

Chapter Nine Imperialism, Colonialism, and Resistance in the Nineteenth Century

Imperialism in the Nineteenth Century

- 1800 Euro + overseas = 55% of world land mass; 1867 = 67%; 1914 = 84%
- 1870 only 10% of Africa colonized; 1895 90% under Euro control
- British settlement in Australia started in 1788; until 1870 Brit was dominant imperialist power

New Imperialism in Asia and the Indies

- 240 000 square miles annexed each year
- China lost control of trade within its own borders due to the Opium Wars (Brits, French...)
- Manchu dynasty pressured by Euro and American interests/by intra-state war – fell 1911
- After Meiji Restoration in 1868 Japan started industrial/political development and reform and by 1890s it had become an imperial power

New Imperialism in Africa

- 40 years before world war one Africa divided amongst Euro nations with little regard for borders
- 1880s + Euros competed frantically for colonies in Africa
- Key event in race for colonization in Africa – Berlin Conference 1884-1885 – Bismarck called reps from 15 nations to deal with rival claims
- Discovery of diamond/gold in South Africa made region important and conflict between Brits and Boers lead to Boer War 1899-1902

The Partition of Africa

- For Brits Africa reps strategic interest because the continent's shoreline was route to India
- To contend with unrest colonial powers went deeper into Africa and formally made colonies out of areas of interest

Change and Continuity: Causes of Imperialism

Unequal Power Relations

- Level of success of dominant power often attributed to level of technological advancement
- Brit dominated world empire building for first ¾ of century (manufacture/military tech)
- “new imperialism” of 19th century was another example of consequences of unequal power

Nationalism and Geopolitics

- Eurocentric view – motive for colonization was political; colonies were bargaining chip, prestige, nationalism, geopolitical significance
- Some believed that Europeans had the right to be imperialistic
- Other theory by J.A. Hobson argues that the motive was economic; investment

Unco-operative Colonies

China

- Chinese self-sufficient and Manchu dynasty discouraged Western trade
- Brits created demand for Opium; Opium Wars 1839-1842 and took control of trading centre of Hong Kong in treaty of Nanking 1842
- As response to Western trade – anti-monarchist Taiping rebellion from 1850-1864

India: A Case Study

- Brits were slowly increasing influence since 1600s; East India Company forged alliances with local rulers
- British East India Company secured eco control of Indian subcontinent by 1780s
- English education became an issue and proved to be beneficial to those who supported it during movements of Indian independence

- Hindu practice of *sati* banned and new 1856 law for widows to remarry
- General Service Enlistment Act forced Indian soldiers to accept service anywhere in Brit Emp.
- Westernizing economy, administration, law, education, religion – sense of losing tradition/values
- Mutiny of 1857 – uprising, restore Mogul ruler – unorganized/no real effort to get Brit out
- Brit put mutineers to death and battles continued in north/central India until 1858
- Government of India Act 1858 – transferred all rights of EIC directly to crown

Jamaica

- 1865 conflict b/w black peasants and white landowners – 18 deaths
- Governor Edward John Eyre – martial law for 6 weeks; 439 killed, 650 flogged, 1000 houses burned
- Elective legislative assembly disbanded, Jamaica returned to crown colony status, ruled from London until 1884

The Legacy of Imperialism

- Conquest/disease decimated Ameridian population & demographic altered by Euro/slave migration
- ↑ Euro settlement/capitalist production pushed Native Americans into reserves
- Conflict over land – bloody wars and Natives forced to dependent eco/political status
- Asia/Africa imperial control lead to eco, political, social, cultural changes to indigenous people

The Economic Legacy

- Imperialism increased dependent relationship by incorporating colonies into capitalist system
- Industrial Rev. – colonies used to rep sources of commodities but now potential markets for manufactured goods (commercial capitalism to industrial capitalism)
- Laissez fair was an economic doctrine – free trade become new eco doctrine
- Colonies became exporters of raw materials because some could not keep up with manufacturers; also became markets for manufactured goods
- Before non-westerners were using subsistence agriculture; imperialist powers forced Native people to change to producing agriculture for export
- Created big market for colonial powers but created dependency in colonies
- Impact of imperialism was very strong – effects and global relations are still seen today

