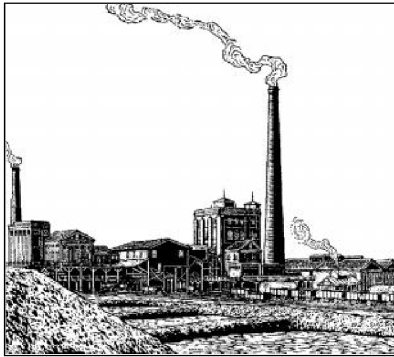


## The Age of Imperialism (1800-1914)

### Industrialized Nations

In the study of the Industrial Revolution, we learned about the revolutionary change in the way Great Britain, the United States, and other countries manufactured goods. Producing large numbers of goods in big factories presented new problems for **industrialized nations**. These nations needed to find more and more **raw materials** for their factories. They needed coal, for example, to run their factories. In addition, they needed materials such as tungsten to make steel products. Unable to find these *raw materials* at home, industrialized nations went searching to other territories and countries.



*Industrialized nations needed more raw materials for their factories.*

Not only did industrialized nations need to seek new territories for raw materials, they also needed to find new markets in which to sell their goods once they were manufactured. In order to fulfill their need for raw materials, industrial nations began the practice of **imperialism**: a policy of gaining control over underdeveloped countries for the purpose of getting access to rich, raw materials and markets for manufactured goods.

Until the 1870s, European nations and the United States had little interest in *imperialism*. After 1870 these countries began to *carve up* the map of the world into **spheres of influence**. A *sphere of influence* is a region in the world where a powerful nation has special economic and political privileges. In these regions, foreigners did pretty much as they pleased. While the driving force to build overseas empires was economic, other factors played a role, as well.

### Nationalism

**Nationalism**, an intense loyalty to one's country and its culture, began to grow among European nations between 1870 and 1914. Nationalists believed that **colonies** and spheres of influence added to the strength and power of their nation. Western nations began a race to increase their empires overseas. Western nations saw this race to gain colonies as a matter of honor; they would not sit back and watch as territorial conquests

went to rival nations. This race led to both rivalries and **alliances** among nations. These rivalries and *alliances* led to the outbreak of many small wars and, finally, to World War I in 1914.

### Missionary Motives

Europeans also believed that they had the *moral* duty to bring a belief in Christianity to the natives of other lands. Missionaries also educated natives in other Western ways, such as medical, hygienic, and sanitary practices.



### “The White Man’s Burden”

The people of the advanced Western nations believed that they had a *duty* to bring the *Western* ideas and technology to people in undeveloped parts of the world. This belief was commonly known as “the white man’s burden,” a phrase from a poem by Rudyard Kipling. People were considered backward if their religion or culture was different from that of the West. Each industrialized nation believed its civilization and culture to be the best and most suited to be brought to the non-industrialized people of the world. (This belief is called *extreme nationalism*.)

*People were considered backward if their religion or culture was different from that of the West.*

### The Relationship between Industrialism and Imperialism

*Industrialism* led to imperialism, or the race to build overseas empires. Listed below are some the reasons that industrial nations began practicing imperialism.

- **Capitalists** wanted to invest their surplus **capital**, or profits, to build new factories overseas.
- After *capitalists* built their factories in foreign lands, they needed protection. To protect overseas empires, governments built naval and military bases. (The Industrial Revolution produced many advances in weapons.)
- To run overseas factories, capitalists needed a labor force. Imperialists used the natives in their overseas empires as a cheap labor force.



## The Opium War in China

Europeans had traded with the Chinese people ever since Marco Polo traveled to China in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1700s, British merchants developed a profitable trade by bringing in the habit-forming drug opium from India and selling it in China. Many Chinese people became addicted to opium and committed crimes to support their habit. In response, the Chinese government tried to stop the opium trade. As a result of this conflict, war broke out between Great Britain and China. The *Opium War*, as it was called, lasted from 1839 to 1842.



*Many Chinese people became addicted to opium.*

Great Britain's superior military force defeated the Chinese. In 1842, in a treaty that ended the Opium War, the Chinese were forced to open the door to European trade on a large scale. The Chinese government was too weak and too corrupt to prevent European nations from taking advantage of the Chinese people. The government was also forced to give the island of Hong Kong to the British and open many of its cities to foreign trade. British citizens in these cities were governed by British law, not Chinese laws. The exemption of foreigners from the laws of the nation where they live or do business is called **extraterritoriality**. Great Britain could not hold its privileged trade **monopoly** in China for long, however. Other European nations, Japan, and the United States demanded and received similar trade treaties with the weak Chinese government.

