



The Democratic Republic of the Congo

A short timeline

- 1880s** — King Leopold II of Belgium establishes the “Congo Free State” as his personal colony, and ruthlessly exploits its vast natural resources through slave labor.
- 1908** — Congo is annexed by Belgium.
- 1960** — Congo gains independence from Belgium.



Source: AP Photo

Lumumba arrested for inciting army to revolt

Congo's first Prime Minister, Patrice Lumumba, is assassinated.

— **1961**



Source: AP Photo

Mobutu disembarking from his personal aircraft

- 1965** — Mobutu Sese Seko takes power in a military coup. Mobutu gets support from the West as an ally in the Cold War.



Source: AP Photo

Mobutu in the Oval Office with President George Bush

As the Cold War ends, Mobutu faces strong pressure to democratize and international donors cut off funding to his regime.

— **1991**



Source: AP Photo

Refugee children plead with soldiers to allow them to enter Zaire

- 1994** — Genocide in Rwanda kills at least 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus. The perpetrators of the genocide flee to Congo, where Mobutu allows them to launch attacks from Congo back into Rwanda.



Source: AP Photo

Mobutu poster burns among garbage in Zaire

Uganda and Rwanda invade Congo and support Congolese rebels in war against Mobutu's government.

— **1996**

Source: AP Photo



Congolese rebel soldiers on trucks in Kinshasa

After Kabila purges Rwandan elements from his government, Rwanda and Uganda re-invade Congo and set up proxy Congolese rebel groups. Zimbabwe, Angola, and Namibia intervene to support Kabila and loot Congo's natural resources. Conflict is dubbed "Africa's World War."

Source: AP Photo



Joseph Kabila receiving casket containing the body of his father

President Kabila is assassinated and replaced by his son, Joseph Kabila.

Joseph Kabila becomes Congo's first democratically-elected president since independence.

Visit www.raisehopeforcongo.org to learn more and join the movement!

Questions?

Email congocampaign@enoughproject.org.

Source: AP Photo



Kabila takes oath of office as President of newly renamed Congo

1997 — Congoese rebel leader Laurent-Désiré Kabila ousts Mobutu and assumes control of the country.

1998



Peacekeepers informing the population of militia disarmament deadlines

1999 — A ceasefire is signed in Lusaka in July, but fighting continues. A U.N. peacekeeping force, MONUC, deploys to the Congo.

2001

2002

A peace agreement signed in South Africa leads to the withdrawal of most foreign troops, but several militias continue to fight in eastern Congo.

2006



Internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Kibumba

2008

After a botched offensive, Kabila signs a ceasefire with rebel militias in the East. Fighting and atrocities persist, with thousands more people forced to flee their homes.

Source: Candice Knezovic