Geopolitics Of DRC: Jungles, Warlords & ICC A Study In The Perspective Of Democratic Republic Of Congo

SREENIVAS A V¹, Pragati Jain²

¹post graduation in Political Science and Geography from Bangalore University.

²B.tech (Computer Science), Teerthanker Mahaveer University.

Abstract:
Conflict has always been a blight on human relations, both in the past and in recent years. Since the colonial period, the Democratic Republic of Congo has been a hotbed of violence. Despite several international community measures aimed at resolving violent disputes, the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to be plagued by long-running hostilities, particularly in the east. The relationship between the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) civil conflict in 1996 and 2003 and human rights violations in the country was investigated in this study. We predicated the problems of the DRC largely on communal or identity issues, deprivation of basic human needs, governance and/or state's role, and the influence of external forces, particularly western powers and their allies. The unit of observation and analysis for this study was the (DRC). Secondary sources were used to acquire data. The qualitative descriptive approach and content analysis were used to assess secondary data. Data like diagrams, maps, charts, and graphs were also employed to improve the quality of the analysis. Amongst 1996 and 2003, the influence of civil war on human rights violations in the DRC revealed that the civil war caused numerous inconsistencies in the unequal quest for economic and political dominance between competing groups. Approximately 5 million people died as a result of the fighting between August 1998 and April 2003, according to our disaggregated research of the current Congolese civil wars between (1996-1997, and 1998-2003). In the process of accumulating natural resources, cross-national research demonstrated that sections of the DRC endowed with greater natural resources faced more conflicts, violations of human rights, and child soldiering than others. It was also shown that abuses of social and economic rights caused deep resentment following the conflict, leading to retribution issues and further human rights crimes. As a result, our research involves a fact study and predictive analysis of key records and data connected to our research target, which has aided us in understanding the Geopolitics of DRC: Jungles, Warlords, and ICC, as well as their likely challenges.
Keywords: Democratic Republic of Congo, Mineral Resources, child soldiering, Human rights violations, International Norms.

1. Hypothesis:
This analytical study on the transition of DRC geopolitics: jungles, warlords, and the ICC aims to classify the underlying and proximate causes of the DRC civil war historically, as well as the human rights violations committed by child soldiering, mineral resource conflicts in DRC, and the role of international norms. Overall, this study presents a heuristically valuable framework for scholars and practitioners to appreciate the abbreviated and interwoven nature of violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which spans more than five decades. In this regard, a heuristic model for analysing the DRC war and crucial junctures in Congolese history paired with causal forces during a critical juncture to produce context specific transformation of the Congolese conflict was developed.

2. Introduction:
Africa, the world's second-largest continent (by geographical area) and second-most populous continent (1.2 billion people evenly distributed among 54 sovereign states), is rich in natural resources, minerals, precious stones, and metals. Crude oil is extracted daily in Nigeria, Angola, Gabon, Libya, and South Sudan, and exported to the international market. A major uranium deposit can be found in Niger and Sudan, just as gold may be found in economic quantities in Ghana, South Africa, Mali, and other African countries, and diamonds in Sierra Leone and South Africa. These and many other resource-rich African countries, which stand to profit handsomely from the export of their prized natural resources, are vulnerable to civil conflict if the revenues are not distributed equitably throughout the country or used to improve the people's standard of life. The Democratic Republic of Congo, out of all the mineral-rich African countries, has had the longest-running military war fuelled by its natural resources (DRC).

Many African countries have witnessed significant upheavals in the post-Cold War era, including deadly war within their borders. Sub-regional, global, and continental events have all affected the difficult issue of establishing peace, security, and sustainable development in Africa (Murithi and Ndinga Muvumba, 2008).

"The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a French-speaking country with more than 250 ethnic groupings, is situated in Central Africa's Great Lakes region. South Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR) are to the north; the Republic of Congo is to the west; Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and Rwanda are to the east; and Angola and Zambia are to the south. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is not to be confused with the Republic of the Congo. The capitals of both countries are frequently used to distinguish them: Congo-Kinshasa and Congo-Brazzaville, respectively".