### Foreign Influence Expands in China

During the 1850s, the Chinese people rebelled against foreigners. Using their modern weapons, the foreigners easily put down the Chinese rebels. The foreigners then took advantage of the weakened Chinese government by *carving up* China into spheres of influence. Each country was to control the trade in its sphere. Russia, Germany, Britain, and France gained spheres; the United States, however, did not gain its own sphere.



India and Southeast Asia, 1900

The United States feared that it would lose trade rights and benefits in China. In 1899 President William McKinley argued that there should be an **Open Door Policy** in China. The *Open Door Policy* would mean that any country could trade in any part of China. European countries agreed to the Open Door Policy. This policy increased competition for trade between imperialistic nations.

### Nationalism Increases in China

Even though European countries controlled most of China's largest cities, China was still a free country. However, the Chinese people resented the presence of foreigners in their country and formed secret societies that pledged to rid the country of *foreign devils*. In 1899 the most famous of those secret groups was the Harmonious Fists, better known as the *Boxers*. Westerners watching them train in martial arts dubbed them the Boxers. In 1900 the Boxers rebelled against the Europeans and Americans. The Boxers surrounded the European sections of cities for months. They carried out widespread attacks on foreigners in every part of China. An

army made up of troops from eight countries (Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Russia, Japan and the United States) responded to the **Boxer Rebellion** and defeated the Chinese Boxers. After the defeat of the Chinese Boxer Rebellion, the victorious foreign governments forced the Chinese government to pay a large fine and give up what little power it still had. Nevertheless, the *Boxer Rebellion* was the beginning of a movement that led to the modern Chinese state.

## Imperialism in Japan

In 1853-1854 the United States sent Navy Commander Matthew Perry to Japan. Perry's **mission** was to demand that Japan open its ports to trade. Even though the Japanese did not want foreign trade, they were too weak to refuse Perry. By 1860 Japan, like China, had granted permission to trade and extraterritorial rights to many foreign nations. The Western nations had arrived in Japan.

## Westernization in Japan

Japanese rulers believed that their country needed to modernize their social and political systems in order to survive the arrival of the West. To accomplish this goal, Japanese leaders began the **westernization** of Japan. During this time, Japan began to change from a feudal society (ruled by warlords) to a society ruled directly by the emperor. This change was called the *Meiji Restoration*. The emperor began a series of reforms, which by 1877 resulted in the complete destruction of **feudalism**. By the 1880s, Japan had ended its old ways and given its people freedoms and the right to choose their occupations and attend schools. Japan realized that unless it caught up with Western nations in technology and wealth, it would never be safe from foreign control. The government invited foreign experts to Japan to help modernize its country. By 1900 Japan was rapidly becoming the first nation in Asia to industrialize.

Although Japan was growing in strength and power, its leaders felt threatened by the foreign imperialist expansion in Asia. Japan knew that it would need to expand and build an empire to meet its economic needs. Japan quickly became an imperialistic country. The government sent its army to China. As a result of the Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895), Japan **annexed** Taiwan and secured a sphere of influence over Korea. By 1900 Japan was a strong military nation and in 1910 it *annexed* Korea.

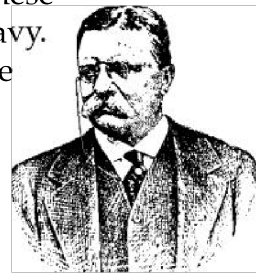


*Japan began to end its old ways.*

## Russo-Japanese War

The Japanese began to use their military to gain valuable territory. They wanted to gain land in China and Korea. The Russians, however, also had interest in those countries. Japan and Russia began arguing over their spheres of influence in China and Korea. When, in 1904, Russia refused to withdraw its army from Manchuria, China, the Japanese navy attacked the Russian navy at Port Arthur. The Russo-Japanese War had begun.

During the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), the Japanese nearly destroyed the Russian's entire Pacific Ocean navy. The Russians were forced to ask for a peace treaty. The American President Theodore Roosevelt helped the two countries come to an agreement. Japan was given much Russian territory in China and Korea, as well as Port Arthur. Port Arthur was a particularly valuable harbor in Manchuria that gave Japan easy access to the Asian mainland. The Japanese victory over Russia was the first time in modern history that an Asian country had defeated a European country.



*President Theodore Roosevelt helped the Japanese and Russians come to an agreement.*

## Imperialism in Africa

Before the 1800s, Europeans knew very little about the continent of Africa beyond its coastal areas. In the mid-1800s several explorers traveled to the lands of Central Africa. In 1841 David Livingstone, a Scottish doctor and missionary, went to Africa. He sent back to Europe detailed reports of his adventures and discoveries. When Livingstone lost contact with Europe in the late 1860s, a newspaper known as the *New York Herald* hired a journalist named Henry Stanley to track him down. Their famous meeting in 1871 is remembered for Stanley's greeting, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

Well-publicized reports about these explorers and others reawakened European interest in Africa. Business leaders, missionaries, and imperialist leaders in Europe became interested in exploring Africa. Europeans believed that if a culture was different from their own, it was backwards. Europeans viewed Africa, with its rich tradition of tribal customs, as a backward continent that needed to be civilized and saved by modern technology and Christianity. The entire value systems of the many different African tribes were completely misunderstood by Europeans. And, of course, many Europeans wanted to exploit the African continent for profit.



