

# Visual Analysis: Kingdom of Kongo

# Central Question:

- Evaluate the extent to which the arrival of the Portuguese affected the kingdom of Kongo.

# Visual 1: Map of Kongo

- 1. Why might Kongo have been attractive to Europeans?



# Visual 2: King of Kongo receiving envoys

- 1. What impression do you get of the King of Kongo?
- 2. What conclusions can you draw about the kingdom itself?



# Visual 3: Portugal and the Kongo

- 1. Why did King Manuel want to build a relationship with the Kongo?
- 2. How did he attempt to do this?



Copper manilla

## Source 4

'Most powerful and excellent king of Manycongo,' King Manuel wrote from Lisbon in 1512.

Davidson 1996: 138

## Source 5

In c. 1506 the king of Kongo, Afonso, sent 500 manillas of copper to King Manuel of Portugal, the first of a series of gifts intended to cement the alliance between the two kings.

Herbert 1984: 140

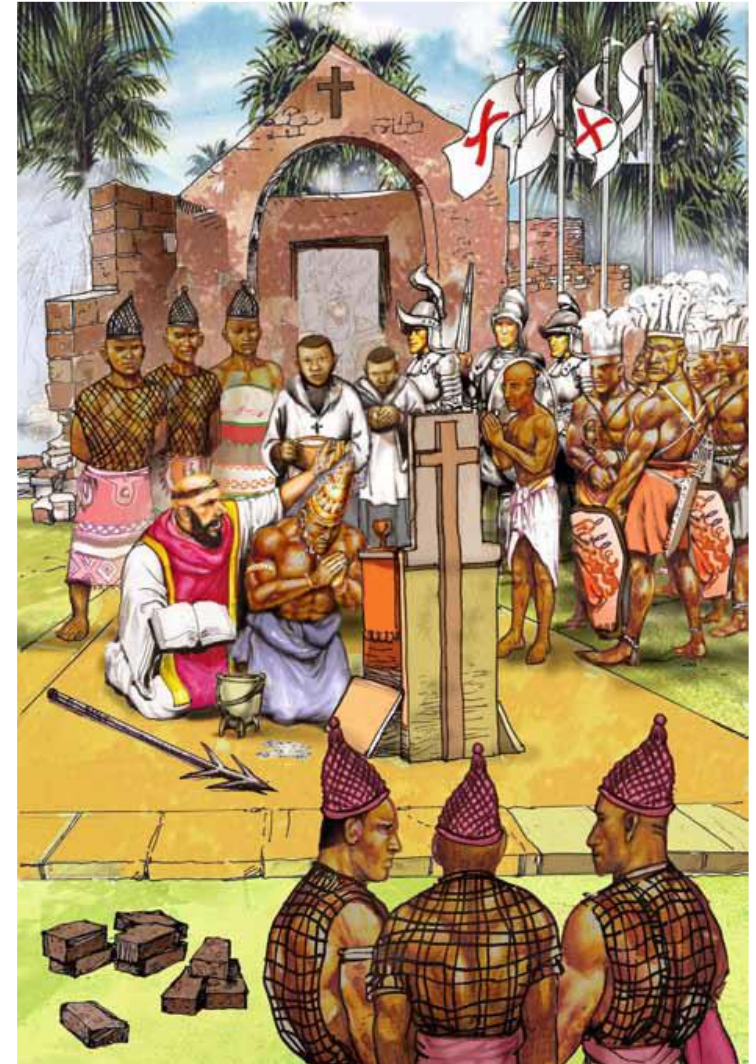
## Source 6

The 6 greatest chiefs [of Kongo] were to be dukes; lesser notables were to be marquises, counts and barons; while the children of the king were to be princes and princesses.

*Regimento* or instructions of King Manuel of Portugal (1512), quoted in Davidson 1996: 140

# Visual 4: Joao I and Religion

- 1. What is happening in this visual?
- 2. Why do you think it is happening?











# Visual 7: Politics of the Kongo

- 1. How did the king of Kongo benefit from the Portuguese?
- 2. What was the harm in this?



## Source 17

The Portuguese, settled in São Salvador, reinforced the royal power materially and spiritually. They altered a delicate balance in favour of royalty. They supplied the advantage of their technology and their manufactured goods, and they introduced incentives to trade. They were the carriers of a new religion, which was all the more warmly welcomed because it seemed to be extremely powerful.

Balandier 1968: 46

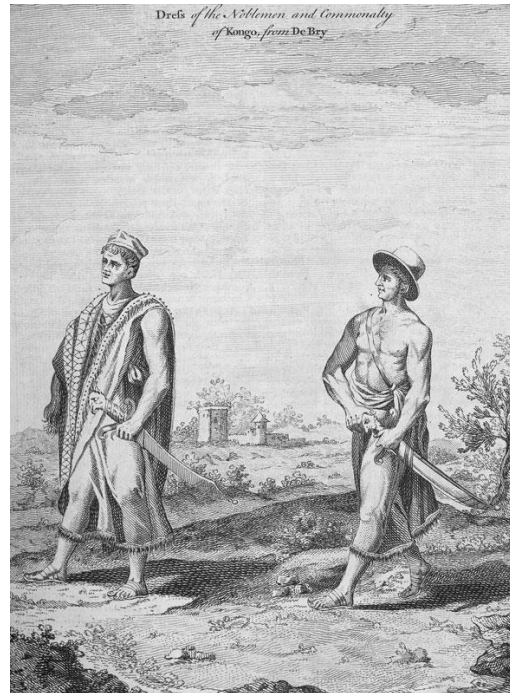
## Source 18

The king used the whites in the internal power struggle, receiving them with open arms.

Ekholm 1972: 18

# Visual 8: Impact of Portuguese

- 1. What advantages did the arrival of the Portuguese bring to the Kongo?
- 2. What disadvantages?



## Source 20

Growth was stimulated by new Portuguese contributions to the ruling group in the form not only of goods but also of services by teachers, artisans, lawyers and priests.

Birmingham 1977: 548

## Source 21

With the aid of Portuguese mercenaries and firearms Afonso was able to extend and consolidate his influence over the region.

Reader 1997: 366

## Source 22

By the 16th century, rulers became increasingly separated from their subjects, and traders became an increasingly powerful middle class. These changes were closely connected with the arrival of the Portuguese.

Birmingham 1977: 547–548

## Source 23

In 1665, at the great battle of Mbwila, King Antonio I and most of his nobles, court officials and 5000 Kongolese troops were killed [by the Portuguese invaders]. The kingdom of Kongo dissolved into petty chiefdoms and never recovered.

Collins & Burns 2007, 188

## Visual 9: Depiction of European by Kongo craftsman

- 1. What does he have in his hand?
- 2. Why might the craftsman have this POV of Europeans?

