

Chapter 20 Outline – Colonial Encounters

- I. A Second Wave of European Conquests
 - A. The period 1750–1900 saw a second, distinct phase of European colonial conquest.
 - 1. focused on Asia and Africa
 - 2. several new players (Germany, Italy, Belgium, U.S., Japan)
 - 3. was not demographically catastrophic like the first phase
 - 4. was affected by the Industrial Revolution
 - 5. in general, Europeans preferred informal control (e.g., Latin America, China, the Ottoman Empire)
 - B. The establishment of the second-wave European empires was based on military force or the threat of using it.
 - 1. original European military advantage lay in organization, drill, and command structure
 - 2. over the nineteenth century, Europeans developed an enormous firepower advantage (repeating rifles and machine guns)
 - 3. numerous wars of conquest: the Westerners almost always won
 - C. Becoming a colony happened in a variety of ways.
 - 1. India and Indonesia: grew from interaction with European trading firms
 - a. assisted by existence of many small and rival states
 - 2. most of Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific islands: deliberate conquest
 - a. “the scramble for Africa” was based on inter-European rivalry over only about 25 years
 - 3. decentralized societies without a formal state structure were the hardest to conquer
 - 4. Australia and New Zealand: more like the colonization of North America (with massive European settlement and diseases killing off most of the native population)
 - 5. Taiwan and Korea: Japanese takeover was done European-style
 - 6. United States and Russia continued to expand
 - 7. Liberia: settled by freed U.S. slaves
 - 8. Ethiopia and Siam (Thailand) avoided colonization skillfully
 - D. Asian and African societies generated a wide range of responses to the European threat.
- II. Under European Rule
 - A. European takeover was often traumatic for the colonized peoples; the loss of life and property could be devastating.
 - 1. disruption of natural harmonies of life
 - B. Cooperation and Rebellion
 - 1. some groups and individuals cooperated willingly with their new masters
 - a. employment in the armed forces
 - b. elite often kept much of their status and privileges
 - i. shortage of European administrators made it necessary to rely on them
 - 2. governments and missionaries promoted European education
 - a. growth of a small class with Western education
 - b. governments relied on them increasingly over time
 - 3. periodic rebellions
 - a. e.g., the Indian Rebellion (1857–1858), based on a series of grievances
 - b. Indian Rebellion began as a mutiny among Indian troops
 - c. rebel leaders advocated revival of the Mughal Empire
 - d. widened India’s racial divide; the British were less tolerant of natives
 - e. led the British government to assume direct control over India

C. Colonial Empires with a Difference

1. in the new colonial empires, race was a prominent point distinguishing rulers from the ruled
 - a. education for colonial subjects was limited and emphasized practical matters, suitable for “primitive minds”
 - b. even the best-educated natives rarely made it into the upper ranks of the civil service
2. racism was especially pronounced in areas with a large number of European settlers (e.g., South Africa)
 - a. in South Africa, whites attempted to industrialize based on cheap African labor, but without social and political integration
3. colonial states imposed deep changes in people’s daily lives
4. colonizers were fascinated with counting and classifying their new subjects
 - a. in India, appropriated an idealized caste system
 - b. in Africa, identified or invented distinct “tribes”
5. colonial policies contradicted European core values and practices at home
 - a. colonies were essentially dictatorships
 - b. colonies were the antithesis of “national independence”
 - c. racial classifications were against Christian and Enlightenment ideas of human equality
 - d. many colonizers were against spreading “modernization” to the colonies
 - e. in time, the visible contradictions in European behavior helped undermine the foundations of colonial rule

III. Ways of Working: Comparing Colonial Economies

A. Colonial rule had a deep impact on people’s ways of working.

1. world economy increasingly demanded Asian and African raw materials
2. subsistence farming diminished
 - a. need to sell goods for money to pay taxes
 - b. desire to buy new products
3. artisans were largely displaced by manufactured goods
4. Asian and African merchants were squeezed out by Europeans

B. Economies of Coercion: Forced Labor and the Power of the State

1. many colonial states demanded unpaid labor on public projects
2. worst abuses were in the Congo Free State
 - a. personally governed by Leopold II of Belgium
 - b. reign of terror killed millions with labor demands
 - c. forced labor caused widespread starvation, as people couldn’t grow their own crops
 - d. Belgium finally stepped in and took control of the Congo (1908) to stop abuses
3. “cultivation system” of the Netherlands East Indies (Indonesia)
 - a. peasants had to devote at least 20 percent of their land to cash crops to pay as taxes
 - b. the proceeds were sold for high profits, financed the Dutch economy
 - c. enriched the traditional authorities who enforced the system
4. many areas resisted the forced cultivation of cash crops
 - a. German East Africa: major rebellion in 1905 against forced cotton cultivation
 - b. Mozambique: peasant sabotage and smuggling kept the Portuguese from achieving their goals there

C. Economies of Cash-Crop Agriculture: The Pull of the Market

1. many people were happy to increase production for world markets
2. considerable profit to small farmers in areas like the Irrawaddy Delta
3. in the southern Gold Coast (Ghana), African farmers took the initiative to develop export agriculture
 - a. leading supplier of cocoa by 1911
 - b. created a hybrid peasant-capitalist society
 - c. but labor shortages led to exploitation of former slaves, men marrying women for their labor power, influx of migrants
4. many colonies specialized in one or two cash crops, creating dependence

