

which were nominal vassals of the great kingdom of the Congo. The Stanley pool region was occupied by the Teke (the kingdom of Anzico) whose king, the makoko, was elected by the chiefs and wore a great collar of flat copper and a panther skin. To the northeast were the Mbochi, who lived in fortified villages, and then the marshes of the Likouala and Sangha, occupied by the "water people" and Pygmies. (See AFRICA: *Ethnography* [*Anthropology*]: *West Central Africa*.)

In 1482 the Portuguese Diogo Cam discovered the mouth of the Congo. In the 18th century the coastal kingdoms received a superficial Christianity which disappeared with the departure of the missions. The slave trade was carried on through the ports of Cabinda, Loango and Mayumba (Mayumba). The *pomberos*, former Portuguese slaves, traveled as far as the pool and returned with cargoes of slaves procured by the Teke, while the coastal chiefs levied dues in the form of guns and loincloths. The suppression of the slave trade in the 19th century hastened the collapse of the kingdoms.

In 1877 H. M. Stanley (*q.v.*), traveling down the Congo, discovered Stanley pool and then with difficulty reached the coast through the river's rapids. Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza (*q.v.*), who ascended the Ogooué, was in 1878 repulsed by the Furu on the Alima, but in 1880 he reached the pool and made a treaty with the makoko by which the latter ceded his rights to France. A post established at Ntamo (Brazzaville) was entrusted to the Senegalese sergeant Malamine who prevented Stanley from taking possession. Brazza reconnoitred the Niari-Kouilou route to the coast, which avoided the rapids. He also occupied Loango and Pointe-Noire (*q.v.*). Treaties made in 1885 and 1887 fixed the frontiers with Portuguese territory and the Congo Free State. In 1891 the colony of French Congo was created. Various missions made their way up the Sangha and a treaty in 1894 fixed the Cameroun frontier northward of Ouessou. In 1898 Brazza, who had been appointed commissioner general, was recalled to France and large concessions were granted. Brazza in 1905 accepted a mission to investigate charges of exploitation of the natives in the colony, and the concessions were restricted. The Franco-German agreements of 1911, which ceded to Germany the Sangha valley as far as the Congo, were annulled by World War I. Brazzaville became in 1910 the capital of French Equatorial Africa.

In 1940 the Congo rallied to Free France. Gen. Charles de Gaulle and the governor general, Félix Eboué, in Feb. 1944 held the conference at Brazzaville which heralded France's new colonial orientation. In 1946 Congo became an overseas territory of France, with representatives in the French parliament and an elected territorial assembly. The "cadre law" of 1957 gave it an elected government. In Nov. 1958 Congo became a republic of the French Community (*q.v.*). The priest Fulbert Youlou was elected president, and after some sanguinary incidents between Kongo and Mbochi, a coalition was formed. On Aug. 15, 1960, the independence of the republic was proclaimed. (Hu. DE.)

**People.**—Of the total population in 1962, about 10,000 were nonnatives. The density was 6.4 per square mile. Some peoples seemed to be decreasing in number; e.g., the Likouala, whose birth rate was 25 per 1,000, mortality 30 per 1,000. The principal tribes are Congolese in the northeast, like the Bangi, pushed back by the Teke who occupy the centre of the country. In the south, between Brazzaville and the coast, live related tribes, the chief of which are the Kongo and the Vili. All speak languages of the Bantu group. Besides Brazzaville (*q.v.*) and Pointe-Noire, towns of importance are Impfondo, Fort-Rousset, Dolisie and Djambala.

**The Economy.**—The forest has been partially cleared and has been damaged almost everywhere. Cassava is grown as the main subsistence crop. Two regions, however, the valley of the Sangha and that of the Niari, are suitable for the cultivation of products for export. In particular in the valley of the Niari, which is close to the Congo-Océan railway, there are plantations devoted to the cultivation of cassava, and also peanuts, fibre plants and sugar cane and to stock raising, all of which developed after World War II.

An agricultural post was set up to improve the maize and sugar cane crops, together with research institutes for oil and ole-

aginous products and for fibre plants. On the slopes of the Monts du Chaillu plantations of Hevea and oil palms were being developed during the 1960s. In Mayombé there are deposits of gold and diamonds and at Mfouati and Mindouli, near the railway, lead ores have been discovered, in addition to the already known copper ores. Processing industries have been developed at Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. In the 1960s it was planned to build a dam on the Kouilou (the lower reaches of the Niari), 55 mi. across country from Pointe-Noire, which would provide 7,000,000 kw.hr. for industry, including the aluminum industry at Pointe-Noire.