"On the African continent, the Democratic Republic of Congo is a geographical and (possibly) economic behemoth. After Algeria (2.38 million square kilometres), it is the continent's second-largest country with 2.26 million square kilometres." (UNECA, 2015:10) UNECA cites
the World Bank's World Development Indicators. Its population of approximately 70 million people makes it the world's most populated Francophone country (Venugopalan, 2016). Copper, cobalt, diamond, columbo tantalite (coltan), cassiterite (tin ore), gold, uranium, zinc, and oil are among the natural resources, minerals, and precious metals/stones found beneath the soil in the DRC. The rainforest resource – lumber – grows on top of the soil. The Democratic Republic of Congo is, without a doubt, a country rich in natural resources. Despite this, the country continues to have sluggish economic growth and development, a phenomenon known as the "resource curse" or the "paradox of plenty" by researchers. The recent civil wars in the country, as well as the lingering violence and operations of some armed rebel groups in various parts of the country, are among the factors that have contributed to the DRC's poor economic performance (e.g., corruption and weak governance).

According to Francois Kisangani, the Democratic Republic of Congo is a major laboratory for civil conflicts, since secessions, insurgencies, rebellions, mutinies and invasions, revolts, and ethnic warfare have claimed the lives of four million people since independence on June 30, 1960 (Kisangani, 2012). Following the end of the Cold War in the 1990s, Africa saw an increase in the number of countries adopting constitutions that attempted to promote multiparty politics, the doctrine of separation of powers, regular elections, and the promotion and respect for human rights, similar to what Sammuel Huntington called the "third wave of democratisation" (Nhema & Zeleza,
At the same time, the continent of Africa was beset by a slew of violent conflicts, wars, genocides, and poor public-sector governance. According to many scholars, the DRC has been plagued by historical injustices, land disputes, citizenship issues, negative ethnicity, the presence of illegal armed groups, political repression and poor governance, corruption, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and illegal exploitation of natural resources, among other things, so economic factors cannot be the sole cause of the crisis.

The country's two most powerful presidents, Patrice Lumumba and Joseph Kasavubu, became embroiled in a political feud almost soon after independence. Lumumba and Kasavubu both disapproved of Moise Tshombe, the leader of Katanga, a province rich in natural resources. Patrice Lumumba would serve as executive prime minister, and Joseph Kasavubu would serve as president, once the two leaders eventually reached an agreement. Despite the cease-fire, the competition between the two leaders remained. Later, after turning to the Soviet Union for military assistance to settle turmoil in the Katanga region, Lumumba was assassinated by western powers who saw his communist ideals as a threat. President Kasavubu and Prime Minister Tshombe were deposed in a coup in 1965 by Mobutu. Mobutu then established a 32-year dictatorship with US support, and as a result, internal bloodshed in the country received little attention (Turner, 2007). President Mobutu was deposed in May 1997 by Laurent Desire Kabila, who had the support of Rwanda and Uganda and was operating under the banner of the Alliance des Forces pour la Liberation du Congo-Zaïre (AFDL), forcing Mobutu to abandon office and flee to Morocco. Because of the involvement of nine African countries, the series of violent clashes that led to the overthrow of kleptocrat Mobutu is known as the "First African War."

In 1997, almost a year after Laurent Kabila came to power, the Alliance broke down due to his actions of enlisting Hutu genocidaires to counter the Tutsi threat in order to enforce his rule in the country, and he ordered foreign troops occupying various territories in the DRC to leave the country, much to the chagrin of Rwanda and Uganda (Nzongola-Ntalaja, 2004). DRC was launched into a civil war in August 1998 as a result of these acts and counter-actions by neighbouring governments, which had external parties involved, namely Rwanda and Uganda, directly and through proxies and militias (Turner, 2013), making it an internationalised war. Through the notion of collective security, Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, as members of the SADC regional body, came to Kabila's aid and saved him.

