

The “New” Imperialism and The Partition of Africa (1880-1918)



Imperialism

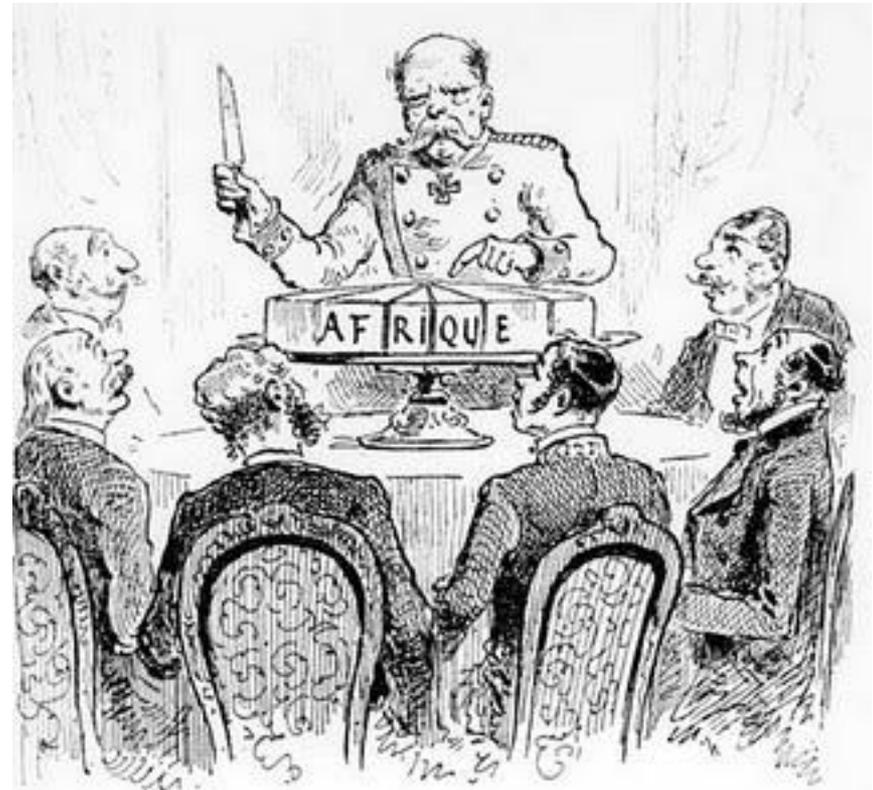
- Definitions
 - The process of extending one state's control over another
 - Formal imperialism
 - Colonialism or direct control
 - Colonizing countries annexed territories outright
 - Established new governments

Imperialism

- Definitions
 - Informal imperialism
 - Conquering nations reached agreements with indigenous leaders and governed through them
 - Allowed weaker state to maintain its independence while reducing its sovereignty
 - Carving out zones of European sovereignty and privilege

Imperialism

- Imperialist endeavors
 - 1875–1902: Europeans took up 90 percent of Africa
 - 1870–1900: small group of European states colonized one-quarter of the world's lands
- Eighteenth-century losses
 - The British in the North American colonies
 - French Atlantic trade
 - Spanish and Portuguese in South America



Imperialism

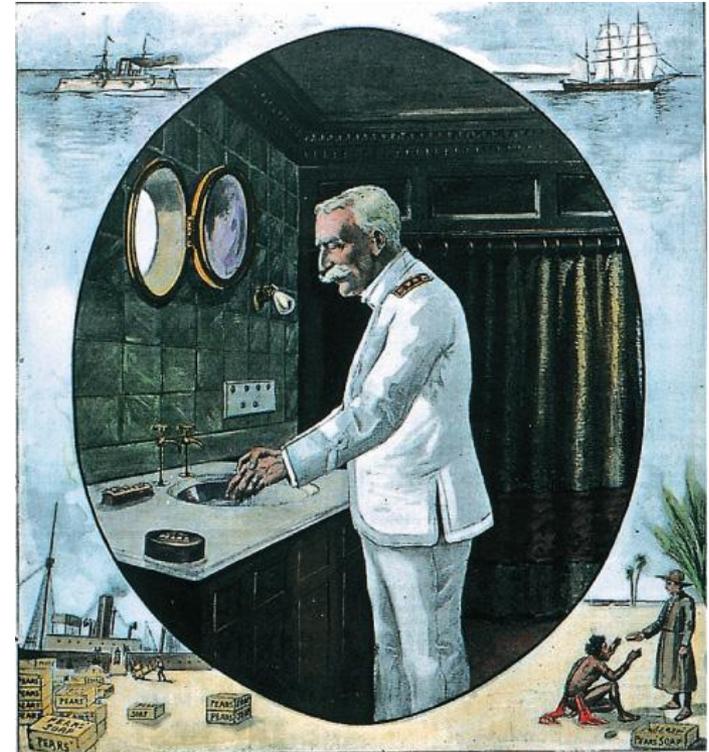
- Nineteenth-century imperialism
 - Appeared against the backdrop of industrialization, liberal revolutions, and the rise of nation-states
 - The need for raw materials
 - Bringing progress to the world
 - Imperialists sought to distance themselves from earlier histories of conquest

