

# The Age of Imperialism 1850-1914

Imperialism is the domination by one country of the political, economic or cultural life of another country.

- I. Old Imperialism (1500-1800)
  - A. European Colonies
    - 1. Americas
    - 2. India
    - 3. Southeast Asia
    - 4. Coasts of Africa and China
  - B. Power and purpose
    - 1. limited
    - 2. bring European ideas as well as make money
    - 3. mercantilism
- II. New Imperialism (1850-1914)
  - A. Where and Who
    - 1. Asian and African colonies
    - 2. US, European countries and Japan
  - B. Causes
    - 1. Nationalism
      - a. national superiority
      - b. had right to take control over weaker countries
    - 2. Social Darwinism
      - a. survival of the fittest
      - b. stronger nations dominate weaker ones
    - 3. Military
      - a. bases for navies
      - b. many colonies = power and security
    - 4. Economic
      - a. raw materials for factories
      - b. foreign markets to sell finish products
      - c. places to invest their profits

5. White Man's Burden
  - a. poem by Rudyard Kipling
  - b. moral duty to educate people in less developed nations
  - c. Missionaries spread western ideas and customs

C. Scramble for Africa

1. King of Belgium sends group into Congo to establish trade agreements
  - a. other countries want a piece of it.
  - b. Scramble begins
2. Berlin Conference 1844
  - a. to avoid conflict among Europeans
  - b. set up rules for colonizing Africa
  - c. divided Africa without consenting Africans
3. Zulu Empire
  - a. Shaka organizes Zulu warriors to fight Europeans
  - b. Stop slave trade and ivory hunters
  - c. Unites Zulu nation through conquest
  - d. Dutch farmers called BOERS arrive in 1600's
  - e. Fight Zulu nation for control over area
  - f. British get the colony from Dutch in 1800's
  - g. Boers move north to avoid British
  - h. Boers fight Zulu 1830's through late 1800's
  - i. Zulu fight British and win in 1879
  - j. British advanced weapons win
4. Boer War
  - a. late 1800's Cecil Rhodes annexes Boer territory
  - b. Boer War begins 1899-1902
  - c. British win and unify colonies
5. Africa divided up among nations based on products and convenient boundaries
  - a. no regard to ancient tribal problems
  - b. leads to modern problems

## D. Imperialism in China

1. Opium War
  - a. British selling Opium in late 1700;s
  - b. China tries to stop import of it
  - c. 1839 British fight to keep trade open
  - d. British win and force Treaty of Nanjing
  
2. Treaty of Nanjing
  - a. China had to pay for British war costs
  - b. China had to open ports to British Trade
  - c. Give Britain island of Hong Kong
  - d. British citizens tried under own laws in own courts (extraterritoriality rights)
  - e. Spheres of Influence Begin
  - f. Open Door Policy
  
3. China Reacts
  - a. Taiping Rebellion 1850-1864 peasants rise up in revolt against Qing officials
  - b. Boxer Rebellion 1900 assault foreign communities in China
  - c. Chinese Revolution (3 goals) end foreign domination, representative government, economic security 1911 win set up Chinese Republic

## E. Japan

1. Tokugawa Shogunate cuts Japan off from rest of world
2. 1853 Commodore Matthew Perry comes in opens Japan
  - a. establish port on way to China
  - b. begins negotiations for treaties for other European nations
3. Meiji Restoration (1868-1912)
  - a. adopt western ways to escape domination
  - b. period of modernization
  - c. feudalism abandoned
  - d. constitution
  - e. technology adopted
  - f. universal education

### III. Effects of Imperialism

#### A. Positive

1. new roads and railroads
2. telegraph and postal systems
3. irrigation systems improve farming
4. new laws = justice for all classes
5. education
6. end customs that threaten human rights

#### B. Negative

1. resources go to European powers
2. European made goods replace local goods
3. Cash crops
4. Top jobs often go to Europeans
5. Asians and Africans treated as inferiors
6. Try to replace local customs with European ways

#### C. Short Term Effects

1. famine
2. foreign rule
3. traditional political units disrupted or destroyed

#### D. Long Term Effects

1. Western culture influences rest of world
2. Transportation, education, and medical care improved
3. Nationalist movements
4. Competition for empires leads to war
5. Industrial nations control new global economy