

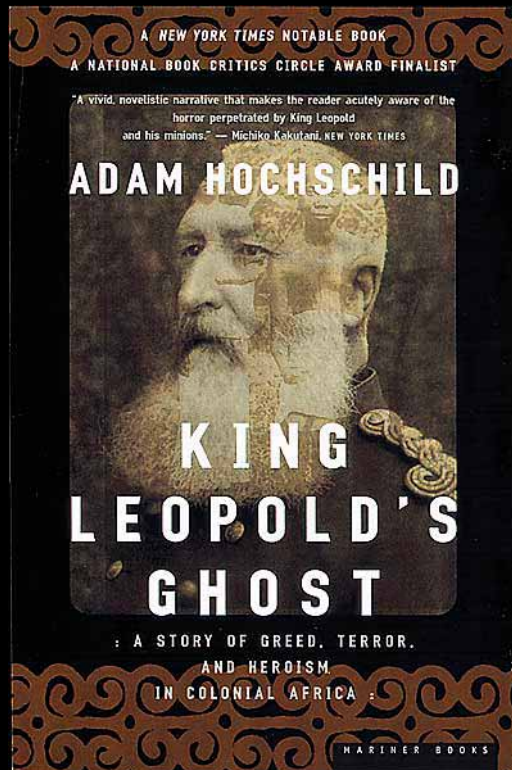
15.06 20:00 KVS\_BOL

# Adam Hochschild

**Belgium and the Congo: Looking Back at the Colonial Experience**

Lecture & Debate with David Van Reybroeck, Daniel Vangroenweghe and others (in English)

Moderator: Mark Schaevers



Tickets & Info: [www.kvs.be](http://www.kvs.be), 02 210 11 12

Arduinkaaï 7 quai aux Pierres de Taille, 1000 Brussel / Bruxelles

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50 years ago this month, the Congo became independent from Belgium. This followed 52 years when it was the Belgian Congo, and 23 years before that when it was the personal, privately-owned possession of King Leopold II of Belgium, the world's only colony owned by one man. During the first decade of the twentieth century, Leopold's rule over the Congo was the target of a large, international campaign, organized mainly in Britain, that charged the king with gross abuses of human rights.

Adam Hochschild, author of the book, King Leopold's Ghost, takes the occasion of this anniversary to look back at the Congo's history as a colony. Just what happened during those 75 years? Was colonial rule in the Congo as harsh as critics, then and later, have charged? Was it really any different from what was happening elsewhere in colonial Africa? How have Belgians looked at that history since 1960? Honestly? Evasively? What changes in perspective have taken place in recent years?

**Adam Hochschild's books can be purchased and signed by the author in KVS after the debate.**