



"Greedy Johnnie"



Directions: Answer the following questions based on the cartoon "Greedy Johnnie."

1. Identify the colonies represented by the various objects John Bull is holding or that are lying at his feet. _____

2. Identify the people in the background. _____

3. What is their attitude toward John Bull? _____

4. Who might have drawn this cartoon? _____

5. What does the cartoon tell us about Britain, other countries in Europe, and 19th. century imperialism? _____

EMPIRE BUILDING IN THE 19TH CENTURY

During the Age of Discovery in the 1500s and 1600s, Spain, Portugal, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and France colonized parts of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. As Europeans moved into these new regions, they brought their goods and ideas with them. During the "new imperialism" of the late 1800s, European expansion reached its peak. Industrialization, technology, and military might gave European nations enormous power and influence in the world.

Nations That Held Colonies

In the early 1800s, Great Britain had more colonies than any other Western nation. It controlled Canada, part of India, Australia, New Zealand, British Honduras (now Belize) in Central America, British Guiana (now Guyana) in South America, and islands in the Caribbean. Much of the eastern half of Africa was also under British influence. By 1900, it also controlled much of Southeast Asia, Hong Kong, and islands in the Mediterranean and the Pacific.

It was said that "the sun never sets on the British Empire." At the peak of its time as a colonial power, Britain controlled colonies around the world. Thus, as the earth turned on its axis, some part of the British Empire was always in daylight.

By the late 1800s, France also had a sizable empire. It controlled much of northern and western Africa, Indochina, islands in the Caribbean, and French Guiana in South America. Germany entered the race for colonies after 1870. It took sections of east and southwestern Africa and several islands in the Pacific. After 1871, Italy also acquired pieces of northeastern Africa.

Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain each had a few colonies scattered throughout the world. The United States acquired territory in the late 1800s and early 1900s. From the 1890s to the 1940s, Japan asserted its authority in East Asia.

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the quotation below.

“The Sun Never Sets in the British Empire”

1. How does this statement reflect British pride and nationalism, which in turn, led to more imperialism? _____

2. Based on the reading and class discussion create a definition of the term “imperialism” (using your own words)

A White Man Comes Down the River

Chief Mojimba's Story*

When we heard that the man with the white flesh was journeying down the Congo, we were opened-mouthed with astonishment. We will prepare a feast, I ordered; we will go to meet our brother and escort him into the village with rejoicing! We assembled the great canoes. Presently a cry was heard: He is approaching. We swept forward, my canoe leading, the others following, with songs of joy and with dancing, to meet the first white man our eyes had beheld, and to do him honor.

But as we drew near his canoes there were loud reports, bang! bang! and fire sticks spat bits of iron at us. We were paralyzed with fright; our mouths hung wide open and we could not shut them. Things such as we had never seen, never heard of, never dreamed of--they were the work of evil spirits! Several of my men plunged into the water. What for? Did they fly to safety? No--for others fell down also, in the canoes. Some screamed dreadfully; others were silent--they were dead, and blood flowed from little holes in their bodies. "War! That is war!" I yelled. "Go back!" The canoes sped back to our village with all the strength our spirits could impart to our arms.

That was no brother! That was the worst enemy our country had ever seen. And still those bangs went on. The long sticks spat fire, flying pieces of iron whistled around us, fell in the water with a hissing sound, and our brothers continued to fall. We fled into our village; they came after us. We fled into the forest and flung ourselves on the ground. When we returned that evening our eyes beheld dreadful things: our brothers, dead, dying, bleeding, our village plundered and burned, and the water full of dead bodies!

Now tell me: has the white man dealt fairly by us? O, do not speak to me of him! You call us wicked men, but you white men are much more wicked! You think, because you have guns you can take away our land and our possessions. You have sickness in your heads, for that is not justice.

*Chief Mojimba is describing the encounter of his people with British explorer Henry Stanley in the Congo region in the 1840s.

Directions : Answer the following questions based on the reading “A White Man Comes Down the River”

