

# New Imperialism

After 1870, European countries focused on colonization and a more formal political control of their empires.

Imperialism - system and pursuit of empire; process of accumulation and acquisition of land, resources, labour and profits

By 1914, Western Powers held over 85% of the earth's surface – WOW!!!! Now that is power!!!!

# Introduction

- Map of Africa and tribal boundaries
- Map on page 334
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# Europe 1850 - Review

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## Nation-States

- Great Britain and France = “super powers”
- Germany not yet a nation-state
- growing working class
- universal male suffrage
- access of working class to the vote, to party politics, to socialist party politics
- **N**ationalism
  - recognized as necessary for a strong nation-state
  - techniques of nationalism appearing in Europe
  - flags, national holidays, etc.
  - aimed at acquiring the loyalty/support of the working class

# Why? Causes of New Imperialism

- search for new markets for European manufactured goods: overproduction and under consumption ! new markets, new consumers
- search for raw materials for European industry: oil, cotton, rubber, tin, copper, gold
- search for cheap and profitable labor, e.g. Indian laborers growing cotton and opium
- search for cheap and profitable land
- search for goods demanded by a mass consumption market: coffee, chocolate, tea, bananas, oranges

A belief that some people were inherently superior and other inferior

- Where can you find this wealth? Colonies

# What does the Colony do for the Imperialist?

Colonies are designed to help/assist/support the mother country:

- provide cheap raw materials
- provide cheap labour
- provide cheap land.
- provide open markets
- remember the enormous amount of textile cloth exported from Britain to its colony India
- example of Gandhi protesting the British by encouraging Indians to weave their own cloth and make their own clothes

# How did this come so easily to the Imperialist?

Key point: Industrial Revolution empowered Europeans in a way they hadn't been empowered before; industrialization and technology changed the very nature of imperialism.

Technology made imperialism more efficient; it made acquiring colonies more efficient:

- steamships meant that 2-month long voyages could now be made in 2 weeks
- new armaments made European military conquest easier
- new medicines made European conquest easier

Technology is power: over the natural world and over people.  
Those who wield technology wield power.

# Lasting Effects

Land was used in colonies to grow cash crops and therefore the colonies became dependent on imports of both food and manufactured goods

Industrialization in colonies went down, imperial powers went up

Imperialists turned farmer into dependent

Dependency Theory – resources flow from impoverished nations to wealthy states



# 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.

MADE IN ENGLAND



# Readings for Imperialism

- What was the Berlin Conference? (335)
- What was the scramble for Africa? (336)
- What did it mean by the “Sun never sets on the British Empire”? (334)
- What is the “legacy”, lasting effects, of Imperialism? (341 – 350)
- Explain how the policies of imperialism and colonialism contributed to the development of poverty and dependence in the colonies.
- Are there benefits gained by the colonies through imperialism, use examples for support



## “Survival of the Fattest”

Sculpture by  
Jen Galschiot

If this was on your exam and I asked you to relate it to the course content, what would you tell me.