

- Henry Morton Stanley was getting married, and had many African adventures. He received many expensive gifts and was ill on the day.
- At war in Stanley all his life were the craving for acceptance and the fear of intimacy.
- Stanley had a disrespectful and violent exploration in the Congo.
- Sheppard, a black American, could go to the Congo with the white supremacist Alabama Senator John Tyler Morgan because they both wanted blacks to go back to Africa. The whites saw after slavery was abolished they didn't want them there anymore and blacks wanted to escape the humiliating barriers of segregation.
- The white man gained an admiration for Sheppard after getting to know him, something he couldn't have had in the US.
- Sheppard was the first black American missionary in the Congo.
- The Kuba were happy with their existing way of life, and despite their friendliness toward Sheppard, showed little interest in Christianity.
- The discovery and need for rubber led the Europeans and Leopold into Africa.
- Leopold went into the Congo for economic purposes and to cultivate rubber trees.
- To get things they kidnapped people and took prisoners, and then they sent the oldest woman to the chief to begin negotiations.
- Men would abuse the trees killing many vines to get as much rubber as they could, and the entire system was militarized.
- Wherever rubber vines grew, the population was tightly controlled.
- The state and the companies generally paid villagers for their rubber with a piece of cloth, beads, a few spoonfuls of salt, or a knife, which cost next to nothing.
- They killed many Africans in the process and would cut off the hands and smoke them for preservation as proof of their kills.
- If a village refused to submit to the rubber regime, state or company troops or their allies sometimes shot everyone in sight, so that nearby villages would get the message.
- Sheppard was not the first foreign witness to see severed hands in the Congo, nor would he be the last, but the articles he wrote that were reprinted in Europe and the US let more people know about it.
- Soldiers even made young men kill or rape their own mothers and sisters.
- When villagers in a desperate attempt to meet the weight quota, turned in rubber mixed with dirt or pebbles, they made them eat it.