

**Imperialism**

- European and later American and Japanese imperialism in the 19th and 20th century was a natural outgrowth of industrialization.
  - Business interests needed raw materials like metals, coal, rubber, cotton, and palm oil to mass produce goods in their factories.
    - Then, to ensure sustained profits, new markets were needed to sell those goods.
  - These economic factors combined with a new wave of nationalism to feed the mass production of military might which was used by the European, American and Japanese states to conquer and sustain vast empires.
    - In 1815 Western European and North American states controlled 35% of the earth's habitable territory, by 1914 these same powers controlled 85% of this territory.
- While industrialization added new motivations for this second wave of imperialism, many of the forces that drove the imperialism of the 16th century continued.
  - Imperialist states continued to seek access to luxury goods and for the Europeans and Americans the motivation to spread Christianity continued.

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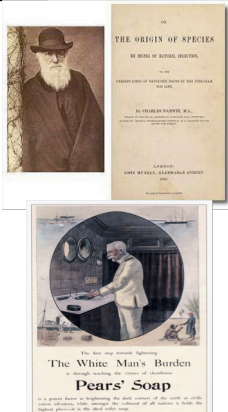
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**Imperialism**

- While little justification beyond spreading Christianity was needed for 16th century Europeans, in the 19th century Enlightenment ideals made unjustified conquest morally troubling for some.
  - To satisfy this moral dilemma, European and American imperialist presented two philosophies that justified their conquests.
- 1. Some looked to Darwin's book On the Origin of the Species and found in it a natural explanation for this conquest.
  - They reasoned that if natural selection led to progress in the realm of biology the same would be true for society.
  - Proponents of Social Darwinism argued that powerful American and European states were justified in their conquest by an evolutionary advantage.
- 2. More sentimental imperialist argued for "White Man's Burden."
  - According to this principle, imperialism was actually a benevolent act intended to help less advanced people catch up to the civilized world.




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**Western Imperialism in Africa**

- Europeans first established colonies in Africa in the 17th century.
  - The Dutch established a colony in South Africa and the Portuguese formed a colony in Angola.
  - The tropical regions were generally safe from European power because of the prevalence of tropical diseases like malaria.
    - Medical advances in the 19th century like the use of quinine to treat malaria greatly reduced the threat of disease and shortly after, Europeans began the systematic conquest of the continent.
- The British arrived in the south in the early 1800s.
  - British colonization pushed the descendants of Dutch settlers, called Boers north into the territory of the Zulu and Xhosa where they established two independent countries.
    - The discovery of gold and diamonds in these territories brought war with the British and a dramatic expansion of British territory in South Africa.
- Around the same time, the French began a brutal campaign to take Northwest Africa and by 1880s France, Britain, Portugal, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Spain were racing to take over the continent in what is called the "Scramble for Africa."
- The European powers met in Berlin in 1884, known as the Berlin Conference, to devise a plan for European control of the continent.




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### Western Imperialism in Africa

- By the time they were done, only two countries remained independent, Ethiopia which managed to modernize fast enough to fight off an Italian attempt at conquest and Liberia which was protected by the United States.
  - Europeans began to drain African natural resources including palm oil, ivory, rubber, gold, diamonds, metals, and cotton.
- The European rule in Africa was a mixture of economic exploitation, racist subjugation and well-meaning reform.
  - While Belgium, Germany, and Portugal tended to be more ruthless and Britain and France more benevolent all of the Europeans contributed to economic exploitation, ethnic tension and modernization.
- Both natural resources and luxury goods were harvested and mined for the exclusive benefit of the European overlords.
- Ethnic tensions between African groups were exacerbated by poorly placed borders and sometimes exploited to facilitate European control.
  - Violent conflict killed thousands as modern European armies crushed poorly equipped but determined Africans.
  - However, at the same time, schools, hospitals, and infrastructure were built that became an asset to the African people.
  - The slave trade was suppressed and in a few places educated African elite were allowed to help in administration.
- European rule spurred African nationalism, unified diverse peoples and eventually planted the seeds for independence in the 20th century.



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### Western Imperialism in Asia

- Like Africa, imperialism in Asia dates back to the Age of Exploration.
  - As with Africa, Europeans gained early footholds in Asia in the 1500s and 1600s but the vast Asia empires of the Europeans were not established until the 1700s and 1800s.
    - First the Portuguese, then the Dutch and finally the French and British established colonies of varying size and consequence in Asia during this period.
    - While the Portuguese, Dutch, and French established coastal footholds in South Asia, it was the British who ended Mughal rule and brought all of South Asia into their empire.
- The colonization of South Asia was carried out by the British East India Company which was motivated by lucrative commodities like cotton, spices, tea, and opium.
  - The British East India Company (BEIC) used a combination of diplomacy and warfare to gain control of India.
    - By the mid-1700s the once powerful Mughal Empire had become highly decentralized, the BEIC capitalized on this and offered services including military protection, tax collection, and administration to local rulers in exchange for access to trade.
    - Over time, the BEIC became the dominate power in the region and political power shifted from the Mughal Emperor and local rulers to the BEIC officers.
    - To facilitate BEIC administration of such a vast territory, the company employed a multitude of both native administrators and soldiers (called sepoy).



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### Western Imperialism in Asia

- The company's control of South Asia brought a mixture of exploitation and benefit.
  - Mismanagement and greed caused famines and cholera epidemics.
  - The philosophy of "white man's burden" brought schools, hospitals, and improved food distribution systems.
- Trade brought railroads and telegraphs.
  - Highly lucrative commodities like cotton and opium combined with India's strategic location along trade routes to East Asia made India the "crown jewel" of the British Empire for over 90 years.
  - While decentralized political authority and lucrative commodities like cotton made Mughal India susceptible to European Imperialist, political arrogance and ignorance combined with lucrative goods like silk, porcelain, and tea made China a target.
- The Qing Dynasty of China continued to view their home as the Middle Kingdom surrounded by barbarians with nothing to offer the culturally superior Chinese. This attitude led to the creation of the Canton System.
  - The Chinese government limited foreign merchants to a small number of ports, with Canton being the most significant. At these ports, merchants were only allowed to purchase Chinese goods with silver bullion.
    - When Western diplomats protested this trade imbalance and asked the right to sell European goods in China, the Chinese government responded by dismissing the usefulness of European goods to the Chinese.
  - To remedy this trade imbalance, the British turned to highly addictive opium, which they began to market for recreational use in Chinese ports.
    - British marketing efforts were widely successful and before long the trade imbalance was reversed and massive numbers of Chinese were addicted to opium.
  - Commodities like rubber, petroleum, and metals combined with a strategic location along key trade routes motivated Dutch, French, German, American, and British corporations and governments to establish colonies in Southeast Asia.



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