* Between the 1870s and 1890s, Conrad worked on ships. He qualified as a ship aster, and commanded one vessel from 1888-1889.
* Between June and December of 1889, he served on a steam-ship in the Congo. The work supposed to last up to two years. He returned in December after falling seriously ill. He survived, but never fully recovered his health.
* This passage is from the Author’s Note to the volume that contained *Youth* and *HoD* (1917):

*"Heart of Darkness" also received a certain amount of notice from the first; and of its origins this much may be said: it is well known that curious men go prying into all sorts of places (where they have no business) and come out of them with all kinds of spoil. This story, and one other, not in this volume, are all the spoil I brought out from the centre of Africa, where, really, I had no sort of business. More ambitious in its scope and longer in the telling, "Heart of Darkness" is quite as authentic in fundamentals as "Youth." It is, obviously, written in another mood. I won't characterise the mood precisely, but anybody can see that it is anything but the mood of wistful regret, of reminiscent tenderness.*

*One more remark may be added. "Youth" is a feat of memory. It is a record of experience; but that experience, in its facts, in its inwardness and in its outward colouring, begins and ends in myself. "Heart of Darkness" is experience too; but it is experience pushed a little (and only very little) beyond the actual facts of the case for the perfectly legitimate, I believe, purpose of bringing it home to the minds and bosoms of the readers.*

**Questions/Tasks**

1. Early in the film, a speaker uses two Latin phrases to describe how Europe viewed Africa: what are these phrases?
2. How did European nations and leaders justify “the scramble for Africa”; what did they say their mission was?
3. Of which country was King Leopold II the king?
4. When was King Leopold II’s sovereignty over Congo recognized?
5. What did he claim his reasons for going into Congo were? What were they in reality?
6. **1,308:** to what does this figure refer?
7. What was the decrease in Congo’s population between 1880 and 1820?
8. What contributed to this massive decrease?
9. When Leopold was in charge, Congo was ***not*** a Belgian colony: what was Leopold’s relationship/involvement with Congo, and how long did it last?
10. What word is used to describe the exhibiting of African people in the Museum of Central Africa?
11. What reasons are given for preserving the Museum of Central Africa?
12. When were Leopold’s crimes made public? What happened as a result? Did things get better? How/why? What was the decisive factor in changing things?
13. Roughly when did the words “genocide,” “holocaust,” and “racism” come into common usage? In relation to what events did “racism” take on its current meaning?
14. Find the quotation from *HoD* (shortly after Marlow first speaks) and highlight it.