

Legacy: West & the World

Chapter 9: Imperialism, Colonialism & Resistance in the 19th Century

Paradox of Western Imperialism

- Europe (enlightened democracy & Equality spreading)
- In their colonies- repressive, slavery, hierarchical power structure.

Imperialism- acquiring colonies & extending countries influence through trade, diplomacy & other means.



Imperialism in the 19th Century

Europe & Colonies

1800 controlled 55% of world land mass
1878 controlled 67% of world land mass
1914 controlled 84% of world land mass
After 1870 European powers began to rely more on colonization or foreign empire than on informal economic ties... called "New Imperialism".

New Imperialism in Asia & the Indies

- Euro nations wanted more control of the colonies.
Britain in India, Burma, French in Vietnam & Laos, Dutch in Indonesia, US in Pacific Islands. China was pressured by Europe & America to open up. Japan was exception- managed to preserve autonomy.

New Imperialism in Africa

- was relatively unconquered until the 1870s, 1870-1914
Euro nations parceled out land with little regard for geography, tribes or lineage. Huge competition for colonies. Map on p.334.

Berlin Conference 1884-1885- Bismark brought 15 nations together & split up Africa. A "paper partition" based on a map, total disregard for people.

The Legacy of Imperialism

In Americas- conflict with Natives. In Asia & Africa imperial control led to profound changes in the eco, pol, soc & cultural lives of indigenous people.

Economic Legacy- dependency of colonized nations.

Industrial Revolution- transformed nations- furthered divide between rich nations and poor nations.

- laissez faire economic doctrine. Yet, eco advantage went to colonies as they imported cheap raw materials & exported expensive manufactured good (disadvantage to colonies). Demand caused subsistence farming to become farming for export. Mass produced Euro goods were far cheaper than local... this increased the gap in productivity & manufacturing.

- Economic impact of imperialism far reaching- global economic relations est. then still exist today.

Change & Continuity: Causes of Imperialism

Unequal Power Relations- Britain dominated the world of empire building.

Nationalism & Geopolitics- was expansion political or economic? Both? There was a Eurocentric view of colonization, felt they were superior. Subordinated colonized people- but 'apparently' for their benefit. The opposing side stated that it was about economic exploitation.



Unco-operative Colonies

China: Western nations wanted free trade & in many areas had to resort to violence & military conquest.

Opium Wars- 1839-1842- British wanted control of trade... British created a demand for Opium in China a drug traded by the British from India and Southeast Asia. When China tried to control trade, British stepped in militarily. Britain took Hong Kong in the treaty of 1842. Chinese resistance to Western influence increased with further Western involvement.

India: A Case Study

- British East India Company set up a trading post in the early 1600s.. got more influence as it became more involved in politics & economy. By 1780 had extensive control in India. British brought in reforms: rail, post, communication. Yet, imposed Western culture & were not always sensitive to domestic structures (such as the caste system).

Jamaica

1865- conflict between white labourers & Black peasants led England to crack down. Another example of European powers imposing control in order to secure their economic interests.

Agents of Human Rights Advancement

Resistance to Imperialism- previously autonomous people found new ways to assert freedom under colonizers-own nationalism- by 1914 it was evident that colonialism was in trouble.

Age of Revolution, 1789-1848, some called it the Age of Democratic Revolutions- ironic...

Abolition of Slavery- why did it end? 1. assault of new economic conditions, 2. rise of anti-slavery movement, 3. slaves resistance to oppression. Ironically, American slavery lasted quite long despite being at the forefront of “democracy & liberty”.

Slave Revolution in Haiti 1791- impact of the French Revolution... led by Francois Dominique Toussaint L’Ouverture- helped French abolish slavery in 1794. Was an inspiration for American slaves.

Slavery in the British West Indies: Britain abolished slave trade in 1807- completely abolished on Jan 1, 1835... cannot underestimate the impact of slave revolts in West Indies on abolishment.

Slavery in the United States: slavery provoked Civil War (1861-1865) Underground Railroad to Canada helped some slaves to freedom. 1863- Emancipation Proclamation by Lincoln.

- Think of the 20th Century and the legacy of slavery in the United States (KKK, Civil Rights Movement, affirmative action, economic disparity & challenges)...



The Legacy of Emancipation

British West Indies- West Indian sugar industry declined due to foreign competition, created problem for colonizers & colonies... Planters blamed black slaves, imported Indian slaves... although slavery ended eventually, the legacy of racism did not end.

Segregation & the American South

- After North victory, period of Reconstruction in U.S. Southerners resisted reforms. Under the Jim Crow legislation of 1890s... racial segregation practiced. KKK & other White supremacists. Segregation influenced other areas (South Africa).



The Struggle for an Independent Latin America

- Mexico declared itself independent from Spain in 1821. Jose de San Martin (1788-1850) led struggle for liberation in the Andes in what is now Chile, Argentina & Peru.

Simon Bolivar: The Great Liberator

- Born in 1783, Venezuela. Toured Europe & wanted to bring freedom to Latin America. Saw gov’t as agent of people’s happiness. Spearheaded a revolution that liberated Venezuela.

After Independence: Rule by the Caudillos

- fought against Creoles (born in America of Spanish descent). Military men championed the interests of the people, saw themselves as saviours of the nation. After 1825, military leaders called caudillos took over and made dictatorship a part of political tradition of Latin America.

Latin America and Informal Empire

- new nations were still vulnerable to Spanish colonialism, but United States created its sphere of influence with the Monroe Doctrine (committed US to resisting any European intervention). Yet, nations became dependent on US and Britain.



War & Resistance to Colonization

- resistance was contemporaneous with “new imperialism”. Often was in form of nationalism... bigger forms, internationalism gave sense of bigger belonging. Natives in Western America, Maori in New Zealand, India, China... Africa



Colonial Nationalist Movements

The Indian National Congress: Originally sought larger role in British Raj. But by 1905 the INC was committed to the goal of Indian self-government.

The Pan-African Movement: addressed the problem of the colour line- struggled against racism.

Colonial Resistance at the Turn of the Century: extensive list on p.362

The Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905- Japan defeated Russia. Non-European nation could stand against a major European power. Also led Russian interests from Asia to Europe. Many events followed. 1911 Revolution in China brought down the Manchu dynasty. First President of Chinese republic was Sun Yat-sen