

HISTORY OF FOREIGN AID IN AFRICA
(Revised Mar 1)

Class: MW 2-3:30

Instructor: Lee Cassanelli [lcassane@sas.upenn.edu]

Office hours (215B College Hall): Mon 3:30-5, Tuesdays 2-4, and by appointment

Aims and Format

This course offers an overview of the history of foreign aid to Africa since the late nineteenth century. While we don't often think about the European colonial era in Africa (1880s-1960s) in terms of "foreign aid," that era was critical for shaping outsiders' images of Africa and Africans' images of outsiders, as well as for introducing ideas and institutions that formed the foundations for modern aid policies and practices. So we start there, and then move forward to more recent times. One of our aims is to examine the objectives behind foreign assistance, the intentions of aid-givers and recipients, and the consequences (intended or unintended) of various forms of foreign aid to Africa over the past century. Another aim is to learn something about African societies and cultures as they experienced foreign efforts to assist, exploit, transform, or 'rescue' the continent at different times in its modern history.

The course is not designed to be a comprehensive history of development or development theory, of African economies, or of international aid organizations in Africa, although we will touch on all of these topics. Students with experience or interest in any of these areas are very much encouraged to share their knowledge with the rest of the class, and they may choose to do their final project on one of these topics. The last third of the course provides some flexibility to enable us to address topics of particular interest to class members.

Class will meet twice a week with occasional guest speakers and some sessions devoted to student workshops or presentations. Some of our guest speakers and videos may have to be scheduled outside regular class hours; we will give you plenty of advanced notice. Please check the course Canvas site regularly for updates.

Assignments

All students are required 1) to participate actively and maintain an on-line journal of their reflections on the readings and lecture topics, posted at least every other week and including two formal 'journal assignments' (35%); to submit two short essays (4 pp. each) by the dates indicated in the syllabus (30%); and to produce a 10-12 page final paper, preceded by a brief class presentation, on a topic related to one of the course's many themes (35%). Guidelines for the final paper will be provided. Students who are not familiar with the modern map of Africa and with the basic chronology of modern African history will have to do some preliminary background reading (suggestions will be provided by the instructor).

Readings

The following required books will be read by everyone and are available at the Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34th Street.

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*
James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine*
George Packer, *Village of Waiting*
Larry Krotz, *The Uncertain Business of Doing Good*
William Easterly, *White Man's Burden*

Additional required readings will be available on our course Canvas site (CV) either as links or as downloadable articles.

Tentative Schedule of Meetings and Assignments (Subject to change)

Week 1 (Jan 14) Introduction and logistics

**King Leopold's Ghost*, begin

Week 2 (Jan 21) What is foreign aid all about? Definitions and debates.

*Course Documents: Week 2 (CV)

**King Leopold's Ghost*, continue (at least thru p. 181)

Week 3 (Jan 26, 28) 'Aid' to Africa before 1900; 'civilizing missions' then and now

**King Leopold's Ghost*, complete

Journal Assignment No. 1 (*King Leopold's Ghost*) posted by noon Wed Jan 28

Week 4 (Feb 2, 4) Colonial economies and the 'developmental state'

*Fred Cooper, *Africa since 1940* (Cambridge, 2002), ch. 5 (CV)

*Randall Packard, "Visions of Postwar Health and Development..." in Frederick Cooper & R. Packard, eds., *International Development and the Social Sciences* (Berkeley, 1997) (CV)

*Michael Mahoney, "Estado novo, Homem novo: Colonial and Anticolonial Development Ideologies in Mozambique, 1930-1977" in D. Engerman *et al*, eds., *Staging Growth: Modernization, Development, and the Global Cold War* (Amherst, 2003) (CV)

*Monica M. Van Beusekom, "From Underpopulation to Overpopulation: French Perceptions of Population, Environment, and Agricultural Development in French Soudan (Mali), 1900-1960," *Environmental History* (April 1999) (CV)

Week 5 (Feb 9, 11) Trends in foreign aid to Africa since 1960: global health

GUEST PANEL (Feb 11):

--Valerie Koscelnik, MPH, consultant and former manager of CDC, USAID and PEPFAR programs in Rwanda, West Africa and Vietnam

--Carol McLaughlin, MD, MPH, Research Director, Global Public Health Center for High Impact Philanthropy, School of Social Policy and Practice, U of Penn

--Nancy Biller, MPH, Assistant Dean, Global Health Affairs, School of Nursing, U of Penn

*Remarks by Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa (CV)

*Readings on Global Health, Week 5 (CV)

*James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine*, begin

Week 6 (Feb 16, 18) Trends in foreign aid to Africa since 1960: fighting poverty

*Martha Finnemore, "Redefining Development at the World Bank," in Cooper & Packard, eds., *International Development and the Social Sciences* (CV)

*James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine*, continue

Week 7 (Feb 23, 25) The international aid establishment and its critics

GUEST (Feb 23): Dr. Clare Ignatowski, USAID

*James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine*, complete

Short Essay No. 1 (Anti-Politics Machine) due Wed Feb 25

Week 8 (Mar 2, 4)

*George Packer, *The Village of Waiting* (begin and continue over break)

Week 9. SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (Mar 16, 18) Grass roots aid: Peace Corps and Accion contre la faim

GUESTS (Mar 18): Panel of former PCVs

VIDEO: 'Heart of the Congo'

*George Packer, *The Village of Waiting* (complete)

*Course Documents, Week 10 (CV)

Week 11 (Mar 23, 25) The role of NGOs in Africa; aid in humanitarian emergencies
GUEST (Mar 25): Dr. Ali Ali-Dinar, African Center, UPenn

*Krotz, *The Uncertain Business of Doing Good*
*Course Documents, Week 11 (CV)

Week 12 (Mar 30, Apr 1) The World Bank in the 21st Century: energy and environment
GUEST (Mar 30): Dr. Richard Hosier, World Bank

VIDEO: "The World Bank. The Great Experiment" (Uganda)
*WB Documents, Week 12, TBA (CV)

Short Essay No. 2 (*Village of Waiting, Uncertain Business*) due Wed, Apr 1

*Easterly, *White Man's Burden*, begin

Week 13 (Apr 6, 8) Chinese aid and investment in Africa: What lessons?

*Easterly, *White Man's Burden*, continue
*Readings on Chinese aid, Week 13 (CV)

Week 14 (Apr 13, 15) "Corporate Social Investment: How are Companies Donors?"
Guest (Apr 13): Dr. Deirdre Lapin, CSR Consultant and Research Associate, Africa Center, U of Penn

*Readings for Week 14, TBA (CV)
*Easterly, *White Man's Burden*, continue

Final paper proposals and bibliography due Wed, April 15, in-class & on-line

Week 15 (Apr 20, 22) New directions in international aid to Africa

*Readings for Week 15, TBA (CV)
*Easterly, *White Man's Burden*, complete

Journal assignment no. 2 (*White Man's Burden*) posted by noon Wed 22

Week 16 (Apr 27, 29) Wrap up
Student presentations

FINAL PAPER DUE: May 4, 2014 (Guidelines to be provided)

