Ben Casparius

AAAD 101

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Lesson 5

1. What does Mudimbe mean by the “colonizing structure,” and in what ways did it reinforce colonial othering and misrepresentation of Africans?

Mudimbe references the term, “colonizing structure” which “embraces the physical, human, and spiritual aspects of the colonizing experience” (15). Colonization plays an important role in the African’s lives and culture. By stating it disrupts human, physical, and spiritual aspects of life, it is interrupting their physical and mental well being. Europeans basically did everything in their power to dehumanize the African race. They saw them as less and unequal. This mainly came from the European colonial organization. This gave them the ability to hold and exceed control. They demanded authority overseas, while polishing off their power over Africa and its government. What it mainly came down to was advancement within both regions. Europe was able to expand because technologically, and within their military, they were light years ahead of the African people.

1. According to Grinker et al., how did European colonial anthropology reinforce othering and stereotyping of Africans?

Grinker describes Colonial anthropology as corruption within the information from European’s mainly about Africa as a whole. This corruption was used for European’s to gain support while taking over Africa. They refered to African’s as violent and their propaganda stated Africa was way more underdeveloped than it really was. In the Production of “Yellow Journalism”, one of the reasons these false accusations about the African people occurred was because European translators did a poor job of understanding and reiterating the African language. Rather than understanding, they made assumptions about what the words meant, which ultimately created a more bias opinion. The European’s acted as the “good guys” due to their belief in enforcing Christianity and iunteligence on the African people. Although this was true in order to gain support of their involvenemnt in Africa, it was justified and taken over by their violent and harmful actions.