*Europeans viewed Africa, despite its rich tradition of tribal customs, as a backward continent because it was different from their own.*

From 1875 to 1914, European countries took control of almost 90 percent of Africa. Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Spain carved up Africa into spheres of influence. Europeans forced tribal members and villagers to harvest rubber and other crops and to mine metal for them. They also took advantage of Africa's riches, including diamonds and gold. European countries were also in Africa to satisfy their hunger for land. They believed that the more land they had, the more powerful they were. More and more Europeans came to settle in Africa. Against modern weapons, the native populations were powerless to prevent the takeover of their land.

## Europeans Carve Up Africa

### Britain

Great Britain took over the Cape Colony in South Africa from the Dutch in 1815. Cape Town, a port in this colony, became a supply base for British ships traveling to India. In 1875 the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli purchased control of the Suez Canal from Egypt. Control of the canal and eventually of Egypt meant that British ships could eliminate the long voyage around Africa and reach India and the Far East more quickly. The new trade route connected the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. It became known as the *lifeline of the British Empire*.

Cecil Rhodes, a British empire builder in Africa, encouraged his country to establish an unbroken north-south line of British territory to be linked by a Cape-to-Cairo railroad. By 1914 the British achieved this goal. The British Empire in Africa included South Africa, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), British East Africa (now Kenya), Uganda, Egypt, and the Sudan. After World War I, the British acquired German East Africa (now Tanzania).

### France

The French presence in Africa began in the early 1800s. By 1830 the French defeated the Muslim tribes in North Africa and gained control of Algeria. By the 1880s, the French had the largest European empire in Africa. Their empire extended from the Mediterranean in the north, to the west coast on the Atlantic Ocean and eastward to the Sudan. Their land holdings in Africa were as large as the continental United States. French expansion in Africa eventually led to clashes with other European nations. Italy, Britain, and Germany challenged France over control of African territory.

### Germany

Germany did not become a united nation until 1871. Because of this, they did not enter the race for colonies in Africa until the turn of the century. By 1914 Germany acquired several African colonies. Germany's empire in Africa was not as large as France's or Great Britain's. Its territories were



widely spread throughout Africa. Although Germany's territories in Africa were not as large as Britain's and France's, many European countries worried about Germany's growing military strength.

### **Other European Empires in Africa**

In 1876 King Leopold II of Belgium, along with wealthy Belgian investors, sent agents to the Congo in central Africa, to claim its rich natural resources. Spain and Portugal had the oldest colonies in Africa. Spain controlled Spanish Morocco and Rio de Oro on the Atlantic coast of Africa. Portugal had trading posts on the east and west coasts of Africa. By 1914 Italy controlled Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, and Libya.

### **The Berlin Conference**

European countries raced to establish colonies in Africa. As a result, conflicts and rivalries led to tensions among these countries. Britain, France, and Germany had rival claims to African territories. To ease this crisis and avoid war, the European powers held an international conference in Berlin, Germany in 1884. No African leaders were invited to attend this conference. Conference leaders agreed to recognize King Leopold's claim to the Congo. They also agreed that no European power could claim any part of Africa unless it first had an established government there.

### **European Rivalries in Africa Continue**

European colonists in Africa had strong nationalist feelings for their native countries. This loyalty led to many small wars involving European settlers from different countries. For example, France and Great Britain often fought battles for control of Northeast Africa (Egypt and Sudan). In South Africa, the Boers (Dutch settlers) and British settlers fought the Boer War, which lasted for three years (1899-1902). The British paid a high price in men's lives for this victory. The Boer War revealed to the world that the European imperialist hunger for land and resources was costing Europeans a higher price than they had expected.

## Impact of Colonial Rule

The lives of native Africans were forever changed under European rule. African traditions and cultures were replaced with Western European values and culture. Native rulers would no longer be able to govern their people. Problems were created when European countries sent government officials to draw artificial borders that combined or divided rival **ethnic groups**. The imperialist countries of Europe established control over most of the African continent. Only Ethiopia and Liberia remained independent.

