

## Imperialism, Colonialism, and Resistance in the Nineteenth Century

- Imperialism In The Nineteenth Century
- Change and Continuity: Causes of Imperialism
- The Legacy of Imperialism
- Indentured Labour
- Colonial Nationalist Movement

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## Imperialism In The Nineteenth Century

- A significant shift occurred in the second half of the nineteenth century.
- After 1870 and even more dramatically after 1885, there was a remarkable increase in the European acquisition of colonial territories in the South Pacific, Asia, and Africa
- In 1870, about 10% of Africa had been colonized, whereas by 1895 approximately 90% had come under European colonial control.
- After 1870 European powers began to rely more on colonization of formal empire, than on informal economic ties. This period is called "new imperialism"

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What conclusion can you make from looking at the political cartoon?

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## New Imperialism in Asia and the Indies

- From 1870 to 1914, major European powers joined the race to acquire colonies and exert their influences over indigenous people.
- China was not formally occupied by a European power but essentially lost control of trade within its own borders as a result of the Opium Wars
- The British, French, Germans, Russians, and Americans controlled the majority of the trade in China.
- In 1868, Japan initiated its own program of industrial development and political reform.
- Japan managed to preserve its autonomy, but also by 1890, had become an imperial power of its own.

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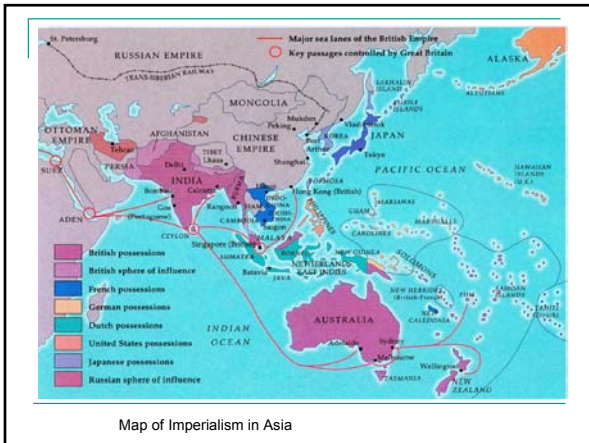
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Map of Imperialism in Asia

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## New Imperialism in Africa

- Within twenty years, from 1880 to 1900, every corner of the Earth, from the highest mountains in the Himalayas to the most remote Pacific island and Antarctica, came to be claimed by one or other European power.
- Africa saw the most dramatic colonisation. It was divided up as if it had been a cake split between greedy European leaders. This was called the "Scramble for Africa".

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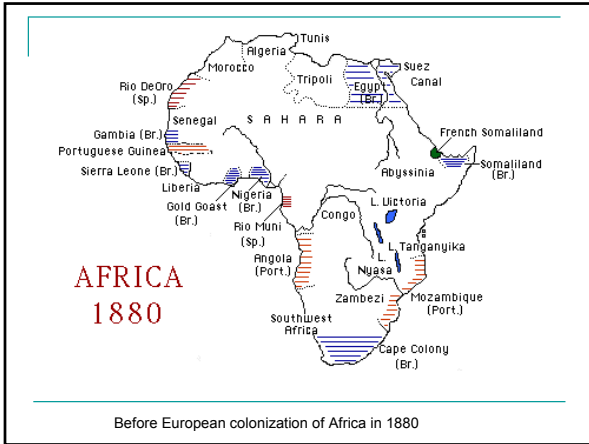
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- The key political event in the race for colonization in Africa was the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885.
- Bismarck called together representatives of 15 nations to deal with rival colonial claims in Africa.
- Ignoring the rights of existing African kingdoms and peoples altogether, European powers claimed the right to acquire inland territories by expansion from existing coastal possessions.
- To avoid dominance by a single state or war between rival colonial powers, the Conference agreed that possession involved more than a "paper partition" based on claims made over a map; they agreed that possession should involve effective occupation of the land and control over the people.

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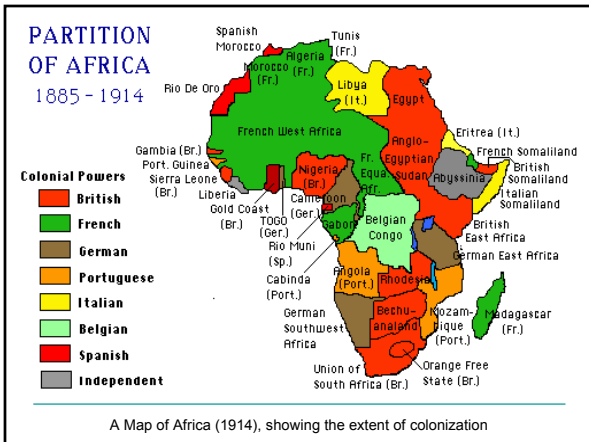
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## Boer War of 1899-1902

- The discovery of diamond and gold deposited in South Africa made the region important strategically and economically and the ongoing conflict between the British and the Boers led to the Boer War of 1899-1902
- Boers are the descendants of the Dutch settlers in South Africa.



