

## CONGO / ZAIRE: Policies adopted at Independences

Political Factors	Economic Factors	Social Factors
<p>Came into power in a military coup</p> <p>One Party State by 1965</p> <p>Dictator for 32 years with Marxist beliefs (opposition suppressed)</p>	<p>Nationalized the mines, banks and industry</p>	<p>Promoted Africanization: renamed places and names and promoted Congolese music</p>
<p>Caught up in Cold War politics, ally of America against USSR (pawn)</p>	<p>Smuggling and corruption on the mines – economic loss</p>	<p>Focus on Primary education (not free) and French was the medium of instruction – favoured the elite</p>
<p>Promoted Congo pride, but did not achieve Congo unity</p>	<p>Dependent on world markets and monopolies of the west</p>	<p>Promoted Authenticite: emphasis on indigenous beliefs and practices</p>
<p>Continued regional separatism and competing political parties</p>	<p>Economic collapse largely because of falling copper prices</p>	<p>Health schemes and health care collapsed due to corruption</p>
<p>Authenticite</p> <p>Zairianization style of leadership</p> <p>Mobutism (personality cult)</p>	<p>Too much of the country's wealth went straight to Mobutu or out of the country. Locals did not benefit.</p>	

### One-Party State by 1965

Army in control, although there was a President and a PM?

- Promoted Authenticite: emphasis on indigenous beliefs and practices,
- Zairianization: nationalization of foreign-owned small businesses,
- Mobutuism: developed a personality cult,
- Marxist beliefs.

The Congo had been a Belgian colony, first under King Leopold and then the Belgian Gov. It was granted independence in 1960. Mobutu was an army general who seized power in 1965.

### Success and Wins

- Promoted Africanisation,
- Seen to have promoted national pride but did NOT achieve national unity,
- Focus on Primary education, numbers increased from 1.6 mil to 4.6 million,
- French was medium of instruction.

### Dependent on America (caught up in Cold War Conflict)

- Seized power with US support in 1965, 'ousting' Patrice Lumumba who had promoted Socialism and sought aid from the USSR,
- Received substantial US aid, seen as an ally against the USSR in Africa.
- Copper main export – prices fell caused economic collapse in 1970s

## Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire



### Failures and Problems

- Smuggling and lawlessness on the mines,
- Copper formed 40% of export earnings, was a huge loss of demand for copper in 1970s leading to most of Zaire's economic ruin,
- Education tended to favour the elite, those who could afford to pay for it,
- Continued regional separatism and competing political parties,
- Did I mention he was a dictator?
- Even though Congo had considerable mineral wealth, she was dependent on world markets and monopolies of the US.

### Nationalization

- Katanga Copper Mines and Kasai's Diamond mines nationalized,
- Banks under state control,
- Schooling NOT free under Mobutu!

Narcissistic, corrupt, dictator involved in murder and who was responsible for the poverty of the Congolese people.

### Africanisation

- Places were renamed (as part of the Africanization process) eg. Leopoldville became Kinshasa, the Congo became Zaire.
- People adopted African names,
- Promotion of Congolese music!