**Communications.**—The Republic of Congo has no natural outlet to the sea, so that transporting exports and imports presents great difficulties. The Congo, while navigable above Brazzaville, is not so downstream where it is, moreover, in former Belgian territory. The solution has been provided by the Congo-Océan railway, from Brazzaville to Pointe-Noire, which makes use of a deepwater port. The railway was begun in 1921 and finished in 1934 in spite of great difficulties; it is 321½ mi. long and equipped with diesel locomotives. This railway is supplemented by a river system, which is good on the Congo and the Ubangi and poorer on the Sangha, and by a road network, uneven in quality, of 4,878 mi. Air transport is used for valuable cargo, the main airport being at Maya-Maya 2½ mi. from Brazzaville. Exported products are principally wood, oils, lead, gold and cocoa and imports are food products and tools. (J. D.)

**CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE** (RÉ-PUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO), formerly the Belgian Congo, an independent country of Equatorial Africa, occupies the major part of the basin of the Congo River and a small part of the basin of the Upper Nile. Area 905,562 sq.mi. (2,345,408 sq.km.). Bounded on the west and southwest by Angola, it has a coastline of only 25 mi. (40 km.), extending north from the mouth of the Congo to the Angolan exclave of Cabinda; the southern bank of the Congo River mouth is in Angola. The republic is bounded northwest and north by the Congo (Republic) and the Central African Republic (formerly parts of French Equatorial Africa); northeast by Sudan; east by Uganda and Tanzania; and southeast by Zambia. Northeast of Lake Tanganyika are the Kingdom of Burundi and the Republic of Rwanda.

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## I. PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

The country generally comprises a plateau about 1,000 to 3,000 ft. (300 to 900 m.) above sea level covered with dense tropical rain forest in the north centre, and in the south covered mainly by park savanna with some forests in the valleys.

**1. Geology.**—The geology of the Congo is as yet incompletely known; the rocks are often very decomposed superficially and fossils are generally few or nonexistent. Two main unities can be recognized, the underlying and the covering formations. In addition, between Boma and the coast is a narrow littoral band of Secondary and Tertiary marine formations, with occasional bituminous seepage. The lower formations are often metamorphic and are of Precambrian Age, the oldest being more than 3,320,000,000 years old. They sometimes enclose granite masses.



Rocks of the basement crop out especially on the periphery of the Congo Basin, in Lower Congo and Mayumbe, south of the former Kasai, Katanga, and Kivu provinces, and the northern regions.

In southern Katanga folded Precambrian limestone and sandstone formations contain ores of copper, cobalt, uranium, lead, cadmium, and zinc. In northern Katanga and in Maniema the older formations contain cassiterite. Gold is found chiefly in the provinces of Kibali-Ituri, Nord-Kivu, and Kivu-Central.

Covering layers occupy vast surfaces. They include sands, clays, and sandstones and are almost always of continental origin, though there are traces of a marine invasion in the Cretaceous Period on the edge of Kasai, and in the Jurassic in the Stanleyville region. They were deposited from the end of the Primary Era (strata of the Lukuga series in Katanga enclose a little coal of low quality); their formations are chiefly Secondary (the Lualaba and Kwango series) and Tertiary (polymorphous sandstones and ochre sands belonging to the Kalahari System). More recent formations (late Tertiary and Quaternary) cover the centre of the basin and often show lateritic agglomerations near the surface.

The Congo Basin began to be formed in the Cretaceous Period. During the Tertiary, risings and sinkings formed the mountains and depressions of the eastern region. The volcanic manifestations of the region of Lake Kivu began at the close of the Tertiary and have continued until modern times.