Men were forced to leave their native villages and families to support themselves by working on European-owned farms or mines, or on government building projects. For example, King Leopold II of Belgium established stations in the Congo to collect ivory and rubber. To enforce African labor, station employees took hostages. They destroyed villages and *flogged* (whipped severely), maimed, or killed local villagers. In the Congo and across the continent, millions of Africans died under colonial rule.

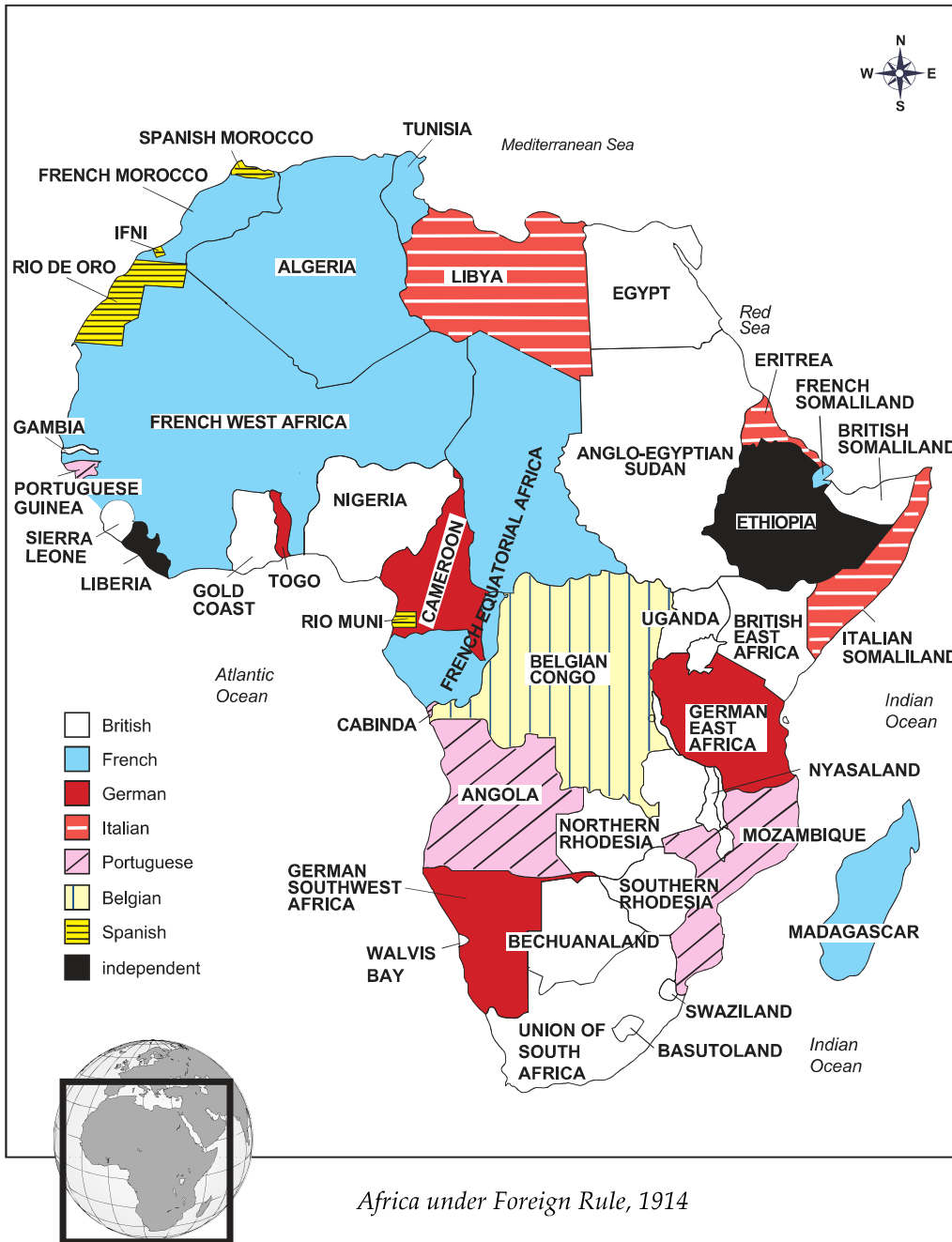


*Native African  
headdress.*

Many Africans died of newly introduced diseases, such as smallpox. Thousands of other Africans died fighting to rid their lands of foreign control. Famines occurred because European-owned farms grew mostly **cash crops**. There was not enough food grown to support the African population.

Although there were many negative effects of European colonial rule, in some instances, Europeans brought benefits to Africa. Improvement in sanitation and the building of hospitals, schools, and railroads benefited Africans. Europeans contributed to the improvement of literacy rates among Africans and an increased life span among the general population.

Despite these improvements, African resistance movements grew. Between 1881-1914, Africans throughout the continent resisted European control. Resistance to European imperialism would eventually lead to many African countries gaining their independence.



## Imperialism in the Ottoman Empire

In the 1600s, the mighty Ottoman Empire stretched over a vast territory that included much of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, North Africa, and the Fertile Crescent. The empire began to decline during the 1700s. The many ethnic groups within the empire caused unrest and tensions. When the Ottoman Empire began to crumble in the mid-1800s, European countries began to look at its territories in hopes of expansion. This once great empire became known as the *sick man of Europe*. Each European power feared that the collapse of the Ottoman Empire would enable another European nation to take over Ottoman lands. This would upset the balance of power in Europe.



Russia was the first European country to extend its influence within Ottoman territory. Russia wanted to control the Bosphorus and Dardanelles—straits connecting Russian's ports in the Black Sea with the Mediterranean. The Crimean War erupted in 1854 when Russia's aggressive moves caused Great Britain and France to side with the Ottomans to stop the threat of Russian expansion. The Crimean War ended in Russia's defeat.

Despite help from Great Britain and France, the Ottoman Empire continued to lose lands. When the Slavic people in the Balkans rebelled



*village fight*

against the Ottomans, the Russians came to their aid. The Ottomans eventually lost control of the Balkans. Romania, Montenegro, Bosnia, Herzegovina, and the lands that became known as *Bulgaria* became independent or were now under Russian influence. The Ottoman Empire also lost land in Africa as well. By the beginning of World War I, the Ottoman Empire was smaller than its former size.

## Imperialism in the Middle East

While Great Britain opposed Russian imperialism, it saw nothing wrong with pursuing its own imperialist goals. Great Britain quickly gained control of many key territories in the Middle East. Great Britain's government understood the military and economic importance of the Middle East. The region was important because of its waterways; the Suez Canal; its valuable oil resources; and its strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Britain also had the military muscle to take control of the Middle East and its huge **reserves** of valuable oil that were so necessary for industrialization.



## Egypt

Both Britain and France owned shares in the French company that had built the Suez Canal. In the 1870s, Great Britain obtained financial control of the canal. This canal became an important waterway for British ships trading with British colonies in Asia and Africa. It connected the Mediterranean with the Red Sea. By 1882 British troops were stationed in Egypt to protect Great Britain's investment in the canal. Eventually, in 1914, Egypt became a **protectorate** of Great Britain.



## Persia

In the early 1800s, Europeans began to gain influence in Persia (present-day Iran). Both Russia and Britain wanted to bring Persia under their sphere of influence. Russia wanted to gain access to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. Britain wanted to use Afghanistan as a **buffer zone** between India and other European countries competing for influence there. Because of the threat of invasion, Persia was forced to sign treaties with Britain and Russia. This allowed both countries to control Persia's government.

By 1857 Persia was forced to give up all its claims to Afghanistan. Great Britain and Russia divided Persia into zones and created their own spheres of influence in each zone. When oil was discovered in Persia in 1908, Western businesses gained concessions from Persian rulers to develop Persia's oil fields. Tensions soon developed between the Persian people and weak and corrupt Persian rulers who wanted to sell concessions to Europeans.

European imperialists gained control of many Muslim lands. They created many spheres of influence. Great Britain's control of the Middle East was only one reason why it was the greatest of all imperialist countries before 1914. Britain had a large and strong navy, which could defend its territories around the world. The British Empire stretched from Asia to Africa to Australia to North America. But the British people generally thought of India as the *jewel in the crown* of the British Empire.

## Imperialism in India

### The British East India Company Controls India

British traders first became interested in India in the 1600s. The Moghul dynasty, which ruled India during the 1500s and 1600s, collapsed in the early 1700s, causing India to be divided into many weak but independent states. Taking advantage of the situation, the British East India Company, a powerful trading company, began building trading posts and forts in strategic locations in India. The French East India Company did the same. Soon a rivalry grew between France and Britain over the control of India. By 1757 the British East India Company was a leading power in India. The area ruled by the company grew over time. Eventually, the British East



*India*

India Company directly or indirectly governed all of India. In 1763 the British defeated France in the Seven Years' War and gained control of French territory in India and other French possessions.

The British East India Company restricted the Indian economy. Indian manufacturers were not allowed to compete with British manufactured goods. Instead, India became a major supplier of raw materials for British manufacturing. Its large population provided a market for British manufactured goods. British

manufacturers and workers depended upon India to purchase their textiles and machines. British merchants needed India's exports of tea and raw *jute*, a strong coarse fiber for making cloth.

### **The Sepoy Rebellion**

The British government built schools, roads, railway systems, and hospitals. Many British customs and laws were made part of the Indian way of life. Many Indians believed that the British were trying to convert them to Christianity. Most Indians were Hindus and some were Muslim. Although the people of India had accepted the British system of democratic government, the people of India never changed their culture and **caste** system. Religion always remained the most important focus of Indian life. Indians began to resent the British.

