

Chapter 1 : Congo, Democratic Republic of the

History of the Conflict The Rwandan Genocide In the wake of the Rwandan genocide in which , Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed, millions of Rwandan refugees flooded into the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kabila himself had credibility as a long-time political opponent of Mobutu, and had been a follower of Patrice Lumumba the first Prime Minister of the independent Congo , who was executed by a combination of internal and external forces in January , and was ultimately replaced by Mobutu in . He had been waging armed rebellion in eastern Zaire for more than three decades, though Che Guevara in his account of the early years of the conflict portrayed him as an uncommitted and uninspiring leader. There were reports[by whom? A UN human-rights investigator[which? The rebels took Kasenga on 27 March. Negotiations were proposed[by whom? Kabila, by this point in control of roughly one-quarter of the country, dismissed this as irrelevant and warned Tshisekedi that he would have no part in a new government if he accepted the post. Kabila proclaimed himself president on May 17, ; he immediately ordered a violent crackdown to restore order, and began an attempt at reorganisation of the nation. The conspicuous Rwandan presence in the capital rankled many Congolese, who began to see Kabila as a pawn of foreign powers. Tensions reached new heights on 14 July , when Kabila dismissed his Rwandan chief of staff James Kabarebe , and replaced him with a native Congolese, Celestin Kifwa. Two weeks later, Kabila chose to abandon his previous decision. He thanked Rwanda for its help, and ordered all Rwandan and Ugandan military forces to leave the country. Within 24 hours, Rwandan military advisors living in Kinshasa were unceremoniously flown out. The people most alarmed by this order were the Banyamulenge Tutsi of eastern Congo. Their tensions with neighbouring ethnic groups had been a contributing factor in the genesis of the First Congo War and they were also used by Rwanda to affect events across the border in the DRC. This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. March Learn how and when to remove this template message The initial rebel offensive threatened the Kabila government in a matter of weeks. A quick intervention of a number of other African states attempted to help the DRC in countering the rebel offense. As rebel forces were pushed back, it appeared for a time that an escalation in the conflict to a conventional war among multiple national armies loomed. Such an outcome was avoided as battle lines stabilised in . After that, the conflict was fought for much of the time by irregular proxy forces , with little change in the territories held by the various parties. On 2 August , the Banyamulenge in Goma erupted into rebellion. Rwanda offered them immediate assistance, and early in August a well-armed rebel group, the Rally for Congolese Democracy RCD “composed primarily of Banyamulenge and backed by Rwanda and Uganda” emerged. This group quickly came to dominate the resource-rich eastern provinces, and based its operations in Goma. The Tutsi-led Rwandan government allied with Uganda, and Burundi also retaliated, occupying a portion of northeastern Congo. To help remove the occupying Rwandans, President Kabila enlisted the aid of refugee Hutus in eastern Congo and began to agitate public opinion against the Tutsis, resulting in several public lynchings in the streets of Kinshasa. On 12 August a loyalist army major broadcast a message urging resistance from a radio station in Bunia in eastern Congo: The Rwandans alleged that Kabila was organising a genocide against their Tutsi brethren in the Kivu region. The degree to which Rwandan intervention was motivated by a desire to protect the Banyamulenge, as opposed to using them as a smokescreen for its regional aspirations after ousting Mobutu, is still being debated. More towns in the east and around Kitona fell in rapid succession, as the combined RCD, Rwandan and rebel soldiers overwhelmed government forces amid a flurry of ineffectual diplomatic efforts by various African nations. The diamond center of Kisangani fell into rebel hands on 23 August and forces advancing from the east had begun to threaten Kinshasa by late August. Despite the movement of the front lines, fighting continued throughout the country. Even as rebel forces advanced on Kinshasa, government forces continued to battle for control of towns in the east of the country. The Hutu militants with whom Kabila was co-operating were also a significant force in the east. Nevertheless, the fall of the capital and of Kabila, who had spent the previous weeks desperately seeking support from various African nations and Cuba , seemed increasingly