Imperialism

- Nineteenth-century imperialism
 - Colonial resistance and rebellion forced Europeans to develop new strategies of rule
 - The British granted self-government to Canada, Australia, and New Zealand
 - Nineteenth-century empires established carefully codified racial hierarchies

Imperialism

- Nineteenth-century imperialism
 - Guided more by “settlement and discipline” than independent entrepreneurial activity
 - The creation of new kinds of interaction between Europeans and indigenous peoples



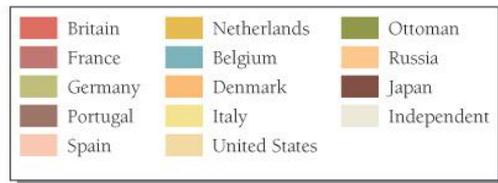
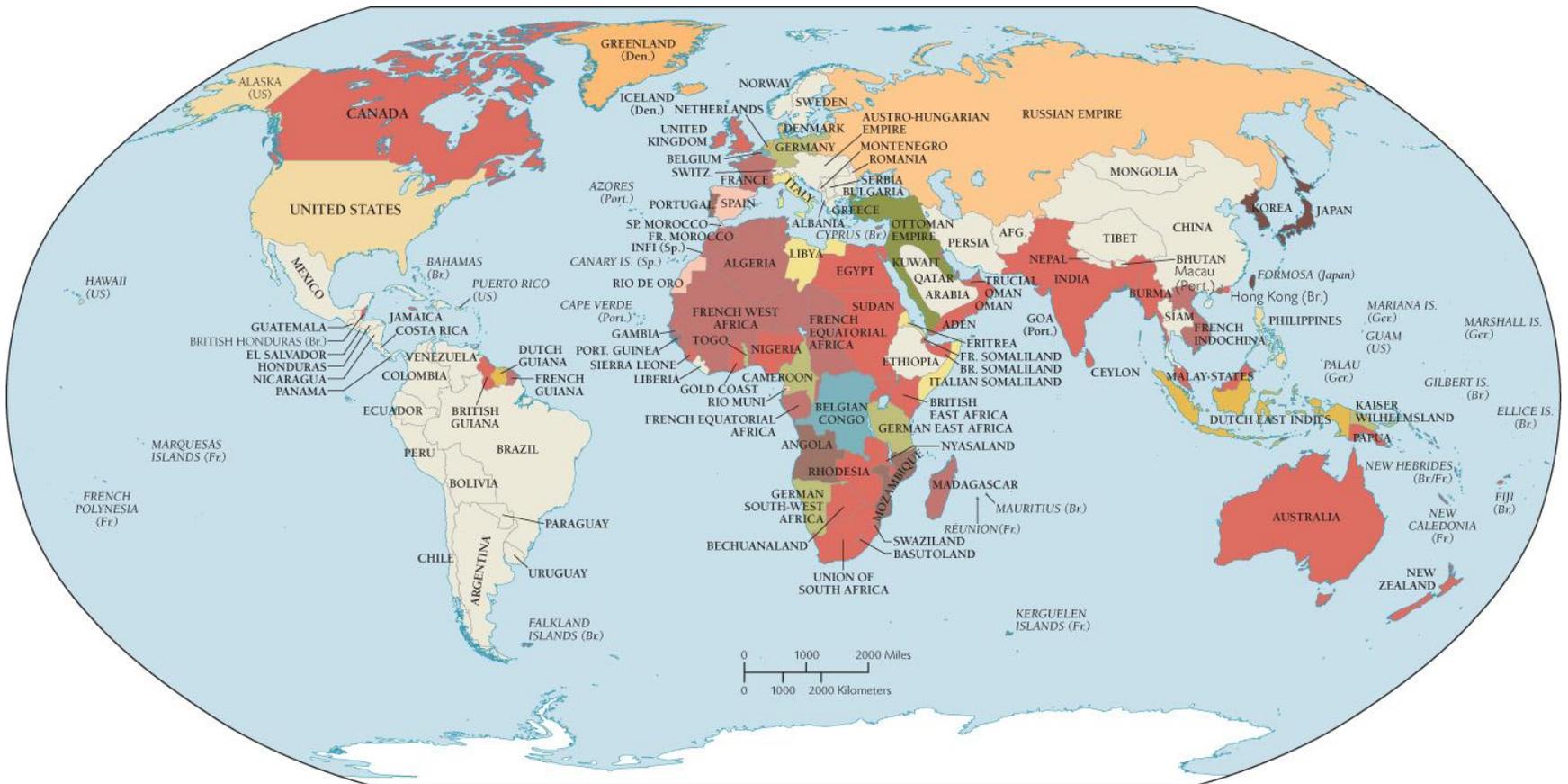
The first step towards lightening