By the end of 1998, the violence had claimed the lives of 12,500 individuals and displaced over 250,000 others (Kisangani, 2012). Rwanda's engagement in the DRC was justified by national security concerns. This second civil war, dubbed the "anti-Kabila conflict," lasted five years and ended in 1999 with the signing of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

"The First Congo War (October 1996–May 1997) and the Second Congo War (August 1998–June 2003) are two catastrophic wars that the DRC has experienced in the past. The First Congo War began with the collapse of the Congolese state and the influx of Rwandan refugees into the Democratic Republic of Congo. Hence, in October 1996, North Kivu, in the Eastern part of the DRC was invaded by the Laurent-Désiré Kabila-led Alliance des Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Congo-Zaïre (AFDL) which was an alliance of four revolutionary Congolese parties in exile – the People’s Revolutionary Party (Parti de la Révolution populaire, PRP), headed by Laurent Kabila; the National Resistance Council for Democracy (Conseil
national derésistance pour la démocratie, CNRD), a small Lumumbist guerrilla group headed by André Kisase Ngandu; the Democratic Alliance of Peoples (Alliance démocratique des peuples, ADP), a group of Congolese Tutsi led by Déogratias Bugera; and the Revolutionary Movement for Liberation of Zaire (Mouvement révolutionnaire pour la libération du Zaïre, MRLZ), a group of Shi and others from South Kivu, led by Anselme Masasu Nindaga. The Mobutu regime, which had been in power since November 1965, had been deposed by May 1997. (Weiss, 2000; Faubert, 2006; Turner, 2007; Stearns, 2012).

“The Second Congo War, which began in August 1998 and lasted until August 1999, was a Pan-African conflict involving up to seven countries and multiple guerrilla organisations”. A ceasefire agreement was signed in July 1999, followed by negotiations that resulted in a political agreement in late 2002. (Faubert, 2006).

DRC Conflicts

To acquire a thorough image of the setting on which we conducted our study, all of these aspects must be explained in advance according to our Research Objective.

2.1. First and Second Congo wars (Brief):
Almost the entire African society, as well as the world community, cheered Mobutu's demise during the first war. The Hutu ex-FAR /interahamwe, Jonas Savimbi's UNITA forces, and a few Serbian mercenaries were the sole forces supporting Mobutu. France contributed a small amount of funding as well. The Mobutu dictatorship attempted, but failed, to persuade the international community that what was taking place was a foreign invasion. The invasion was not criticised by the United Nations or the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which saw it as a revolution against Mobutu's rule. His army plundered, raped,
and slaughtered Congolese villagers as it retreated on all fronts. The Congolese quickly welcomed the AFDL for this reason.

The Second Congo War had a very different dynamic. To begin with, it was significantly more contentious. While Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi led the charge against Kabila, Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia backed him. This was due to the DRC's membership in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Sudan, Chad, and Libya then joined the battle, either directly or indirectly, in support of Kabila. Kabila has also received support from a number of Francophone West African countries.

![Map of the DRC showing the location of major cities and regions](image)

2.2. Child Soldiering in the Democratic Republic of Congo:

The Democratic Republic of Congo is rich in minerals such as gold, diamonds, copper, uranium, cobalt, or Coltan, and cassiterite (a tantalum and tin ore), as well as oil and natural gas reserves that could be significant. It is Africa's most biodiverse country and home to the world's second largest rainforest (Clark, 1993; Mackal, 1987). "Although DRC people are among the poorest in the world, with the second lowest nominal GDP per capita, the country is often regarded as the richest in terms of natural resources, with undiscovered raw mineral deposits estimated to be worth more than US $24 trillion." (Free online Library, July, 2011; Kuepper, 2010:4).

