Imperialism
Imperialism: The policy by a stronger nation to attempt to create an empire by dominating weaker nations economically, politically, culturally, or militarily.
How Did Imperialism Begin?

A coaling station for steamships, Cape Town, South Africa
The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain in the mid-18th century.

- Britain’s advantages
- The spread of industrialization
Economic Motives

Industrialized nations sought:

- Raw materials
- Natural resources
- A cheap labor supply
- New marketplaces for manufactured goods
Technological Advances

- The steam engine
- Better transportation
- Increased exploration
- Improvements in communication

The steamboat *Herald* (with mounted machine guns) on the Zambezi river in Africa

One of the first steam engines
The Maxim Gun

British troops fighting forces in Benin in 1897
Exploration

- David Livingstone
- Mapping the “Dark Continent”

David Livingstone
Ideological Motives

- A desire to “civilize” non-Europeans also spurred the development of imperialism
- Social Darwinism

Darwin’s handwritten cover page for *The Origin of Species*

Herbert Spencer
“The White Man’s Burden”

By Rudyard Kipling

Take up the White Man’s burden—

Send forth the best ye breed—

Go, bind your sons to exile

To serve your captives’ need;

To wait, in heavy harness,

On fluttered folk and wild—

Your new-caught sullen peoples,

Half-devil and half-child.

Take up the White Man's burden—

In patience to abide,

To veil the threat of terror

And check the show of pride;

By open speech and simple,

An hundred times made plain,

To seek another's profit

And work another's gain.
The “White Man’s Burden” appeared in children’s books and even in advertisements of the time period.
Nationalism

- 19th-century political changes
- Allegiance to one’s country rather than to a monarch
- Role of the “common people”
- Unification movements
- Militarism

Italian nationalist Giuseppe Garibaldi (on horseback) leading an attack in Palermo, Sicily
Other strong nations emerged in the mid-1800s as the result of political and economic changes in Europe and beyond.

German Unification
The Scramble for Africa Begins

King Leopold II of Belgium
“Dr. Livingstone, I presume?”
Steamboat *Stanley* on the Congo River
The Berlin Conference

Established a set of agreed-upon rules regarding the competition among the great powers for colonies in Africa
Egypt

The Suez Canal in 1875, six years after it opened

- The Suez Canal
- Shares in the canal held by France, Egypt
- Britain buys out Egypt’s interest
- Egyptian financial crisis
- 1882 uprisings
- British invade and occupy Egypt
By 1914, only two African nations remained independent.
Cecil Rhodes

• British imperialist who made huge profits from Africa’s natural resources
• Founder of the state of Rhodesia in Africa
This cartoon depicts British imperial ambitions to control the entire African continent.

“The Rhodes Colossus”
A Closer Look at Imperialism in Africa

- European quest to control natural resources
- Doing so led to drastic changes in the infrastructure of the continent

The port of Zanzibar around 1900
Improvements in Transportation and Communication
European nations chose one of two different paths when it came to colonial rule:

**Indirect rule:** colonies were given a degree of internal autonomy
Example: Nigeria

**Direct rule:** the colony was directly administered by the colonizer
Example: Senegal
South Africa

- The Dutch first arrived on the Cape of Good Hope in the late 17th century.
- Europeans soon began to settle on the Cape, taking land and forcing the natives out.

Jan van Riebeeck landing on the Cape of Good Hope in 1652
The Great Trek, 1835–1843
In 1867, diamonds were discovered in South Africa; in 1886, gold was discovered.
The Boer War, 1899–1902

- Dutch and British troops fought for control of the Cape
- The British prevailed
In the 1700s, China enjoyed a favorable balance of trade.
By 1779, the British East India Company was importing opium into China. Within a generation, opium addiction in China became widespread.
The East India Company’s opium factory stacking room
In 1839, a Chinese official demanded that the opium trade in Guangzhou (Canton) stop. The British refused, and war ensued.
The Opium War: 1839–1842

The British navy attacks
The Treaty of Nanjing

Britain gained

• Control of Hong Kong
• The right to trade in five major cities
• Extraterritoriality
• The legalization of opium in China

The signing of the Treaty of Nanjing aboard the British ship Cornwallis
The Open Door Policy

