



European Partitioning Across Africa

Colonization, Conflict, &
Artificial Boundaries

Standards

SS7H1 The student will analyze continuity and change in Africa leading to the 21st century.

- a. Explain how the European partitioning across Africa contributed to conflict, civil war, and artificial political boundaries.

ELACC68RH3:

Identify key steps in a text's description of a process related to history/social studies.



European Partitioning Across Africa

Colonization, Conflict, &
Artificial Boundaries

Trade Routes

- Europeans first became interested in Africa for trade route purposes.
 - They were looking for ways to avoid the taxes of the Arab and Ottoman empires in Southwest Asia.
- Sailing around Africa was the obvious choice, but it was a long voyage and could not be completed without “pit stops” along the way.
 - Europeans created ports in southern and eastern Africa so traders could restock supplies before crossing the Indian Ocean.

Slave Trade

- During the 16th century, Portuguese explorers became engaged in the African slave trade.
 - They kidnapped Africans and forced them to work on plantations and mines in their colonies in the New World.
- Other European countries soon participated in the slave trade as well.
- The trans-Atlantic slave trade lasted from the 1500s to the mid-1800s.
 - Even after the slave trade had ended, European interest in Africa was still going strong.
- European countries saw that Africa was a continent full of vast natural resources and mineral wealth.

Imperialism

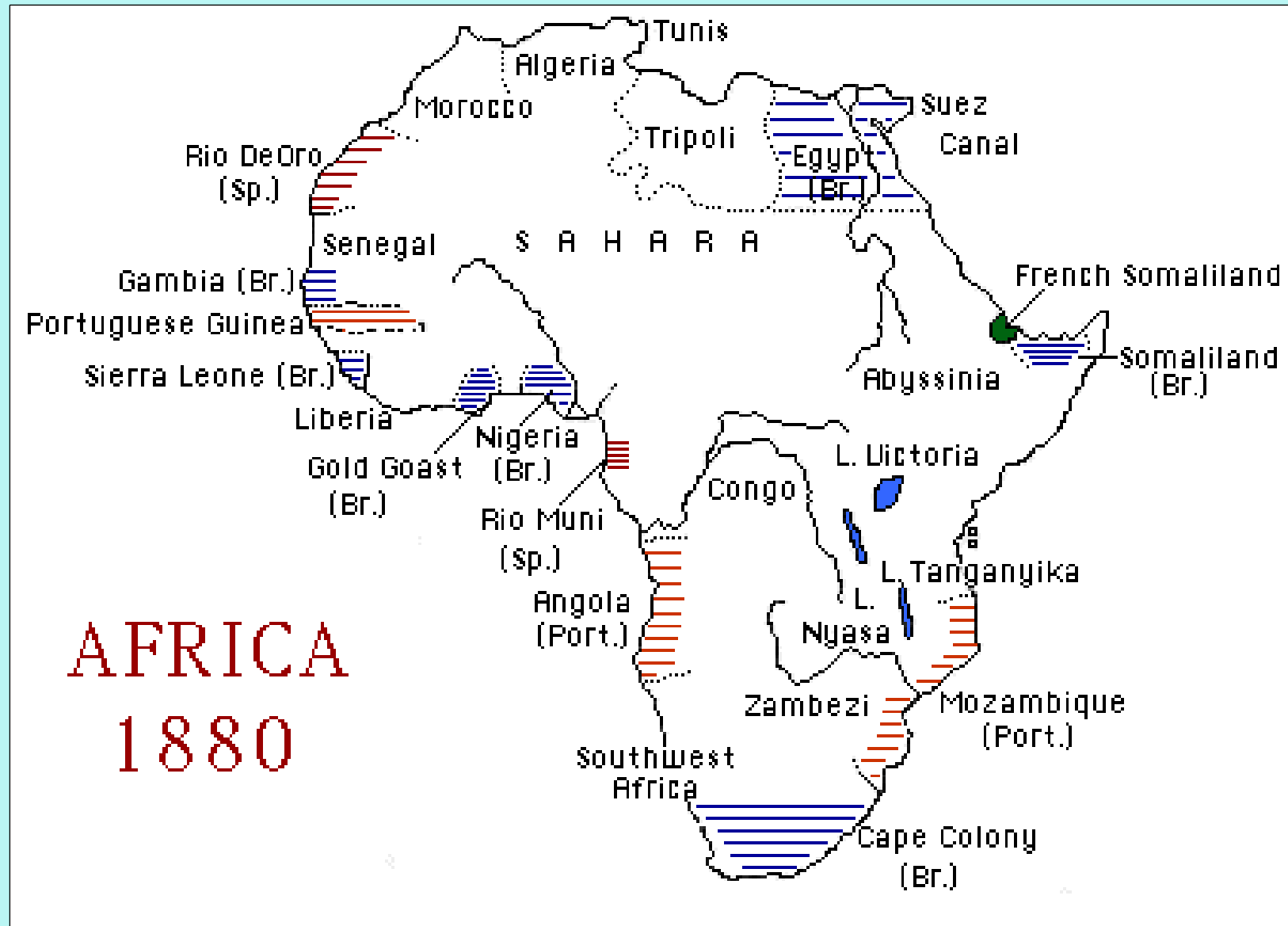
- The end of the 19th century is called the “Age of Imperialism”, which refers to European countries competing for land and power.
- Imperialism is a system where a strong country takes wealth and raw materials from another country.
- A “strong” country was supposed to have many colonies to increase its wealth and importance around the world.