In 1857, **sepoys**, or Indian soldiers under British command, rebelled against foreign rule and British influence. The immediate cause of the **revolt** was the British requirement that the soldiers use a rifle with cartridges that the sepoys believed were greased with beef or pork fat. In order to fire the rifles, the sepoys had to bite off the seal of the cartridge for fast reloading. Both Hindus, who believed the cow to be sacred, and Muslims, whose religion forbade them to eat pork, were angered by this.

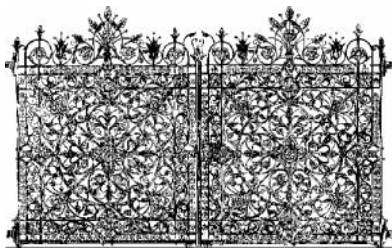


*Hindu woman*

An uprising spread throughout India. With the help of the British government, the British East India Company was able to put down the rebellion. Indians could not unite against the British because of weak leadership and disagreements between Hindus and Muslims. After putting down the rebellion, the British government assumed control of the country, ruling British India directly as a colony and ruling the native states indirectly as protectorates. In 1877 the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli proclaimed Queen Victoria *Empress of India*.



### Indian Nationalism



*Bombay gates*

Indians began to demand a greater role in governing themselves. They resented a system that made them second-class citizens in their own country. The British **discriminated** against the native Indian population. Europeans held top positions in both industry and government. Indians were paid less than Europeans and were banned from certain jobs. As resentment against foreign control grew, an Indian nationalist movement began. Indian nationalists formed two nationalist groups, the Indian National Congress in 1885 and the Muslim League in 1906. In the early 1900s, both groups worked towards Indian independence. Conflicts between the British and Indians continued in the years to come. India would not achieve independence until 1947.

## Imperialism in the Pacific Rim and Southeast Asia

There are hundreds of islands both north and south of the equator in the Pacific Ocean. Some of these islands are quite large, such as Australia, New Zealand, the Philippine Islands, and the East Indies. North and east of these islands are many smaller islands that appear no larger than dots on a map. All of the islands in the Pacific were attractive to the Western nations as places where their ocean vessels could stop and refuel. At these Pacific islands, ships could also replace food and water supplies. Western Europeans also realized the value of having Pacific colonies as sources of *cash crops* and mineral resources. As Western nations built up their naval forces, these islands became valuable places to set up bases. At these bases, military ships could have repairs made and **ammunition** replenished.



## Western Europeans Compete for Colonies

During the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Dutch East India Company controlled the Indonesian Islands. They came to be known as the *Dutch East Indies*. The Dutch East Indies (today known as Indonesia) were rich in resources like tin and oil. The Dutch also ran large farms called *plantations*. Their chief cash crop was rubber.

The French took over Southeast Asia, which eventually was known as *French Indochina*. The French government exploited French Indochina's resources. Millions of people **migrated** from other areas of Asia to Southeast Asia to work on plantations and in mines. These migrants included Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, and Hindus. This changed the cultural makeup of Southeast Asia. The economy of French Indochina was based on cash crops like rice or the valuable resources of rubber and tin that could be sold on the world market for profit.

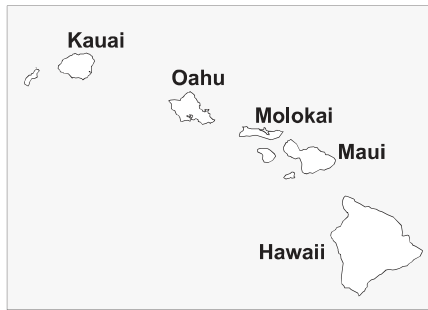
On an island off the coast of the Malay Peninsula called *Singapore*, the British established a major trading port. Its ideal location enabled the British to establish a trading base and eventually gain colonies in Malaysia and Burma (now called Myanmar). Siam (now called Thailand) was the only independent country in Southeast Asia. It acted as a buffer zone between British and French colonies. Siam was able to modernize its country without falling under the control of an imperialist nation.

Great Britain, with its powerful navy, also took possession of Australia, New Zealand, and all of the Fiji Islands. The United States, Great Britain, and Germany all held interests in the Samoan Islands. Eventually Great Britain gave up its interest. There Germany took control of an island group called *Western Samoa*, and the United States took over a small area called *American Samoa*, which included the important naval base at Pago Pago.

