

“Patrice Lumumba: Dangerous Revolutionary.”

By Sean M. Maloney, PhD

Bravo, Mr. Robert Charles Dunn! It is refreshing to finally see somebody so animated by a history topic that they write in! This should happen more often! However, we should discard the sad attempts at ad hominem arguments directed at the messengers. Such arguments are from an obsolete age where ideology overwhelmed reality. In the case of Patrice Lumumba, I defer to the experts, like Secretary General of the United Nations Dag Hammarskjold and Nobel Peace Prize winner Ralph Bunche. Hammarskjold believed that the Congolese leader was “a dangerous revolutionary” and Bunche thought Lumumba was “crazy”: that keen biographer Sir Brian Urquhart brought this out in his works, as has a flood of archival documentation. The UN Force Commander in the Congo, a Swede named Carl von Horn, was adamant that Lumumba was behind the ethnic cleansing of the Ba-Luba’s: he was clearly in a better position to know than you were and, incidentally, revealed this information thirty-four years ago in his 1966 book, Soldiering for Peace. These people could barely be called ‘right wing’: Hardly the stuff of what was quaintly labeled “revisionism” by those marvelous practitioners of totalitarianism, the Marxists and their sympathizers (the people who brought more death to this planet than any other ideology during the Twentieth Century), when they sought to discredit an opposing view. Social commentator Wendy Kaminer once noted that “A rational society is one that values argument and considers virtually all point of view subject to debate. It promotes inquiry, experimentation, and empiricism, maintaining some faith in objectivity.... Rationalism is founded on skepticism- a commitment to testing all beliefs, including your own- and a capacity to tolerate doubt.”

Can you tolerate doubt? Can you test your own beliefs?

I would look elsewhere to those who seek to modify history to suit their purposes, not to Isabel Vincent or myself.

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