

## Conflict

Colonialism was, from its origins, conflict waiting to happen. Colonialism took its impulse from one settled community's gradual power grab over another. Such grabs were of many kinds—military to economic—but inevitably served the interests of the more powerful social entity. The conflict resulting from this disparity had no built-in terminus, nor was the degree of hostility involved predictable. One can consider the play-out of conflict in post-colonial Africa, dating from the middle of the nineteenth century. By that time the British, the French, Portuguese, Italians, Belgians and the Dutch all owned colonies in Africa. Each of those colonies left a personal trademark on its particular territory. There were examples, like the French occupation of Cote d'Ivoire, in which everything from bedtime to taxation systems was based on practice in Paris. The example radiated out onto colonies like Cameroon, which were divided into two mothering controls, French and English, and in turn generated a language built on two roots. Some master cultures, like Belgium and England, imposed harsh and exploitive regimes on their colonies, and harvested expectable hit back from the stubborn and proud colonized. Crossing the Atlantic to Native America, we find interrelations, between White Colonizers and Red Skin colonized, which for long periods simply froze into Cold War, and in the end degraded both colonizer and colonized.

Whereas there was something to say for the mid-nineteenth century impulses of Colonialism—some of the achievements current in the west were turned to the advantage of less developed communities, while the more 'advanced' cultures served as educational stepping stones for less advantageously placed but highly talented 'colonials'—the overall resultant of Colonialism in the West was a harvest of resentment and conflict.