Heart of Darkness in Its Late-Nineteenth Century Context

How does Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* exemplify (or relate to and explain) the relations between Europe and the rest of the World in the late-19th century? Analyze the novella using at least 7 of the contemporary documents and photographs provided in the appendices of the Goonetilleke edition as context. What specific links can you make between the documents from the period and the novella itself. The essay should have a thematic focus: say, imperialism, or industrialism, or late-19th century racial theory, or Social Darwinism. The essay is relatively brief, but should be focused and thoughtful. Background may be provided from Palmer/Coulton/Kramer or Web, but must be referenced (see below).

The essay (5 pages–about 1,000-1,250 words, 15% of final grade) should be typed (12-point font), double-spaced, and use a clear and consistent form of referencing (see citation guide at [http://ux1.eiu.edu/~nekey/citate.htm](http://ux1.eiu.edu/~nekey/citate.htm)). Include page numbers for quotes and the title and date of each source used/cited from the appendices. Sources from book may be inserted in parentheses. Thus: Mark Twain wrote satirically as King Leopold denying the reports of “my ‘Congo butchers’” (Twain, *King Leopold’s Soliloquy*, 1905, p. 221).

Select Bibliography