The White Man's Burden

is through teaching the virtues of cleanliness.

Pears' Soap

is a potent factor in brightening the dark corners of the earth as civilization advances, while amongst the cultured of all nations it holds the highest place—it is the ideal toilet soap.



Map 22.1 European Empires in 1900

Imperialism

- The new imperialism and its causes
 - Economic arguments
 - J. A. Hobson (1858–1940), *Imperialism* (1902)
 - Imperialism was driven by a small group of financiers
 - International capitalists
 - Investors sought out secure investment opportunities in colonies
 - The manufacturing, military, and armaments interest
 - Lenin (1870–1924), *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* (1917)
 - Imperialism as an essential stage in the development of capitalism
 - The internal contradictions of capitalism produced imperialism
 - The overthrow of capitalism would check imperialism

Imperialism

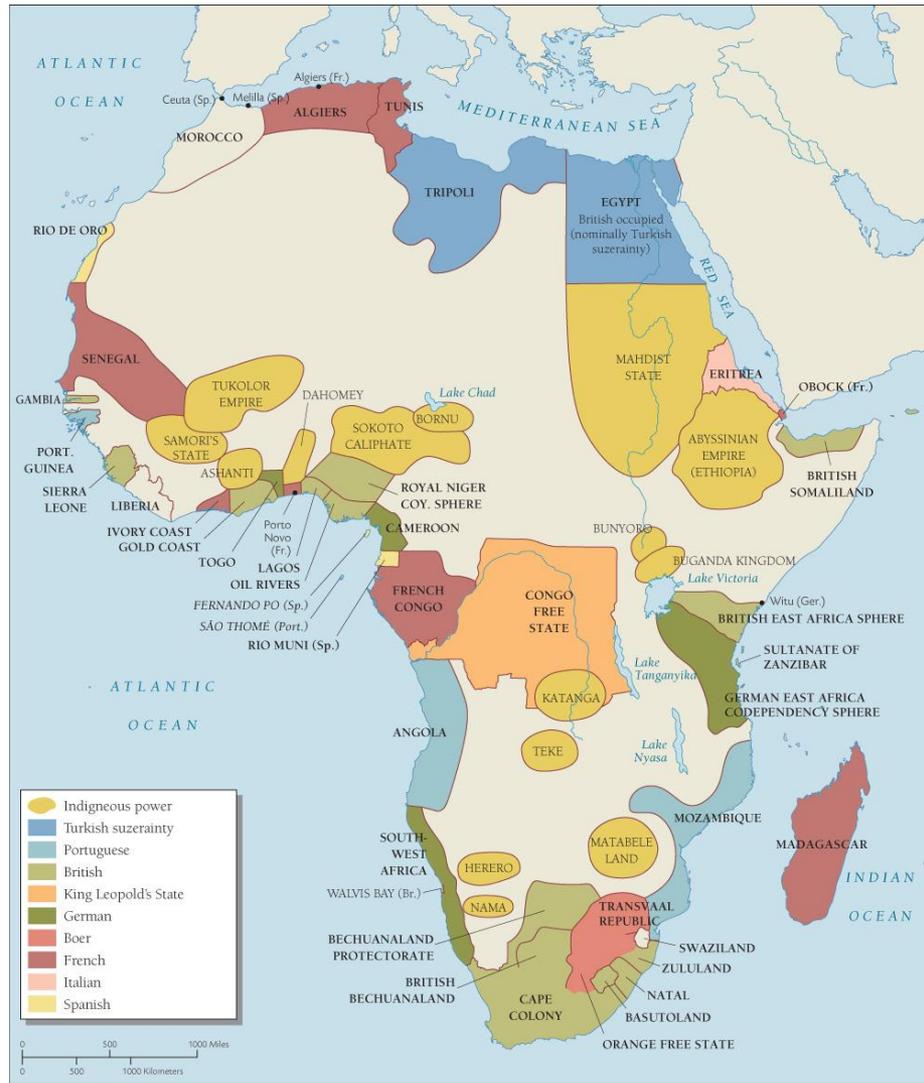
- The new imperialism and its causes
 - London as the banker of the world
 - Demand for raw materials made colonization a necessary investment
- Strategic and nationalist motives
 - International rivalries fueled the belief that national interests were at stake
 - The French supported imperialism as a means of restoring national honor