certain. While officially the SADC members are bound to a mutual defence treaty in the case of outside aggression, many member nations took a neutral stance to the conflict. However, the governments of Namibia , Zimbabwe and Angola supported the Kabila government after a meeting in Harare , Zimbabwe, on 19 August. Several more nations joined the conflict for Kabila in the following weeks: Chad , Libya and Sudan. A multisided war thus began. In September Zimbabwean forces flown into Kinshasa held off a rebel advance that reached the outskirts of the capital, while Angolan units attacked northward from its borders and eastward from the Angolan territory of Cabinda , against the besieging rebel forces. This intervention by various nations saved the Kabila government and pushed the rebel front lines away from the capital. However, it was unable to defeat the rebel forces, and the advance threatened to escalate into direct conflict with the national armies of Uganda and Rwanda. In November a new Ugandan-backed rebel group, the Movement for the Liberation of Congo , was reported in the north of the country. On 6 November Rwandan President Paul Kagame admitted for the first time that Rwandan forces were assisting the RCD rebels for security reasons, apparently after a request by Nelson Mandela to advance peace talks. Outside of Africa, most states remained neutral, but urged an end to the violence. By August , two more battalions had been dispatched. The contingent grew to 3, around November, and peaked at 12, in January The Zimbabweans began leaving in and had completely withdrawn by the end of the year. Prior to this deployment, Zimbabwe had built up an apparently potent brigade-sized, combined arms , reaction force with efficient air support and professional competence; however the prolonged operations in the Congo are said to have damaged its credibility. It also sustained heavy losses during the conflict, including three of its six Mil Mi Hind helicopters, a transport aircraft, and an unidentified interceptor, probably a Chinese Chengdu J Nujoma, a longtime ally of Kabila, claimed he could not refuse the requests for military assistance from Zimbabwe and Angola. A furious diplomatic row also ensued with South African authorities after they suspended all outgoing military exports to the NDF. Angola had no confidence that a new president would be more effective than Kabila and feared that continued fighting would lead to a power vacuum that could only help UNITA. The intervention of the experienced Angolan forces was essential in deciding the outcome of both wars. Chad[edit] Kabila had originally discounted the possibility of support from Francophone Africa but after a summit meeting in Libreville , Gabon , on 24 September, Chad agreed to send troops. France had encouraged Chad to join as a means of regaining influence in a region where the French had retreated after the genocide committed against Tutsi in Rwanda. Nevertheless, Chadian intervention resulted in a fiasco. Its forces were accused of serious human rights violations and looting virtually from their arrival in the country. They withdrew very quickly under international and national pressure and shame. Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement Estimate of territory held by factions in to Seven days later the various factions of the RCD clashed over control of Kisangani. On 8 June rebel factions met to try to create a common front against Kabila. Despite these efforts, the creation by Uganda of the new province of Ituri sparked the ethnic clash of the Ituri conflict , sometimes referred to as a "war within a war". Nevertheless, diplomatic circumstances contributed to the first ceasefire of the war. Under the terms of the agreement, forces from all sides, under a Joint Military Commission, would co-operate in tracking, disarming and documenting all armed groups in the Congo, especially those forces identified with the Rwandan genocide. Few provisions, however, were made to actually disarm the militias. However, in the following months all sides accused the others of repeatedly breaking the cease-fire, and it became clear that small incidents could trigger attacks. Rwandan-supported rebel forces launched a major offensive and approached Kinshasa but were eventually repelled. However, fighting continued between rebels and government forces and between Rwandan and Ugandan forces. Numerous clashes and offensives occurred throughout the country, most notably heavy fighting between Uganda and Rwanda in Kisangani in May and June The government initially stated that Kabila was wounded but still alive when he was flown to Zimbabwe for intensive care. His remains were returned for a state funeral on 26 January Background for the assassination[edit] It is unknown who ordered the killing. Uganda and Rwanda began pulling troops back from the front line. The report accused Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe of systematically exploiting Congolese resources and recommended the Security Council impose sanctions. A number of them mutinied, leading to violent clashes between them and Rwandan forces. At the same time the western Congo was becoming increasingly secure under the younger Kabila.

