

## Chapter 1 : Critical analysis of the Heart of Darkness | Essay Example

*Ultimately Heart of Darkness is a story of the pitfalls and perils of greed, lust, and the corruption of ideals and values by the darkness that dwells within all of mankind. It tells of the madness that the greed for riches or power can create within the heart and mind, and that even the best of intentions can become twisted into something evil.*

Get Full Essay Get access to this section to get all help you need with your essay and educational issues. He, like other Europeans of , is brought up to believe certain things about colonialism, but his views and ideas change as he experiences colonialism himself. Achebe, author of Things Fall Apart and An image of Africa views English imperialization as destructive and a perversion of culture and human rights. Achebe also views the novella as blatantly racist and claims the English author writes without any validity. The Industrial Revolution in Britain modernized farming, the processing of raw materials and manufacturing of goods. Industrialisation influenced political change. It also created a huge demand for raw materials and led to the colonization of Africa and Asia for these resources. In , only 10 percent of Africa was under European control; by it had increased to almost 90 percent of the continent, with only Ethiopia, the Dervish state and Liberia still being independent. British merchants and traders developed close ties with the rulers of the different nations on the West Coast of Africa, such as the rulers of Benin, Dahomey, and Asante. These nations provided Britain with gold, luxury foods, and many other goods. The British wanted to control South Africa because it was one of the trade routes to India. However, when gold and diamonds were discovered in the ss their interest in the region increased. By the s West Africa was dominated by Britain. Local chieftains ruled their own peoples using their own customs. However, they paid taxes to Britain. Industrialisation and technological progress boosted European confidence, and national pride. But The Africans experienced hardships and submission. Marlow says that a conquest is unpardonable. If he fails in this duty, his government of the backward countries cannot be justified. This is, of course, meaning that Marlow believes the African need the forced help of the Europeans. Aside from the overall belief in the helplessness of all Africans, the terms used to describe the native people is very demeaning. The true consequences of imperialism, mistreated and overworked slaves who are left to die on their own. They are without food, care, or medicine, and are left to die outdoors. Kurtz, who has begun to identify himself with the savages, has done nothing for the uplift of the natives. Instead of improving their mode of life, he has himself become a savage in their company. He has miserably failed to have any self-restraint and begun to satisfy his various lusts without any limit. And of course, this change in character is supposed to be blamed on Africa. Conrad believed the country of Africa was too wild for English Gentlemen to withstand, for their own sanity, they must refrain. Africa is shown as the other world with bestiality contrasting the intelligence and refinement of Europe. Another example of Conrad believing that the Africans were inferior instead of realizing they are just different. The Africans are sometimes referred to as specimens, Marlow comments on how one African is an improved specimen because he can fire up a vertical boiler. Achebe wants to move past this situation and create a strong African identity. The Africans are howling and leaping and are described as not inhuman, meaning he did find them inhuman at one point. It is probably at this point Marlow realizes that the tribesmen are in fact human, even if he still consider them as brute savages. He mentions how they have faces like grotesque masks, strong muscles, energy and a wild vitality. According to Achebe, this is Conrad describing things in their place Achebe What Achebe seems to miss is the fact that he just like Conrad is highly influenced by the political influences, social and cultural norms of his time. Achebe, an African Literature Professor, was part of the Pan-Africanism movement which aim was to unify native Africans and eliminate colonialism. Achebe, of course, would have a perspective Conrad was not granted, allowing Achebe to give a more accurate African experience of Imperialism. Both men understood that the Partition of Africa was unethical and unjustified for Europe to do. But Marlow, said that imperialism could be justified, if properly executed, Conrad also spent less time seeing the Africans as PEOPLE mistreated, but the English as endangered of moral impairment. Because of this, The Novella The Heart of Darkness comes off as ignorant and misleading to its readers. More essays like this:

## Chapter 2 : Literary Devices in Heart of Darkness - Owl Eyes

*Critical Analysis of Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness - Free download as Word Doc (.doc / .docx), PDF File (.pdf), Text File (.txt) or read online for free. Overview of certain perspectives on Heart of Darkness.*

Brief Biography of Joseph Conrad Jozef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski was an orphan by the age of 12; his mother and father both died as a result of time the family spent in exile in Siberia for plotting against the Russian Tsar. At seventeen, he traveled to Marseilles and began to work as a sailor. Eventually, he began to sail on British ships, and became a British citizen in , at the age of . It was about this time he changed his name to the more British-sounding Joseph Conrad and published his first short stories he wrote in English, his third language after Polish and French. For the next eight years, Conrad continued to work as a sailor even spending time commanding a steamship in the Belgian Congo , and continued to write. In , Conrad married Jessie George. He quickly won critical praise, though financial success eluded him for many years and both he and his wife suffered serious illnesses. He wrote his best-known works in the years just before and after the turn of the century: *Heart of Darkness* , *Lord Jim* , and *Nostromo* . Conrad died in .

**Historical Context of Heart of Darkness** During the last two decades of the 19th century, European nations battled each other for wealth and power. This battle caused the "scramble for Africa," in which European countries competed to colonize as much of Africa as possible. While the colonizing Europeans claimed to want to "civilize" the African continent, their actions spoke otherwise: One of the most brutal of the European colonies in its treatment of the native Africans was the Belgian Congo, the property of the Belgian King Leopold I. In , Joseph Conrad worked as a pilot on a steamship in the Belgian Congo, and *Heart of Darkness* is at least in part based on his experiences there. *Heart of Darkness* also fits squarely into the genre of colonial literature, in which European writers portrayed the colonialism and imperialism of European nations from Africa to the Far East in the late 19th and early 20th century.

**Heart of Darkness When Published:** Colonial literature; Quest literature  
**Setting:** The Narrator tells the story from a ship at the mouth of the Thames River near London, England around . The confrontation between Marlow and Kurtz in the jungle  
**Antagonist:** Kurtz  
**Point of View:** *Heart of Darkness* is the source for the movie *Apocalypse Now*. The movie uses the primary plot and themes of *Heart of Darkness*, and shifts the story from Africa to Vietnam to explore the hypocrisy, inanity, and emptiness of the American war effort there. Cite This Page Florman, Ben. Retrieved November 12,

**Chapter 3 : Critical Analysis Of Heart Of Darkness English Literature Essay - Julianrvaca**

*The prequel of Heart of Darkness is entitled Youth and was published in (Introduction by Hampson.)Heart of Darkness is largely biographical. Joseph Conrad traveled up the Congo River in*

Heart of Darkness is considered one of the greatest novellas in the English language. A Narrative, and Two Other Stories It was later published separately in The novella details the story of the seaman Marlow who, fresh from Europe, is sent on a boat journey up the Congo River to relieve Kurtz, the most successful trader in ivory working for the Belgian government. Prior to their personal encounter, Marlow knows and admires Kurtz through his reputation and his writings regarding the civilizing of the African continent and sets out on the journey excited at the prospect of meeting him. When Marlow finally meets Kurtz, the mythical figure is near death, ravaged by disease and dissipation. Critics have debated the motives behind this last deception: In , after more than a decade as a seaman, Conrad requested the command of a Belgian steamer sailing for Africa. A diary kept during the subsequent voyage provides evidence that many of the characters, incidents, and impressions recalled in Heart of Darkness have factual bases. Moreover, the relationship of Conrad to his character Marlow has been a fertile area of critical discussion. Marlow has been variously perceived as the spokesman for Conrad, a complex and separate creation, and as a combination of both. The affinity between Marlow and Kurtz is considered the most crucial relationship between characters in the story. The visual imagery, which heavily depends upon contrasting patterns of light and dark, contributes most appreciably to the consistently ambiguous tone of the work. To demonstrate the moral uncertainty of this world and of life in general, Conrad consistently alters common symbolic conceptions of light and dark. Thus, white is not synonymous with good, nor black with evil, but rather both symbols are interchangeable. Throughout the novella, white and black characters are alternately examples of acute suffering, civilized dignity, moral refinement, or violent savagery, demonstrating that no race is wholly good or evil, and that all human beings are a confusing mixture of propensities for all types of behavior. The political significance of Heart of Darkness has also received much critical attention. Social Darwinism and a strong belief in the Carlylean work ethic are two of the Victorian standards that are attacked in the novella. The first served to justify European exploitation of Africa and other areas of the world by purporting that the indigenous peoples were in need of the superior technological and religious knowledge of Europe. In Heart of Darkness, the hypocrisy of these aims is illustrated by the all-consuming scramble for wealth by the Europeans, who destroy the land and people without remorse. In similar fashion, the work ethic that Marlow seems to embrace, praising its effectiveness in keeping his mind free of undesirable thoughts, is in fact instrumental in blinding him to the events around him. Critical Reception Heart of Darkness remains a work popular with critics and readers alike. It has been studied from feminist, psychoanalytical, racial, and political perspectives. For this reason Frederick R.

**Chapter 4 : The Heart of Darkness Literary Analysis by kelsey wolf on Prezi**

*Like many of Conrad's novels and short stories, Heart of Darkness is based in part upon the author's personal experiences. In , after more than a decade as a seaman, Conrad requested the.*

Develop and organize arguments 5. Write the introduction 6. Write the body paragraphs 7. Write the conclusion 1. Now all you have to do is choose one. Do yourself a favor and pick a topic that interests you. If you are asked to come up with a topic by yourself, though, you might start to feel a little panicked. Maybe you have too many ideas or none at all. Take a deep breath and start by asking yourself these questions: Did a particular image, line, or scene linger in your mind for a long time? If it fascinated you, chances are you can draw on it to write a fascinating essay. Confusing moments in a work of literature are like a loose thread in a sweater: Ask yourself why the author chose to write about that character or scene the way he or she did and you might tap into some important insights about the work as a whole. Did you notice any patterns? Is there a phrase that the main character uses constantly or an image that repeats throughout the book? Did you notice any contradictions or ironies? Great works of literature are complex; great literary essays recognize and explain those complexities. Maybe the main character acts one way around his family and a completely different way around his friends and associates. The best questions invite critical debates and discussions, not just a rehashing of the summary. Finally, remember to keep the scope of your question in mind: Conversely, is this a topic big enough to fill the required length? Frankenstein and his monster alike? Keep track of passages, symbols, images, or scenes that deal with your topic. These are the elements that you will analyze in your essay, and which you will offer as evidence to support your arguments. For more on the parts of literary works, see the Glossary of Literary Terms at the end of this section. Elements of Story These are the whats of the work—what happens, where it happens, and to whom it happens. All of the events and actions of the work. The people who act and are acted upon in a literary work. The main character of a work is known as the protagonist. The central tension in the work. When and where the work takes place. Elements of setting include location, time period, time of day, weather, social atmosphere, and economic conditions. The person telling the story. The narrator may straightforwardly report what happens, convey the subjective opinions and perceptions of one or more characters, or provide commentary and opinion in his or her own voice. The main ideas or messages of the work—usually abstract ideas about people, society, or life in general. A work may have many themes, which may be in tension with one another. Elements of Style These are the hows—how the characters speak, how the story is constructed, and how language is used throughout the work. How the parts of the work are assembled. Some novels are narrated in a linear, chronological fashion, while others skip around in time. Some plays follow a traditional three-or five-act structure, while others are a series of loosely connected scenes. Some authors deliberately leave gaps in their works, leaving readers to puzzle out the missing information. The perspective from which a story is told. In first-person point of view, the narrator involves him or herself in the story. In third-person point of view, the narrator does not participate in the story. Omniscient narrators see and know all: Remember that the narrator and the author are not the same thing! Whether a character uses dry, clinical language or flowery prose with lots of exclamation points can tell you a lot about his or her attitude and personality. Word order and sentence construction. Ernest Hemingway, for example, is known for writing in very short, straightforward sentences, while James Joyce characteristically wrote in long, incredibly complicated lines. The mood or feeling of the text. Diction and syntax often contribute to the tone of a work. A novel written in short, clipped sentences that use small, simple words might feel brusque, cold, or matter-of-fact. Language that appeals to the senses, representing things that can be seen, smelled, heard, tasted, or touched. Language that is not meant to be interpreted literally. A thesis is a claim about a work of literature that needs to be supported by evidence and arguments. The thesis statement is the heart of the literary essay, and the bulk of your paper will be spent trying to prove this claim. A good thesis will be: Provable through textual evidence. A really strong thesis will argue for a reading of the text that is not immediately apparent. How does the monster tell us so much about the human condition? Good Thesis Statements Question: Would Piggy in *The Lord of the Flies* make a good island leader if he were given the

chance? Golding emphasizes this point by giving Piggy a foil in the charismatic Jack, whose magnetic personality allows him to capture and wield power effectively, if not always wisely.

**Develop and Organize Arguments** The reasons and examples that support your thesis will form the middle paragraphs of your essay. One essay prompt might ask you to compare and contrast two characters, while another asks you to trace an image through a given work of literature. These questions require different kinds of answers and therefore different kinds of arguments. You can either go subject by subject or point by point. This can be a highly effective strategy if you want to make a counterintuitive argument—that, despite seeming to be totally different, the two objects being compared are actually similar in a very important way or vice versa. Remember that your essay should reveal something fresh or unexpected about the text, so think beyond the obvious parallels and differences.

**Trace** Choose an image—for example, birds, knives, or eyes—and trace that image throughout *Macbeth*. Sounds pretty easy, right? All you need to do is read the play, underline every appearance of a knife in *Macbeth*, and then list them in your essay in the order they appear, right? In the *Macbeth* example above, think about the different contexts in which knives appear in the play and to what effect. In *Macbeth*, there are real knives and imagined knives; knives that kill and knives that simply threaten. Categorize and classify your examples to give them some order. Finally, always keep the overall effect in mind.

**Debate** Is the society depicted in good for its citizens? You might be asked to judge a character or group of characters. Is Caesar responsible for his own demise? For this kind of essay, there are two important points to keep in mind. Every literary essay expects you to read and analyze the work, so search for evidence in the text. What do characters have to say about the government of Oceania? What images does Orwell use that might give you a hint about his attitude toward the government? As in any debate, you also need to make sure that you define all the necessary terms before you begin to argue your case. You should define your terms right up front, in the first paragraph after your introduction. Second, remember that strong literary essays make contrary and surprising arguments. Try to think outside the box. But can you think of any arguments for the opposite side? Even if your final assertion is that the novel depicts a cruel, repressive, and therefore harmful society, acknowledging and responding to the counterargument will strengthen your overall case.

**Write the Introduction** Your introduction sets up the entire essay. A persuasive literary essay immediately establishes its writer as a knowledgeable, authoritative figure. An introduction can vary in length depending on the overall length of the essay, but in a traditional five-paragraph essay it should be no longer than one paragraph. However long it is, your introduction needs to: Provide any necessary context. Your introduction should situate the reader and let him or her know what to expect. What book are you discussing? What topic will you be addressing? Why is this topic important, and why is your particular position on the topic noteworthy? Literary essays make unexpected connections and reveal less-than-obvious truths. This usually happens at or very near the end of your introduction.

**Chapter 5 : SparkNotes: Heart of Darkness: How to Write Literary Analysis**

» *Critical Study of Text (Heart of Darkness) Heart of Darkness Joseph Conrad Heart of Darkness explores many themes throughout the book which can be related to one another such as? Identity? and? Darkness?*

