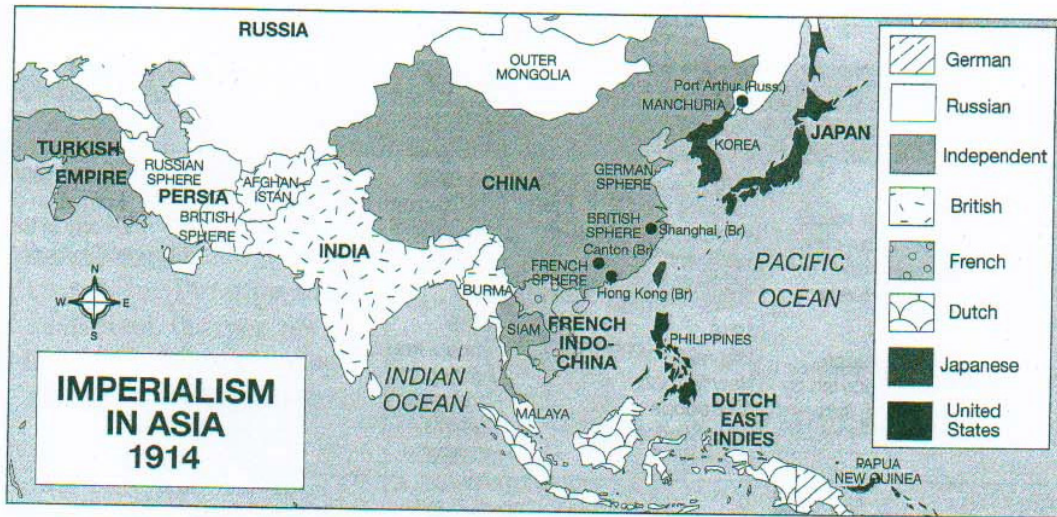




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Imperialism means the domination of one country by another. A country under the political control of another nation is known as a colony. Sometimes imperialism involves social or economic but not political control.

Imperialism has existed almost as long as civilization. Ancient Egypt and Rome were imperialist powers just as much as Britain and France. Europe's first imperial age began in the sixteenth century when Spain, Portugal, and the northern European states brought the Americas under their control. Their empires were largely lost between 1776 and 1825. But imperialism survived in a different form. Britain, France, and the Netherlands had prized their colonies for their commercial possibilities. Now they set up trading posts around the world, importing raw materials from tropical areas and exporting manufactured goods. Economic imperialism expanded after the Industrial Revolution. More and more nations wanted colonial raw materials. More and more nations had manufactures to sell.

After 1870, the colonizing powers began to secure their markets by imposing political control. Thus began a race to win colonies. This competition was increased by intense nationalist rivalries. Conflicts between

European powers were fought out in the tropics as struggles for colonial possessions. The possession of colonies came to be considered a badge of prestige.

Most of this new imperialism was directed at Africa and Asia. By 1914, about 95% of Africa consisted of European colonies; Egypt was a British **protectorate**. In Asia, India, the East Indies, and Indochina were colonies while large areas within Persia and China were European **spheres of influence**. Imperialism was not limited to European nations. Russia, Japan, and the United States had also carved out empires for themselves.

Unlike most earlier imperial powers, the European colonizers ignored local customs and traditions. Convinced of the superiority of Western civilization, they believed their mission was to bring their moral values and the Christian faith to the native peoples. They rarely permitted local self-rule.

Imperialism varied from one colonial power to another. For instance, France, unlike Britain, wanted to export its culture and to incorporate its colonies into France. But in all cases, imperialism created local resentments that grew stronger over time.

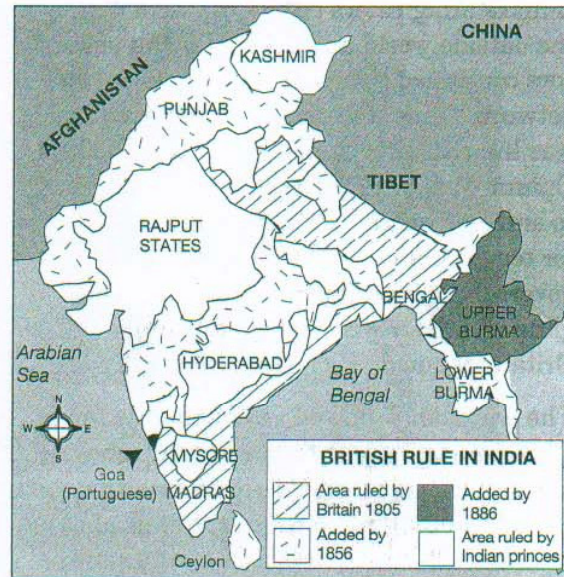
British Rule in India

After its rulers abandoned their policy of religious toleration, the Mogul Empire was weakened by internal conflict. Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs fought each other as did native princes. This allowed French, Dutch, and British merchants to build forts and trading posts across India. By 1763, Britain, aided by its princely allies and its armies of *sepoys* (native troops), had defeated and expelled its rivals. The British East India Company spent the next 100 years expanding its territory and its commerce.