The Cultural Legacy of Imperialism

- Language went under extreme changes when subjected to Euro rule
- Indigenous language relegated to second-class status in favour of language of the Euro power that ruled the colony
- Euros exported Christianity to colonies; Christianity used for justification of massacres, racial discrimination, cruelty, regressive social policies

Imperialism and Non-Western Art

- Art produced for export to Euro nations and thus had to reflect Euro tastes
- 19th had fascination with chinoiserie (Chinese art/decoration)

The Social Legacy of Imperialism

- White/non-White migration changed ethnic compositions; many colonies has transformation of land and pop by White immigrants
- Euro imperialism and migration of Whites usually linked but also agents for forced migration
- Gang labour was common in plantations, mining, construction

Indentured Labour

- Most extensively organized system of migrant labour from India and China (contract to work)
- 1830-1870 1-2 million were sent from India to various British colonies and continued to 1920s
- Mid-19th century 42 thousand Chinese miners in Australian gold fields

Immigration and the White Dominions

- Voluntary migration of non-Whites to “White” dominions of British Crown/United States closed off by exclusionary immigration policies – whites only policies
- British government mad and dominions found new ways to exclude non-White immigrants

Apartheid: Legacy of Imperialism

- 1867 rich diamond deposits found in South Africa
- Africans were put into the compound system and paid very low wages
- Eco/social changes raised conflict b/w the Boers and the British (mined by Brits, land was Boers)
- Lead to Boer War 1899-1902 and Boers surrendered
- New Union of South Africa denied African all political rights
- 1913 Land Act gave only 13% of land to Africans
- Apartheid made segregation reality of South Africa

Agents of Human Rights Advancement

Resistance to Imperialism

- Colonized people became involved in resistance to foreign Euro invasion – foundation for colonial nationalist movements in Asia and Africa
- Age of Revolutions in Euro 1789-1848 had impact on Euro's relationship with the world
- Decolonization/emancipation grew with first Industrial Revolution in Britain 1780-1950

The Abolition of Slavery

- Slavery abolished in British Empire in 1834...
- Attacks of slavery: economic conditions, anti-slavery movements, slave resistance

The Slave Revolution in Haiti 1791

- Minority of French planters ruled 800 000 slaves; hostile to oppression of New World slavery
- During French Rev, Toussaint L'Ouverture and slaves defeated French, Brit, Spanish attempts to suppress their revolution
- Toussaint helped French abolish slavery but was imprisoned by Napoleon

Slavery in the British West Indies

- Brits abolished slave trade 1807; in BWI slave uprisings still occurred
- Sam Sharpe used rumor that Brits abolished slavery to fuel a rebellion – unsuccessful
- Slavery completely abolished in British Empire on January 1, 1835

Slavery in the United States

- Slavery provoked the American Civil War 1861-1865
- The Underground Railroad helped slaves reach freedom in north US and Canada
- Lincoln and north states claimed to be fighting to restore Union and no end slavery
- 1863 Lincoln issued Emancipation Proclamation which freed the slaves – war against slavery

The Legacy of Emancipation

The British West Indies

- Eco decline was blamed on the former slaves and estate owners imported indentured workers from India
- With decline in West Indian sugar economy many viewed emancipation as a failure

Segregation and the American South

- Reconstruction in 1865-1876; land redistribution, political/civil rights to African-Americans
- Jim Crow legislation 1890s – racial segregation incorporated into the law (KKK...)

Decolonization in Latin America

- 1808, 1825 liberation of Spain's American colonies

The Struggle For An Independent Latin America

- Mexican landholders declared themselves independent from Spain in 1821

Simon Bolivar: The Great Liberator

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