**British Structural-Functionalists and the Colonial Encounter**

Although Many exceptions could certainly be pointed out, it seems not unfair to say that during the colonial period, most anthropological studies were—unwillingly and unconsciously in many cases—conservative: first, in that Africans were described as so different from ‘civilized’ peoples and so ‘savage’ just at the time that Europe needed to justify colonial expansion; and second, in that later on, the value of the traditional cultures was magnified when it was useful for the colonial powers to ally themselves with the more traditional forces against the progressive Africans. We do not believe that these parallels are mere coincidences.

Jaques Maquet, cited in Kuper 1973:111