

Industrialization Leads to Imperialism

Enduring Understanding: The global and nationalist movements occurred during the nineteenth century. To understand the effects of nationalism, industrialism, and imperialism you will analyze the ways that industrialization contributed to imperialism in India, Japan, China, and African regions. This will include the need for new markets and raw materials, the Open Door Policy, and the Berlin Conference of 1884.

What is Imperialism?



Imperialism is the taking over of a weak country by a stronger country in search of resources and markets. **Industrialization** was the primary economic reason imperialism occurred. A wealth gap was created between industrialized and nonindustrialized nations. Industrialized nations sought raw materials from these less developed countries and new markets to sell finished products. Europe, the United States, and Japan were key imperial powers, while countries in Asia and Africa were the most sought after or desired areas to colonize.

There were also political and social reasons for imperialism. The race for colonies created a competition among European powers. **Nationalist** sentiment was stirred, and each country also sought to hold the most competitive posts around the world to show their strength and power. Additionally, the belief in Western superiority, driven by **Social Darwinism**, justified imperial conquests. Social darwinism is based on survival of the fittest applied to society.

Rudyard Kipling's poem, ***The White Man's Burden***, became an anthem for imperialism, stating that it was the duty of the Western powers to take their superior culture to the "less civilized" nations, despite the resistance they might encounter.



Section Review

1. Define imperialism.
2. What was the underlying cause of imperialism?
3. What were industrialized nations looking for?
4. Who were key imperial powers?
5. What were the most sought after areas to colonize?
6. How did competition for colonies lead to nationalism?
7. How did industrialized nations justify imperialism?
8. What became an anthem for imperialism?

Imperialism in India

In Asia India became the “**jewel of the crown**” (most valuable colony) for Britain after the British East India Company set up trading posts along the Indian coast. After suppressing the Sepoy Rebellion, India officially became part of the British Empire. Great Britain began to exploit (take advantage of) India for its raw materials while setting up markets there to sell British manufactured goods. This hurt many Indian industries, especially the cloth industry, which could not compete with British industrialization.



Section Review

9. Why did India become so important to the British Empire?
10. Because of its importance, what did India become known as?
11. Which British organization controlled India?
12. How did British industries hurt Indian businesses?

Imperialism in Japan

In Japan, the government reopened trade with the West after the United States threatened to attack the capital city of Edo, modern-day Tokyo. **Commodore Matthew Perry** of the US Navy was sent with warships to the coast of Japan. He had with him a treaty that the Japanese government was forced to sign in order to avoid attack. Japan had returned to **isolationism** (turning inward from the rest of the world) in the 1600s, but trade was reopened as a result of the treaty.



Industrialized nations of Europe began using Japan as a market for their industrial goods as well. As a result of these aggressive actions, the Japanese government decided to industrialize quickly during the **Meiji Restoration** in order to avoid being imperialized. Japanese leaders decided to begin their own imperialism.

Section Review

13. Which country and military leader forced Japan to reopen its doors to trade?
14. Why had the Japanese shut themselves off from the rest of the world?
15. Why did Japan decide to industrialize as soon as possible?

Imperialism in China

China, like Japan, was forced to open itself to trade by industrial powers. As a result of losing the **Opium Wars** with Britain, the Chinese government was forced to sign a treaty allowing Britain to begin trading and setting up markets in China. Other European industrial nations, as well as the United States and later Japan, also wanted access to China as a source of markets.

After the Opium Wars, Britain and other European nations began carving China up into their own "**spheres of influence**". Countries controlled trade in their designated area or section of China. The United States, wanting access to China as well, created the **Open Door Policy**. This policy stated that China should be open to all nations, rather than just one or a few nations having control of the country.



Section Review

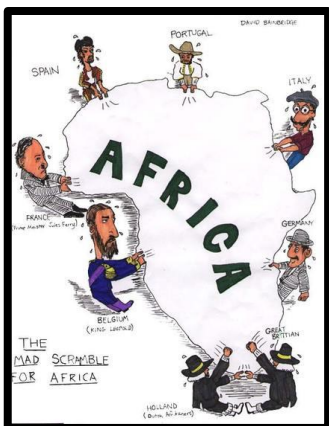
16. Which product caused a major conflict between the British and the Chinese?
17. Why was China forced to trade with Great Britain?
18. What is a "sphere of influence"?
19. What is the Open Door Policy?

Imperialism in Africa

Europeans also began exploring Africa. Eventually they took over land to get raw materials that were needed for their industries. This exploration and increasing interest led to a treaty whereby Leopold II, King of Belgium, gained control of the **Congo**. The Congo was rich in rubber trees. King Leopold exploited the people of the Congo to gain control of the rubber. Soon after Belgium claimed a section of Africa, other nations scrambled to do the same.

This became known as the **Scramble for Africa**.

The **Berlin Conference of 1884-1885** set forth the rules for the division of Africa. Fourteen European nations met, with no African representation, to divide the continent with little regard to ethnic (culture) or linguistic (language) boundaries. With Europe's advanced technology, primarily in weaponry and steamships, and the cultural disunity of Africa, the African nations were easily dominated. Only Liberia and Ethiopia were not imperialized by 1914. Despite the European agreement to peaceful division, conflicts still arose. In South Africa, for example, the Dutch, British, and Africans fought for land and resources.



Section Review

20. Why did King Leopold II want the Congo?
21. How did King Leopold's actions change Africa?
22. What happened at the Berlin Conference?
23. By 1914, what were the only *two* parts of Africa not under European control?
24. Which three groups fought for control in South Africa?

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