Colonialism

- During this time, many European countries expanded their empires by aggressively establishing colonies in Africa so that they could exploit and export Africa's resources.
 - Raw materials like rubber, timber, diamonds, and gold were found in Africa.
- Europeans also wanted to protect trade routes.

Europeans in Africa

- During the 1800s, Europeans moved further into the continent in search of raw materials and places to build successful colonies.
 - Great Britain, France, & Germany fought over control of land that is now Egypt and Sudan.
 - Belgians took control of the Congo.
- The natives often fought against the European powers; however, they often lost because the European weapons were superior.
 - The Zulu nation fought the British in South Africa and the Ashanti struggled to hold onto what is now Ghana.

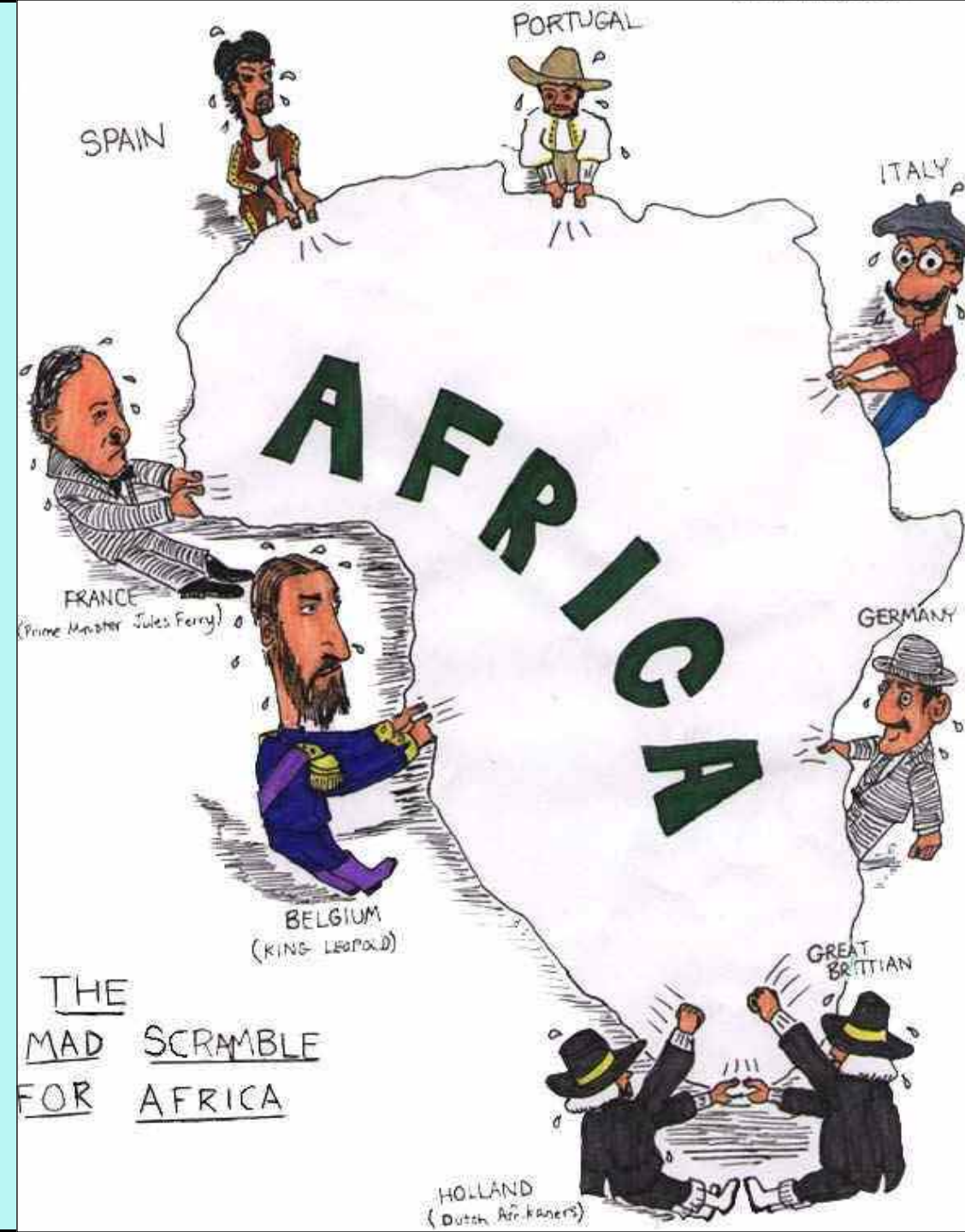


Economic Reasons

- Economic motivation played a large part in the colonization of Africa.
- The 1800s was a time of great industrialization in Europe (Industrial Revolution).
 - Factories required raw materials that could be manufactured into marketable products.
- When Europeans returned to Africa for more resources they brought back the manufactured goods and sold them to Africans.
 - Africa became a new market for Europe to sell goods.

Political Reasons

- Politics in Europe also led to the colonization of Africa.
- Nationalism, a strong sense of pride in one's nation, resulted in competition between European nations.
- No major nation wanted to be without colonies, which led to this “Scramble for Africa”.
- The competition was particularly fierce between Great Britain, France, and Germany, the strongest European nations in the 1800s.



Religious Reasons

- Christian missionary work gained strength during the 1800s as European countries were becoming more involved in Africa.
- Many missionaries were supportive of the colonization of Africa because they believed that European control would provide a political environment that would help missionary activity.
- The idea of “Christianizing” Africa also made many Europeans look favorably on the colonization of the continent.

Berlin Conference

- By the 1880s, Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, and Portugal all wanted part of Africa.
- To prevent a European war over Africa, leaders from fourteen European governments and from the United States met in Berlin, Germany, in 1884.
 - No Africans attended the meeting.
- At the meeting, the European leaders discussed Africa's land and how it should be divided.



