda-backed forces.

One year later, Kabila broke with his former allies Rwanda and Uganda, and threw their military and political agents out of his government in Congo. They retaliated by starting another so-called rebellion, this time against Kabila.

The offensive against Kabila in the Fall of 1998, was stopped by the military intervention of Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. To this day, their troops are blocking the further advance of Ugandan and Rwandan forces beyond the territory in northern and eastern Congo, which they occupy already.

While British and American diplomacy forced the signing of the Lusaka Peace Agreement in the Summer of 1999, their intelligence and military advisers, to this day, are involved on the side of Rwandan and Ugandan forces. Reliable sources report that it was U.S. satellite information, which enabled Rwandan troops to defeat the Congolese near Pweto, at the border with Zambia, in December of last year. Other reports speak of the repeated participation of African-American mer-

FIGURE 2
Congo's Strategic Resources



Symbol	Resource	
Au	Gold	
C	Coal	
Cb	Columbium (niobium)	
Cd	Cadmium	
Cem	Cement	
Co	Cobalt	
Cu	Copper	
Dm	Diamond	
Mn	Manganese	
Pet	Petroleum	
Re	Rhenium	
Sn	Tin	
Ta	Tantalum	
W	Tungsten	
Zn	Zinc	
○	Group of producing mines or wells	
<u>○</u>	Plant	
—	Railway	

FIGURE 3□

The Chalker/Museveni Plan

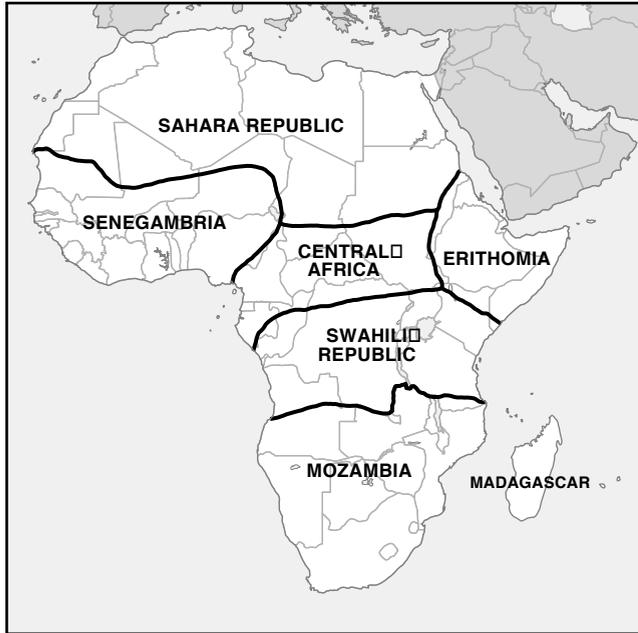
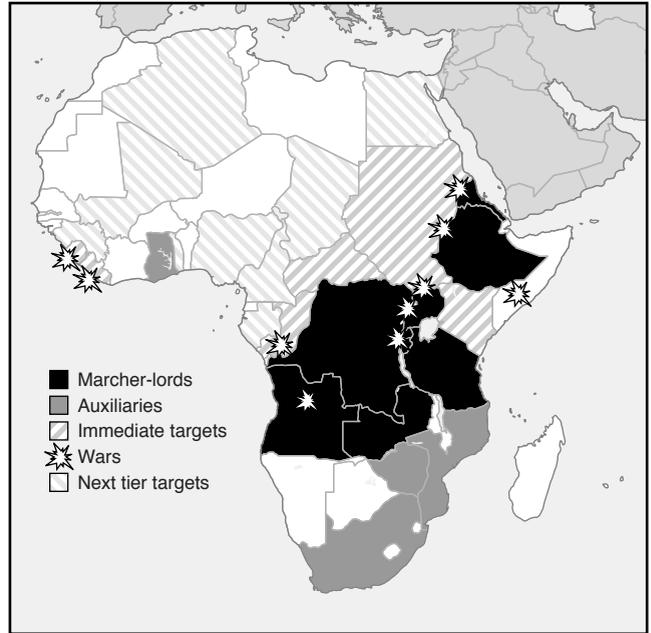


FIGURE 4□

The Quagmire, 1997



scenarios on the side of Rwandan troops.

The result of the occupation of eastern Congo has been the destruction of any civil authority, and its replacement by rule of the power of the gun. The Ugandan and Rwandan military, with their respective puppet rebel movements—the RCD Goma backed by Rwanda, and the MLC and another faction of the RCD backed by Uganda—have organized a tight network that is bringing out gold, diamonds, and the rare metal tantalum (in the form of Col-Tan) worth millions of dollars per month, through Kampala, the capital of Uganda, and Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, to Western markets. In this way, Western companies have even better access to the strategic raw materials of the Congo than they did under Mobutu’s rule. Local military leaders involved in this looting have become millionaires, while living conditions for the population have collapsed. *Since 1998, about 2 million people lost their lives in this conflict area in Congo.*

Like Congo, Angola is de facto divided between the government in Luanda, which is trading petroleum, and the forces of Jonas Savimbi’s Unita, which are trading diamonds. Again, Western companies are lavishly supplied with the raw materials they want, and the Angolan population is starving.

After the splitting of Congo succeeded, the Lusaka Agreement was arranged, and the UN was called in, and is now deploying 3,000 peacekeepers, until May 15, between the lines of the rebel and Congolese forces. So far, the Lusaka Agreement has legitimized the splitting of the Congo.

In the meantime, Kabila was killed in January, almost 40 years to the day after Lumumba’s assassination. And from

London to Washington, as well as in Paris and Brussels, attempts are being made to steer the young Joseph Kabila, who succeeded his father, in a direction agreeable to the interests of further looting in the part of Congo that his government controls. Western governments immediately insisted that the IMF and World Bank return to Kinshasa, and have indicated to Kabila, that if he signs over the mineral rights to companies such as Anglo American Corp., political pressure for so-called democratic reforms will subside.

The history of the Congo over the last five years exemplifies the process of disintegration of existing state structures in Africa, under the combined onslaught of IMF/World Bank economic policies, and Western manipulations of warlords and so-called rebel movements. If this process is not stopped, it will spread into other regions of the continent. Nigeria could split into three or more parts. New pressure for splitting Sudan into North and South is being exerted. Ethiopia may be consolidated as one nation right now, but the danger of splitting the country remains. In Kenya, political and social tensions are rising dangerously. And even Tanzania, politically stable until recent tensions over events on the island of Zanzibar, is targeted. Some strategists in London are saying that the future will see Tanzania splitting into five or six parts. There is renewed discussion about separating the Hutu and Tutsi populations of Rwanda and Burundi into two ethnic states.

The final target of such a strategy, would be Zimbabwe and South Africa. The aim is to destroy forever the ability of African countries to develop, and to rule over Africa through satrapies, for the purpose of unrestricted looting.