**2. Physical Features.**—The Congo River (*q.v.*) flows through a vast basinlike plateau not exceeding 1,500 ft. (450 m.) above sea level at its central part, around Lakes Tumba and Léopold II. The river is 2,716 mi. (4,371 km.) long and drains an area of about 1,425,000 sq. mi. (3,690,750 sq. km.), of which two-thirds are within the republic. It leaves its basin by a gorge cut by rapids through a variegated region of crests and plateaus, often exceeding 1,500 or even 2,000 ft. (450 or 600 m.), and trending northwest to southeast. In this gorge are the Inga Rapids, one of the last cataracts of the Livingstone Falls, 25 mi. above Matadi. On the right bank below Matadi stretches the hilly region of Mayumbe. Southern Congo contains the plateau of Kwango (3,300 ft.) near the Angola border, and the Kasai and Katanga plateaus. The latter include the lesser plateaus of Elisabethville (3,600 ft.), Manika (4,800 ft.), Kundelungu (5,100 ft.), and Kibara (5,600 ft.) and enclose such depressions and plains as Kamalondo-Upemba, the Lufira Plain, Mweru Lake (Lac Moero), and the Luapula Valley. In the north low plateaus divide the Congo Basin from those of the Chad and the Nile. In the east, the edge of the basin has been steeply raised. A veritable mountain chain runs along the edge of the depressions which form part of the western Great Rift Valley. In these depressions are, from south to north, Lakes Tanganyika, Kivu, Edward, and Albert (*qq.v.*). To the north of Lake Kivu the volcanic cones of the Virunga rise above great fields of lava. Between Edward and Albert lakes the Ruwenzori Range (*q.v.*; the "mountains of the moon"), a horst of metamorphic rocks on the border with Uganda, forms the highest point of the region (Mt. Stanley, 16,763 ft. [5,109 m.]), the summit being covered by perennial snow. The central basin is a region of low plateaus and terraces, with little cliffs overhanging the sometimes marshy valleys.

**3. Climate.**—On and about the Equator the temperature varies little from day to day, the mean annual figure at Eala (0° 5' N) is 77° F (25° C), the hottest month being February. Greatest rainfall occurs in April–May and October–November, and the annual precipitation at Eala averages 71 in. (1,800 mm.). Southward the temperature increases in range and average, the double maximum of rainfall is strongly marked, and January and February tend to be less wet. There is a dry season (June, July, August). In the coast region washed by the cool Benguela Current and the southeast highlands there is a dry season from June to October; July and August are the coolest months. Farther south on the Katanga Plateau there is a wider range (16° F [9° C]) of temperature and a lower annual temperature (mean 68° F [20° C]); total rainfall may be 55 in. (1,400 mm.); little rain falls between May and September, but there is no double maximum.

**4. Vegetation.**—Rain forest occupies the north-central part

of the basin between latitude 4° N and 4° S and extends to the western and eastern boundaries. Describing the forests of the Maniema country, David Livingstone wrote:

Into these primeval forests the sun, though vertical, cannot penetrate, excepting by sending down at mid-day a thin pencil of rays into the gloom. The rain water stands for months in stagnant pools made by the feet of elephants. The climbing plants, from the size of a whipcord to that of a man-of-war hawser, are so numerous, that the ancient path is the only passage. When one of the giant trees falls across the road it forms a wall breast high to be climbed over, and the mass of tangled ropes brought down makes cutting a path round it a work of time which travellers never undertake.

Extensive forests also occur, to the north and south of the main forest, that are almost entirely composed of arborescent Leguminosae called *limbali*, about 100 ft. high, and in the basin of the upper Ituri-Aruwimi are vast stretches of Uganda ironwood. By the banks of the rivers occur the "gallery" formations.

In the equatorial forests an abundant variety of trees includes some deciduous ones among the evergreen. Up to 180 ft. or more in height, they are hung with lianas, while epiphytic mosses and lichens cling especially to the topmost leaves and branches where there is light. In the darkness below there is little undergrowth. The great mixture of trees includes the African oak, mahogany, red cedar, and walnut, the silk-cotton tree, and other economically valuable kinds. Among the climbing vines are Landolphas, which produce rubber. Where the original forest has been cleared, for food or timber, secondary forests arise. Typical of these are the oil palms with other small trees and undergrowth. In the lower courses of most rivers and other parts flooded during heavy rainfall, the forests consist of silk-cotton, copal (*Copaifera*), and evergreen leguminous trees; in the swamps and permanently flooded areas, they are largely composed of euphorbias.

Another type of forest is found in the south of Kwango and in Katanga: this is forest with little undergrowth, where the trees are smaller and more spaced and lose their leaves in the dry season; most of the trees belong to the legume family and include acacias, *Brachystegia*, *Isoberlinia*, and *Berlinia*. Other trees include *Uapaca*, *Monotes*, and *Sterculia*. On the higher lands of the east, and especially on the slopes of the Ruwenzori, there are ranged in tiers shade-loving mountain forest, dry forest, grasslands, sub-alpine formations, and alpine grassland. These mountains are well known for their tree heathers, tree lobelias, and giant groundsel. The low banks of the Congo Estuary bear red mangroves.

