

Causes of Imperialism

Document 1

...none of the colonial undertakings was motivated by the quest for capitalist profits; they all originated in political ambitions... the nations' will to power...glory or national greatness.

The Century of Total War-Raymond Aron

1. What is the cause of imperialism according to Aron?

Document 2

I contend that we Britons are the finest race in the world, and the more of the world we inhabit, the better it is for the human race... It is our duty to seize every opportunity of acquiring more territory and we should keep this one idea steadily before our eyes that more territory simply means more of the Anglo-Saxon race, more of the best, the most human, most honorable race the world possesses.

Confession of Faith- Cecil Rhodes

2. What does Cecil Rhodes believe is the reason for imperialism?

Document 3

The makers of cotton and iron goods have been very much interested in imperialism. This group of import interests has been greatly strengthened by the demand of giant industries for colonial raw materials...ship-owners demand coaling stations for their vessels and naval bases for protection. To these interests may be added the makers of armaments and of uniforms....Finally the most powerful business groups are the bankers. Banks make loans to colonies and backward countries for building railways and steamships.

Imperialism and World Politics- Parker T. Moon

3. Identify 2 groups of people seeking colonies. Explain why each is seeking colonies.

(A) _____

(B) _____

Document 4

Take up the White Man's burden-
Send forth the best ye breed-
Go bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' needs
To wait in heavy harness
On flutter folk, and wild-
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
Half-devil and half-child.

Rudyard Kipling- The White Man's Burden

4. According to the poem, explain what is the “white man’s burden” is.

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But the economic side...must not be allowed to obscure (hide) the other factors. Psychologically speaking....evolutionary teaching about the “survival of the fittest” was perhaps most crucial. It not only justified competition and struggle but introduced an element of ruthlessness.
The Diplomacy of Imperialism- William L. Langer

5. According to Langer, what was the reason for the new imperialism?

Document 6

... The Chief business of the East India Company in its early period, the very object for which it was started, was to carry Indian manufactured goods—textiles, etc., as well as spices and the like—from the East to Europe, where there was a great demand for these articles. With the developments in industrial techniques in England a new class of industrial capitalists rose there demanding a change in this policy. The British market was to be closed to Indian products and the Indian market opened to British manufactures. The British parliament, influenced by this new class, began to take a greater interest in India and the working of the East India Company.

Source: Jawaharlal Nehru, *The Discovery of India*, John Day Company, 1946

6.
A. According to Nehru, what was a cause of imperialism?

B. Who encouraged the British government to take a greater interest in India?
