

**Fashoda Incident - II**

**Lead: Determined to insert itself into Eastern Africa, France, in the 1890s, sent an expedition from the Atlantic, across the continent to a tiny village in the Sudan.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Fashoda was located on high land near the confluence of several tributaries of the upper White Nile River. When the French expedition, led by Colonel Jean-Baptiste Marchand, planted the French Tri-Color at Fashoda it was a**

**direct challenge to British ambitions in Eastern Africa which included complete domination of the region from Cairo in the Egyptian north all the way to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.**

**Marchand's tiny detachment, 120 Senegalese colonial troops led by seven French officers, lightly armed and poorly provisioned arrived on the Nile in July 1898. There they waited for the British to take up the challenge. They would not wait for long.**

**Since March 1896 an Anglo-Egyptian Army led by Herbert Horatio Kitchener had been moving slowly south, up the Nile, gradually reclaiming territory for Egypt lost in**

**the previous decade to an extremist Islamic revolution led initially by Muhammad Ahmad, known to his followers as the Madhi. After routing what remained of the Mahdists at the Battle of Omdurman and retaking Khartoum in central Sudan, Kitchener arrived in Fashoda on September 18, 1898.**

**Instead of fighting, he and Marchand cracked open a bottle of champagne, elegantly swapped colonial gossip, then settled back and awaited instructions from Paris and London. Everyone was very polite. A rough temporary accommodation permitted the flags of three nations to fly over the fort at Fashoda: France, Britain and that of Britain's client**

**state, Egypt. If in Fashoda there was a tense but civil standoff, the rest of the world looked on in horror expecting war. Next time: surrender, accommodation and entente.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

**Resources**

**Brown, Roger Glenn. *Fashoda Reconsidered: the Impact of Domestic Politics on French Policy in Africa, 1893-1898.* Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Press, 1970.**

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**Lewis, David L. *The Race to Fashoda: European Colonialism and African Resistance in the Scramble for Africa.* New York, NY: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1987.**

**Ray, James Lee. *Democracy and international Conflict: An Evaluation of the Democratic Peace Proposition.* Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1995.**

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