## The United States Acquires the Philippines and the Hawaiian Islands

As a result of the Spanish-American War in 1898, the United States acquired the Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Like other imperialist nations, the United States exploited the Philippine economy. Many Filipinos resented trading one colonizer—the Spanish—for

another—the United States. Although the United States built roads, hospitals, and schools that benefited the people, Filipino nationalists still sought independence for their country.

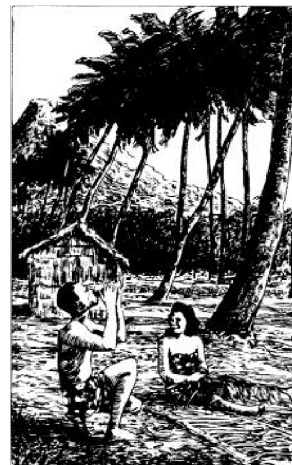


*Hawaiian Islands*

The Hawaiian Islands were important to the United States in the Pacific. Not only are these islands not far from California, but the islands are fertile, with thriving sugar crops. Wealthy sugar planters, who were mostly Americans, and the native rulers of the islands disagreed on who should have political control of Hawaii. Native rulers wanted to keep foreigners from interfering with the islands.

American sugar planters had gained great political power in Hawaii. It was in their interest to have Hawaii become a part of the United States. This would enable them to sell Hawaiian sugar for greater profits in the United States. United States business leaders pushed for the *annexation* of Hawaii, or adding Hawaii to the United States.

In 1893 a Hawaiian ruler named Queen Liliuokalani took the throne of Hawaii. She attempted to write a new constitution that would restore her powers at the expense of the wealthy plantation owners. She wanted to minimize foreign influence and preserve *Hawaii for the Hawaiians*. That same year, a group of American businessmen overthrew the Hawaiian government. The queen was removed from power. A wealthy plantation owner named Sanford B. Dole became the president of the new Republic of Hawaii. In 1898, Congress annexed, or took control of, the islands. Hawaii eventually became the 50<sup>th</sup> state of the United States in 1959. Even today, there are Hawaiian natives who resent the past actions of the United States Congress.



*native Hawaiians*



## Imperialism in Latin America

Think back to what you've read about imperialism in other parts of the world. The Western industrialized countries often **colonized**, or took political control of, lands in foreign countries such as China or Africa. By the late 1800s, however, Western nations had learned that they could not control Latin American countries. The French, Spanish, and Portuguese had all tried and failed. So imperialism looked different in Latin America. Western nations, particularly the United States, invested in and set up businesses in Latin America. They saw that valuable resources such as silver, gold, oil, and copper could be extracted from Latin America.

In the countries of Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, Cuba, and others, local populations maintained, or appeared to maintain, control of their governments. Foreigners, with the aid of local governments, developed mines, plantations, and factories, as well as railroads and ports to ship resources out of these countries. Some of the money from the sale of these resources and goods remained in Latin America, and many big cities were modernized by foreign investments. But much of the money and many of the valuable resources ended up in the Western industrialized nations.

### Conflict Over Cuba Leads to the Spanish-American War

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still held colonies in Latin America. The main cause of tension between Spain and the United States was Cuba, a Spanish colony in the West Indies. The Cubans revolted against the Spanish rulers in their country. The Spanish responded by ruthlessly suppressing these revolts. Newspapers created great sympathy in the United States for Cubans. Many Americans wanted to help the Cubans win their independence from Spain. Other Americans had valuable investments in plantations and factories that they wanted the American military to protect.

When new uprisings developed in January 1898, President William McKinley sent the battleship *USS Maine* into the Havana harbor to protect American citizens. Tensions in Cuba increased dramatically when the *USS Maine* mysteriously blew up in Havana harbor. Newspapers in the United States blamed Spain for the deed. (This claim has since been proven false. Historians now commonly believe that the battleship *USS Maine* was sunk by an implosion, or an internal explosion on the ship, rather than an explosion caused by a bomb on the outside of the ship.)

These tensions eventually led the United States and Spain into the Spanish-American War. It took the United States less than a year to defeat Spain. As a result, Spain gave the United States Puerto Rico and agreed to leave Cuba. An American protectorate was established over Cuba. A semi-independent government took over in 1902 under a constitution approved by the United States. This constitution contained a clause that allowed the United States to intervene whenever necessary to preserve Cuban independence.



The United States also battled Spain in the Pacific. After the United States drove Spain out of the Pacific, the United States gained the Philippine Islands, Guam, and Wake Island. The chief American benefit from the war with Spain was the **acquisition** or gaining of a large Pacific empire.

