

The aim of this paper is to describe power in Central Africa in terms of actors and aspects. In order to find out who has the power and what it is like, the matrix of aims, strategies and results is used. The argument is that the state which is able to change aims into results has the power. Herein, it should be mentioned that the Congo conflict is not just one war; it is a complex of interrelated wars and disputes. Nevertheless, the analysis is centred at the state level of the conflict. The aspects of civil and local wars are neglected here; however, they cannot be totally ignored.

At first, theoretical and historical backgrounds to the conflict are described. Here, the clientelism is central to very African system of power. Then, the politico-military, economic and diplomatic/international aspects of the second Congo war are analysed. The findings are that Angola due to its military strength and pragmatic aims is the main power in Central Africa. The second most powerful country in the region is Rwanda, whose military aims and strategies were, however, unfitted to its potential resources. These two states are able to control the African clientelism most accurately. On the other side, Uganda and Zimbabwe were not. In terms of other states, no one was able to influence the course of the second Congo war. Moreover, there is no interest of major world powers apt to be defended in this war, which is the reason why France and the United States hardly participated.