

HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY KNOW ABOUT WORLD WAR II?

Africa and World War II: In Cinema and Literature

508: 327 –W1:10-4:10 PM Campbell A-2

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11th East African Division vs Japanese Army January 1945

- Ethiopian women guerillas fought Mussolini's Fascist occupation 1935-41.
- The French army included over 100,000 Africans who played a prominent role in liberating France.
- Freetown, Sierra Leone in West Africa serviced over 200 convoys a week with water, fuel, food.
- Egyptians supplied labor, transport, scientific support, media surveillance for the North African campaign included
- Roosevelt secretly violated the Neutrality Laws and employed Pan-Am pilots to bring planes to Churchill's 'Army of the Nile' using a West African route - The Takoradi Route – through Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, & Chad.
- From 1940-43 De Gaulle's Free France capital was in Brazzaville, Congo.

This course acknowledges the engagement of Africa in the global World War II. It complements the narrative of European and U.S. history of the war by documenting the critical involvement of Africa in World War II. Colonial Africans were drafted for war, forced to grow food supplies, subjected to severe shortages and taxes and fought heroically in various theaters of the war. The rich history of this involvement is portrayed in film, literature and archival documents that deepen our understanding of the political role of the war and the end of empire after the war. By late 1960 most African colonies were independent. The course includes North Africa as well as 'sub-Saharan' Africa.

Requirements : a midterm exam, several short papers on film and novels, and a class presentation.