

COLONIAL AFRICA

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AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY...

- ⊙ Africa was home to great empires and rich cultures.
- ⊙ By that century's end Africa was a place of European colonial powers and oppression.
- ⊙ European governments controlled much of the continent, the continent hasn't been the same since.
- ⊙ Much of the poverty and violence of the 20th century is a direct result of colonialism

COLONIZING THE CONTINENT

- ⦿ During the 15th century Portuguese ships, looking for trade routes to Asia, landed in Africa.
- ⦿ Soon other countries established coastal trading stations there.
- ⦿ Europeans were initially timid about going to the interior- “the white man’s grave.”

◎ By mid-1800s, the Europeans were aware of the rich resources in Africa, and wanted to use them to fuel their developing industrial economies.

◎ Advances in science and technology made the trip into the interior more attractive:

- Steamboats

- firearms

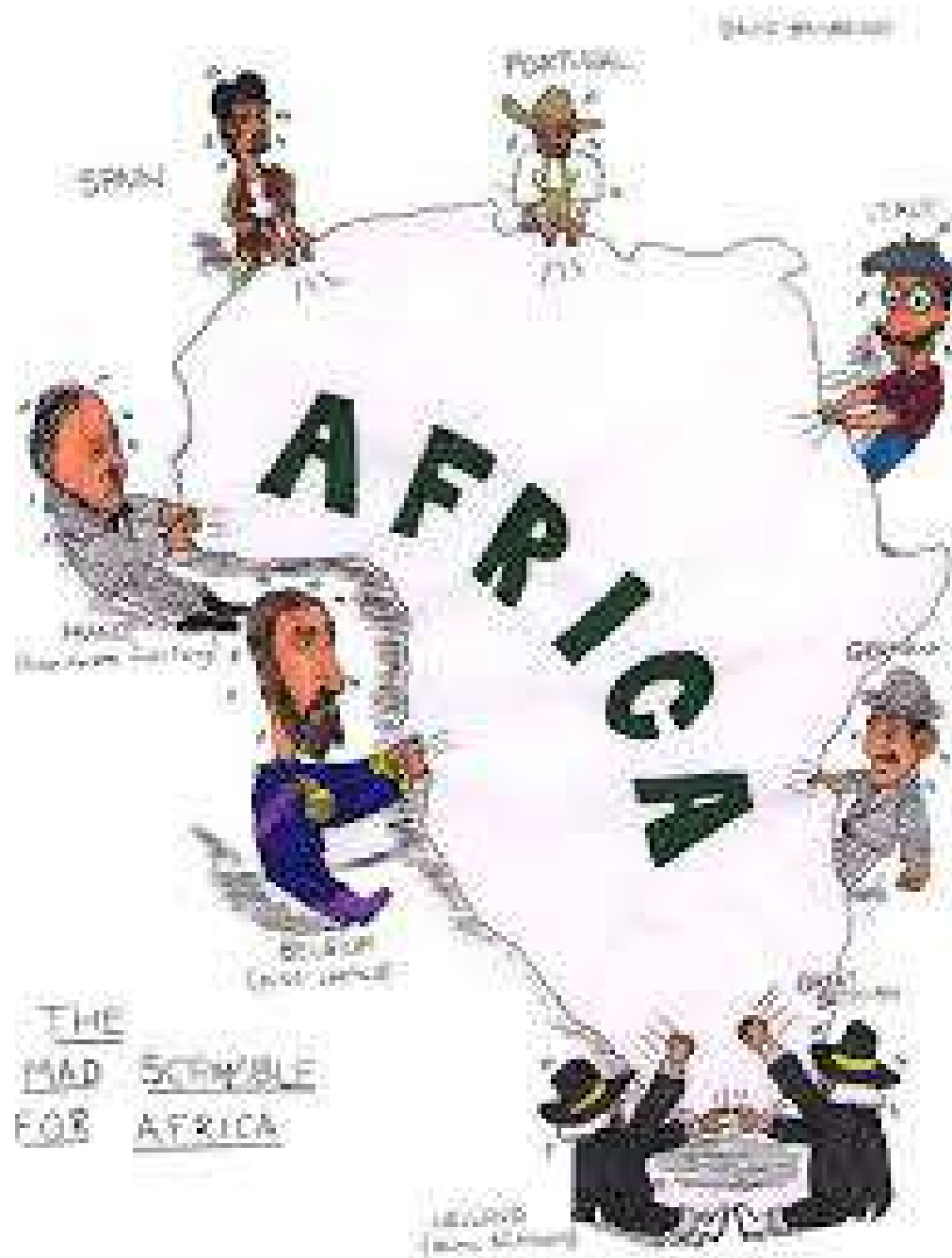
- telegraph

- Suez Canal

* Conquest driven by the desire for territory, resources, and European nationalism.

KING LEOPOLD II

- ◉ King of Belgium
- ◉ Interest in Congo after exploration in the 1870s
- ◉ Wanted to open trade along the Congo River
- ◉ Controlled the area by 1884, paving the way for the **Berlin Conference** and the “Scramble for Africa.”
- ◉ Forced labor in the extraction of rubber, palm oil, ivory etc.



BERLIN CONFERENCE

- ① To prevent wars between the European powers, 14 nations convened at the Berlin Conference- 1884-1885, to lay down rules for dividing Africa (no Africans invited)
- ① Essentially, any nation could claim land by telling other nations and demonstrating they could control the area.
- ① Continent was divided without regard for where ethnic and linguistic groups lived
- ① **Set boundaries that combined people who were traditional enemies, dividing those that weren't**

IDEOLOGY FOR CONQUEST

- ⊙ Conquest needed to be presented in legitimate terms, not just purely economic
- ⊙ Rudyard Kipling's "**White Man's Burden**"- 1899
- ⊙ Argues for the obligation that Europeans have to civilize the African continent
- ⊙ Non-christenized and childlike, be their savior

“DARK CONTINENT”

- ⊙ Explorers and missionaries sparked foreign interest in Africa
- ⊙ **DAVID LIVINGSTONE**- Scottish explorer, promoted the three “C’s,” commerce, Christianity, and civilization.
- ⊙ **Henry M. Stanley**- Welsh-American reporter sent to find Livingstone. His stories of exploration were his source of income. He sensationalized Africa and represented early European business ventures

POST-COLONIALISM

- ⦿ Very quick process 1957-1964, 8 new independent nations formed
- ⦿ Next 40 years, Africa dominated by dictators and civil wars
- ⦿ Largely had no experience with governing