



Colonialism and Post-Colonialism in Africa POSSIBLE ARGUMENTATIVE CLAIMS

Debatable Issue

European colonialism in Africa was established and maintained in bad faith: it was an expression of rapacious and barbaric self-interest, and had very little to nothing to do with the ideals of civilization, education, religion, or even evolution.

Possible Argumentative Claims

Affirmative

European colonialism was too brutal and violent, and killed too many Africans, to possibly be motivated by a desire to improve the lives of Africans.

The activities and institutions of European colonialism were organized around greed.

African colonialism was part of European countries' broader competition with each other over world power, not over helping other countries.

European colonists were racists.



Negative

European leaders believed that their civilization would help improve the lives of tribal Africans who lacked advanced learning.

European colonization reformed itself in certain ways that wouldn't have happened if it been purely about greed and brutality.

Violence and conflict over the resources that Africa had were inevitable and were a product of human nature, not anything particular about European colonialism.

Religious beliefs of the period were real and genuinely motivated at least part of the European colonialist project.