D. Economies of Wage Labor: Working for Europeans

1. wage labor in European enterprises was common
2. hundreds of thousands of workers came to work on Southeast Asian plantations
 - a. low pay, bad conditions, high death rate
3. millions of Indians migrated to work elsewhere in the British Empire
4. especially in Africa, people moved to European farms/plantations because they had lost their own land
 - a. European communities obtained vast amounts of land
 - b. South Africa in 1913: 88 percent of the land belonged to whites
 - c. much of highland Kenya was taken over by 4,000 white farmers
 - d. many former farmers were sent to "native reserves"
5. mines employed many
 - a. Malaysian tin mines attracted millions of Chinese workers
 - i. appallingly high death rates
 - b. South African diamond mines created a huge pattern of worker migration
 - i. African miners were exploited, kept on short-term contracts
6. colonial cities attracted many workers
 - a. were seen as centers of opportunity
 - b. segregated, unsanitary, overcrowded
 - c. created a place for a native, Western-educated middle class
 - d. created an enormous class of urban poor that could barely live and couldn't raise families

E. Women and the Colonial Economy: An African Case Study

1. in precolonial Africa, women were usually active farmers, had some economic autonomy
2. in the colonial economy, women's lives diverged ever more from men
 - a. men tended to dominate the lucrative export crops
 - b. women were left with almost all of the subsistence work
 - c. large numbers of men (sometimes a majority of the population) migrated to work elsewhere
 - d. women were left home to cope, including supplying food to men in the cities
3. women coped in a variety of ways
4. the colonial economy also provided some opportunities to women
 - a. especially small trade and marketing
 - b. sometimes women's crops came to have greater cash value
 - c. some women escaped the patriarchy of husbands or fathers
 - d. led to greater fear of witchcraft and efforts to restrict female travel and sexuality

F. Assessing Colonial Development

1. What was the overall economic impact of colonial rule?
 - a. defenders: it jump-started modern growth
 - b. critics: long record of exploitation and limited, uneven growth
2. colonial rule *did* help integrate Asian and African economies into a global exchange network
 - a. though in many cases, that process had already been underway in precolonial times
3. colonial rule *did* introduce some modernizing elements
 - a. administrative and bureaucratic structures
 - b. communication and transportation infrastructure
 - c. schools
 - d. health care
4. colonial rule *did not* lead to breakthroughs to modern industrial societies
 - a. when India won independence, it was one of the poorest developing countries
 - i. British rule certainly did not help overcome poverty

IV. Believing and Belonging: Identity and Cultural Change in the Colonial Era

A. Education

1. getting a Western education created a new identity for many
 - a. the almost magical power of literacy
 - b. escape from obligations like forced labor
 - c. access to better jobs
 - d. social mobility and elite status
2. many people embraced European culture
 - a. created a cultural divide between them and the vast majority of the population
3. many of the Western-educated elite saw colonial rule as the path to a better future, at least at first
 - a. in India, they organized reform societies to renew Indian culture
 - i. combined Western ideas and classic Hindu texts
 - ii. European education as a tool to win freedom from oppressive tradition
 - b. hopes for renewal through colonial rule were disappointed
 - i. Europeans did not treat their Asian and African subjects as equal partners
 - ii. denigrated the colonized cultures

B. Religion

1. widespread conversion to Christianity in New Zealand, the Pacific islands, and non-Muslim Africa
 - a. around 10,000 missionaries had gone to Africa by 1910
 - b. by the 1960s, some 50 million Africans were Christian
2. Christianity was attractive to many in Africa
 - a. military defeat shook belief in the old gods
 - b. Christianity was associated with modern education
 - c. Christianity gave opportunities to the young, the poor, and many women
 - d. Christianity spread mostly through native Africans
3. Christianity was Africanized
 - a. continuing use of charms, medicine men
 - b. some simply demonized their old gods
 - c. wide array of "independent churches" was established
4. Christianity did not spread widely in India
 - a. but it led intellectuals and reformers to define Hinduism

- b. Hindu leaders looked to offer spiritual support to the spiritually sick Western world
 - i. First World Parliament of Religions, Chicago, 1893
- c. new definition of Hinduism helped a clearer sense of Muslims as a distinct community to emerge
 - i. so did British laws
 - ii. beginning of a profound religious/political divide

C. "Race" and "Tribe"

- 1. notions of race and ethnicity were central to new ways of belonging
- 2. by 1900, some African thinkers began to define an "African identity"
 - a. united for the first time by the experience of colonial oppression
 - b. some argued that African culture and history had the characteristics valued by Europeans (complex political systems, etc.)
 - i. A. Diop of Senegal argued that black Africans produced ancient Egyptian civilization and that European civilization was derived from it and thus from Africa
 - c. some praised the differences between Africa and Europe
 - i. Edward Blyden argued that each race had a distinctive contribution to make to the world
 - ii. Africa's contribution was communal, cooperative, and egalitarian societies
- 3. in the twentieth century, such ideas reached a broader public
 - a. hundreds of thousands of Africans took part in World War I
 - b. some Africans traveled widely
- 4. for most Africans, the most important new sense of belonging was the idea of "tribe" or ethnic identity
 - a. ethnic groups were defined much more clearly, thanks to Europeans
 - b. Africans found ethnic identity useful
 - i. migrants categorized themselves ethnically
 - ii. organized mutual assistance based on ethnicity
 - iii. e.g., organization of the Igbos in Nigeria by the 1940s