International aid was resumed as inflation was brought under control. Peace agreements April through December [edit] Under the leadership of South Africa , peace talks held in that country between April and December led to the signing of a "comprehensive peace agreement. It was a framework for providing the Congo with a unified, multipartite government and democratic elections. However, critics noted that there were no stipulations regarding the unification of the army, which weakened the effectiveness of the agreement. There were several reported breaches of the Sun City agreement, but it has seen a reduction in the fighting. The talks centered on two issues. One was the withdrawal of the estimated 20, Rwandan soldiers in the Congo. Rwanda had previously refused to withdraw until the Hutu militias were dealt with. The treaty aimed to get Uganda to withdraw their troops from Bunia and to improve the relationship between the two countries, but implementation proved troublesome. Eleven days later the first Rwandan soldiers were withdrawn from the eastern DRC. Both Rwanda and Uganda rejected accusations that senior political and military figures were involved in illicit trafficking of plundered resources. The Agreement described a plan for transitional governance that would have result in legislative and presidential election within two years of its signing and marked the formal end of the Second Congo War. Pygmy massacre Late through early [edit] Main article: Effacer le tableau At the end of through January around 60, Pygmy civilians and 10, combatants were killed in an extermination campaign known as " Effacer le tableau " by the Movement for the Liberation of Congo. Transitional Government[edit] Main article: The Agreement obliges the parties to carry out a plan to reunify the country, disarm and integrate the warring parties and hold elections. There were numerous problems, resulting in continued instability in much of the country and a delay in the scheduled national elections from June to July The main cause for the continued weakness of the Transitional Government is the refusal by the former warring parties to give up power to a centralised and neutral national administration. Some belligerents maintained administrative and military command-and-control structures separate from that of the Transitional Government, but as the International Crisis Group has reported, these have gradually been reduced.

Chapter 2 : Democratic Republic of the Congo – United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

The Democratic Republic of Congo: Background and Current Developments Congressional Research Service Summary In October , the forces of the National Congress for the Defense of the Congolese People.

In , Rwanda and Uganda invaded eastern DRC in an effort to locate the remaining perpetrators of the genocide, who were believed to be hiding in camps there. In , President Kabila ordered Rwandan and Ugandan forces to leave the eastern DRC, fearing invasion of the resource-rich territory by the 2 regional powers 1. This move sparked the beginning of the Second Congo War. Despite the official end of the Second Congo War in , various rebel groups and rogue elements of the Congolese army continue to commit serious human rights abuses in eastern DRC, primarily in the provinces of North and South Kivu, Orientale, and Katanga 2. Kivu province is ethnically diverse, with groups having a history of persecution primarily the Banyamulenge and Tutsi making up the majority in the region 2. The Banyamulenge, Congolese of Rwandan origin, have faced a long history of discrimination in DRC and, along with ethnic Tutsi and Hutu from Rwanda, are often denied citizenship and other rights. These groups have also been discriminated against based on their perceived association with Rwandan-backed rebel groups, which many blame for the unrest in the region 2. Other groups, such as the Bembe and Bashi, have also faced persecution on a smaller scale due to their large presence in the conflict area. Many Congolese refugees are multilingual, speaking their native language as well as Kiswahili or other regional languages. Refugees are often exposed to English through school and the media; however, proficiency in English is expected to be minimal. It is known that girls attend schools at lower rates in DRC, so it is likely that the majority of refugees with no primary or high school education and low literacy levels are female. Of these, a large majority identify as Pentecostal and Seventh Day Adventists. Few refugees follow indigenous beliefs exclusively; however, traditional belief systems are sometimes incorporated into religious practices and are familiar to a majority of Congolese 2. Family and Kinship A typical Congolese household includes not only immediate family, but generally also includes extended family and sometimes those not related by blood. The Congolese interpret family in a much broader sense than Westerners. Children are considered a sign of prosperity and good fortune for the community, so families are often large, with a fertility rate of 5 children born per Congolese woman 1. Care and discipline of children are considered shared responsibilities of the whole community, therefore it is not uncommon for adults who are not biologically related to a child to correct poor behavior and provide input on their upbringing. Gender Roles In the past, gender roles have typically been well defined, with men protecting and providing for the family and women traditionally taking care of children and tending to household chores. It is no longer uncommon for Congolese women to work outside of the home, usually selling handcrafts or running small businesses. While education is accessible to both genders in urban areas, there continues to be a male bias and women still tend to remain unequal in most sectors of society 2. Cultural Approach to Health Care Western medicine is generally well-received in Congolese culture, although significant barriers e. As a result, the Congolese may seek traditional medicines in lieu of, or in combination with, Western therapies. Medical infrastructure is limited mostly to urban areas and care is only delivered after payment in cash, therefore an inability to access or pay for care may lead patients to use herbal medicines or consult with traditional spiritual healers Feticheur to resolve illnesses. Christian Congolese are known to rely heavily on prayer 2. Mental illness is often considered a curse sometimes believed to be caused by supernatural elements or the result of witchcraft and is not openly discussed. For more information on mental health, refer to the mental health section of this profile. Additional Resources For more information about the orientation, resettlement and adjustment of Congolese refugees, visit the Cultural Orientation Resource Center , which is maintained by the organization of the same name. References Central Intelligence Agency. Democratic Republic of the Congo. The World Factbook [cited Oct]. Center for Applied Linguistics. Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Increasing Congolese Refugee Arrivals:

