

Content

Acknowledgements | 7

**Introduction: Shifting Perspectives on the Congo:
Re-Reading Central West Africa** | 9

History in “Trans- Mode” | 9

Towards the Congo: Central West Africa as a U.S. American Real-and-
Imagined Geography | 14

Towards Congoism: The Congo as an Imaginative Geography | 25

Dissecting Congoism: Methodology, Methods, Sources | 34

**First Chapter. From Slave to Savage:
The Realization of a Topos (1800-1885)** | 53

Radical Discourse in Radical Times: An Introduction | 53

Division in Black and White: Race, Class,
and Gender Struggles | 57

Absence: Ignorance and Slave Epistemology | 74

Presence: Imperial Epistemology and the Congo’s Re-Emergence
in Postbellum America | 96

Congoist Strategies in the Age of Discursive Extremes:

A Conclusion | 127

**Second Chapter. Between Art and Atrocity:
Epistemic Multiplication and Standardization (1885-1945)** | 135

Textual Pluralization and the Dawn of New Epistemologies:
An Introduction | 135

Supremacy in Theory and Practice: Social Darwinism in the
Age of Competition and Genocide | 139

Fresh Topoi, New Epistemologies, Old Meanings | 178

Picturing Congoism: A Conclusion | 235

Third Chapter. Revolution, Reform, Reproduction: Strategies and Limitations for Change (1945-Present) | 243

Freedom Matters: An Introduction | 243

Brothers in Arms: Activist Negation and Metareflection | 247

Global Sisterhood: “Everydaying” the Congo and the Failed Strategy of Selective Silence | 277

Subaltern Congoism | 292

Congoism, Class, Creativity: A Conclusion | 299

Conclusion. Doing Damage, or Re-Writing Central West Africa | 303

References | 319