Surprisingly, this resource-rich country is also home to some of the world's most serious humanitarian challenges. The hostilities that erupted in 1996 and 1998, and which are still ongoing, have wreaked havoc on the country's social, political, and economic fabric (International Rescue Committee, 2008). Researchers such as Collier (2007:101), Ntalaja (2005:1), Andres (2011:2), and Reyntjens (2001:312) estimate that between 1996 and 2008, 5.4 million people died (and counting) as a result of the multiple armed conflicts that destroyed the country. This means that about 8% of the population died in the conflict during that time period, excluding an incalculable number of workers infected with HIV/AIDS and rendered jobless by other diseases. As a result, the IRC stated that "this is the deadliest war ever
documented in Africa, indeed the world." "This is the world's highest war death toll in the last half-century" (IRC, 2008:2).

2.3. Mineral resources in Congo war:
"After takeover of eastern DRC in 1998, Rwandan and Ugandan army spent a year stealing precious resources found in the DRC with the help of Congolese soldiers in the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD)." In Rwanda and Uganda, no diamond deposits exist. However, diamonds have been exported from each of these countries. Ugandan diamond shipments more than doubled between 1997 and 1998. Between 1998 and 2000, Rwanda and Uganda's total exports more than doubled, whereas the DRC's exports fell by more than half. Exports from Congo fell by US$ 458 million, while Rwandan and Ugandan exports increased by only US$ 1.6 million. Uganda made significant sums of money from the systematic exploitation of coltan, earning almost US$ 250 million in just 18 months between 1999 and 2000, when world market values were at their highest. The re-export of coltan alone provided Rwanda with the funds it needed to fight the conflict throughout these years" (Samset, 2002 cited in Venugopalan, 2016:7-8). The UN "Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" presented its report on April 12, 2001, stating that Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi, who initially sent troops to the DRC for self-defence, stayed to exploit its natural resources. In its five-year occupation (1998-2003) of the DRC's Eastern area, Uganda was found guilty of violating the DRC's sovereignty, plundering its resources, and violating the people's human rights by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands, on December 19, 2005. Uganda will pay $10 billion in compensation to the DRC as a result of the ICJ verdict.

2.4. International Norms:
International law can be defined as "the laws and principles that regulate states in their interstate relations" (Umojurike, 2005:1). Several conventions (such as the 1949 Geneva Convention) provide standards that apply to the conduct of fighters and commanders of armed groups in combat. Armed groups, on the other hand, frequently perpetrate a variety of atrocities that are illegal under international law in the process of striving to win a war by all means available. According to the IRC’s 2008 mortality survey report, 5.4 million people died in the DRC from violent and nonviolent causes between 1998 and 2008, with roughly 45,000 deaths per month (Reliefweb, 2008). Marauding militias also perpetrated war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the recruitment of juvenile soldiers (Kadogos) and the use of rape as a weapon of war. As a result, after a trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands, war lords have been indicted and sentenced to prison.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) convicted warlord Thomas Lubanga Dyilo to 14 years in prison on July 10, 2012, for recruiting and enlisting child soldiers into his armed group, the Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC), in the Ituri area of the DRC from 1999. Dyilo was the first person convicted by the Court since it was established in 2002 in accordance with the Rome Statute of 1998. Bosco Ntaganda, a.k.a. "The Terminator," surrendered to the United States embassy in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2013. Ntaganda is standing trial in The Hague for his pivotal involvement in the planning of his Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo's operations (FPLC). Between 2002 and 2003, he was charged with 13 counts of war crimes and five counts of crime against humanity in the Ituri region. On May 23, 2014, Germain Kantaga, the leader of the Force de Résistance Patriotique en Ituri (FRPI), was sentenced to 12 years in jail for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Bogoro, Ituri area, in 2003. He would only serve half of his sentence after spending six years in prison during his trial.

