

His 3555, Paper 1, due 26 Oct. 2006

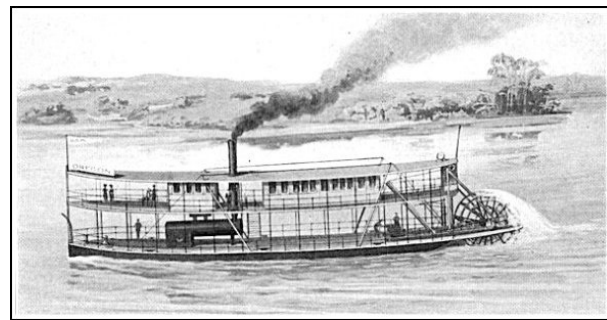
*Heart of Darkness* in Its Late-Nineteenth Century Context



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>). 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

Jonah Raskin, “Imperialism: Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 2, 2 (1976): 113-31. [recommended]

Angus Mitchell, “New Light on the ‘Heart of Darkness,’” *History Today* (Dec. 1999): 20-27. [more about Roger Casement and Leopold II than about Conrad]

R.R. Palmer, Joel Colton, and Lloyd Kramer, *A History of the Modern World, Since 1815*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed. (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2002), 610-619 (Social Darwinism, Nietzsche, and late-19th century thought), 629-659 (Imperialism and the Scramble for Africa)

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, ed. by D.C.R.A. Goonetilleke, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Peterborough: Broadview, 1999), also 9-27 (intro on imperialism), app. B (reviews), app. C (documents)