

Warm-Up

“Wherever the Empire has extended its borders ... there misery and oppression, anarchy and destitution, superstition and bigotry, have tended to disappear, and have been replaced by peace, justice, prosperity, humanity, and freedom of thought, speech, and action.....”

This is a comment by Lord Curzon (a British Lord) about Imperialism and its benefits.

Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

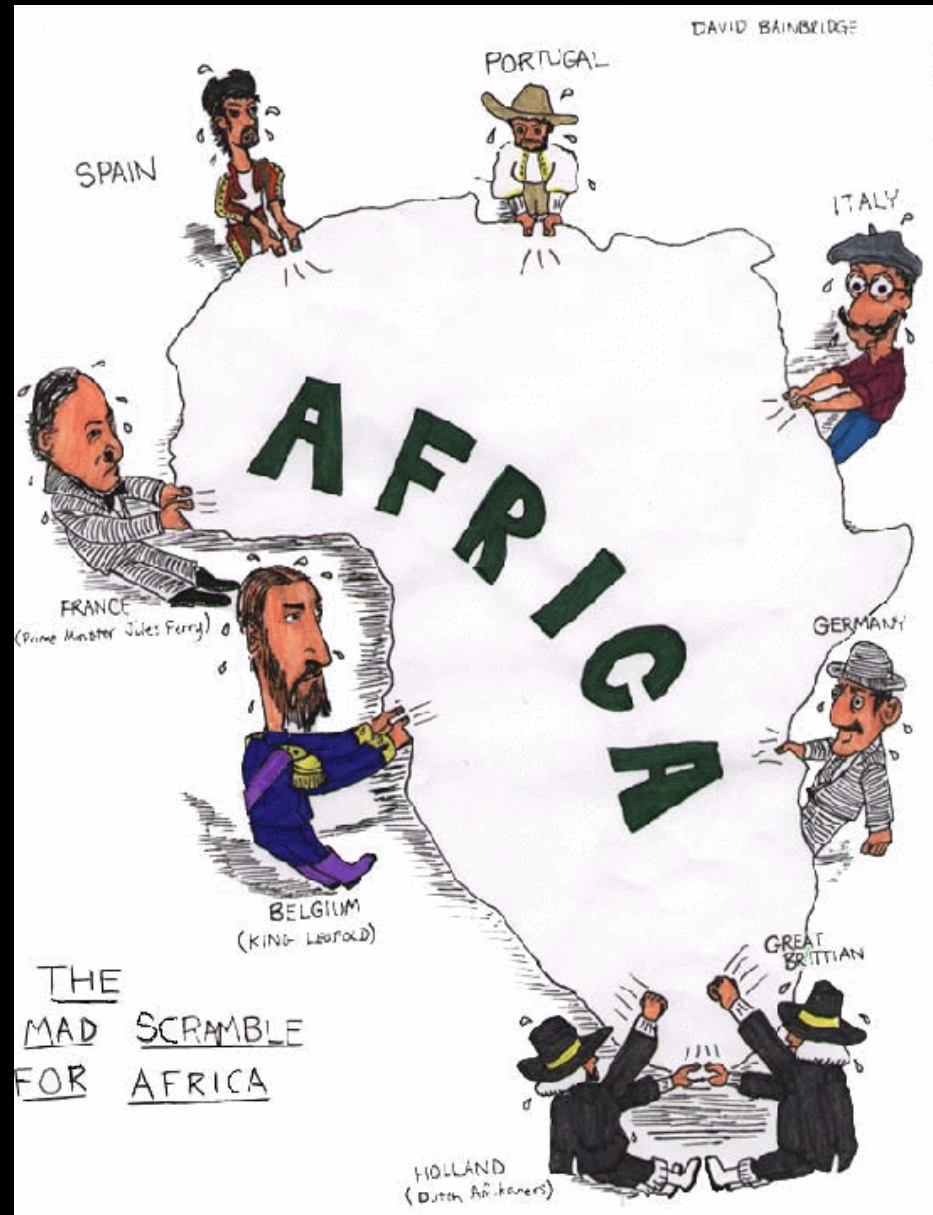
Africa

- Before 1875, limited European presence in Africa
 - Coastal trading forts along coast
 - Angola, Mozambique (Portugal)
 - Cape Colony in S. Africa (Dutch)
 - Trade with west African kingdoms remained strong
- 1880, Europeans controlled 10% of Africa
- By 1914 controlled all except Liberia & Ethiopia

The Scramble for Africa

- Various nations sought to gain control over parts of Africa:

- England
- France
- Italy
- Germany
- Belgium
- Portugal
- Netherlands



French in North Africa

- 1830 – French invade Algiers with the goal to colonize
- 10 year war - results in French victory + taking over of Tunis
- Secures special rights in Morocco
- 1 million French people settle in North Africa



The British in Africa

- 1875 – Britain gains control of the Suez Canal (from Egypt)
- 1882 – Egypt becomes a British protectorate



Egypt

- The Egyptian khedives carried out a number of expensive modernization projects in the mid-nineteenth century.
- These projects were financed with high-interest loans from European creditors.

- French and British bankers lobbied their governments to intervene in Egypt in order to secure their loans.
- In 1882 the British sent an army into Egypt and established a system of indirect rule that lasted for seventy years.

- The British worked to develop Egyptian agriculture, especially cotton production, by building a dam across the Nile at Aswan.
- The economic development of Egypt only benefited a small elite of landowners and merchants
- It was accompanied by the introduction of Western ways that conflicted with the teachings of Islam.