Chapter 3 : Democratic Republic of Congo profile - Timeline - BBC News

The Democratic Republic of Congo is slowly recovering from a conflict known as Africa's first world war, which led to the loss of some five million lives between and , but many eastern.

Bloodiest Corner of Congo Background: Ethnically Targeted Violence in Northern DR Congo, provides evidence that combatants in the Ituri region of northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo DRC have slaughtered some five thousand civilians in the last year because of their ethnic affiliation. A number of treaties and ceasefires, the most recent signed in Burundi on June 19, have supposedly ended the conflict between the governments of Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC, as well as Congolese rebel movements set to share power with the Kinshasa government. But the minor players-often the proxies for the principals-continue the war. But all inhabitants of Ituri have been forced to choose sides, and are subject to attack because they are thought to be associated with either Hema or Lendu groups. In recent months, human rights workers have not had access to rural Ituri or been able to provide information about specific massacres of civilians. But the Human Rights Watch report covering events in the past 12 months presents evidence of, among others, a civilian massacre at Nyakunde in early September , where Lendu combatants slaughtered some 1, people of the Hema and related groups. Over a day period, the killers dragged victims from their homes and murdered patients found in beds at a missionary hospital. According to Human Rights Watch research, the Nyakunde massacre claimed significantly more victims than has previously been known. Uganda occupied Ituri, an area rich in mineral resources and potentially a major source of oil, from to May , when it withdrew its troops under heavy international pressure. During its occupation, Ugandan soldiers provided arms and military training to different ethnic groups, fostering the spread of an initially limited dispute between Hema and Lendu over land.. The Human Rights Watch report details how combatants tortured and summarily executed political opponents and raped women of rival ethnic groups. They also engaged in such inhumane acts as the mutilation of bodies and cannibalism. Local observers describe the fighting forces as "armies of children. To weaken their enemies, various militia have impeded deliveries of food or other forms of humanitarian aid to displaced people and others in need, increasing immeasurably the number of civilians dead because of the war. In some thirty cases in recent months they have threatened, beaten, and expelled humanitarian workers. Security Council authorized an Interim Emergency Multinational Force to restore order inside the town. The Multinational Force, consisting mostly of French troops, was the first mission ever deployed by the European Union. It has managed to stop killing inside Bunia, but will end its mission in September. In September, the U. The Security Council will soon consider the size and mandate for the force.

Chapter 4 : Background & Resources – Conflict Minerals Platform

The current conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) began in 1996. Since then million people have been killed by fighting, starvation and disease. Millions have been forced to leave.

Conflict Minerals The mineral trade has funded violence and armed conflict for decades. Despite international legislation aimed at cleaning up the trade, conflict minerals can still enter global markets and end up in products, such as mobile phones, laptops and cars. Today, resources from conflict or high-risk areas, such as parts of Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo DRC, and Zimbabwe, can fund armed groups and fuel human rights abuses. These resources can enter global supply chains, ending up in our mobile phones, laptops, jewelry and other products. It is very difficult for consumers to know if their favourite products fund violence overseas. For more than 20 years, Global Witness has run pioneering campaigns and in-depth investigations to break the links between minerals and conflict. Our work on conflict minerals has shone a spotlight on the eastern DRC, where the trade in minerals has part funded fighting for more than a decade. Civilians have borne the brunt of the violence in a conflict characterised by rape, displacement and murder. We know this is a global problem. Profits from the diamond and gold trade has helped fund the current conflict in the Central African Republic, which has left hundreds of thousands of people displaced from their homes. Global Witness is calling on businesses to act responsibly. But this is only possible if companies act responsibly. Companies must check their supply chains to ensure that they are doing everything they can to prevent conflict minerals entering global markets. Then they must report on their findings. This process, known as due diligence, is essential if we want to clean up the trade in conflict minerals. We have already seen significant steps towards change. The US passed landmark legislation in 2010, known as the Dodd Frank Act Section 1502, requiring US-listed companies to carry out due diligence on minerals sourced from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and neighbouring countries. Several African countries, including DRC and Rwanda, have legislation in place requiring companies to undertake supply chain checks. China has recently developed its own conflict minerals guidelines. In April the EU reached a political understanding on a proposed regulation on conflict minerals and supply chain due diligence after several years of civil society campaigning and EU negotiations. Final technical discussions on the law are currently taking place.

