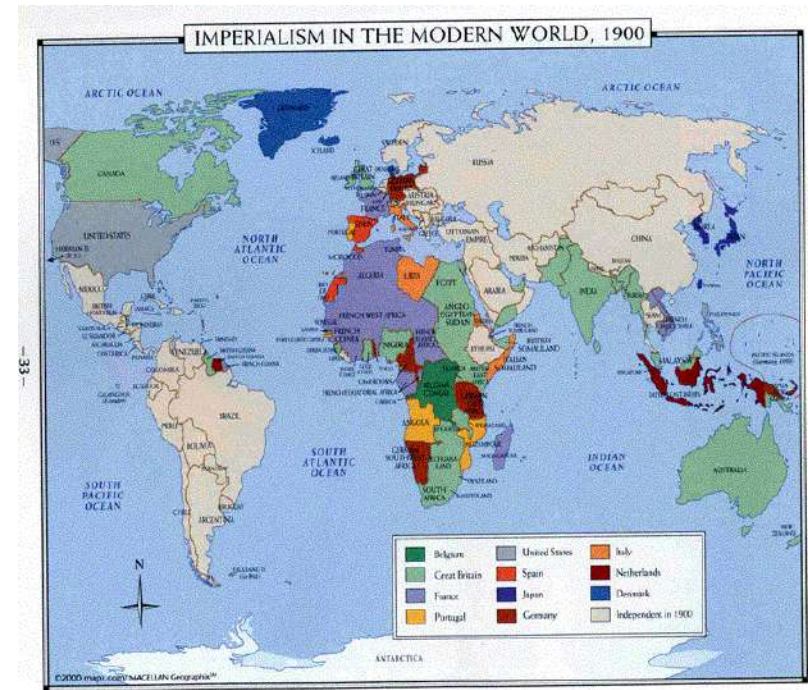


The Age of Imperialism- 1870's-1914

- Imperialism = a policy of conquering and ruling other lands
- It is the domination by one country of the political, economic, or cultural life of another country or region.



Why Imperialize?

- 1. Economic Interests-Industrial Revolution driving force-need natural resources. Wanted to sell/trade with other countries. Colonies offered areas for Europe's growing population.
- 2. Political/Military- Merchant ships and naval vessels needed bases around the world to take coal and supplies. Industrial powers seized islands or harbors to satisfy their needs.
- 3. Nationalism-W. leaders claimed colonies were necessary for national security and that it increased their prestige.

Why Imperialize?

- 4. Humanitarian/Religious- Missionaries, doctors and colonial officials believed it was their duty to spread the “blessing” of Western civilization. (medicine, law, Christianity)
- 5. Social Darwinism- European races argued they were superior and imperial domination of weaker races was “nature’s way of improving the human race.”

Nations competed for overseas empires.

- In the mid-1800s, Britain was the most powerful nation in the world.
 - It's factories produced more good than those of any other country.
 - The British Navy guarded the oceans so that those goods could be shipped safely to ports around the globe.
 - British banks loaned the money needed to build factories, mines, and railroads worldwide.
- By the late 1800s, however, Germany and the United States were challenging Britain's economic leadership.
- Faced with possible decline, Britain looked increasingly to its colonies for markets and resources.

Nations competed for overseas empires. Imperialism fostered rivalries.

- Other countries followed Britain's lead and came to see colonies as necessary for their economic well-being.
 - The French and Dutch expanded their holdings and by 1900 France had an empire second in size only to Britain's.
 - Spain and Portugal attempted to build new empires in Africa.
 - Austria-Hungary moved into the Balkans.
 - Russia expanded into the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Siberia.
- Countries that had no colonies set out to acquire them.
 - Belgium, Italy, and Germany all took over lands in Africa (with Germany also taking an interest in East Asia & the Pacific islands).

**Nations competed for overseas empires.
Imperialism fostered rivalries.**

Two non-European countries, the United States and Japan, also became involved in overseas expansion during this period.

- Both the U.S. and Japan were interested in East Asia. (The U.S. was also deeply tied to Latin America.)
- Increasingly, Europeans viewed an empire as a measure of national stature.
- Thus, the race for colonies grew out of a strong sense of national pride as well as from economic competition.

Nations competed for overseas empires.

Europe believed in its own superiority.

- Following the Industrial Revolution, Europeans regarded their new technology (weaponry, telegraphs, railroads etc.) as proof they were better than other peoples.
- This attitude is a reflection of racism, the belief that one race is superior to others.
- Europeans believed that they had the right and duty to bring the results of their progress to other countries.
- Some of this push for expansion of the European way of life came from missionaries.
- Many saw this as an opportunity to “civilize non-Europeans”

Rapid Imperialism due to...

- 1. Weakness of Non-Western States: Older civilizations were in decline-Ottoman Empire in Middle East, Mughal in India, and Qing Dynasty in China. Africa was divided-slave trade left it damaged-too weak to fight European.
- 2. Western Advantages: Strong economy, well-organized govt., powerful army/navy. Superior technology and medicine. Superior weapons.
- Many opposed Western expansion and fought back. Some tried to strengthen from within, while others organized nationalist movements to expel imperialists from their land.
- Though many opposed-it was difficult to stop imperialism.

Forms of Imperial Rule

- **1. Direct rule:** Send officials and soldiers to administer colonies. Goal is to impose culture on colonies and turn provinces to their own. *France*
- **2. Indirect Rule:** Sultans, chiefs or other local rulers governed the colonies. Children of local ruling class would receive Western education to groom new Westernized generation*Britain*
 - **Protectorate:** local rulers left in place but expected to follow European advice on issues. *Cost less than a colony and didn't require large military commitment.*
- **3. Sphere of Influence:** Western control-an area in which outside power claimed exclusive investment or trading privileges. *Europeans carved out spheres to prevent conflict among themselves*