Imperialism

- The new imperialism and its causes
 - The British worried about German and French industrialization and losing world markets
 - The link between imperialism and nation building
- The cultural dimension
 - David Livingston (1813–1873) and putting an end to the African slave trade
 - Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) and the “white man’s burden”
 - Civilizing the barbaric and heathens

Imperialism

- The new imperialism and its causes
 - Imperial policy
 - Less a matter of long-range planning
 - More a matter of quick responses to improvised situations



Map 22.6 Africa, c. 1886

British takeover of Egypt 1882

- Muhammed Ali (1789-1849) modernizes aspects of Egypt as part of the Ottoman Empire
- Europeans settle in port city of Alexandria – 50,000 by 1854
- 1876 takeover of Egypt's finances by France and G.B.
- 1882 rebellion crushed and full occupation by Great Britain.



The Scramble for Africa and the Congo

- The Congo Free State
 - The 1870s
 - A new drive into central Africa—the fertile valleys of the Congo River
 - European colonizers under the Belgian king, Leopold II (1835–1909, r. 1865–1909)
 - Herbert M. Stanley and his “scientific” journeys



The Scramble for Africa and the Congo

- The Congo Free State
 - International Association for the Exploration and Civilization of the Congo (1876)
 - Signed treaties with local elites
 - Opened the Congo to commercial exploitation (palm oil, rubber, diamonds)
 - Other colonizers reacted (especially Portugal)



The Scramble for Africa and the Congo

- The Congo Free State
 - The Treaty of Berlin (1884)
 - Chaired by Otto von Bismarck (1815–1898)
 - Established ground rules for a new phase of European expansion
 - Britain, France, and Germany joined forces to settle the issue
 - The Congo would be open to free trade and commerce
 - Actually run by Leopold's private company

The End of the Congo Free State

- Clerk on the docks of Brussels suspects slavery
- Leopold cedes the Congo Free State to the Belgian government after international movement to end the rule of Leopold II in Africa.



E.D. Morel

The Scramble for Africa and the Congo

- The Congo Free State
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 - Slave trade suppressed in favor of free labor
 - The Congo becomes a Belgian colony (1908)

The Scramble for Africa and the Congo

- The partition of Africa
 - Colonial powers increase their holdings in Africa (1880s)
 - Germany
 - Bismarck was a reluctant colonizer
 - Seized strategic locations (Cameroon and Tanzania)

The Scramble for Africa and the Congo

- The partition of Africa
 - Britain
 - Southern and eastern Africa
 - Cecil Rhodes (1853–1902)
 - Made a fortune from South African diamond mines (DeBeers)
 - Prime minister of Cape Colony (1890)

The Scramble for Africa and the Congo

- The partition of Africa
 - Personal goal was to build an African empire founded on diamonds
 - Carved out territories in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Botswana
- The “Cape-to-Cairo” railway
- Making Britain self-sufficient

Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902)

- Made a fortune in African diamond production
- Believed in racial superiority of British and territorial expansion
- Founded Rhodesia and the Rhodes Scholar program
- Led military campaigns to topple Dutch holdings in Africa



Further Reading

- *King Leopold's Ghost* by Adam Hochschild
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

