

Nights at the Round Table

"The Berlin Conference 1884"



Tracy-D.W.



History is...a matter of fact or perspective?

(Tracy D. Williams)



Copyright

'Nights at the Round Table'- The Berlin Conference 1884 is published by Tracy D Williams as part of the 'Stories to be tolled' series for Barbara E. Vince Publishing

Copyright ©Tracy D Williams 2020.

All Rights Reserved.

Tracy D Williams has asserted her right under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as the author of this work.

No Part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the publisher.

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not by way of trade or otherwise be leant, re-sold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher or copyright holder's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition and without a similar condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

Other titles in the 'Stories to be tolled' series:

Caribbean-'Wind'

Caribbean-'Rush'

Gone with the Wind?-Macmillan's Speech
for Change

Introduction

In 1837 Britain passed laws to abolish slavery throughout the British Empire. This left Britain with the problem of how to end the transportation of Africans to America, Asia and the Caribbean and use the trading ports that it had established along the west and southern coast of Africa to develop more 'legitimate' forms of trade.

From the dawn of civilization, Africa's continent consisted of highly diverse and sophisticated social and political structures ranging from communities that were hunter gatherers all the way up to rural villages, city states and large empirical civilizations. The second chapter in this story '*The interlude from 1493*' is a passage that pays homage to this reality. The second chapter is an example that introduces a focus on one particular West African Kingdom and shows that Africa was not in need of European intervention in order to advance. Up until 1837, Africa's inland interior had been practically unexplored by Europeans.

From the 1840s onwards Britain along with the Portuguese, Dutch, French and Italians began various expeditions to establish trade with indigenous tribes. This led to Europeans creating treaties which took land away from the indigenous population once gold and diamonds had been discovered.

This claim for the right to establish land territories across the African continent created many disputes between European nations; mainly Britain and Portugal. To address the issue of territorial rights to Africa a conference was called in Berlin in 1884 attended by all Western nations and overseen by the German Chancellor Otto von Bismark. From this point on Africa was never the same again...

Chapter 1

Tell the Story...

The rise and fall of Africa is a legendary and apocalyptic tale.

A time of conflict through which the powers of Europe prevailed.

It's a tale of sadness, woe and beguile of how the Mother Land became torn,

Through the ruthless, calculative drive to drain her of riches, jewels and
moors.

Apart from its ports in the north and south it was relatively unexplored.

But acknowledged for its natural resources and human population as a large
labour source.

King Leopold of Belgium and Henry Morton Stanley wrote the prelude to
this play,

When they explored the Congo basin; too many others felt left out of the
game.

Nights at the Round Table - The Berlin Conference 1884

Stanley's charting of the Congo River formed the boundaries, drew the lines.

To mark out what the English, French and Portuguese had all desired.

1st German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck led the charge and bestowed to each their role.

There was only one aim; to eliminate all minor powers and indigenous control.

Visit our website <https://storiestobetolled.com> by clicking the link below where you can check out the learning journey, podcast and other resources related to this story.

Continue your Learning Journey...

Using Resources:

Name the countries that attended the Berlin Conference in 1884?

Look at the map :

Look at the map of Africa and identify which colonies were claimed by Britain, Portugal and France.

Give your opinion :

Which African countries did not come under European control? What do you think were the reasons for this?

What happened next?:

How did the new land boundaries imposed by the Europeans affect the lives of Africans? Give three examples using any area of the continent.

Where to find us...

Visit us: <https://storiestobetolled.com>

Follow us: facebook@Storiestobetolled.com

Instagram@stories2betolled.com

Contact us: info@storiestobetolled.com

About the Author:



Tracy DW (Tracy D Williams) was born and raised in Bedfordshire, UK. She is a primary school Deputy Headteacher with more than 15 years of experience of working in schools across central London within the boroughs of Brent, Westminster and Hackney. Tracy's inspiration for 'Stories to be tolled' derives from her interest in history and her project work with organisations such as the 'Nubian Jak Community Trust.' Tracy enjoys fitness and well-being and also has a passion for music and the arts; as a songwriter and recording artist her music is available on all streaming platforms.

'History is...a matter of fact or perspective' (Tracy DW)

Influenced by her work in school on Black History projects and a desire to see a global approach and a balance of perspective in teaching history, Tracy DW presents '*Nights at the Round Table-The Berlin Conference 1884*'

This is the third story to be published in the 'Stories to be tolled' series on what is often referred to as the 'Scramble for Africa'; a period in history which saw the reconstruction of a continent's geographical boundaries, the exploitation of its natural resources and the destruction of its social, moral and political structures.

Guiding the reader through key events and mile stones in the Empire Phenomenon, 'Stories to be tolled' is a poetic narrative on Britain's colonial past; presenting a perspective on why the British took control of so many countries, how it maintained its power and its impact on the many ethnicities and cultures that were changed forever.