- Turmoil in China
- “Spheres of influence”
- “Open Door” policy formulated by U.S. Secretary of State John Hay
- No nations formally accepted Hay’s proposal, but they didn’t counter the Open Door policy’s provisions either
Catholic cathedral in Shanghai
The Boxer Rebellion, 1899

American, Japanese, and British troops storming Beijing
The Boxer Protocol

- China was forced to sign the Boxer Protocol
  - Required to pay damages to Europeans
  - Forced to allow foreign soldiers to live in Beijing

Signing of the Boxer Protocol
Nationalism increased in China as groups fought to not only rid China of foreigners, but to end centuries of imperial rule.
Japan

Japan had closed its doors to the world in the 1600s
In the mid-1800s, the U.S. opened Japan to trade; soon, it too became a strong industrialized nation.

Japanese admire gifts brought by U.S. Commodore Perry
The Meiji Restoration

- Tokugawa Shogunate overthrown by imperial forces
- Emperor Mutsuhito ruled 1867–1912
- Modernization

Japanese Emperor Mutsuhito
Japanese Modernization

Japanese battleship *Shikishima*
Japanese Industrialization
The Russo-Japanese War

- 1904–1905
- Japan and Russia fought for control of Manchuria
- Japan won easily; Russia was humiliated
Japanese Empire-Building, 1929–1939

Axis rally in Tokyo, 1937
Women at work on a power loom mill
The Monroe Doctrine

- Part of President Monroe’s 1823 Message to Congress
- Warned European powers not to interfere with Western Hemisphere affairs or overthrow independent republics there
- Promised the U.S. wouldn’t interfere with European affairs or colonies

Political cartoon titled “Keep Off!”
Hawaii

- Independent kingdom in the Pacific Ocean
- Became a republic in 1894
- Annexed by the United States in 1898

Queen Liliuokalani, the last reigning queen of Hawaii
The United States gained control of Spanish colonies in the Pacific and the Caribbean, most notably Cuba and the Philippines.
The Philippines

- Filipino rebels fought alongside U.S. soldiers against the Spanish.
- U.S. fails to grant the Philippines independence after the war.
- U.S.-Filipino fighting breaks out in 1899 and continues for years.
- Philippines didn’t gain independence until 1946.

A native district of Manila burning
The Panama Canal

- De Lesseps obtains canal rights from Colombia
- U.S. buys rights in 1903
- U.S. backs Panamanian independence
- Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty
- Panama as U.S. protectorate
- Canal completed in 1914
Imperialism in India

- Vasco da Gama
- Post in Calicut
- The spice trade

Vasco da Gama and the ruler of Calicut
The British East India Company

- Sir Thomas Roe meets with Mughal Emperor Jahangir
- The British East India Company gains a monopoly on trade with India
Cash Crops in India

Cotton bales on Cotton Green, Bombay, early 1900s
The Battle of Plassey, 1757

- Nabob of Bengal seizes Calcutta, imprisons British East India Company workers
- Nabob supported by the French
- British troops win a major victory at Plassey
- Victory drives the French from India, giving Britain a monopoly on trade

Robert Clive
Improvements in India’s Infrastructure

In India, the British built:

- The world’s third largest railroad system
- Telephone and telegraph lines
- Dams, bridges, and canals
The Sepoy Rebellion

- Sepoys: Indian soldiers who served under British commanders
- 1857: Sepoys refused to use ammunition greased with pork/beef fat
- Full-scale rebellion broke out
- After quashing the rebellion, the British took control of India
In this 1897 map of the world, British possessions are outlined in red and shaded pink.
French Indochina encompassed a number of self-governing regions in Southeast Asia, including modern-day Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.
The French Imperial System in Indochina

Saigon harbor, circa 1887
British forces land at Rangoon (now Yangon), Burma, 1824
The Legacy of Imperialism

• World War I
• Economic Consequences
• Third-World Nationalism
World War I

British troops on the front line, Somme area, 1916
Economic Consequences

Tea workers on a plantation in Assam, India, circa 1950
Third-World Nationalism
The Legacy of Imperialism

Mozambican war refugees, 1978

Caricature of former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin