

of bringing about the ending of apartheid. As such it is a necessary, unsettling, difficult antidote to comfortably anodyne versions of post-apartheid South Africa.

HAIDEE KRUGER

*Macquarie University and North-West University*

## DOCUMENTING VIOLENCE

*Daniel J. Danielsen and the Congo: Missionary Campaigns and Atrocity Photographs.*

By Óli Jacobsen.

Ayrshire, Scotland: Brethren Archivists and Historians Network, 2014. Pp. 200. No price given, paperback (ISBN 978-0-9570177-4-0).

doi:10.1017/S0021853716000487

**Key Words:** Zaire, archives, labour, missions, violence.

Daniel J. Danielsen (1871–1916) was a pioneer of the Brethren movement in the Faroe Islands. Earlier in his career, between 1901 and 1903, he served as an engineer and lay preacher for the Congo Balolo Mission (CBM), a British-run organization that recruited missionaries from Hartley College, London, to serve in various stations in King Leopold II of Belgium's Congo Free State. He also steered the ship that took Roger Casement on his famous consular tour of investigation, which confirmed the widespread existence of colonial abuses in the Upper Congo in 1903. Casement's report initiated the events that would lead to Belgian annexation of the territory in 1908. As its title makes clear, Óli Jacobsen's book is mainly focused on the central African part of Danielsen's career, though a shorter second section covers his missionary work in the Faroe Islands. This review centers on Part One, 'Congo Missionary and Campaigner' and its accompanying appendices.

Jacobsen brings to light Danielsen's role in the emergence of the Congo reform movement. The book makes two main 'discoveries' that are likely to be of interest to historians of the Congo Free State and the campaign against it. First, Danielsen took some of the most famous 'atrocity photographs', photographs that were subsequently attributed to other British missionaries. Jacobsen convincingly suggests that the Congo reformers deliberately attributed these images to other more respectable missionaries rather than to Danielsen, who left the Congo under the accusation of violent treatment of African workers on his steamship. Second, Danielsen held the earliest public meetings – in Scotland and the Faroes – to raise public awareness of colonial abuses. The book is not without other insights; Jacobson reveals that *Bokwala: The Story of a Congo Victim* (1910), an anonymous anti-Leopoldian propaganda text promoted as the *Uncle Tom's Cabin* of the day by Congo reformers, had been authored by missionary Lily Ruskin. Jacobsen's slim volume is lavished with eighty illustrations, and though many are low resolution and some are of questionable relevance, others are rarely seen in print. Scholars of Casement will find insights in the chapter about his 1903 tour.

Even within its modest confines the book has limitations. There are a number of typographical errors and occasional misspellings. Unfortunately, several endnotes for

Chapters Four to Seven are incorrectly sequenced and/or misattributed, which limits the appeal of this work to teachers of undergraduate students and undermines its documentary function. In terms of analysis, the author passes up opportunities to engage in historical debates on violence in the Congo and he glosses the context of Danielsen's work in quite a basic fashion at times. For example, Chapter Two covers the charges of brutality leveled against Danielsen by a West Indian missionary named Terence B. Sawyers. Use of the *chicotte* whip upon Congo peoples by the very missionaries who later criticised the Leopoldian regime merits further attention. Jacobsen reproduces proceedings from the CBM's in-house inquiry into the matter. However, his analysis of the inquiry, though even-handed, is confined to rather speculative comments. In exploring the grounds for the defense of Danielsen, Jacobsen points to numerous tributes to Danielsen as one who worked hard, sometimes selflessly, to highlight the wrongs of the 'red rubber' years. But righteous indignation against a corrupt system does not rule out the witness's own interpersonal cruelty. Atonement for his own roughness may even have been a motive for his speaking out. The ideological positioning of British missions and their workers in the Congo, and the kinds of pressure under which evangelists spoke out against injustices, requires more in-depth analysis than is attempted by Jacobsen.

It is clear nevertheless that Danielsen played an unrecognized role in providing assistance in and documentary materials for what would become the Congo reform campaign. Casement certainly thought highly of him. Jacobsen's study of this obscure Faroese traveler to central Africa is further evidence of the transnational character of both Leopold's colony and the organizations and networks that opposed it.

ROBERT BURROUGHS  
*Leeds Beckett University*

## EUROPEAN OFFICIALS AND AFRICAN REFORMERS

*Making Modern Girls: A History of Girlhood, Labor, and Social Development in Colonial Lagos.*

By Abosede G. George.

Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2014. Pp. x + 301. \$80, hardback (ISBN 978-0-8214-2115-4); \$32.95, paperback (ISBN 978-0-8214-2116-1).

doi:10.1017/S0021853716000499

**Key Words:** Nigeria, children, gender, social, labour, reproduction, sexuality, modernity, trade, urban.

Abosede G. George has produced a readable and important study tracing the efforts of Nigerian and British reformers to restrict and reshape the social and economic life of girls engaged in petty trading in Lagos. This book is a welcome addition to Yoruba historiography. It has multiple strengths as it situates the study of girls within several intersecting bodies of literature – comparative constructions and theories on childhood, women's and gender history, labor history, urban history, colonial state formation, and the history of development. In the process, it paints a more complex picture of the post-Second World War-era when Nigeria experienced a substantial increase in colonial development aid.