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Boer piquet near Spion Kop, Jan 1900

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British dead after the Battle of Spion Kop, 1900

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## Change and Continuity: Causes of Imperialism

### ■ Unequal Power Relations

- The level of success of a dominant power has largely been attributed to its level of technological advancement
- Those with more advanced military technology and methods of production have tended to dominate.
- The “new imperialism” of the late nineteenth century was another example of the consequences of unequal power.

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### ■ Nationalism and Geopolitics

- According to Eurocentric view, the primary motive for colonization was political.
- Governments encouraged by the emerging sense of nationalism and the chauvinism of a mass electorate, enhanced their power and prestige by possessing colonies
- Colonies are provided them with “bargaining chips” at the tables of international conferences.
- Do you agree that it is primary motivated by politics? Why or Why not?

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- Colonies often also carried geopolitical significance.
- It was important because they were placed on the map.
- For example: Britain established control in Egypt in order to preserve control of the Suez Canal, which was vital to maintaining a quick trade route to India

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- It was not a matter of politics alone
  - Proponents of empire claimed that the superiority of industrial civilization gave Europeans the right to take over territories.
  - Do they have that right?

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- Others argued that the primary motive for empire was economic
  - Hobson and Lenin argue that colonies were acquired as fields for investment, as the urging of capitalists with surplus wealth.
  - These investors, some of whom owned popular newspapers and had an influence on politicians, promoted imperialism to get the state to acquire territories and protect their overseas investments.
  - Lenin predicted that competition for colonies would eventually lead to war and revolution.

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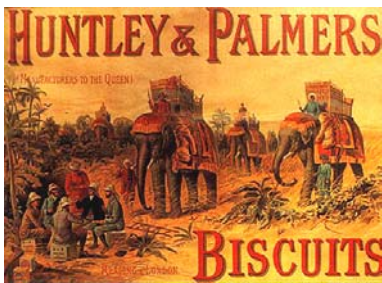
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**Common advertisement during Imperialism**



Here, a group of upper-class British hunters has taken a break from shooting tigers in India. Notice the mingling of British and Indian traditions. The hunters have traveled with their Indian servants on howdahs and elephants. Yet they have stopped for tea (a very British tradition) and are eating Huntley & Palmers Biscuits, a very British product).

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## The Legacy of Imperialism

### ■ The Economic Legacy

- The shift from commercial capitalism to industrial capitalism created greater differences in wealth, and it transformed relations between the colonizers and the colonized.
- Under industrial capitalism and its doctrine of laissez faire, the restraints of the colonial empires came under attack, and the new idea of free trade became the orthodox economic doctrine.

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- Under imposed conditions of free trade, Indian handloom weavers could not compete in price with British manufactures of cotton cloth, so India became an importer of cotton textile and an exporter of raw cotton
- Under free trade, a form of nominally predominant and colonies in Asia, Africa, and the Americas become dependent sources of raw materials as well as markets for manufactured goods

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A British Merchant's Home in Colonial India

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- Prior to the development of the dependent relationship of imperialism, most of the people in the non-Western world were involved in subsistence agriculture – farming primarily for themselves.
- Imperialist powers succeeded in forcing Native peoples to change to producing agriculture for export.
  - What is that known as today?

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Today, the term is also referred to as "cash crops". The agricultural products are grown primarily for exporting purposes. Products such as banana, pineapple, coffee or sugar canes are grown to be exported to developed countries' consumption.



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- The imperialist powers need their colonies to supply raw materials to support the growth of industrial European cities.
- The transformation of local production from a subsistence economy to an export economy had various effects.
  - As more and more land was used to grow cash crops for export, these territories would become increasingly depend on imports of both food and manufactured goods
  - Created a dependency in the colony
  - Mass-produced goods from Europe were far cheaper and often of a better quality than locally produced goods.
  - What happened to the local entrepreneurs?