Contact Author Introduction Joseph Conrad was one of the famous novelists in the history of English literature. His novel contains mystical, natural, imaginative elements and realistic in the sense of Romanticism. This novel had its origin in personal experience. Conrad wrote this novel in the context of colonialism, its nature and its devil side. Colonialism is the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically. In Heart of Darkness, the author, Joseph Conrad explores the nature of colonialism. He reveals the horrors of colonialism and is cynical of the entire process. He uses several symbolic characters to accomplish this. The main one being the shadowy and elusive Kurtz, who represents all of Europe: Joseph Conrad shows that the very nature of colonialism has not changed much from Roman times to his day, except that the tools and weapons used have become more sophisticated. The main purpose and the results have stayed the same. A brief analysis of Colonialism is stated below: Conrad begins with a focus on what the Company overtly tells the public: They are going into the Congo to civilize the Natives. The Europeans, on face level, seek to convert the inhabitants of the Congo region to the European way of life. White colonialism is the primary concern of the story of Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad. The behavior of the white Europeans is narrated by the novelist with very impressive and effective touches. He drew an accurate picture of the white men and the natives of Congoduring colonialism in this story. In the story, Marlow speaks about the ancient Roman Conquerors of Britain. It is mentioned that the ancient Romans were very brute and inflicted many cruelties to the Englishmen. Ivory Source 4 Ivory: It was useless to natives but the worthy to the white-men because of its usage in ornament manufacturing. Thus, the motive of white-men was to indulge in the exploitation and brutality extract the ivory from the native people. Slaver and Colonizers 5 Natives are suspected as inhuman by the white-men: As a white-man, Kurtz believes that the Natives are in need of being humanized, improved, and instructed in the European way of life. The Europeans believe that the Natives are beneath them and in need of being cultured. Joseph Conrad explains that colonialism is brutal and savage process. The Natives are lulled into a false sense of security and then become slaves of the European colonizers. To the Europeans, the Natives are valuable, if they are productive and supplying ivory and other goods to the Europeans. Natives are neglected by European colonizers Source 7 Natives are neglected by European colonizers: The Europeans do not care about the health and working conditions of the Natives as long as they are productive. They are left to fend for themselves and slowly waste away, starving, unable to find food to eat. The populace is beaten and hanged simply to serve as an object lesson to others around them. The Europeans who have traveled to Africa to humanize the Natives treat the natives severely and inhumanly. Not only do the Europeans show cruelty and brutality towards the Natives, but it is also shown in the form of greed towards each other. The Europeans are only interested in advancing within the company, making the most money and shipping the most ivory for their own profit. This story reveals the dirty and inhuman attitudes towards the native black people of Colonialism by the white-men. During that time, the natives were mostly naked and were moving like ants. Further, half-a dozen were mostly chained to one another. They were punished because they violated the laws of white-men. White-men are quite indifferent to the criminals and torture them mercilessly. In the story, the manager often talks of having someone hanged so that he will have no competition and able to advance his career. All that is important to him is the acquisition of money and power. To the Europeans it is imperative that they attain wealth, power and prestige. They simply care about what works for them and the betterment of their positions. We see in the time of Colonialism, the white-men were selfish and hypocrite. They were simply wasting time and effort to show they were rendering constructive works. They start a project aimlessly. For example, they had planned a project to build a railway line in Congo. They blast the rock by gunpowder which is quite unnecessary for blasting the rocks as they were not causing any restriction in the way of railway. White-men frightened people with weapons Source 12 White-men frightened people with weapons:

Consequently, the brutality and savagery of colonialism and the Europeans causes the Natives to fear the colonizers, and the Europeans use this fear to their advantage to get what they want. Through the actions of the Europeans, the Natives are made fearful and in order to protect their lives and the lives of their families they submit to the will of the foreigners. They are advanced in weapon technology. They forcefully frighten others for the Ivory. Kurtz is a classic example of a white-man of Colonialism. He went to Congo to civilize that region. However, the primary motive is collect Ivory not to civilize people. He tried to rule that region in his own way and finally realized he was a complete failure. He was in deep darkness at his deathbed and realized his misdeeds to native people. Finally, Conrad explores the true purpose of colonialism. Colonialism is really about obtaining all of the natural resources of the land for profit and in the process. The Europeans are far more interested in ivory that in civilizing the Natives. They would rather obtain the most ivory through whatever means necessary for their advancement within the company. The Europeans destroy the land so they can obtain every valuable object out of the ground. Ivory is a natural resource which can be used by human being but it is not the asset of anyone. But the white-men, Kurtz in the story believes the Ivory is only for him.

Chapter 6 : Heart of Darkness | Novelguide

*Analysis of Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad* When Joseph Conrad composed *Heart of Darkness* he created a literary masterpiece which embodied the essence of light contrasting with darkness. Throughout the novel Conrad constantly utilizes the images of light and dark and uses them to mold a vision, which the reader is then able to use to.