The International Criminal Court investigation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, also known as the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is a long-running investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) into crimes committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) during and after the Second Congo War, including the Ituri and Kivu conflicts (ICC 2004). The violence began in 1998 and lasted for several years in the eastern portions of the country, despite a 2003 peace accord between fighters (BBC 2011). The DRC government formally reported the Congo’s situation to the International Criminal Court in April 2004, and prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo formally launched an inquiry in June 2004 (ICC 2011).

Arrest warrants have been issued for the following people: Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, Germain Katanga, Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, Bosco Ntaganda, Callixte Mbarushimana, Sylvestre Mudacumura. Lubanga was detained and imprisoned. Katanga was found guilty, Chui was found not guilty, and the pre-trial chamber refused to confirm the charges against Mbarushimana, who is still on the run. On March 18, 2013, Ntaganda surrendered to the US Embassy in Kigali, asking extradition to the International Criminal Court (ICC 2011).

3. **Objectives:**

The study's main goal is to look at the link between the civil conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo from 1996 to 2003. The study is directed by the following goals in particular.
i. The investigation of the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo and its neighbouring countries from 1996 to 2003 resulted in clarifications of violations of socioeconomic rights in the DRC and its neighbours.

ii. Examine the role of international norms in the DRC's conflicts.

4. **Related Work:**

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<td>Okolie (2008)</td>
<td>the prevalence of juvenile soldiers and the psychological consequences for African security. He investigated the occurrence and traumatic experience of child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and observed the precarious situation of the African continent's security and survival in light of the fact that future African leaders would largely be products of &quot;mentally-derailed, insane, disoriented revenge-mongers, whose motivation begins and ends in violent behaviour.&quot;</td>
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| Azar (1974:87) | Governments, which have the power to govern and employ force when necessary to regulate society, protect citizens, and provide communal goods, "play a key role in the satisfaction or lack thereof of minority and identity groups." He claims that an inept, provincial, and dictatorial administration that fails to meet basic human needs will result in unending strife.
Since independence, the Congo Democratic Republic's government has been plagued by the aforementioned flaws, resulting in a "legitimacy crisis" in the country's governance. Weaker states, such as Congo DR, which are frequently embroiled in persistent war, are more influenced by outside links, both economically and politically, and are similarly reliant on external supplies. |
Weiss (2000)  
The Democratic Republic of Congo has been plagued by armed war and forced relocation over the past two decades. "While the Congo's natural resources may have been a key factor for the war's continuation, it was not the official cause". It all began with the 1994 spill over of the heinous Rwandan genocide, which turned the relatively tranquil DRC culture into a battleground.

Elettra and Preeti (2010)  
There are an estimated 300,000 child soldiers in the globe today, with around 8,000 in the DRC's eastern region, which is a hotspot for child soldier recruitment.

5. **Research Methodology:**  
This research paper on DRC Geopolitics: Jungles, Warlords, and the ICC is based on a survey of the literature as well as factual studies that have been made available to the public around the world. We have gathered connected relevant material that supports or contradicts the criteria indicated in the Introduction Section of this research and then made our analysis based on the background investigation. Our investigation incorporates the following fact observations:

i. a battleship in the Democratic Republic of Congo  
ii. ICC rules in the Democratic Republic of Congo  
iii. Violations of human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo  
iv. Invasion of neighbouring countries in search of mineral riches in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Our conclusions are based on these analytical observations in the aforementioned domains, which allow for future extensions/predictions based on the implications or requirements related to the subject of our research.

6. **Study Area and Data Collection:**  
As a result, data, statistics, and information are gathered from verified official portals, research/survey/journal references in this field, opinion polls, and review reports as formally released by the associated agencies/institutions/functioning bodies/research organisations. Information and data are gathered. The credibility of these data/information is certified by the credentials and methods stated in those information sources, and they are thoroughly checked to ensure that they do not contain any conflicting or deceptive facts that could undermine social, political, economic, or other platforms.

7. **Analysis:**

7.1. The Democratic Republic of the Congo's Historical Phases, 1876-2003:
According to the graph depicting the historical phases of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the DRC has been in transition for approximately 119 years, going through eight (8) periods of political evolution.