Berlin Conference

Berlin Conference

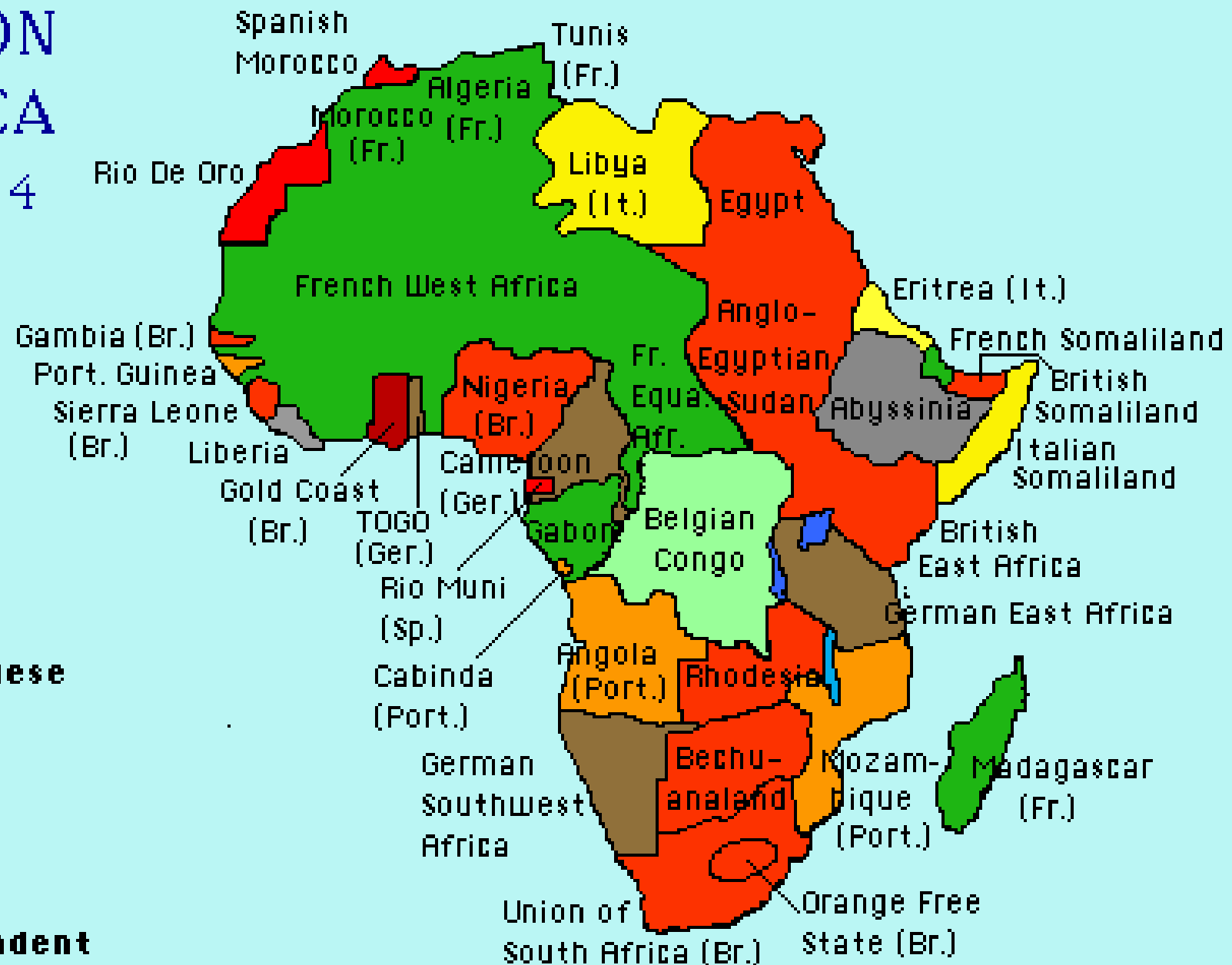
- Going into the meeting, roughly 10% of Africa was under European colonial rule.
- By the end of the meeting, European powers “owned” most of Africa and drew boundary lines that remained until 1914.
- Great Britain won the most land in Africa and was “given” Nigeria, Egypt, Sudan, Kenya, and South Africa after defeating the Dutch Settlers and Zulu Nation.
- The agreements made in Berlin still affect the boundaries of African countries today.