Although he did not fluently speak English until his mid-twenties, Conrad however excelled at prose and the written English linguistic communication, with many of his plots having been adapted into movie. English was in fact his 3rd linguistic communication, Polish and Gallic being the first two linguistic communications he learned. Conrad led a rough life as a kid Conover, and when he was merely three, his male parent was imprisoned Warsaw for his supposed radical political associations Conover until the household was exile to northern Russia in Liukkonen. While populating with his uncle, Conrad persuaded his uncle to allow him travel to sea Liukkonen, where his many escapades and journeys laid the foundation for most of his plots, which are largely sea-faring narratives. In he sailed up the Congo River, a journey that provided much of the stuff for his most noteworthy and extremely regarded work *Heart of Darkness*. During his clip in the Congo, Conrad experienced utmost physical and mental emphasis, which finally affected his wellness for the remainder of his life. Resettling in London, Conrad went into expatriate for assorted grounds including political Conover. Ending his seaman calling that spanned more than twenty old ages of sea-faring experiences, Conrad was able to pull from at that place intricate characters and narratives which spoke of the human status, and the complexness of the interior mind. One such of import literary work titled *Lord Jim*, in which Jim, a immature British mariner accompanies his captain and other crew members in abandoning the riders of their ship. While there he protects the villagers from brigands and a local corrupt head. *Lord Jim* speaks of the rise and autumn of the human spirit, and the award and salvation inherent in baronial workss. Conrad besides deals with the issues environing imperialism in the *Heart of Darkness* Sparknotes, yet there is besides a larger implicit in issue of race and equality, or deficiency thereof, within the overall narrative. The narrative revolves chiefly about Marlow, and his journey through the Congo River to run into Kurtz, purported to be a adult male of great abilities. Amidst jobs with the laden indigens, Marlow manages to last his clip in the Congo, but because of the utmost conditions and rough life in the country at the clip, he returns place with sick wellness. The events depicted in *Heart of Darkness* truly could hold occurred anyplace, but Conrad chose the Congo for the feeling and impact of the clime, the persons involved, and the very manner of life at that place. The rubric may besides mention to the Congo itself, due to the darkness and chartless district and enigmas that lurked within at that clip. Conrad creates a build-up of tenseness and mysteriousness to the secret plan, which causes one to inquire what may go on following, and even though nil excessively climactic occurs, each single event adds to the premonition of the narrative. The narrative portrays darkness as emanating from the deepness of the jungle; it fills work forces with immorality and allows them to move upon it. The chief illustration of this darkness is within the station director Kurtz, who performs such orgy in the jungles that he finally becomes sick and dies. Unaware of his ain immorality, Kurtz is unable to contend the darkness within. In a sense, visible radiation and dark are polarized; Light represents the falsities and corruptness in the universe symbolized by the white adult male, whereas dark is a symbol for truth, while the dark indigens show the purity and artlessness of humanity. These scenes and symbols help to portray the subject of cosmopolitan darkness that Conrad alludes to. This shows that all of humanity is connected through the bosom of darkness and the truth. Ultimately *Heart of Darkness* is a narrative of the booby traps and hazards of greed, lecherousness, and the corruptness of ideals and values by the darkness that dwells within all of world. It tells of the lunacy that the greed for wealths or power can make within the bosom and head, and that even the best of purposes can go distorted into something evil and oppressive. Plants Consulted Conover, Matt. Crowther, John, erectile dysfunction. Online Authoritative Literature, Poems, and Quotes.

## Chapter 7 : Heart of Darkness: Marxist Literary Critical Analysis | rodartelitcrit

*Analysis of Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad* Heart of Darkness is a story about Marlow's journey to discover his inner self. Along the way, Marlow faces his fears of failure, insanity, death, and cultural contamination on his trek to the inner station.

Indeed, darkness seems to pervade the work. But within the tale darkness operates in several ways. As any child knows, darkness symbolizes the unknown; it gains its power from its ability to conceal things we are too frightened to face. Several times in the novel we see characters afraid, not of the darkness itself, but of that which potentially lies within it. One of the most alarming scenes occurs when the men aboard the fog-bound steamer hear a shrill cry from somewhere around them. It is particularly frightening because the men know some potential threat is near, but they cannot see it; it is simply out there in the darkness, waiting. Darkness also effectively conceals certain savage acts. For example, when the Manager suggests that the "scoundrel," who is suspected of helping Kurtz procure his ivory, should be hanged as an example, his uncle agrees, noting that such actions are possible in the Congo, a region far from the "light" of civilized action. Of course, darkness is also very compelling. Despite the fear it induces, there are plenty of men who are willing to brave it for its potential rewards. For the company men, the incentive is material wealth in the form of ivory. There are, however, other rewards. Marlow travels to the region because of a map he sees, which lists the area as one of the few largely uncharted lands left. To him, the Congo is a place to undertake a great adventure. The Harlequin is a physical and spiritual wanderer, and through Kurtz and his dark station, his mind has been "enlarged" he has found a sense of purpose. The character who most fully embraces the darkness is, of course, Kurtz. He has been completely transformed by his experience in the Congo. He has looked deeply within himself and has seen his own potential for savagery, yet he has accepted it. The Europeans try to push back the darkness, if only temporarily, through their white clothes, adherence to European customs and morals, and technological advances, like the steamboat and the railroad. But the novel argues that the darkness is too enveloping. In the preface to his tale, Marlow remarks that London was once "one of the dark places of the earth. When he locates the remains of his predecessor, Captain Fresleven, who died in an argument with a native chief, he notes that "the grass growing through his ribs was tall enough to hide his bones. The light of civilization with someday return to darkness. Colonization as Destruction Another major theme in the novel is the notion of colonization as a destructive, rather than constructive, force. The International Society for the Suppression of Savage Customs, which commissions Kurtz to write a report, is likely an organization that believes in "civilizing" the inhabitants of Congo. The Manager condemns Kurtz for his "unsound" methods, yet in one sense Kurtz has achieved the ultimate form of colonization: As a result, he brings in the most ivory. By the time Marlow encounters Kurtz, Kurtz no longer has any noble intentions; instead he feels the need to "Exterminate all the brutes!

