

## 34. Troubles Following Independence

Soon after independence, troubles began in many African nations.

In Algeria, independence was gained in 1962, followed by revolution in 1965.

In 1960 the Belgian Congo became independent. The 1960's were turbulent times for the newly-independent state. The army mutinied only months after independence, and rebellions dislocated missions. Two hundred Roman Catholic priests and workers and fifty Protestant missionaries were killed in the turmoil. Patrice Lumumba, a few weeks before his untimely death, said, "I'm not a communist. I'm an African. I'm against both communism and imperialism."<sup>i</sup>

In 1965 the dictator president Mobutu Sese Seko seized control. In the years of his control, church life revolved around the officially approved and monitored ECA (Church of Christ of Zaire), not a denomination or a church, but a government-approved umbrella organization which represented Protestant churches to the government. This system began in 1971 with the Roman Catholic Church, the Kimbanguist Church and the ECZ being recognized by the government. The Greek Orthodox Church was also recognized in 1972. At the time of the recognition of the ECZ, over 500 indigenous churches were unrepresented and thus unrecognized. The problem grew in the years following, as the government specifically named unrecognized groups, declaring them illegal.

In 1962, the Rwandan Hutus slaughtered 150,000 Tutsis at independence.

In 1969 Colonel Muammar Gaddafi seized control of Libya in a military junta.

That same year, Congo-Brazzaville declared itself a Marxist-Leninist state, the first in Africa.

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<sup>i</sup> The Importance of Being Black, p. 176.