

The scramble for Africa, geopolitics and global balance of power

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In the late 1800s and early 1900s, European nations engaged in a fierce struggle to conquer and rule over African territories, known as the "Scramble for Africa" (Harlow and Carter 2003). This ensuing race for Africa and the disastrous effects of colonial power, however, sometimes overshadow the pre-colonial African era in dominant historical narratives. The power battle for Africa had far-reaching geopolitical implications (Yuhannan 2016: 64) and was crucial in determining the balance of power in the world (Stelios and Elias 2011). This study aims to explore the complex dynamics of the Scramble for Africa, elucidating the fragmented precolonial African society, the geopolitical aspects, the power struggles among European countries, and their impact on Africa. Additionally, this paper offers a thorough examination of the Scramble for Africa, highlighting its effects on European attempts to gain control over the poor, politically, and economically unstable continent of Africa, as well as the global power structure. To understand the intentions and deeds of European powers during this period, the study utilises archival research to examine primary sources, including historical documents, letters, official records, and interviews regarding the Berlin Conference (1884–1885) and colonial agreements. All things considered, this paper recommends that in the wake of the renewed race for Africa in the 21st century, which is motivated by a range of actors and their interests in the continent's resources and geopolitical significance, African states must create their own indigenous identities, cultures, technologies, economies, educational systems, crafts, and religions. These must all be interwoven with good governance to overcome the historical factors that impede Africa from developing.

Keywords: Scramble, Balance of Power, Africa, Geopolitics

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