In 1857, the *sepoys* rose in revolt when they heard a false rumor that their rifle bullets were greased with pork and beef fat—a problem for both Moslems and Hindus. The revolt, known in India as the Great Rebellion and in Britain as the Indian Mutiny, became a massive popular uprising. It took the East India Company a year to regain control of India. It succeeded with the help of Sikh troops and through the loyalty of the princes and maharajahs with whom it was allied. To punish the mutineers, the British killed thousands of Indians, creating a lasting bitterness.

In 1858, the British government abolished the East India Company and took control of India. Policy was now created in London and carried out by a viceroy whom the crown appointed. The part of India under British rule was known as the **Raj**. Outside the Raj, the maharajahs continued to rule their princedoms, but Britain gained more and more control over them. The British governed India through a civil service. At first, all its officials were British. Later an Indian elite (paid at a far lower rate) was added. By 1900, 4,000 Britons and half a million Indians ruled a population of 300 million.

Britain created a powerful, unified state based on a single system of law and language (English). It built roads, railroads,



and a modern communications system. Schools and universities were opened. Industry and agriculture were developed to meet the needs of a world market, but not the needs of India's people. Millions starved to death when farmers had to grow cotton to supply Britain's textile mills rather than wheat. And so, despite the stability and order it brought, British rule grew very unpopular. It disregarded the customs, religion, and languages of the diverse people it ruled. It excluded Indians from top government posts. It flooded the country with its cheap, machine-made goods, driving Indian artisans out of business and into debt.

- 16 **Classic imperialism follows these stages: trade war, economic influence, and political control. Explain how British rule in India followed this pattern.**

European Spheres of Influence in China

China's Ming rulers cut off contacts with the outside world and their Manchu successors continued this policy. Until 1839, trade between China and the European nations was limited. This changed as a result of the Opium War. British merchants had begun to smuggle opium into China in exchange for tea, silk, and china. When the Chinese government intervened to stop the smuggling and destroyed imported opium, Britain demanded compensation.

The war that followed revealed how far China, once a great technological innovator, had fallen behind. Britain was the world's leading naval power; her gunboats attacked Chinese ports and China's antiquated weapons proved no match for British firepower. Britain seized several coastal cities. The Treaty of Nanking gave Britain the island of Hong Kong, the right to set the tariffs that the Chinese could levy, and the right of British subjects in China to live under British law.

Widespread economic discontent and the unpopularity of the Manchu emperor led to the **Taiping Rebellion** (1850–64). The rebellion was put down with the help of foreign troops. In return, France and Britain won another concession: the emperor agreed to let the Chinese emigrate. (They were used as labor to build railroads in the U.S. and South Africa.)

By the 1890's, Europeans were no longer content to have trading rights in coastal towns. Each nation claimed its own sphere of influence where it enjoyed exclusive trading rights. Intervention by the United States prevented the outright partition of China. But China's sovereignty had already been damaged by the many concessions it had made. The angry Chinese organized secret societies to expel all foreigners and punish Chinese Christians. In 1900, a

group known as the **Boxers** attacked foreigners across northern China. An international army of Europeans, Americans, and Japanese suppressed the rebellion. For their help, they demanded and received a large sum of money and permission for their troops to remain on Chinese soil.

A The Great Powers were unable to carve up China as they had Africa. The Europeans were able to wring such concessions as Hong Kong, trading, and special privileges from the weak empire.

—*Western Civilization*, by Marvin Perry et al.

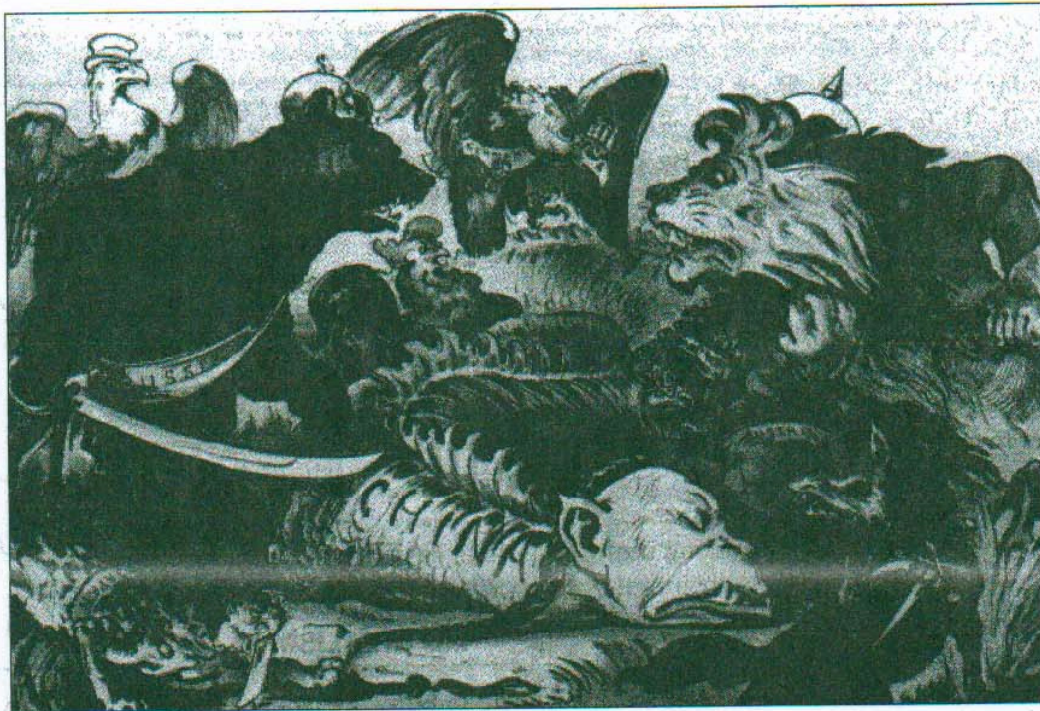
B Trade with China is our only object; conquest there would be as dangerous as defeat, and commerce never prospers when force is used to sustain it.