Chapter 8 : Heart Of Darkness Part 1 Essay Example | Graduateway

*that Conrad's Heart of Darkness offers an "analysis of the deterioration of the white man's morale, when he is let loose from European restraint, and to make trade profits out of the subject races" (Murfin 99).*

It was published In The purpose of this novel Is to display the act of imperialism. The story circulates on Charles Marrow, who narrates the book, and is a salesman In the search of Ivory up the Congo River. Heart of Darkness Informs the reader of European colonization and Its negatives. Throughout this novel the reader learns more and more of Imperialism and how man can be so evil. For the duration of the book, Marrow has set out to find Kurt, a legend of a man, who is the chief of the Inner Station in Africa and seems to be a Jack-of-all-trades. Marrow is a man who no longer holds his innocence. He really has seen it all, mistreatment of others, death, murder, slavery, starvation, and sickness. He Is a very diligent worker, and seems to hide behind It. For example, when one of the others on the ship was struck with an arrow and died, he returned to his Job, sailing the ship. He seems to have a great deal of respect for Kurt, although he sees his flaws. Marrow is glad to see that the majority of the territory was British owned and he was also glad to see that commerce, along with culture and religion were thriving. Seep Conrad seems to depict imperialism in this novel through Charles Marrow. He sees everything being done to the tribe members that he passes and at the station. Throughout the book everyone speaks so highly of Kurt and his accomplishments and what he has done for Africa. This novel is filled with literal and metaphorical contradictions: Kurt and Marrow, Europe and Africa, good and evil, black and white, and so on. This novel has many symbols, and most symbolizing the corruption of that of imperialism. The fog that Marrow and the ship encounter for one Is a great example. Marrow has no Idea where he Is going or If there Is open water ahead. The fog game Marrow a push to make a decision but he had no idea if he should stop or keep going, like fog, darkness distorts a view. Ivory symbolizes the destruction and greed of man; the managers forget all about being civilized and their morals that they have been taught. Kurt is just a plain and simple symbol of madness. His dark side completely and totally washed him out. His exposure to the Congo and living among the natives stripped him of his moral values. He put himself up on a pedestal, making the natives think he is a god of some sort, so they think the world of him. Marrow stated that everyone has a degree of viciousness in them, but the whites had standards because of civilization. A native Is normally looked at as a savage because there Is no governing for him to follow, only nature laws. Joseph Conrad had a purpose for this novel. He painted a story to Illustration the evil of Imperialism. He wanted to get rid of the European mindset of abusing the natives and taking Human kind, whether white or black, has the option of being evil, or righteous for that matter. Society today seems to be blinding, categorizing, and stereotyping. Conrad does a great Job off pulling off the blindfold that society has darkened the world with. There is evil in everyone, regardless of race, social status, or sex. Choose Type of service.

