Effects of Leopold’s Reign on Congo

Institutional Affiliation

Date

The reign of Leopold has had a significant effect on the current situation of the Republic of Congo. The country has kept on struggling on its economy since it was colonized by the Belgians and this is due to its inability to form on its own. Their country has failed to maintain the strong market, and this is as a result of the huge influence of imperialism both historically and currently. Congo’s GDP per capita has lived to drop with the highest notable between 1950 and 2010 was it dropped from .4 to .11 (Ewans, 2002). Leopold’s reign did not allow the Congolese people to run their country and hence they are far behind trying to get out of the hole they found themselves ditched in. Another big impact why the Leopold reign is still evident in the Republic of Congo is the civil unrest which began during his times. This has a long history and has since then become a norm in this central African country.

Dictators, rulers have the tendency of often ending being violent and disproportioning of wealth in the people of lower classes and the elite as the same would and was done to them by their colonialists (Nzongola-Ntalaja, 2002). The struggle to have food and education is amongst the battles the Congolese people experience due to the reign of Leopold. Many parents have no money to send their children in search of education forcing them to remain in their homes to help with daily chores. King Leopold ruled the country with an iron fist pushing the country’s economy to almost collapsing, and since then Congo has never recovered. Extraction of minerals and the rich forests of Congo is well a difficult task to undertake in this country due to civil unrest. Communities fight for the resources around them, and hence the country is unable to mine and do trade with their resources. Leopold mined and took huge minerals from Congo, and the people have remained to fight for the remaining ones.

**References**

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Nzongola-Ntalaja, G. (2002). *The Congo: From Leopold to Kabila: A People's History*. Zed Books.