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- Africans found their lives changed against their will but also came to endure working and living conditions worse than it was prior to Western intervention
- The process of converting Africans into labourers in a cash economy was extremely brutal.
- They often had to work far from their home villages, and brutal punishment was inflicted upon them for failure to meet the required quotas.
- Adolescent boys were punished by mutilation, including the cutting off of ears or hands.
- Failure of particular villagers to meet quotas resulted in raids on their home villages, where women were raped, children and elderly beaten and houses destroyed.

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In the image, African slaves toil on a pepper plantation in the East Indies as a dealer samples a peppercorn to see if its smell or taste is strong enough.

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- The economic impact of imperialism had had a far reaching consequences.
- The global economic relationship established during this period have shaped the modern world system and some would argue, are the foundation of poverty in developing nations in the twenty first century.
- Do you are with this last statement? Why or why not?

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## Indentured Labour

- The most extensively organized system of immigrant labour was the trade of indentured labourers from India and China
- A contract to work for a specified period of time, usually five years.
- Most of men that would work to send money back home to their families.
- Though it was technically a voluntary contract labour system, it was considered by many to be a new system of slavery.

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- At the end of their lengthy sea voyage, the labourers faced conditions that were bad. There were inadequate food, no health care with extremely demanding physical work.
- When they had a conflict with their employers, they faced a legal system and a police force ready to enforce their employer's conditions.
- These labourers would have to earn money to buy their return passage
- Consequently, indenture though intended to be temporary, often became a permanent migration into a new home.

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- Many of the indentured labourers would compete with others for employment on the plantations.
- Chinese immigrants more commonly worked in mining and construction than on plantations.
- Fifteen thousand were recruited from Hong Kong to complete the Canadian Pacific Railway.

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Image of three Chinese immigrants working on the construction of the railroad. Unknown numbers died during construction.



Chinese immigrants worked primarily as labourers and lived largely in the states and territories of the American West

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## War and Resistance to Colonization

- Colonial nationalist movements developed a sense of belonging to a larger international movement of colonized peoples seeking liberation from colonialism and racial oppression.
- Anti-Western protests, sometime called primary resistance movements, organized to expel foreigners and restore the culture to its original state.

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## Colonial Nationalist Movement

- The leaders of nationalist movement in the colonies tended to be from the Western-educated elite.
- The Indian National Congress
  - Founded in 1885, INC was one of the earliest colonial nationalist political parties.
  - The modernization of agriculture and the extension of railroads had changed patterns of landholding and had converted some areas to the production of export crops

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- These reforms had also increased the peasant's indebtedness and their vulnerability to famines that struck in the 1870s and 1880s.
- Some Indian nationalists charged the British connection acted as an economic drain on the resources of India
- British officials viewed them as unrepresentative trouble makers until more radical voices and popular protest began to change the face of Indian nationalism.

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B.G. Tilak (1856-1920). At his own life, Tilak championed the freedom of the press and demanded independence from British rule.

By 1905, Indian Congress committed itself to the goal of Indian self-government.

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### The Russo – Japanese War (1904-1905)

- The victory of Japan over Russia in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905 was remarkable in two ways
- Not only had a non-Western power defeated a major European power in war, but the conflict had been fought using the full arsenal of modern military technology.
- The Russian interest were deflected from Asia to Europe and added to the buildup of diplomatic tension that led to the Russian Revolution in 1905.
- The most stunning change occurred in China: The Revolution of 1911 brought down the Manchu dynasty and proclaimed a new republic based on the principles of nationalism, socialism and democracy.

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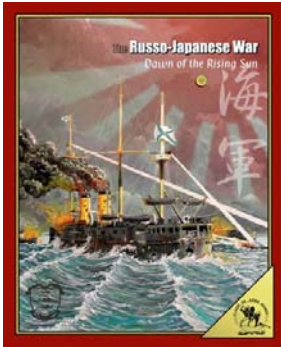
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*"The fate of the empire rests upon this one battle, let every man do his utmost."*

Admiral Togo addressing the Japanese Fleet 27 May 1905

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What you need to know for the quiz on Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004 besides the PowerPoint lecture.

- Unco-operative colonies
- The remaining section of "The legacy of Imperialism"
- Agents of human rights advancement
- The Legacy of Emancipation
- The struggle for an Independent Latin America
- Colonial Resistance at the Turn of the Century
- Anything else that was not covered during from the lecture

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Questions to work on for the rest of the period. You will be handing this in by the end of the class.

- Answer the following questions in your textbook.
  - Page 345 (1-3)
  - Page 353 (1-3)
  - Page 363 (1)
  - Page 366 (1 and 2)
- This will be collected at the end of class and returned to you on Tuesday. We will take this up in the beginning of Wednesday's class before the work period.

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