European Imperialism
The New Imperialism: Motives and Methods

- The New Imperialism was a tremendous explosion of territorial conquest

- The imperial powers used economic and technological means to reorganize dependent regions and bring them into the world economy as suppliers of foodstuffs and raw materials and as consumers of industrial products

- In Africa and in other parts of the world, this was done by conquest and colonial administration
The Tools of the Imperialists

- The Industrial Revolution provided technological innovations that made it possible for Europeans and Americans to build the “New Imperialism.”

- Steamships, the Suez Canal, and submarine cables gave European forces greater mobility and better communications.

- The discovery that quinine could be used to prevent malaria allowed Europeans to enter Africa.

- The invention of the breech loader, smokeless powder, and the machine gun widened the firearms gap and made colonial conquests easier than ever before.
Imperialism and the Industrial Revolution

- The Industrial revolution brought about a great need for raw materials.

- As a result many European countries began to seek raw materials from the continents of Asia, Africa, and South America.

- While seeking out these raw materials the Europeans established their rule on these continents expanding an empire. (colonialism)
Imperialism

- **Imperialism**: process through which a state attempts to control the economic and/or political and cultural makeup of another state.

- **Colonialism**: the most developed form of Imperialism whereby the controlling state invades another state/region so as to exploit its resources and/or for the purposes of large-scale trade.

- Between 1815-1914 the West (Europe and America) increased their control of the world’s land mass from 35%-85%.
European Motives For Colonization

- Industrial Revolution
- Source for Raw Materials
- European Nationalism
- Missionary Activity
- Military & Naval Bases
- Places to Dump Unwanted/Excess Population
- European Racism
- Social Darwinism
- "White Man's Burden"
- Markets for Finished Goods
- Humanitarian Reasons
- Soc. & Eco. Opportunities
Causes of Imperialism

Economic

- Industrialization gave the West the ability to conquer other parts of the world.
- Large-scale industrial production made Western factories demand more raw materials, which could be seized from less powerful nations.
- Also, Western nations needed markets for goods produced.
  - Colonies would serve as potential markets.
- Immense wealth allowed Western world to conquer far-flung places.
Causes of Imperialism

Military Factors

- Industrialization bestowed new weaponry of all types upon the armies and navies of the West:
  - Ocean-going fleets
- Modern rifles and rapid-fire artillery.
  - Occasions were rare that native populations could resist Western military forces.
- Growing need of Western nations to maintain bases & coal/oil stations around the world for naval & civilian fleets.
  - Ships required repairs and refueling stations at strategic locations globally.
Causes of Imperialism

Social Factors

- Europe’s rapid population growth during the 1800’s played a role in prompting imperial activity.

- Another outlet was to leave home for colonial life.

- Ambitious or desperate families attempted to make their fortunes this way.
Causes of Imperialism

Role of Science & Technology

- Steamships, the Suez Canal, and submarine cables gave European forces greater mobility and better communications.

- Medical advances
  - Made possible for Europeans and Americans to press into tropical regions.
    - Quinine helped relieve symptoms of malaria & yellow fever.
Causes of Imperialism

Cultural Factors

• Sense of racial superiority was widespread among Westerners.

• Created a sense that Western nations were entitled to conquer & colonize areas that appeared “backwards” or “primitive”.
  • Cecil Rhodes, British imperialist, “I contend that we are the finest race in the world, and the more of it we inhabit, the better.”
Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902)

“The Colossus of Rhodes”
Causes of Imperialism

- In other ways, the theory of social Darwinism was used to argue in favor of imperialism.
  - Misguided application of “survival of the fittest” and natural selection.
    - People who were technologically and culturally advanced were permitted to conquer those who were less.

- West had a sense of racial superiority Darwin’s theory of “natural selection” & “survival of the fittest” applied to the human societies

- Destruction & conquest of weaker races was nature’s way of improving the species
Social Darwinism
Causes of Imperialism

- Genuine conviction that it was the duty of white Westerners to teach & modernize the darker-skinned, supposedly “primitive” peoples of Africa & Asia.

