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Congo: The Epic History of a People by David Van Reybrouck

Congo: The Epic History of a People is a 639 page non-fiction book by David Van Reybrouck, first published in 2010. It describes the history of the Democratic Republic of the Congo from the prehistory until the present, with the main focus on the period from the Belgian colonisation until the book's release. The book was originally published by De Bezige Bij on 3 May 2010. By the end of 2012 it had sold over 300,000 copies in Dutch. Its English version was translated by Sam Garrett. Congo: The E

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The first of these books originated in November 2003, in Brussels, where Flemish archaeologist David van Reybrouck, tried to find the perfect book to read about Congo - a country he was about to...

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From 1885 to 1890 history ran its course in relative calm. Europeans were still engaged primarily in trading in ivory, and made use of the stations established by Stanley beginning in 1879. The governing of the state itself remained a rather minimalist affair. Yet things were not all sweetness and light.

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A major critical and popular success in Belgium, this sweeping history of Congo begins during the precolonial era and brings readers all the way up to the current era of warlords and civil war.

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But the Congo is a country that merits the word in all its original grandeur; epic landscapes, epic rivers, epic greed, epic suffering and epic history too. Such is the baffling size and complexity...

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The history of the DR Congo is also the history of the darkness of the human heart, extreme cruelty and violence, greed and selfishness by the early European explorers, the slave traders, the Zanzibari Arab slave merchants of the last centuries, and the neocolonialists and cold warriors of the twentieth century.

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David Van Reybrouck, Congo, the Epic History of a People (New York, 2015) p. 430. René Lemarchand, "The Democratic Republic of Congo: From Collapse to Potential Reconstruction", University of Copenhagen, September 2001. Gauthier de Villers, Zaire: la transition manquée 1990-1997 (Tervuren, 1997), p. 29.

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