

European Colonial Powers in Africa

Sara Steinhauser

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Prompt

Analyze the policies of three European colonial powers regarding Africa between 1871 and 1914.

I. Background

A. Expansion of Western Society

1. 1871 to 1879- Political empire building begins.
2. 1880 to 1914- European nations rush to enlarge their political empires and gain African possessions.
 - a. Forced to tighten control and establish colonial governments to rule their vast empires.

II. New Imperialism

A. Known as a rush to “plant the flag” over as much territory as possible for the empire.

B. Consequences:

1. Created competition among the European states for colonies
2. Led to wars with non-European powers
3. Put African territories under the rule of Europeans.

III. Britain

A. Cecil Rhodes

1. Prime minister of Cape

Colony from 1890 to 1896.

2. Plan to dominate Afrikaner republics and impose British rule on as much land as possible.

3. Believed the English were the finest race and the more land they inhabit, the better it is for the human race.



B. British Imperialism

1. Gain control of Dutch(Afrikaner) settlements at Cape Town during wars with Napoleon I.
 - a. Dutch proclaimed political independence and defended it from British armies.
2. 1880- Britain gains control of much of South Africa.
3. 1890's- passed Afrikaner states and established protectorates over Bechuanaland and Rhodesia.

4. Attempted but failed in the invasion of Transvaal to undermine the Afrikaners.

5. 1899-1902- Defeated the Afrikaners in the South African war.

a. British territories united with the old Cape Colony and the eastern province of Natal to form a new Union of South Africa which was a “self-governing” colony.



IV. Berlin Conference

A. A conference set up to establish rules regarding the imperialist competition in Africa

B. Jules Ferry of France and Otto von Bismarck of Germany questioned the political fate of Africa after Leopold II of Belgium intruded into the Congo area.

1. Ferry and Bismarck arranged the conference regarding Africa in Berlin in 1884 and 1885.

C. Established rules:

1. European claims had to be an “effective occupation” to be recognized.

2. No single power could claim the entire continent.



V. France

A. Leopold's claim of the Congo Basin alarmed the French.

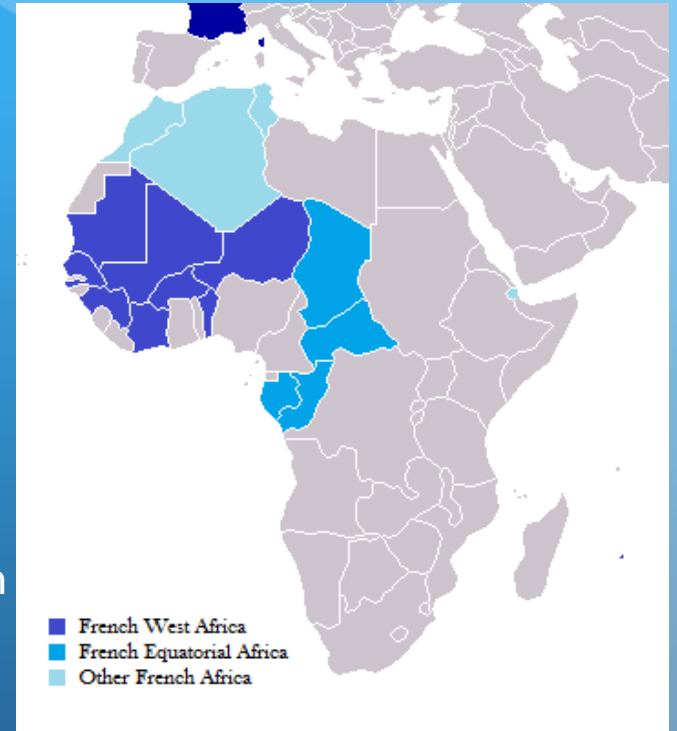
1. They immediately sent an expedition under Pierre de Brazza who signed a treaty of protection with the chief of a Teke tribe.
2. Brazza then began to establish a French protectorate on the north bank of the Congo river.

B. Cooperation with Germany against the British

1. Gained approval from Bismarck and expanded south from Algeria, east from the Sengal coast and north from the protectorate on the Congo river
2. They beat Britain to the village of Fashodia which rose the threat of

war.

- a. France was unwilling to fight and withdrew it's forces allowing the British to take over.



VI. Germany

A. Otto von Bismarck

1. Saw little value in colonies before 1880
2. Set up the Berlin Conference which led to the emergence of

Germany as an imperial power.

B. German Imperialism

1. 1884 and 1885- Bismarck joined in the race for African territories.
2. He established new protectorates in Togo, Cameroons, Southwest Africa, and East Africa.
3. Bismarck then joined with Jules Ferry of France against the British.



VII. Conclusion

- A. Native Africans who resisted European rule were defeated by superior military force.
- B. European powers always stopped short of fighting each other preventing a great European war.