Chapter 5 : The Democratic Republic of Congo – Global Issues

Country background. Democratic Republic of Congo is the size of western Europe and borders nine other countries: Zambia, Angola and Congo to the south and west, Central African Republic and Sudan.

Millions have been abducted, murdered, raped, or displaced, with abuses reported on all sides. The violence persists today. Insecurity has persisted in the eastern part of the country, allowing armed groups to commit mass atrocities against the civilian population. The mass atrocities committed include killings, abductions, and forced recruitment of civilians, particularly children. A UN Intervention Brigade, the first ever UN force mandated with taking offensive action, helped government forces to defeat M23 rebels in . However, efforts have stalled and militia groups continue to elude demands to disarm and disband. The brigade helped to defeat the M23 rebels in and has had its mandate extended to face the FDLR and other rebels, to reduce the threat armed groups posed to government authority and civilian security, and to stabilize the country. When the genocide in neighboring Rwanda ended in , Hutu perpetrators of the genocide, or genocidaires, fled from justice into the eastern provinces of the DRC, where they formed FDLR. Despite various peace agreements, violence in DRC is ongoing and civilians continue to be targeted, particularly in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale. The ongoing violence takes many forms, including mass killings, rape as a weapon of war, and torture. Both government and rebel forces have been implicated in attacks on civilians. Over the course of the conflict, the LRA has become responsible for more than , deaths and the displacement of hundreds of thousands. The LRA has continued perpetrating violence and abductions, with over abductions in . Conflict Minerals DRC has a wealth of natural resources , including gold, diamonds, tungsten, tin, and tantalum, which has unfortunately been a big reason for the violence in the country. Combined with the revenue these minerals can provide to armed groups, it creates a dangerous situation for civilians in DRC. Armed groups have also terrorized and forced local civilians into working the mines as slave laborers. Sexual Violence The systematic sexual violence is so pervasive that the DRC is becoming known as the rape capital of the world. Women are raped in the eastern portion of the country in front of their families to dehumanize them and to destroy their families. The government recorded over 15, incidents of sexual and gender-based violence in four regions in . In October , Dr. He has worked with over 30, rape survivors in the last sixteen years. Justice in the DRC: He has been wanted by the International Criminal Court for crimes including the use of child soldiers, murder, rape, sexual slavery, and persecution. In April , Ntaganda led a revolt that splintered the group, and he became one of the main leaders of the M23 rebel group. Following infighting within M23, Ntaganda turned himself to the U. His trial is scheduled to open June 2nd,

Chapter 6 : History of the Conflict

The war is the world's deadliest conflict since World War II, killing 6 million people. French is the official language of the DRC whereas Lingala, Kikongo, Swahili and Tshiluba are the national.

On 17 January, he was handed over to Katangan authorities and executed by Belgian-led Katangese troops. The secession ended in January with the assistance of UN forces. With financial support from the United States and Belgium, Mobutu paid his soldiers privately. The new president had the staunch support of the United States because of his opposition to Communism; the US believed that his administration would serve as an effective counter to communist movements in Africa. He periodically held elections in which he was the only candidate. By late Mobutu had successfully neutralized his political opponents and rivals, either through co-opting them into his regime, arresting them, or rendering them otherwise politically impotent. He traveled frequently across the continent while the government became more vocal about African issues, particularly those relating to the southern region. Zaire established semi-clientelist relationships with several smaller African states, especially Burundi, Chad, and Togo. Zaire became a kleptocracy as Mobutu and his associates embezzled government funds. This renaming campaign was completed in the s. In , Mobutu renamed the country the Republic of Zaire, [20] its fourth name change in 11 years and its sixth overall. The Congo River was renamed the Zaire River. During the s and s, he was invited to visit the United States on several occasions, meeting with U. Opponents within Zaire stepped up demands for reform. The reforms turned out to be largely cosmetic. Mobutu continued in power until armed forces forced him to flee in In Mobutu fled and Kabila marched into Kinshasa, named himself president, and reverted the name of the country to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Kabila later requested that foreign military forces return to their own countries. He had concerns that the Rwandan officers running his army were plotting to give the presidency to a Tutsi who would report directly to Rwandan president, Paul Kagame. Angolan, Zimbabwean and Namibian militaries entered the hostilities on the side of the government. Kabila was assassinated in His son Joseph Kabila succeeded him and called for multilateral peace-talks. By June all foreign armies except those of Rwanda had pulled out of Congo. A transitional government was set up until after the election. A constitution was approved by voters, and on 30 July DRC held its first multi-party elections. An election-result dispute between Kabila and Jean-Pierre Bemba turned into an all-out battle between their supporters in the streets of Kinshasa. MONUC took control of the city. A new election took place in October, which Kabila won, and on December he was sworn in as President. They were believed[by whom? The CNDP signed a peace treaty with the government in which it agreed to become a political party and to have its soldiers into the national army in exchange for the release of its imprisoned members. One study found that more than , women are raped in the Democratic Republic of Congo every year. The rebels were thought to be Allied Democratic Forces.