From 1876 to 2003, the Democratic Republic of Congo was divided into phases

**Source:** Researcher’s Computations from Gondola, Ch. Didier. (2002). The History of Congo, Greenwood Press

The Belgian Congo phase (1908–1960) had the longest time line (52 years), followed by the Zairian phase (1965–1996) (32 years), and the Congo Free State phase (23 years).

The Congo Crisis (1960–1965) and the Congolese Civil War, 1998–2003, both lasted five (5) years; and the Congo War, 1996–1997, and Transitional government, 2003–2006, both lasted one (1) and three (3) years.

As a result, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (French: République démocratique du Congo) has been referred to as DR Congo, DRC, DROC, RDC, Congo-Kinshasa, and simply Congo.

**7.2. Child Soldiering's Impact on the DRC's Human Development Index:**

According to the International Rescue Committee, 5.4 million people perished at the end of the second Congo DR civil war, accounting for around 8% of the country's 66 million population. According to estimates, 45,000 Congolese people die each month (half of whom are children) as a result of malnutrition, avoidable diseases, and other effects of war and relocation (Enough Project, 2013:2). By 2008, the violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo had displaced 800,000 inhabitants, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA, 2012). Between 1.5 and 2 million people had fled their homes within Congo by 2012, with 60,000 of them fleeing to Uganda and Rwanda, while Eastern Congo remains the deadliest place on earth for women. Between 1998 and 2008, the Guardian estimates that 200,000-300,000 girls and women were abducted, gang raped, or enslaved (Guardian, 2008). WHO recommends Eastern Congo, in particular, has one of the world's highest rates of HIV/AIDS, STD/STI, and other sexually transmitted infections. The life expectancy at birth in the Democratic Republic of Congo only grew from 45.9 to 48.7 years.
between 1980 and 2012. Despite the improvement, the country's progress in this area was still below the UNDP target of 59.1 years for Sub-Saharan Africa.

DRC Human Development Index

7.3. CONGO'S Natural Wealth & its Impact:
Economic issues have played a significant influence in the Congo's conflicts, which are not solely due to political factors. Following the capture of eastern DRC in 1998, Rwandan and Ugandan army spent a year stealing precious resources discovered in the DRC with the help of Congolese soldiers in the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD). In Rwanda and Uganda, no diamond deposits exist. However, diamonds have been exported from each of these countries. Uganda's diamond exports more than doubled between 1997 and 1998. Between 1998 and 2000, Rwanda and Uganda's total exports more than doubled, whereas the DRC's exports fell by more than half.

Exports from Congo fell by US$ 458 million, while Rwandan and Ugandan exports increased by only US$ 1.6 million. Uganda made significant sums of money from the systematic exploitation of coltan, earning almost US$ 250 million in just 18 months between 1999 and 2000, when world market values were at their highest. The re-export of coltan alone provided Rwanda with the funds it needed to fight the war throughout these years (Ingrid Samset, 2002). According to the First UN study on the exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth in the DRC, which was released in April 2001, between 1998 and 2001, deforestation rose at an alarming rate due to the exploitation of timber by Rwandan and Ugandan enterprises. The second study, issued in October 2001, confirmed that the DRC's natural resources were still being plundered. Ugandan gold exports climbed from US$ 12.4 million in 1994-95 to US$ 110 million in 1996, according to official estimates from the Bank of Uganda. Despite the fact that gold accounted for only 0.2 percent of Uganda's exports in 1996-97, this helped the country's trade balance improve by roughly US$ 600 million. Similarly, Rwanda's gold production, which had been stagnant at around eight kg per year, had a sharp increase in 1997.
Following the takeover of eastern DRC in 1998, the Rwandan and Ugandan army spent a year plundering important commodities and money in the DRC, with the cooperation of Congolese soldiers in RCD. Diamonds were less valuable than coltan, lumber, and coffee. Selling weaponry to RCD-Goma made the Rwandan government a lot of money. Apart from a US$ 15,000 annual licencing fee, the RCD-Goma collects 8% of total mineral exports through its own shops. The RCD-ML has been involved in the gold trade from the outset. It even inked a mining agreement with Grenada's offshore bank for the establishment of an African Union reserve system for the DRC's financial management and development.

