



From World War I to Present:
*The Long Road to Self-determination and
the Geopolitical Empowerment of Africa*

Colloquium 26 April 2018
In commemoration of World War I
Royal Higher Institute for Defence (RHID)
(In Dutch, English and French, with translation)

13:00 – 13:30 **REGISTRATION**

13:30 – 13:45 **WELCOME ADDRESS**

Director-general, Royal Higher Institute for Defence

13:45 – 14:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Ambassador Ahmad Awad SAKINE,
Permanent Representative of the African Union to the European Union (TBC)

14:00 – 16:00 **PANEL 1**

**A historical perspective on the role and effects of the two world wars on the
spirit of self-determination and the decolonisation of Africa**

Role and Place of Colonial Empires and African Resources in War Efforts
Colonial Empires after the War, the Post-War Crisis of Empires/Decolonisation

CHAIR - Mr Alain De Nève (Centre for Security and Defence Studies, RHID)

Mobilising and demobilising the colonies

(or “Soldiers of Empire”): Colonial soldiers in WW1 (14:00 – 14:30)

*Contribution by indigenous soldiers to war efforts – How did colonial empires
mobilized and adapted to fight the conflict? – How did the use of colonial
soldiers contribute to shape post-war political agitation and the spirit of self-
determination in colonial territories?* (14:00 – 14:30) TBD

**Colonial administration, Indirect rule and the advent of the post-
colonial state in Africa** (14:30 – 15:00)

*Assessing shifts in the nature of colonial rule in the wake of the Great War:
Historical perspectives on exploitation and role of African resources in wartime
political economy; impact of wartime colonial economic orders on the politics of
indigenous self-determination, anti-colonialism and the post-colonial State*

Prof. Dr. Véronique DIMIER (Université libre de Bruxelles)

Britain, France and the Decolonisation of Africa: Future Imperfect?

*How the Second World War decolonized Africa? The effects of WWII on the
spirit of self-determination. The dividing of a continent and Europe’s “protected
zones of influence”* (15:00 – 15:30)

Prof. Dr. Michael COLLINS (University College London)

Q&A (15:30 – 16:00)

BREAK



16:15-17:45 **PANEL 2**

Post-Decolonization: Implications of the geopolitical and economic constraints for building up sovereignty, peace and development

Drivers and impediments to sustainable self-determination. Conditions for geopolitical empowerment and the legacy of great power politics.

CHAIR (Centre for Security and Defence Studies, RHID)

Why Europe intervenes in Africa: Security, prestige and the legacy of colonialism (16:15 – 16:45)

Europe's economic policies and military interventions in Africa, and their impact on the endowment of Africa. Navigating between convenient relations, mutual interests and neo-colonial constraints.

Prof. Dr. Catherine GEGOUT (University of Nottingham)

China's evolving role in peacekeeping and the security of Africa

Assessment of China's presence and security cooperation as a "new partner" for Africa; impact on former colonial powers' interests and policies, and the "geopolitical empowerment" of the continent? (16:45 – 17:15)

Dr. Frans-Paul van der PUTTEN (Clingendael Institute)

Natural resources and conflict in Africa: The tragedy of endowment

The impact of the conflict-development nexus on the difficult enactment of sustainable self-determination; resource-fuelled conflicts and political transitions in Africa: Ways Ahead (17:15 – 17:45)

Prof. Dr. Abiodun ALAO (King's College London)

Q&A (17:45 – 18:15)

18:15-18:30 **CLOSING REMARKS**

18:30-19:45 **RECEPTION**