Chapter 7 : D.R. Congo Backgrounder - United to End Genocide

This part of the theinnatdunvilla.com web site looks at the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Media coverage is poor and yet there have been millions of refugees and over five million killed since the war began around August

More Information Brief Background As with most conflicts in Africa, the current situation has much to do with the legacy of colonialism. From the violent Belgian imposition of colonial rule by King Leopold II who regarded it as his personal fiefdom and called it the Congo Free State but apparently never once went there himself, millions have been killed. The murders have been grotesque, with chopped limbs and more, similar to what has been seen in Sierra Leone recently. After 75 years of colonial rule, the Belgians left very abruptly, relinquishing the political rights to the people of Congo in . However, economic rights were not there for the country to flourish. This brief video summarizes the initial challenges the DRC faced after independence: Lying at the center of the continent, Zaire could provide the U. Over the years, U. Mobutu used his U. When Kabila took power, the Clinton administration quickly offered military support by developing a plan for new training operations with the armed forces. Hartung and Bridget Moix, Deadly Legacy: But the US continued to deny allegations of its involvement. Corruption, siphoning off massive personal wealth, a plunge in copper prices, and mounting debt led to enormous economic downturns: From the time of Belgian colonial rule, the inhabitants of the region have derived little if any benefit from its natural wealth. Instead, they have suffered an unbroken succession of abusive political administrations, military authorities and armed political groups that have looted the region and committed human rights abuses with impunity. King Leopold II accrued vast personal wealth without ever setting foot on Congolese soil. The Belgian rulers of the then Belgian Congo, from to used slave labour to plunder its rubber, ivory and timber. After independence in , the long presidency of Mobutu Sese Seko made the newly named Zaire notorious for cronyism and corruption. When President Mobutu came into office in , a sustained period of institutionalised corruption and misappropriation of state resources began. The impact of this corruption is felt on the citizens: Today, Mobutu is deposed and dead, but his legacies live on. Since then, there have been many internal conflicts where all sides have been supported from various neighbors. The conflict has also been fueled by weapons sales and by military training. The weapons have come from the former Soviet bloc countries as well as the United States, who have also provided military training. The United States military has been covertly involved in the wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a US parliamentary subcommittee has been told. Instead, the situation deteriorated. Kabila, also backed by the US, had been accused by rebels made up of Congolese soldiers, Congolese Tutsi Banyamulenge, Rwandan, Ugandan and some Burundian government troops of turning into a dictator, of mismanagement, corruption and supporting various paramilitary groups who oppose his former allies. As the conflict had raged on, rebels controlled about a third of the entire country the eastern parts. Laurent Kabila had received support from Angolan, Zimbabwean and Namibian troops. Up to the assassination of Laurent Kabila in January , Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia supported the Congolese government, while the rebels were backed by the governments of Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The reasons for different regions getting involved are all murky. Rwanda is one example, summarizing a Daily Telegraph news report 31 August The role of Rwanda, though small, has had a number of forces in large areas of the country. This has been in the backdrop of the genocide when more than , mainly Tutsi Rwandans were slaughtered. Hutu interahamwe militia carried out most of the massacres and fled to neighboring Congo in the eastern region of the DRC after the genocide. From there, they often launched attacks into their home country, prompting a Rwandan invasion. As a result, Rwanda has justified its role in the four-year war by saying it wanted to secure its border, while critics accused it of using the interahamwe attacks as an excuse to deploy 20, troops to take control of Congolese diamond mines and other mineral resources. Only individuals were gaining from it. But the Ugandan government has remained silent and has taken no disciplinary action against those individuals. The effects and tactics seen from the conflict have been many , according to the same Amnesty report, including: Despite the Lusaka peace agreement signed in , there was still fighting going on and the peace was fragile. There were various political problems in trying to get a UN peacekeeping force in there to help out,