Zimbabwe, too, had used diamonds to fund its conflicts. While Uganda has established networks in the region, it would have been able to utilise the DRC's natural resources even if the war had ceased. However, for Rwanda and Zimbabwe, the fighting must persist in order for them to continue exploiting. Furthermore, particularly in the mid-2000s, Uganda and Rwanda exported massive amounts of cassiterite, gold, coltan, and tin. Tin and cassiterite were key exports for Rwanda's state-owned firm, Redemi. Instead of acting as a neutral player and facilitating a seamless transition, Rwanda's government took a partisan approach, bolstering the military, economic, and political clout of the organisations it backed (Severine Autesserre, 2003-06).

8. Conclusion:
For more than two decades, the mineral-rich Democratic Republic of Congo has been mired in violence, which has stifled real economic progress and development. Despite the fact that the Congo Crisis (1960–1961), the First Congo War (1996–1997), and the Second Congo War (1998–2003) are all finished, there are still pockets of violence in the fragile Congolese State's Eastern region, where armed factions battle for control of the country's enormous resources. The ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the most complicated, deadliest, and long-lasting ever recorded. Civil and political rights violations appear to be more clearly linked to conflict than economic and social rights violations, but the latter appear to facilitate the former. Discrimination and abuses of social and economic rights serve as underlying causes, generating grievances and group identities that might lead to civil
violence in some cases. Civil and political rights violations are more easily identified as direct conflict triggers. Because it generated an unequal fight for economic and political dominance between competing factions, the end of the civil war of 1996-2003 did not result in an end to breaches of socioeconomic rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In fact, it has been noticed that post-war inconsistencies in the Democratic Republic of Congo have resulted in new human rights violations as a result of revenge concerns and subsequent human rights abuses in the DRC conflict.

9. Recommendation and Suggestion:
There is an urgent need to redress imbalances across the country's various populations and strengthen democracy and the rule of law, which may help combat corruption, promote good governance, and build a strong state. Parties seeking to satisfy their identity and security requirements through conflict should recognise that conflict resolution can only take place and last if underdevelopment is adequately addressed. Long-term conflict should teach us that peace is progress in the fullest sense.
Child soldiers must be demobilised, released, and rehabilitated for proper reorientation and reintegration into society as part of any peace accord between the government and warring parties. The United Nations Security Council must ensure that the optional protocol, international humanitarian law, and international human rights law are effectively enforced by governments, and those who recruit children must face prosecution before the International Court. Because most African crises have an international dimension as a result of industrialised countries' interests in Africa's natural resources, Africans must take full responsibility for their own problems by forming a proactive African Stand-by Force. The African Union's proposal in this direction is a positive step forward that needs all Africans' support.

Certain efforts must be made in order for the DRC to avoid slipping into another full-fledged armed war in the near future and to rise as Africa's economic powerhouse.

i. The national government should have complete control over the mining of the country's natural resources;
ii. Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) should be implemented in Eastern Congo, while Security Sector Reform (SSR) should be implemented throughout the country; and
iii. The DRC should assist neighbouring countries in combating their security threats in order for the Great Lakes region to have a lasting peace.

10. Acknowledgement:
To give this research its planned framework, we needed to find both qualitative and quantitative data from reputable sources. We were lucky in that we were able to secure the necessary information/resources for the official and research websites using a creative commons licence that permitted unrestricted access and reuse. We are grateful for the open access resources provided on the DRC official website for statistical data and facts on DRC warlords,
Demography, Economy, and so on. The essential research provided us with the public/political attitudes and polls we needed for our practical analysis.

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