Imperialism and Africa
Causes of African Imperialism

- To review, prior to 1875 less than 1/10 was under European control, by 1895 less than 1/10 was independent.
- Africa was desired due to the explosion of the Industrial Revolution and the exploration of the continent.
- The competition in Europe caused by alliances, small wars, and unchecked aggression.
Causes of Imperialism

• Nationalism: bragging rights amongst European nations to prove who is greater

• Nationalism also included the push to find and keep strategic locations to improve colonial possessions

• Cultural Imperialism: belief in pushing advancements and culture of the west to the ‘barbaric’ world
Causes of Imperialism

- **Racism:** belief that one race is superior to another
- People believed science made it possible to prove this theory
- **Charles Darwin:** *Origin of Species,* pseudo-scientific racism
- **Rudyard Kipling’s** “White Man’s Burden”
Berlin Conference

• Meeting among 12 European states along with the United States and Ottoman Empire was held in Berlin from Nov. 1884-Feb. 1885

• The cause of the conference was to attempt to keep European countries calm in the mist of economic and political rivalries

• No representatives of African territory was invited
Berlin Conference

- The Berlin Conference focused on 5 main points
- 1. Free trade in Congo Basin
- 2. Freedom to navigate Congo and Niger Rivers
- 3. Leopold’s International Association
- 4. Territorial boundaries of the Congo Free State
- 5. Definition of “effective occupation” to claim African territory
1870’s

• It is not a surprise that the scramble for Africa intensified with the unification of Italy and Germany

• Both of these new nations wanted to prove their relevance as a new nation by attempting to gain land Africa
Who had what?

- Belgium: Congo
- Portugal: Angola, Mozambique
- Spain: Morocco
- France: N. Africa, W. Africa
- Britain: W. Africa, Nile Valley, E. Africa, S. Africa
# Types of Colonial Rule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British</th>
<th>French</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• “Indirect Rule”</td>
<td>• “Assimilation”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• No attempt to assimilate Africans to British ways, only educate a small group</td>
<td>• The people of Africa are to incorporate and adjust to French culture and language</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Avoid interference with local rule and ways of life</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Indirect rule caused deep feelings of revenge once colonization was over</td>
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Problems of colonization

- The most obvious problems is being ruled by a foreign power, however there were other problems
- New colonies had no developed technology
- Population, terrain, and climate vary and are sporadic
- Budgets are small, and economic demands were large
Problems of colonization

• Africans are denied political rights and ability to hold high office
• Exploitation and slavery are known but not addressed or removed
Portugal in Africa

• Portugal saw Africa in terms of trade and economics
• They made no real effort to advance their colonies, they treated them as a source of revenue
• Brazil in South America was their primary colonial concern
Portugal in Africa

- Portugal couldn’t compete with the British East India Company or Dutch East India Company.
- Portugal couldn’t get past disease, tribal fighting, and they didn’t have a large enough population base to invest in colonization.
- Portugal was big into slave trading.
Spain in Africa

• Very few colonies in Africa
• During the early years of exploration, Spain was more concerned about expelling Muslims and pushing them back to Africa
• Treaty of Tordesellas eliminated all territory in Africa in 1496
Dutch in Africa

• In 1652 the Dutch created the Cape Colony/Cape Town (South Africa)
• The Dutch based expeditions to Madagascar and Mozambique in terms of slave trade
• The Dutch lost their possessions to the British
• Dutch that stayed in territory were called Afrikaans and Boers
Belgium in Africa

- Known as the Democratic Republic of Congo today
- Leopold II used this territory as his own private estate
- Claimed he was going to eliminate slavery and bring in Christian society
Belgium in Africa

- At the end of the century, rubber was a valuable commodity
- Congo had it
- Africans were paid little and had little interest in collecting it
- Agents were assigned to make sure quotas were met
Belgium in Africa

- Torture, mutilation, rape, and murder were devised used.
- Cutting off hands to prove discipline was met and bullets were not used.
- Leopold had to relinquish Congo in 1908 once the abuses were known worldwide.
France in Africa

- Algeria was a former province of the Ottoman Empire was invaded by France in 1830
- France held land in North Africa during Napoleon's invasion, however much was lost to the British at the end of the Napoleonic Era
France in Africa

• Involvement in Algeria started over a debt and a fly swatter
• 2 Algerians argued over a debt with the French Ambassador
• The French Ambassador was hit with a flyswatter
• A blockade of the city was ordered and supported by Charles X of France
France in Africa

• France attempted to create a federation of colonies in Africa in 1895 they attempted to merge the following colonies:

• Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Benin, Mauritania, and Niger
France in Africa

- Because of the success with the AOF, the French did it again in 1910 calling this confederation the AEF
- Chad, Rep of Congo, Central African Republic, and Gabon
British in Africa
British in Africa

- Major British holdings:
- Egypt, Sudan, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and South Africa
South Africa

• The Dutch were first in South Africa however they lost to the French during Napoleon

• Once the French lost to the British, the British collected the lands of both nations

• These Dutch were referred to as Boers

• The Boers had the settlements; Natal, Transvaal, and the Orange Free State
South Africa

- Even though it has not been mentioned, many African tribes fought back against the Europeans (all lost badly)
- The Zulu of South Africa were probably the most successful (but still lost)
South Africa

• The Zulu would not let the Boers into Natal
• The Zulus resisted the British in Natal
• The Zulu defeated the British at the Battle of Isandlwana, but lost Anglo-Zulu War (1878-79)
South Africa

- The British and Boers fought each other over unification between 1899-1902
- The British always liked South Africa because it was an important stop on the way to India, however in 1867 diamonds were discovered, and gold in 1886
- Thousands of migrants arrived and the railroad was developed
South Africa

• After the end of the Boer War in 1902 the British wished to create a self-governing dominion modeled after Canada

• Negotiations started in 1908 to discuss terms, by 1910 London approved their constitution

• The South Africans wished to keep government with the white minority, London did not see this worth fighting. It was approved

• South Africa was permitted to establish the first steps towards apartheid