



La Repubblica Democratica del Congo: conflitti e problematiche socio-territoriali
Francesco De Pascale, Luca Jourdan, Kalenge Nguvulu Chris (Eds.)

The Congolese national army. Past and present problems

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Abstract

This chapter aims to shed light on the problems afflicting the Congolese national army. Since its establishment in the colonial era, the Congolese armed forces represented a preponderant agent of internal destabilization and a threat to civilians. The analysis will focus firstly on the Force Publique, which was the main instrument of an extremely violent colonial domination. Secondly, I will focus on the Mobutu dictatorship which exacerbated clientelism and internal divisions in the armed forces. Finally, I will concentrate on current events showing how internal divisions, corruption and disorganization have been allowing the perpetration of the armed forces' destabilizing agency. Peace in the Congo calls for the establishment of a minimally efficient national army, which is an unavoidable but still distant goal.

Keywords: Congo, army, Force Publique, Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo

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