1. How did Chief Mojimba plan to greet the British explorers? _____

2. What are “fire sticks that spat lead?” _____

3. Why did the Chief believe that “fire sticks” were the work of evil spirits? _____

4. Which side won the battle? Prove your answer! _____

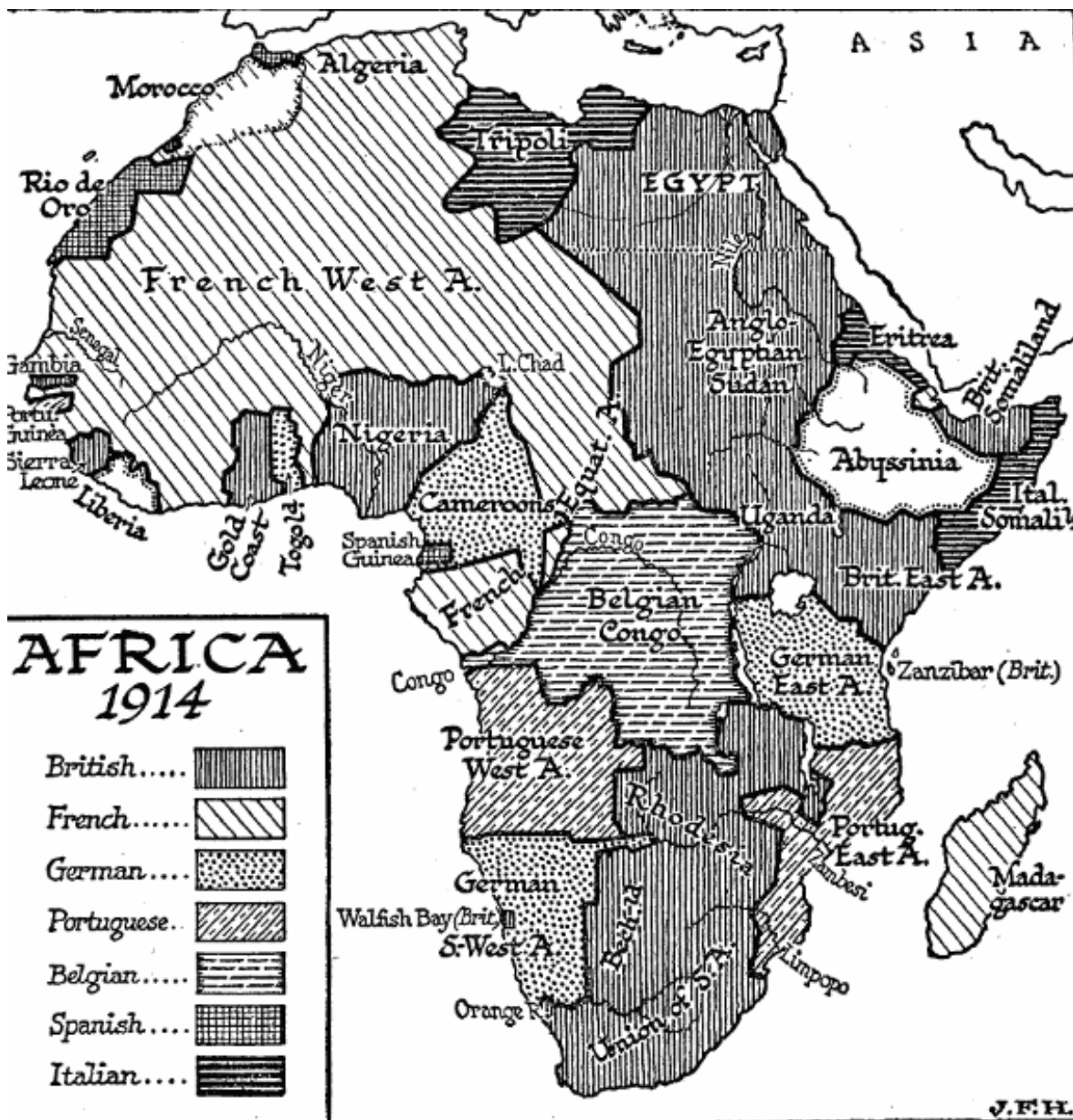
5. Why did the explorers attack the Chief’s people? (besides wanting to kill them)

6. “Technology allowed the Europeans to conquer much of Africa.” Why is this true?

7. “Only the strongest nations should survive in the world!” Agree? Why?

Should European Imperialism be Praised or Condemned?

Document # 1 (Map)



Document #2

“Before the Europeans came, we had our land and they had their Bible. Now they have our land and we have their Bible.” -Old African proverb.

Does this statement condemn or praise imperialism? Why? _____

Document #3

“How do your Indian people suffer? In fact, British rule of India brought improvements in sanitation and health, a school system similar to our own British system, and all the blessings of European technology; factories, railroads, telephones, electricity, farm machinery!!! Why, the British introduced Christianity and democratic government to your people!!! Is this suffering?”

- Joe Mamasblind, British Historian

Does this speaker agree or disagree with imperialism? _____ because _____

Document #4

“With all due respect, the negative effects of British rule outweigh the positive. Sure, Britain accomplished all that you say. However, your government did this and enriched itself at the great expense of OUR land, OUR natural resources, and above all, OUR people. The wealth of India-OUR gold, OUR copper, OUR diamonds, and OUR cotton were taken and shipped to YOUR land, the mother country, to enrich YOUR rich industrialists. In the process, OUR people were used as virtual slaves. Indian people were used as beasts of burden, were paid almost nothing, and were beaten as they carried heavy bales of cotton out of OUR fields to ships heading for Britain.”

Based on this document, what was the PURPOSE of imperialism? _____

Document #5

“What choice did England have? We had to take colonies in order to keep our industries supplied with raw materials. Besides, almost every European country was imperialistic. We were just trying to keep up with our neighbors!!!!.”

- King George II of England

Based on this document, how does King George defend imperialism? _____

Do you agree with King George's defense of imperialism? _____ Why? _____

