



*Kansai university and Faculty of Economics*



## ***International Symposium***

### **Africa and Asia Entanglements in Past and Present : Bridging History and Development Studies**

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#### **Industrializing a Colonial Backwater: Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) during the Second World War to the late 1950s**

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#### **Abstract**

The Second World War which broke out in September 1939 caused serious supply problems in the colonies. Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), a British colony was unprepared to take advantage of wartime scarcity to set up industries in the country as had occurred in the neighbouring colonies of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. Rather, increased metropolitan involvement in the Northern Rhodesian economy made the colony more integrated and dependent on these regional partners for manufactured goods. A reluctant colonial Government was not keen on the development of industries in the country. This paper demonstrates that the industrialization of Northern Rhodesia during the war and its immediate aftermath was constrained by various factors. Among these include the colonial Government's disinterestedness towards the establishment of industries in the countries. Aside from this was the lack of a big market for industrial products, lack of capital, continued dumping of goods by powerful manufacturers in the south, and unfair regional customs agreements. Thus by the end of the war, only one major industry, Chilanga Cement, had been set up with state funding. Manufacturing, therefore, remained Northern Rhodesia's economic nightmare.