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### **Space, Mobility and Displacement: The Mulele ‘Rebellion’ in Postcolonial Congo**

This paper has two goals. One is to show the relationship between the meaning of space, controls over mobility, and the resulting displacement in the context of the dramatic Mulele rebellion that took place in the Kwilu region in the Western part of the Congo, from 1963 to 1968. The second, which overlaps with the first, is to show how suffering becomes deeply embedded within a (violent) space through the forms and structuring of continual movement of people within that space. Drawing on extensive oral interviews, as well as an archive of materials created during and soon after the rebellion, I argue that violent conflicts, in their nature, always shatter the mental, temporal and spatial frameworks by which people make sense of their lives. When conflicts broke out in the Congo and were accompanied by violence, terror and actual physical movements, they ruptured the previous logics of daily life that people used to lean on to give meaning to their existence. Not only did this affect the physical bodies, it also affected the relationship of the self with the environment. To grasp the meaning of suffering produced in this context, and its inscription in the imagination of people, necessitates to mobilize a variety of approaches.