South Africa

- The Dutch established Cape Colony as a way station *en route* to India
- 1816 – Shaka (Zulu) organizes army and establishes large kingdom (assassinated in 1828)



South Africa

- Military and legal control of Cape Colony passes to British after Napoleonic Wars
- Dutch farmers (Boers) migrate NE because of dissatisfaction of British rule – Great Trek
- Boers establish new republics - Orange Free State and Transvaal
- Europeans controlled best land and limited rights of Africans



Southern Africa

- Southern Africa had long been attractive to European settlers because of its good pastures and farmland and its mineral wealth.
- The discovery of diamonds at Kimberley in 1868 attracted European prospectors and Africans
- This also set off the process by which the British Cape Colony expanded, annexing Kimberley and defeating the Xhosa and the Zulu.

- Cecil Rhodes used his British South Africa Company to take over land in central Africa
- Here he created the colonies of Southern Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia

Western and Equatorial Africa

- In West Africa, the French built a railroad from the upper Senegal River to the upper Niger in order to open the interior to French merchants.
- In the Congo Basin, King Leopold II of Belgium claimed the area south of the Congo River, while France claimed the area on the northern bank

- In West Africa, the new colonial powers took advantage of and developed the existing trade networks.
- In Equatorial Africa, where there were few inhabitants and little trade, the colonial powers granted concessions to private companies that forced Africans to produce cash crops and to carry them to the nearest navigable river or railroad.

Berlin Conference 1884-85

- Competition threatened war
- 14 countries agreed to recognize each other's territorial claims
- Divided Africa with no regard to ethnic/linguistic divisions
- 1914 Liberia and Ethiopia are still free

- German chancellor Bismarck called the Berlin Conference on Africa in 1885 and 1886 in order to lay out the framework under which Africa would be occupied by the European nations.
- In practice, the division and occupation of Africa met with resistance and required many years of effort.

Berlin Conference 'Rules'

- The European power with holdings on the coastline had prior rights in the 'back country'
- Occupation had to be real, i.e., settlers, soldiers, administrators
- A European power was required to give 'proper notice' of its intention to move into an area
- Rights & traditions of African kingdoms & peoples were ignored

Berlin Congress 1884-85

- Established the "rules" for conquest of Africa
- Sought to prevent conflict over imperialism
- Congress coincided with Germany's rise as an imperial power
- Agreed to stop slavery and slave trade in Africa
- Germany took control of Cameroon, Togo, southwest Africa, & East Africa
- France took control Tunisia, Algeria, French West Africa (including Morocco, Sahara, Sudan, Congo basin)
- Italy: took control of Libya

Berlin Congress 1884-85

- **Britain**: perhaps the most enlightened of the imperialist powers (though still oppressive)
 - Took control of Egypt in 1883 (model for "New Imperialism")
 - Pushed southward and took control of **Sudan**
- **Battle of Omdurman** (1898): **General Horatio H. Kitchener** defeated Sudanese tribesman and killed 11,000 (use of machine gun) while only 28 Britons died
- **Fashoda Incident** (1898): France & Britain nearly went to war over Sudan; France backed down in the face of the Dreyfus Affair

South Africa and the Boer War (1899-1902)

- Cecil Rhodes had become Prime Minister of Cape Colony ; principal sponsor of the Cape-to Cairo dream where Britain would dominate the continent.
- Diamonds and gold were discovered in the Transvaal and Rhodes wanted to extend his influence there but region controlled by Boers (descendents of Dutch settlers)
- Kruger Telegram (1902): Kaiser Wilhelm II, dispatched telegram to Boers congratulating them on defeating British invaders without need of German assistance
 - Anger swept through Britain aimed at Germany.

South Africa and the Boer War (1899-1902)

- Massive British force eventually defeated Boers and in 1910 the Transvaal, Orange Free State, Cape Colony, & Natal combined to form the Union of South Africa.



British Tactics in Boer War

- All Boer women & children to concentration camps
- Scorched earth policy
- Transport prisoners to other colonies
- Starvation was not uncommon



- British control over South Africa was consolidated when Britain defeated the Afrikaners in the South African or Boer War (1899–1902).
- In 1910 the European settlers created the Union of South Africa
- The Afrikaners emerged as the ruling element in a government that assigned Africans to reservations and established a system of racial segregation (*apartheid*).

Colonialism (1914)



Land Occupation

- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Italy
- Portugal
- Spain
- Independent

England's Empire

- By 1900, Britain controlled 1/5 of world's territory: including Australia, Canada, India
- "*The Empire upon which the sun never sets*": Possible to travel around world by railroad & sea, moving only through British territories.

Systems of Colonial Rule in Africa

- *Europeans thought it'd be cheap to run colonial empires in Africa*
– **WRONG!**
- *“Concessionary Companies”*
 - Brutal forced labor conditions
- *Direct or Indirect Government Control?*
 - **Direct Rule: French Model**
 - Divided territory into administrative districts
 - Bureaucracy staffed by expatriates
 - Responsible for tax collection, labor & military recruitment, justice, law and order, education (unless missionary-led)
 - Removed strong local leaders
 - Administrative districts **INTENTIONALLY** cut across existing territorial or ethnic boundaries

Indirect Rule: British model in Africa

(Note: Different from later policies in India!)

- Used traditional “tribal” or customary laws
- Kept chieftains/local leaders in place
- But – only worked in places where strong centralized authority **ALREADY** existed
- British administrators ignorant of existing territorial and ethnic boundaries – created their own
- Long-term consequences for African stability?