

“Dr. Livingstone, I presume?”

by Héctor Varela

In old movies and stories from the old New York Herald these words were uttered



by **Henry Morton Stanley** on the eastern coast of Lake Tanganyika in what is today Tanzania. The question was posed to the disappeared world famous explorer missionary, **David Livingstone**, in Africa according to Mr. Henry Stanley. Dr. Livingstone died in Africa without ever returning to Europe. For a long time both of these individuals were depicted in the mainstream press and in

books as super-hero explorers. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The lesser of the two evils was Dr. Livingstone, who had good intentions and was an anti-slavery advocate. He, nonetheless, cleared the way for the brutal exploitation of the continent's resources through systematic force of arms that resulted in bloody carnage throughout all of Africa.

By contrast, contemporary history shows that Henry Stanley was a completely immoral psycho who mapped the Congo and then shopped it around to the royalty of Europe for personal enrichment.

Let us understand that the Congo was bigger than all of the countries of Western Europe put together. It already had owners.

King Leopold II of Belgium, upon hearing of the riches of the Congo bought it from Henry Morton Stanley - to whom it didn't belong - and he, poof!, personally owned the Congo! The King Leopold II and Henry Stanley consortium with a mercenary army quickly established a system to force Africans to bring in the riches of the Congo. Specially targeted was ivory and rubber. Women were rounded up and held as hostages to force the men to work as beasts of burden. The men were chained at the neck in long lines to transport the booty until they dropped dead from exhaustion or starvation. Those that refused to work were hunted down by militias and their hands were cut

off to keep a count.

Most writers when dealing with this genocide refer to it as a period of “mistreatment” in the history of the Congo. Historians, though, now know that between eight to ten million Africans were killed by this Belgian/American consortium between 1885 and 1908. It was named the Anglo/Belgium Rubber and Exploration Company. King Leopold II and Henry Stanley were the principal stockholders. Millions were killed in the Congo without one major civilized power protesting. Most powers seem to be complicit through even today.

Does the word “Holocaust” come to mind? During the 1960 to 1967 war for control of the Congo, a significant number of exiled Cuban mercenary pilots from **Fulgencio Batista's** deposed Cuban Air Force were recruited by the CIA. This mercenary air force unleashed on the Congolese people and their leaders, napalm and anti-personnel bombs in a last effort to control the riches of the Congo. Subsequent to my military service I met and talked with many who participated in death from the sky missions of abhorrent carnage in the Belgian Congo.

How is this significant nowa-days? Read about it in the next BRICK!

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