The equatorial forest is surrounded by a ring of savannas and steppes. The edge of the forest is much indented; toward the south it spreads into the valleys. Lower Congo, Kwango, Kasai, Katanga, and the northern regions are covered by vast savannas. The most frequent grasses are tall, like elephant grass. These savannas are dotted with low trees and stunted shrubs with knotted trunks, such as *Hymenocardia acida*, which is widespread.

**5. Animal Life.**—A distinction may be made between the animals of the forests and those of the open savannas and grasslands. Others inhabit both the dry forests of the Katanga and the eastern mountains. The forests are particularly the home of anthropoid apes and of many kinds of monkeys; chimpanzees are found in the equatorial forests, gorillas in the mountains of Mayumbe and Kivu, and baboons in the more open country. Among rare animals peculiar to the forest or scrub regions are the okapi, giant wild boar, pygmy elephant in the swamps, and white rhinoceros and giraffe in the northeast. Lions are found in Katanga and in the grasslands and scrub surrounding the great forest, leopards everywhere, and cheetah, zebra, wild dogs, and the black rhinoceros in Katanga. Elephants, wildcats, tiger cats, buffaloes, antelopes, and wild hogs are found in both wooded and open country. Hyenas, jackals, and civets are abundant, especially in the east. Smaller animals include porcupines, squirrels, rats, hares and rabbits, pangolins, and bats. Hippopotamuses and crocodiles are common in the rivers and huge manatees in the Lower Congo. Whales and dolphins are found off the coast.

The country, when administered by Belgium, had three national parks: in the north the Garamba near the Sudan border; the Upemba in Katanga; and in Kivu the Parc National Albert, the richest and most picturesque, which includes the Virunga (Birungu)



volcanoes, the Ruwenzori, and the Semliki Plain. (See NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE RESERVES.)

Bird life is abundant, though few of the birds are peculiar to the Congo. Pelicans frequent the larger rivers; cormorants, cranes, storks, herons, geese, ducks, vultures, eagles, owls, and bustards are more or less common, as are also the weaver and the whidah bird, cuckoos, pigeons, swifts, and the oxpecker. The spur-winged plover is the companion of the crocodile. There are more than 20 species of sunbirds and three or four species of parrots, the gray parrots being extremely common. Reptiles include pythons, the tree cobra, puff adder, and other vipers among snakes; tortoises, lizards, and chameleons. Lakes and rivers are well stocked with fish: catfish, electric eels, tiger fish, and many others.

Insects, including bees and wasps, beetles, butterflies and dragonflies of gorgeous colouring, are innumerable, as are centipedes (up to eight inches long), scorpions, and spiders. Termites and ants, including the driver ant, are common, and the "ant hills" of the termites are a characteristic feature of many parts of the country. Ticks and mosquitoes, often carriers of disease, are plentiful and include the disseminator of malaria; tsetse flies that carry sleeping sickness are also widely distributed. (HE. NI.)

## II. THE PEOPLE

The people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are subdivided into a great variety of well over 200 tribes, many of which may be grouped together into larger culture clusters. Most of the tribes speak various Bantu languages (*q.v.*) but in the northern Congo there are also Sudanic and Nilotic speakers (see AFRICAN LANGUAGES). Moreover, up to 300,000 Pygmies, who live in close contact with Bantu or Sudanese, whose languages they adopted, are dispersed throughout the Central Congo rain forest. The Congo tribes have widely different origins and many of them are culturally and historically linked to different groupings established in the neighbouring territories. The larger tribes include the Kongo, Luba, Lunda, Mongo, Nandi, Zande (Azande), Babwa, Lega, Kuba, Kumu-Bira, Ngbandi, Bwaka, Pende, and Tetela. All tribes are subdivided into many territorial and kinship groups and exhibit widely different cultural features.

Except for the greater part of the Pygmies, all Congo tribes now practise shifting hoe cultivation; more intensive agricultural systems have been introduced. The staple crops are bananas, manioc (cassava), maize (corn), millet, peanuts, yams, and beans. Palm groves cover large tracts of the Congo forests. Food gathering and hunting are still very important among the Pygmies and many Central Congo tribes, for whom hunting remains socially and ritually prominent. Fishing, too, is done on a considerable scale on the Congo River and its main tributaries, the great lakes, and the swamps. Most economic activities are shared by men and women according to a rigid pattern of labour division. Some eastern Congo people are sedentary pastoralists. Ownership and usage of land are generally controlled by local lineage groups, but eminent domain on land may reside with divine kings. Generally, individuals have secure title to land usage. Pottery, basketry, weaving, carving, and ironwork are highly developed. The use of gourds as vessels and of bark cloth and skins as clothing is widely distributed. Fine carvings in wood, ivory, and bone of masks, statues, seats, headrests, ceremonial axes, doors, etc., are known from many southern tribes.

