

15.1

The New Imperialism

As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Explain the political, economic, and social causes of European imperialism.
- Understand how technology and other factors contributed to the spread of imperialism.
- Describe the characteristics of imperial rule.
- Summarize the cultural, political, and social effects of imperialism.

Motivations for the New Imperialism

Imperialism- Policy of one country's political, economic, or cultural domination over other lands & territories

Imperialism for European nations began during the Age of Discovery

Between 1500 & 1800, however, Europe had little influence over Africa or the Asian countries

The industrial revolution created the need for “aggressive expansion”

****Needs & Wants**

As factories grew, the need for natural resources did as well. New banking investments were wanted as well

As nations grew, the need for security grew as well & militaries expanded

Many Westerners thought they needed to “help their little brothers” by creating missions

Social Darwinism- The false belief that some races were superior & taking over places was just evolution



****Western Imperialism Spreads**

European countries began to split up Asia & parts of Africa

The United States moved into Latin America & the Philippines

Wars & weak leadership in some countries allowed for the easy conquest from Europe

New weapons, technology, better economies, & well organized governments gave Europe a massive advantage



Resist & Critics

Nations would fight back or reform customs to protect against outside countries

Colonies would begin in national liberation movements to demand rights

Some anti-imperialists in the West argued that imperialism was a tool of the rich

Some just thought it was immoral



Types of Imperial Rule

Imperial powers would send government officials to set up bureaucracy in the colonies

Direct Rule- The sending of officials & soldiers to administer colonies

Indirect Rule- Local rulers oversaw the colonies but still had to follow the rules of the Empire

Protectorate- Local rulers left in place but expected to follow the advice of European advisors

Spheres of Influence- Area in which an outside power claimed exclusive investment or trading privileges



*****Effects of Imperialism**

Colonial rule disrupted old civilizations & place alien customs on different groups

Many times Europeans would draw borders that would split ethnic or cultural groups or group those with no heritage together

The goal was to make a profit off of the colonies by collecting raw materials

Local people paid taxes in cash in order to pay European governors or lock them into jobs



****Effects of Imperialism**

Rise of traditional economies results in people breaking down traditional cultures

Missionaries worked to accept new faiths & embrace the superiority of Western civilizations

Europeans did develop the colonies economically & set up new beneficial technological systems