PARTITION OF AFRICA

1885 - 1914

Colonial Powers

- British**
- French**
- German**
- Portuguese**
- Italian**
- Belgian**
- Spanish**
- Independent**



Political Boundaries after Berlin Conference

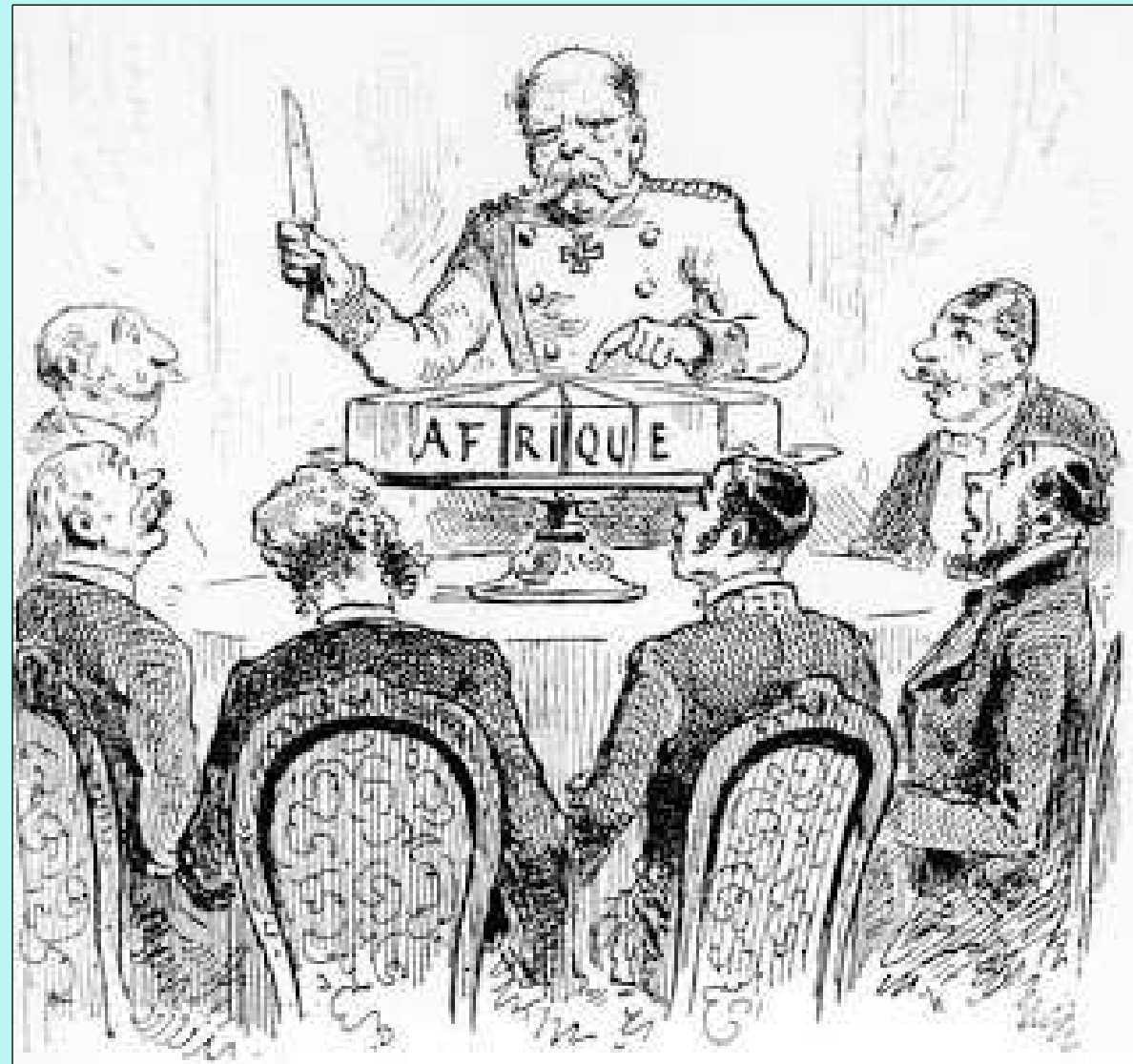


Artificial Boundaries

- European powers organized Africa's population in ways to make the most efficient workforce, ignoring the natives' cultural groups or existing political leadership at the time of colonization.
 - Sometimes they grouped together people who had never been united under the same government before.
 - Sometimes they divided existing groups of people.
- The creation of these borders had a negative impact on Africa's political and social structures by either dividing groups that wanted to be together or combining ethnic groups that were enemies.