### The Panama Canal

Following the Spanish-American War, the United States took on a new role in world affairs. It now had interests and possessions in different parts of the world. To both protect and increase its interests, the United States needed to develop a strong navy. The United States faced a difficult problem, however. Its navies in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans were

always separated by a large land mass: Latin America. If trouble broke out in the Pacific, the United States Navy stationed in the Atlantic Ocean had to travel all the way around the tip of South America, a trip of about 13,000 miles! If the United States could build a canal through the tiny Latin American country of Panama, the coast-to-coast journey would be shortened by half. The canal would allow the United States Navy the ability to move quickly to defend both of its coasts. In the 1880s, a French company had tried but failed to build a canal across Panama.

### The Roosevelt Corollary

In 1903 Panama was a province of Colombia. President Theodore Roosevelt offered \$10 million plus a yearly payment for the right to build the canal. The Colombian government refused the offer and demanded more money. In 1903 the United States responded by encouraging the Panamanians to revolt and gain their independence from Colombia. American forces stationed in Panama helped Panama to succeed in a revolt against Colombia. The new Panamanian government gave the United States a 10-mile wide zone in which to build the canal.



President Theodore Roosevelt

Once the United States built the **Panama Canal**, it had to protect it. If a European nation gained control of nearby waterways or land, it could cut the United States off from the canal. To insure American interests, Roosevelt, who led the United States from 1901-1909, enforced the *Monroe Doctrine*, a policy that vowed to protect Latin America from European **intervention**. As interest in Latin America grew, Roosevelt proposed in 1904 what was to be called the **Roosevelt Corollary** to the Monroe Doctrine. The *Roosevelt Corollary* gave the United States the right of *police power* in the Western Hemisphere.

The Roosevelt Corollary was used to justify American *intervention* in Latin America on many occasions. The United States sent troops to Nicaragua, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic. In Haiti, the United States stopped a rebellion in 1915, and stayed for 20 years. Many Latin Americans protested this intervention by the United States, but they were powerless to stop the United States.

Many Latin Americans today believe that they have been treated poorly by the United States. They believe that the United States is not concerned with the poverty of the Latin American people. They believe that the United States was and still is only concerned with its own interests.



*The Panama Canal was the world's greatest engineering feat.*

Courtesy of the J. N. "Ding" Darling Foundation

## Imperialism: Abuses and Benefits



*Native workers were required to work long hours for little pay.*

The European and American race to colonize the world led to many problems. Conflicts between nations over which country had control over what land were common.

Imperialism burdened taxpayers to finance colonial improvements and defense. It also helped to spread the anti-democratic belief that colonial people are inferior and aroused colonial ill will toward the ruling peoples.

Imperialist nations drained wealth from the colonies. They maintained unbalanced economies in many colonies by emphasizing mineral and agricultural production and discouraging colonial manufacturing.

Native workers were required to work long hours for little pay. Imperialist nations assumed an attitude of racial and cultural superiority and discriminated against colonial peoples. They often degraded native cultures and introduced new vices and diseases. Eventually this aroused in the colonies feelings of anger toward imperialists, who were thought of as *occupiers* and **oppressors**. The inability of European nations to control their appetite for more land was a major cause of World War I.

Despite the many ill effects of imperialism, many good changes came about as well.

- Imperialist nations developed their colonies' natural resources and improved transportation and communication.
- They furthered improvements in agriculture and established industries; workers were trained in new skills and employment.
- Schools, hospitals, and sanitation projects were constructed.
- The introduction of Western culture furthered progress in democracy, science, and self-government.

Imperialism was also appreciated at home by the colonial powers.

- It raised the standard of living in the parent country.
- Manufacturers were provided with cheap raw materials and with protected markets, and factory workers gained steadier employment. Investors found profitable business opportunities, and exporters and importers were able to increase their trade.

The Industrial Revolution brought on many outstanding technological achievements. However, many industrialized nations were unwilling to use these achievements for the benefit of world peace. Instead, many industrialized nations turned to imperialism to increase their wealth.

## Review

The Industrial Revolution changed the way many Western nations thought about overseas territories and nations. Great Britain, the United States, and other industrialized nations now needed raw materials to run their factories and to use in the manufacturing of goods. Many European nations and the United States began to compete for land in China, Japan, Africa, the Middle East, the Pacific, and Latin America.



*Chinese merchant*

Some lands offered raw materials such as coal and iron, gold and silver, and spices and fruits and vegetables. Natives in these lands were often used as cheap labor in mines, plantations, and factories. Other territories, such as the islands in the Pacific, were needed as points where Western nations could stop to refuel their ships. Islands also could be used as naval bases for military ships.

Many Western nations saw themselves as *modern* nations that needed to bring *backward* or underdeveloped nations into the age of science and technology. Missionaries also went into underdeveloped nations to spread Christianity.

Although these colonized nations gained some benefits from imperialism, most gains were made by imperialist nations. Imperialist nations took much wealth from their colonies and often changed colonies' cultures to look like their own.