while killings continued. Due to conflicts of interests, there were fears that the UN peacekeeping mission would even be aborted before it got started. It was a small cease-fire monitoring body whose mandate was strengthened in July to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence. Amnesty International for example, has noted that MONUC has been a hostage to its weak mandate and has lacked the necessary equipment, personnel and international political backing. However, the alignments of power have been in flux with many parties involved. In a dialog that was supposed to comprise five components, two rebel movements, an opposition group the MLC as well as the Rwandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy, non-armed opposition groups, political parties, civil society organizations and the government, only the government and one opposition group did the main talks on the power sharing question. The Lusaka agreements were declared dead, though it was said that attempts would be made to continue dialog. Various other groups have had disagreements on a variety of issues, and as the International crisis group concludes 14 May , the future for the Democratic Republic of Congo remains uncertain. For more on the issue of power sharing and the political realignments in the conflict see for example: Nonetheless, at the end of August , a peace agreement had been signed to supposedly end the civil war, though only Josph Kabila, president of DRC, and Paul Kagame, president of Rwanda were party to this agreement. However, the United Nations reported in October that the plunder of gems and minerals continued , with elite networks running a self-financing war economy centered on pillage. The main fighting has been on the eastern side of DRC. However, its mandate was very limited and was withdrawn on 1 September to be replaced by a larger contingent of MONUC. Amnesty International noted that IEMF had been almost universally welcomed by the civilian population of Bunia, having contributed greatly to improving the security situation in Bunia itself. Kabila was voted in on a strong platform of promises to stamp out corruption and promote health, education, housing, employment and infrastructure. However, some four years on the International Crisis Group describes his record as abysmal because his presidency is seeking to impose its power on all branches of the state and maintain parallel networks of decision-making. In addition, The regime has undermined the independence of the judicial branch by running an anti-corruption campaign that is politically biased. It has used money and coercion to eliminate challenges to its authority and to fight against the local rebellions that have happened since Kabila is contemplating amending the constitution on the pretext of addressing difficulties in implementing decentralisation. Any constitutional amendment aiming at concentrating more power at the level of the presidency or controlling dissenting voices, however, would pose a threat to already weakened mechanisms of checks and balances. In this context, a new international strategy is needed to support democratic consolidation and to prevent new risks of destabilisation. Back to top

An International Battle Over Resources Due to the immense natural resources in this nation, various foreign powers, as well as internal, have sought to gain an advantage. Laurent Kabila had accused some of his former allies, such as Rwanda and Uganda as having ulterior motives, especially in terms of resources, such as water, diamonds, and other vast, rich resources and minerals. In fact, all sides have been accused of having commercial interests in this war due to the vast resources involved. There are many resources and minerals etc being exploited, including but not limited to:

Chapter 8 : Q&A: DR Congo conflict - BBC News

The Second Congo War (also known as the Great War of Africa or the Great African War, and sometimes referred to as the African World War) began in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in August , little more than a year after the First Congo War, and involved some of the same issues.

