

Emmanuel Gerard and Bruce Kuklick. *Death in the Congo: Murdering Patrice Lumumba*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015. Pp. 276. Hardcover. \$24.34.

Emmanuel Gerard at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and Bruce Kuklick at the University of Pennsylvania, collaborated to write an account of the events that led to the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the first democratically elected prime minister of Congo. The murder of Lumumba is an example of the continued violence that has plagued this African state since its inception as a Belgian colony until today. The authors demonstrate the chaos of a state without a self-governing society and how democratically-elected governments used violence for political expediency. Through the use of memoirs by agents of the CIA and the Belgian government, photographs from multiple sources such as the U.S. State Department Archives, documents from the United Nations and newly released Foreign Relations of the United States Series, the authors argue that all of the accused groups were responsible for having a part in the assassination of Lumumba after years of denial.

Patrice Lumumba, for a brief time, became the focal point of the violence that resulted from years of colonialism and Cold War politics in Congo. In 1960, the Belgian government under King Baudouin reluctantly granted independence to Congo after years of colonial rule marked by cruelty and violence. Heading the newly formed government was the charismatic Patrice Lumumba who became Congo's first prime minister. During the independence celebration, Lumumba criticized Belgian rule in his country and praised the sacrifice that his countrymen endured to gain their independence. With his speech, Lumumba became a target of Belgium, fearing that he would eliminate Belgian interests in the country. After its independence, Congo faced problems from within as the newly-formed army mutinied against the government. Katanga, a mineral-rich province, seceded with the backing of Belgium officers stationed in Congo. Lumumba and his government asked the United Nations to send troops. When the United States discovered that Lumumba was aided by the Soviet Union, the U.S. government under President Eisenhower, together with the Belgians, conspired to remove Lumumba from power.

He was ousted by Congolese President Kasa-Vubu and sent to house arrest under the United Nations. Lumumba tried to escape, but was soon discovered by Colonel Joseph Mobutu with the aid of the CIA under Larry Devlin. On January 17, 1961, Lumumba, together with Maurice Mpolo and Joseph Okito, were killed by the Katangan troops and supervised by Belgian agents.

The book is divided into twelve chapters. Gerard and Kuklick state that four groups were responsible for Lumumba's death: the local Congolese leaders, the Belgians, the United Nations, and the United States. Their findings were collaborated by the Church Commission in 1975, the 2001 Belgian Parliament inquiry of which Gerard was a member, and the newly-released Foreign Relations of the United States Series in 2013. One of the book's strengths is the portrayal of Patrice Lumumba. Most of the scholarly works about Lumumba depict him as a martyr. However, Gerard and Kuklick address Lumumba's shortcomings and political miscalculations. Moreover, they also include each faction's motives and actions. Finally, Gerard and Kuklick ask questions that might expand the dialogue over Lumumba's death. For example, they question whether President Kennedy was involved with the assassination which happened days after his inauguration.

Gerard and Kuklick omit a much-needed discussion of post-colonialism or Cold War ideology. The authors' use of endnotes is a minor problem when reading the text and finding the source of their arguments. This book is an addition to the study of post-colonialism, African nationalism, and Cold War history. Historians will find this book useful in understanding African history and international relationships. Years after Lumumba's death, his ideas of Pan-Africanism are still popular with many Africans. His story is also a warning of how democratically-elected governments conducted criminal actions that were antithetical to their own democratic values and reminds us as that citizens, we should be aware of our own government's actions.

*Jose Pascual*