**Chapter 9 : Post-Colonial Analysis of Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness**

*Heart of Darkness: Theme Analysis, Free Study Guides and book notes including comprehensive chapter analysis, complete summary analysis, author biography information, character profiles, theme analysis, metaphor analysis, and top ten quotes on classic literature.*

Citations Heart of Darkness, by Joseph Conrad, is one of the most well known works among scholars of classical literature and post-colonial literature. Not only is it thought provoking and exciting, but also considered to be one of the most highly stylistic in its class, blending its use of narrative, symbolism, deep and challenging characters, and of course a touch of psychological evaluation that Conrad is well known for. To get a full grasp of the novella, one must first understand the history behind the Congo and its colonization by the Belgians. As a result of ruthless colonial exploitation, involuntary servitude, and direct violence, the native people live in an impoverished state. As many as six million Africans died during the brutal rubber trade, overseen by the Belgians. Many are forced to be "carriers," for people on jungle expeditions that need to move cargo from one place to another. These packages they carry on their backs, on rough footpaths through the jungle, weigh between 40 and 70 pounds. There are few, if any, breaks to stop and rest. It is a hard life, but this history sets up the action behind the drama in this book, as far as helping to smuggle ivory out, or carry supplies into the jungle nation. The recurring theme of darkness a symbol for the reality of the society and fear perpetuate the action, and ultimately envelops the characters that struggle with this dilemma such as Kurtz. The message is the same however: Joseph Conrad was born in Berdichev, Poland in 1859. He first became familiarized with the English language at the age of eight, because his father translated works of Shakespeare and Conrad became interested in them. He was a very smart child, and did quite well in school. He further studied in Cracow and Switzerland, but his love for the sea beckoned him to explore, sail, and learn a new style of life. In 1873 he took a job on a ship, and thus begun his lifelong fascination for the sea and sea travel. After traveling around the world a bit, he got involved in gunrunning in the West Indies. He liked to gamble, and because of this addiction he racked up huge debts which led him to attempt suicide. His brush with death opened his eyes, and he then realized that changes needed to be made in his life. In 1877 he found himself in England, where he spent the next 16 years of his life in the British navy. This had a profound impact on his writing, and it really developed and deepened his passion for the sea. However, his sense of adventure had not yet faded away, and he found himself in as a captain of a steamboat on the Congo River. He always wanted to go to Africa, and was drawn to her like his passion for the sea. His experiences there are what inspired Heart of Darkness, and many people do not realize that he knew the Congo well, and actually spent some time of his life involved in the conflicts of the land. Conrad later returned to England in 1892 and worked as a sailor until 1894. He then retired from sailing and spent the rest of his life writing. He married, had two sons, but lived on a modest budget. He was a poor, and frequently got into trouble, but kept on writing. Finally he received some recognition for his work in 1902, and this is when his financial situation began to improve. However, his health was failing, but his pen grew stronger. He kept on writing and became quite popular in England. They even wanted to knight him in but he refused. He died that same year. Many people see him as just another writer, but to those who study post-colonial literature he can be seen as a beacon of hope and truth. He is telling the story so people can see what colonists do to the land in which they colonize: Conrad was there and witnessed the entire process, and it angered him to the point of no return. Dialogues Conrad can be linked to many authors that write about post-colonial literature. Not only is the setting similar, Africa, the similarities of how the natives are seen and persecuted by the colonists are unprecedented. Achebe and Conrad both use the word "savage" as a term to describe the native people, because this is how they were seen by their oppressors. Granted, neither author believes these people to be savages, but throughout both pieces of literature the natives are degraded both verbally and physically. The natives are seen as expendable and therefore the quality of life given them is not as important. Conrad uses the character of Marlow to utilize his own thoughts and perceptions of the people in the Congo. He continually sees them being beaten when they fall carrying packages, Europeans antagonizing them from boats as they travel past river villages, Kurtz commanding them around like a battalion of troops.

He is angered by this and tries to change it, but by the time he gets to Kurtz it is too late because he has been pulled in by the darkness and is sick and pale. Marlow personifies a voice of reason, goodwill, and light. Kurtz personifies evil, darkness, and destruction. It even gets to the point where Kurtz is having the natives worshiping him as a God. Achebe similarly tries to utilize a character as a voice of reason, but it is too late. The natives trust the Europeans that come to the village, and they are basically destroyed. The goal is similar: But in both cases, it is simply too late in the process for their characters to change things. Notes Conrad did navigate the waters of the Congo. He never wrote about it until he returned home to England where he wrote *Heart of Darkness* in. He did keep a journal, and some of the excerpts from his journal can be found in the novella. The desolation of the land described in the book is an actual account of locations seen by Conrad. Over the years he spent there, he traveled the land and was shocked by the poverty of the Congo due to lack of funding. He did a whole series of essays on Conrad and they are highly revered. They would be great supplemental reading.