Zainab Hawa Bangura The victims of modern armed conflict are far more likely to be civilians than soldiers. Women in particular can face devastating forms of sexual violence, which are sometimes deployed systematically to achieve military or political objectives. Rape committed during war is often intended to terrorize the population, break up families, destroy communities, and, in some instances, change the ethnic make-up of the next generation. Sometimes it is also used to deliberately infect women with HIV or render women from the targeted community incapable of bearing children. In Rwanda, between , and , women were raped during the three months of genocide in UN agencies estimate that more than 60, women were raped during the civil war in Sierra Leone , more than 40, in Liberia , up to 60, in the former Yugoslavia , and at least , in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since Even after conflict has ended, the impacts of sexual violence persist, including unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and stigmatization. Widespread sexual violence itself may continue or even increase in the aftermath of conflict, as a consequence of insecurity and impunity. And meeting the needs of survivors “ including medical care, HIV treatment, psychological support, economic assistance and legal redress ” requires resources that most postconflict countries do not have. Recognizing sexual violence as an international crime For centuries, sexual violence in conflict was tacitly accepted as unavoidable. A UN report on sexual violence and armed conflict notes that historically, armies considered rape one of the legitimate spoils of war. During World War II, all sides of the conflict were accused of mass rapes, yet neither of the two courts set up by the victorious allied countries to prosecute suspected war crimes “ in Tokyo and Nuremberg ” recognized the crime of sexual violence. It was not until , in the face of widespread rapes of women in the former Yugoslavia, that the issue came to the attention of the UN Security Council. On 18 December , the Council declared the "massive, organized and systematic detention and rape of women, in particular Muslim women, in Bosnia and Herzegovina" an international crime that must be addressed. Subsequently, the Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia ICTY, included rape as a crime against humanity, alongside other crimes such as torture and extermination, when committed in armed conflict and directed against a civilian population. In , the ICTY became the first international court to find an accused person guilty of rape as a crime against humanity. Furthermore, the Court expanded the definition of slavery as a crime against humanity to include sexual slavery. Previously, forced labor was the only type of slavery to be viewed as a crime against humanity. In , the ICTR became the first international court to find an accused person guilty of rape as a crime of genocide used to perpetrate genocide. The judgment against a former mayor, Jean-Paul Akayesu , held that rape and sexual assault constituted acts of genocide insofar as they were committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the Tutsi ethnic group. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court , in force since July , includes rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or "any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity" as a crime against humanity when it is committed in a widespread or systematic way. Arrest warrants issued by the ICC include several counts of rape as both a war crime and a crime against humanity. We need to get to a point where the victim receives the support of the community, and the man who rapes is the one who is stigmatized and excluded and penalized by the whole community. Security Council resolution called on Member States to increase the participation of women in the "prevention and resolution of conflicts" and in the "maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Security Council resolution called for an end to the use of acts of sexual violence against women and girls as a tactic of war and an end to impunity of the perpetrators. It requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations to provide protection to women and girls in UN-led security endeavours, including refugee camps, and to invite the participation of women in all aspects of the peace process. Security Council resolution reaffirmed resolution , condemned continuing sexual violence against women in conflict situations, and urged UN

Member States and civil society to consider the need for protection and empowerment of women and girls, including those associated with armed groups, in post-conflict programming. It also called for the establishment of monitoring, analysis, and reporting arrangements specific to conflict-related sexual violence. Security Council resolution aimed to strengthen the monitoring and prevention of sexual violence in conflict. UN Action " coordinating UN efforts to end conflict-related sexual violence In , the work of various UN agencies to combat sexual violence was put under one umbrella: It is a concerted effort by the UN System to improve coordination and accountability, amplify programming and advocacy, and support national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors. From initiating firewood patrols in Darfur to establishing market escorts, night patrols and early-warning systems in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Analytical Inventory of Peacekeeping Practice catalogues direct and indirect efforts to combat sexual violence during and in the wake of war. The campaign brings together a host of UN agencies and joins forces with individuals, civil society and governments to put an end to violence against women in all its forms. She was succeeded, in September , by Zainab Hawa Bangura. The job of the Special Representative is to provide coherent and strategic leadership, and to promote cooperation and coordination through UN Action. Upon taking up her post, Ms. Bangura, the former Minister of Health and Sanitation of Sierra Leone, outlined six objectives she intends to pursue: The report reviews 22 conflict areas, which for the first time include Mali, and presents information on parties to conflict credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence. The report also emphasizes the urgency of ensuring that sexual violence considerations are explicitly and consistently reflected in peace processes and peace agreements, and in all Security Sector Reform and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration processes in which the United Nations is involved. The report, " Conflict-related sexual violence: The report also provides examples of how sexual violence has threatened security and impeded peacebuilding in post-conflict situations, such as in Chad, the Central African Republic, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and how it has been used in the context of elections, political strife and civil unrest in Egypt, Guinea, Kenya and Syria, among others.

Chapter 9 : Congo, Republic of the

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (pronunciation (help · info) French: République démocratique du Congo), also known as DR Congo, the DRC, Congo-Kinshasa, East Congo, or simply the Congo, is the southernmost country located in Central Africa.