The descent systems are of the patrilineal or matrilineal type; but double-descent systems and non-unilineal descent groups occur among some tribes; relationships based on affinity, complementary filiation, friendship, and various alliances are also common. Marriages are usually established by means of small or high marriage payments, but exchange marriages, elopement marriages, and replacement of wives do occur. Polygyny is common and widow's inheritance (brother's wife; father's wife; mother's brother's wife) is much practised. Preferential marriages, *e.g.*, between cross-cousins, and different forms of ritual marriages are permitted by some tribes. Formal age sets only exist in a few areas; closed associations, corporations, and cult groups have a large distribution. The political structures range from elementary band organization and small autonomous kinship groups to elaborate seg-

mentary structures, and from petty chiefdoms to large states with a feudal or military character and federative monarchies. Most Congo tribes practise ancestral cults and worship different kinds of spirits; there is also a general belief in a supreme being. In most societies special status is ascribed to twins, diviners, medicine men, rain-makers, and different kinds of specialized priests and shamans. Oral literature (myths, proverbs, legends, songs, tales, and epic cycles) is extremely rich, as are dancing and some other dramatic representations. About 4,000,000 Congolese now live under urban and semiurban conditions, but many of them have preserved close links with the people of their tribal region. (See also AFRICA: *Ethnography* [*Anthropology*]: *West Central Africa*.)

Prior to independence there were in the Congo about 580 Roman Catholic missions with more than 3,000 European and 780 African priests; there were also about 2,600 European and 750 African nuns. The number of African Roman Catholics was estimated at 4,220,440. Protestant missionaries belonging to many denominations exceeded 2,500 (about 1,500 European and 1,000 African). The number of Protestants was estimated at more than 800,000. There were also about 100,000 Muslims. (D. P. Br.)

## III. HISTORY

The history of the region prior to its becoming an independent republic in 1960 is to be found in the articles BELGIAN CONGO and AFRICA: *History: Central Africa*.

The resolutions of a Belgian-Congolese round-table conference on independence (January–February 1960) in Brussels were approved by the Belgian Parliament and from April 26 to May 16 an economic conference met there to agree on economic, financial, and social cooperation. The provisional constitution was signed on May 19, 1960, by King Baudouin (for details of the constitution see *Administration*, below). In the subsequent elections the Congo National Movement, led by Patrice Lumumba, emerged as the strongest party in both central and provincial assemblies and had the support of 74 out of the 137 seats in the House of Representatives. The first national government was formed on June 24, with Lumumba as prime minister. His political rival, Joseph Kasavubu, was elected head of state. On June 30 King Baudouin proclaimed in Léopoldville the independence of the new state.

Confusion developed almost at once in many areas and the situation became rapidly more serious with the mutiny of the Congolese Army. Moïse Tshombe, provincial president in Katanga, declared Katanga independent on July 11 and Belgian forces arrived there to protect Belgian mining interests. On July 14 the United Nations Security Council acceded to Lumumba's request to send a UN force to the Congo. Although there was a ready response to the request of the secretary-general, Dag Hammarskjöld, for military help, the UN force was handicapped by his insistence that, in accordance with the Charter of the UN, it must not become a party to internal conflict or influence the constitutional issues. Lumumba, therefore, could expect no help against the secessionist Katanga Province or any other rebels. When he then sought and received aid from the Soviet Union, Pres. Kasavubu on Sept. 5 dismissed him and appointed Joseph Iléo in his place. Lumumba might still have rallied widespread support if Radio Léopoldville had not been closed down by UN forces, for on Sept. 13 Parliament voted him full powers. On Sept. 14 the Army leader, Col. Joseph Mobutu, seized power with UN approval and dismissed the president and both prime ministers, though he later came to a working agreement with Kasavubu. Parliament no longer operated effectively and on Dec. 1 Lumumba was arrested by Mobutu's forces. He was later transferred to Katanga and it was announced on Feb. 13, 1961, that he had been killed after escaping.

The end of 1960 saw the Congo divided into various rival regions. Kasavubu and Mobutu held an uncertain authority in the provinces of Léopoldville and Equator; Antoine Gizenga, who had been deputy prime minister to Lumumba and had proclaimed himself Lumumba's successor, exercised from Stanleyville some influence over Eastern and Kivu provinces; Tshombe claimed to be head of the independent state of Katanga; and Albert Kalonji