- English poet Rudyard Kipling, “White Man’s Burden”.
The "White Man's Burden"

The first step towards lightening
The White Man’s Burden
is through teaching the virtues of cleanliness.

Pears’ Soap

is a potent factor in brightening the dark corners of the earth as civilization advances; while amongst the cultured of all nations it holds the highest place—it is the ideal toilet soap.

Rudyard Kipling
European Colonialism in Africa
Pre-19c European Trade with Africa

[Map showing European trade routes to Africa, including areas under Spanish, English, Portuguese, Dutch, and French control. Key cities and regions are labeled, such as Tenochtitlan (Mexico City), Porto Bello, Angola, and Bahia.]
European Explorers in Africa

19c → Europeans Map the Interior of Africa
19c Mysteries & Adventures
1. Where Is Dr. Livingstone?

Dr. David Livingstone

Sir Henry Morton Stanley
• Livingstone was one of the first Europeans to explore the central and southern parts of Africa.
• He first went to Africa as a Christian missionary in 1841, when he was 27 years old.

• He decided that the best way to teach Africans about Christ was to move about and see as many people as he could.
In 1866 David Livingstone went on an expedition to discover more of the Nile River. While on this expedition he was lost and no one heard from him. In 1871, a New York reporter, Henry Morton Stanley, led an expedition to find him. When they found him, Stanley said those famous words, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume."
David Livingstone learned more about African customs, geography, and the slave trade than any other European.

He was buried in Westminster Abbey in London in April, 1874.
2. What is the Source of the Nile?

John Speke

Sir Richard Burton
Africa in the 1880s
BERLIN CONFERENCE in 1884-85

• Lay down rules for the division of Africa.

• They agreed that any European country could claim land by notifying nations of their claims and showing they could control the area.

• 1884-1885 - Berlin West African Conference carves Africa into spheres of control.
BERLIN CONFERENCE 1884-85

MAP II. The European Advance into Central and East Africa

Africa in 1914.

Key:
- British
- French
- German
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Independent African states
- Belgian
- Spanish
The Belgian Congo: "King Leopold's Ghost"
The Congo Free State
or
The Belgian Congo

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO
Formally: ZAIRE

Kinshasa
King Leopold II: (r. 1865 - 1909)
Harvesting Rubber
Punishing “Lazy” Workers
5-8 Million Victims! (50% of Popul.)

It is blood-curdling to see them (the soldiers) returning with the hands of the slain, and to find the hands of young children amongst the bigger ones evidencing their bravery...The rubber from this district has cost hundreds of lives, and the scenes I have witnessed, while unable to help the oppressed, have been almost enough to make me wish I were dead... This rubber traffic is steeped in blood, and if the natives were to rise and sweep every white person on the Upper Congo into eternity, there would still be left a fearful balance to their credit. -- Belgian Official
Belgium’s Stranglehold on the Congo
The Struggle For South Africa
Dutch Landing in 1652
Shaka Zulu (1785 - 1828)
Boers Clash With the Xhosa Tribes

Boer Farmer
The Great Trek, 1836-38

Afrikaners
Diamond Mines

NAMIBIA
Gibeon kimberlites
Namaqualand kimberlites

LESOTHO

SOUTH AFRICA
Orange R.
Vaal R.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

0 400 kilometers

Kimberlites with diamonds
Kimberlites without diamonds

Raw Diamonds
The Struggle for South Africa
Boer-British Tensions Increase

- 1877 – Britain annexed the Transvaal.
- 1883 – Boers fought British in the Transvaal and regained its independence.
  - Paul Kruger becomes President.
- 1880s – Gold discovered in the Transvaal
The Boer War: 1899 - 1900

The Boers

The British
A Future British Prime Minister

British Boer War Correspondent, Winston Churchill
The Struggle for South Africa