



# Heart of Darkness

Lost Culture

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# Art

- Exportation of both art and materials used to make art made it difficult to continue creating the things needed for ceremonies and daily life.
- Exportation included gold and ivory
- Materials commonly used in art style: Gold, ivory, copper, bronze, tin, feathers, wood, bark, and clay.
- Keep in mind that just because they are not mentioned to have been exported, doesn't mean they weren't.



# **EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF ART AND THEIR USES**

- Carved wooden headrest from the Luba, Congo.



- Mbao wooden game board




- Decorative Helmet mask from the Kuba, Congo.



- Carved wooden hair comb from the Luba, Congo



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- Even today, while we discuss rights over ownership of art, it is still being sold on auctioning websites. Such as:
    - <http://www.kashgar.com.au/products/Sold-Out>
    - <http://www.ebay.com/bhp/african-tribal-art>
  - There are also sites where people can enter themselves as collectors of these art forms for their own use or to be displayed in their private collections.

# Art

- From the point of view of the Europeans, art from the people of the Congo were almost indistinguishable.
- Each colony had a distinct form of art
- Upon examination, one will see that each tribe had a noticeably different style

# Teke Masks






# Luba Masks




# Kuba Masks




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- Many of the artistic pieces in Africa were designed for practical use.
  - Masks were for ceremonies and rituals
  - As Europeans introduced their technology, many forms of art and culture were lost to the European culture.

- Carved wooden colonial soldier made in the Belgian Congo



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- European Colonizers did lead to a certain amount of destruction of the peoples individual forms of expression.


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- In heart of Darkness, it is evident that the people of the Congo are not only losing touch with their culture, but also with their forms of expression
  - Marlow observed a Tribal dance on the shore and was held from the urge to go ashore by the physical barrier of the boat on the river.
  - Many members of the crew were distanced from their own culture by the boat.

# RELIGION


- Spiritual traditions in the Congo tribes indicate that they center around different aspects of nature and deities.

Nyambe



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- The religion is recognized in three levels of spirit:
    - God and the first creator
    - Spirits given dominions over territories and elements
    - Spirits of great ancestors
  - They also believed in “Ashe” or “Force”



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- Often performed ceremonies of divination
    - Played a major role in ridding oneself of negative or confused thoughts into clearer and more organized ones.

# RELIGION

- Throughout the novella, religion is never fully addressed
- When the Europeans took power in Africa, the mixing of cultures created proximity in values, customs and behaviors

- Marlow is implied to be like Buddha
  - His posture and physical appearance resemble that of an idol
    - *"...lifting one arm from the elbow, the palm of his hand outwards, so that, with his legs folded before him, he had the pose of Buddha preaching in European clothes and without a lotus flower"* (4)
    - *"Marlow ceased, and sat apart, indistinct and silent, in the pose of a meditating Buddha"* (72)





HEART OF DARKNESS

[WELL]

- Kurtz is seen to be a visionary, or a 'God' when compared to European Christianity
  - This is seen right away as soon as the crew enters his territory
- Everyone is made to appear as if they worship Kurtz
  - Seen to be like a savior to the people
    - Marlow is one of the few to see right through him

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