

King Leopold II: Hero or Monster?

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Congo Free State, Africa -- By now, we have all heard the news and speculations, none of which we know to be true. I am here to tell you all that we have been fooled, and we played right into the grand master's hand. After hearing so many stories I had no choice but to see for myself. On September 26th, 1907 I was sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo to serve the truth to the people. What I saw, I will never be able to erase from my memory. The despicable acts that were being carried out by King Leopold's militia horrified me, some of which I cannot say. King Leopold manipulated the Congolese leaders and representatives. He took advantage of the fact that the Congolese people had no form of written language so they didn't understand that when they were signing "treaties", they were really signing away their rights to their land, their waterways, everything they owned, in exchange for things like pieces of cloth, beads, and gin. Little did we all know, this was only the beginning. When I arrived, I had no idea, the horrors that my very own eyes would soon uncover. What's done in the dark will soon come to light. The



people of the Congo are being forced into labor as slaves, orphaned children being turned into an army; their parents killed by King Leopold's militia. Children without their mothers and mother's without their children, women raped, women and men dying from exhaustion and starvation. Men dragged out of their villages and chained together by their necks. They were often beaten, in order to be controlled. Markings on the bodies of men, women and children caused by chicottes. Something like a whip, made from the hide of the hippopotamus. 25 whips could render someone unconscious, 100 resulting in death. Those who resisted often ended up with missing limbs or they were simply killed. All of this for the things people all over the world benefit from; copper, rubber, diamonds, etc. But to what extent would one go to obtain these resources? This is a crime against humanity, an injustice and the people of the Democratic Republic need our help, for they have been colonized and exploited by King Leopold and his army. The African people are not undergoing medical amputations

because of cancerous diseases, they are being cut off, orders from the king. So I am turning to the western governments to do something, to put an end to what seems to be the devil himself. It has been made to seem like King Leopold has stopped the slave trade, like transactions are being made peacefully, as if the acts of this man we call a King are charitable, when none of this is true. King Leopold has taken everything from the Congolese people and they are treated as if they are even less than animals. Help them, for this is pure cruelty and hatred in the flesh.