Artificial Boundaries

- Europeans placed colonies into administrative districts and forced the Africans to go along with their demands.
 - In order to establish their indirect rule, Europeans used local chiefs as their enforcers in the colonies.
- Europeans also tried to assimilate Africans (have African people give up their own African customs and adopt European customs).
- Protests and revolts were common and starvation and disease became widespread.



Lasting Effects

- Europeans took the best land by force.
 - African farmers were forced to grow cash crops like cocoa and coffee, causing there to be a shortage of food in many areas of Africa.
- Africans were forced to work under terrible conditions on plantations, railways, and logging.
- In order to gain power, Europeans encouraged Africans to fight against each other.
 - New political boundaries caused ethnic groups to clash.
- This has led to ethnic and political unrest in Africa today.
 - There have been over 50 ethnic conflicts in Africa since WWII as a result of the colonial lines drawn by Europeans.



African Unrest

- By the mid-twentieth century, Africans began to openly oppose European control of their countries.
- It was obvious that colonialism was not fair, as it only benefitted the Europeans.
- Africans were tired of being treated like second-class citizens on their own land.
 - They soon begin to demand freedom for themselves...

COUNTRY	INDEPENDENCE DAY	COLONIAL NAME	COLONIAL RULERS
Algeria	July 5th, 1962		France
Angola	November 11th; 1975		Portugal
Benin	August 1st; 1960		French
Botswana	September 30th, 1966		Britain
Burkina Faso	August 5; 1960		France
Burundi	July 1st; 1962		Belgium
Cameroon	January 1st; 1960		French-administered UN trusteeship
Cape Verde	July 5th; 1975		Portugal
C.A.R	August 13th; 1960		France
Chad	August 11th, 1960		France
Comoros	July 6th; 1975		France
Congo	August 15th; 1960		France
Congo DR	June 30th; 1960		Belgium
Cote d'Ivoire	August 7th; 1960		France
Djibouti	June 27th; 1977		France
Egypt	February 28th, 1922		Britain
Eq Guinea	October 12; 1968		Spain
Eritrea	May 24th; 1993		Ethiopia
Ethiopia	over 2000 years, Never colonized	(formerly) Kingdom of Aksum	--
Gabon	August 17th; 1960		France
Gambia	February 18th; 1965		Britain
Ghana	6 March 1957	Gold Coast	Britain
Guinea	October 2nd; 1958		France
Guinea Bissau	10 September 1974 24 September 1973		Portugal
Kenya	December 12th, 1963		Britain
Lesotho	October 4th; 1966		Britain
Liberia	July 26th; 1847		American colonization Society
Libya	December 24; 1951		Italy
Madagascar	June 26th; 1960		France
Malawi	July 6th; 1964		Britain
Mali	September 22nd; 1960		France
Mauritania	November 28th; 1960		France

COUNTRY	INDEPENDENCE DAY	COLONIAL NAME	COLONIAL RULERS
Mauritius	March 12th, 1968		Britain
Morocco	March 2nd; 1956		France
Mozambique	June 25th; 1975		Portugal
Namibia	March 21st; 1990		South African mandate
Niger	August 3rd; 1960		France
Nigeria	October 1st, 1960		Britain
Rwanda	July 1st; 1962		Belgium administered UN trusteeship
SaoTomePrincipe	July 12th; 1975		Portugal
Senegal	April 4th; 1960		France
Seychelles	June 29th; 1976		Britain
Sierra Leone	April 27th; 1961		Britain
Somalia	July 1st; 1960	British Somaliland Italian Somaliland	Britain Italy
South Africa	11 December 1931, April 1994(end of apartheid)	Union of South Africa	Britain
Sudan	January 1st; 1956		Egypt, Britain
Swaziland	September 6th; 1968		Britain
Tanzania	April 26th, 1964		Britain
Togo	April 27th; 1960		French administered UN trusteeship
Tunisia	March 20th; 1956		France
Uganda	October 9th; 1962		Britain
Zambia	October 24th; 1964		Britain
Zimbabwe	April 18th; 1980		Britain

<http://www.japanafrikanet.com/directory/presidents/africanindependence.html>