— *Letter from the British Home Secretary to the Governor General of India, 1840*

17A Which quote is a primary source?

17B What information in that quotation supports your conclusion?

17C Do the events described on this page support the position held by the British Home Secretary?



In 1908, the old Manchu empress died; her heir was a small child. With the dynasty so weakened, nationalist revolutionaries prepared to seize power. They included soldiers, students, workers, and court officials. Their leader, **Sun Yat-sen**, wanted to modernize China using "**The Three Principles of the People**": nationalism, democracy, and livelihood (improved living standards).

Sun had been educated in the West and this, along with the Western ideas he advocated, won him the support of the Western powers. In 1911, a revolution swept through China and in the following year, Sun became the first president of the republic of China.

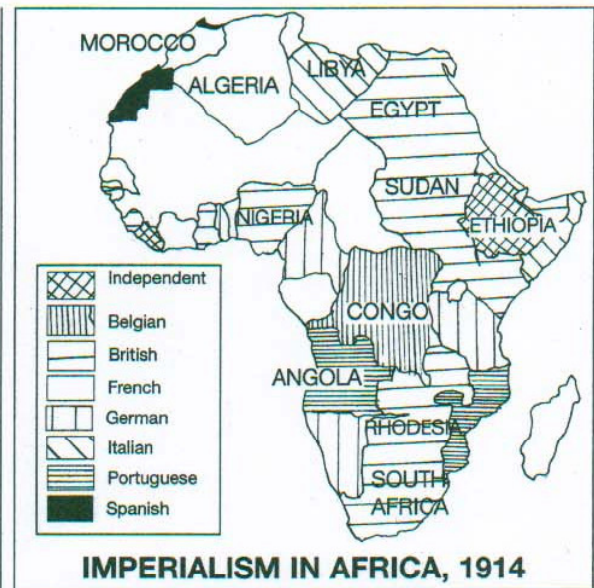
- 18 In the cartoon shown above, China is represented by a dragon, and the European powers by various other animals. Summarize the meaning of the cartoon.

Europeans Scramble for Africa

Apart from South Africa's **Boer** farmers, most of the white people in Africa before 1880 were traders or missionaries. By 1900, Africa had been partitioned among the European powers in the manner shown in the map. There were several reasons for this scramble for Africa: traders in West Africa and missionaries in East Africa demanded government protection; quarrels and rivalries among the European powers led them to grab colonies to enhance their prestige; many Europeans believed it was the "White Man's Burden" to spread their "superior" religion and culture among the "heathen" Africans. Whatever their initial motives, the European powers soon found that there was great profit to be made from Africa's raw materials, especially the precious gold and gems of South Africa.

European rule had some benefits. Roads and railroads were built and harbors were improved. Western medicine brought hospitals, improved sanitation, and better disease control. New crops were grown and fertilizers increased crop yields. But European rule also had a negative impact. Africa was divided into colonial states that ignored ethnic and cultural boundaries. A European sense of superiority led the colonial powers to despise traditional African culture and to weaken tribal ties. Africans were forced to labor long hours for low pay in the fields and mines, and their civil and human rights were ignored.

The first major resistance to colonial rule came from the Zulus of southern Africa. Boer farmers had migrated from British-controlled Cape Colony to set up independent republics on land claimed by the Zulus. At first the Zulus under King Cetywayo beat Boer troops. But the Zulu empire was destroyed by better-armed British troops. The Sudanese led by their Moslem leader, the Mahdi, waged a holy war against the



British but were defeated at Omdurman in 1898. Ashanti uprisings in West Africa were also defeated by European troops.

When gold and diamonds were found in Boer territory, British settlers moved in and conflicts developed between them and the Boers. A bitter war began in 1899 that took the British three years to win.

- 19** Decide what percentage of Africa was independent in 1914 and what percentages were held by the 7 colonial powers. France's share has been filled in. Complete the chart and label each slice of the pie.

