

Ch 11-3 Worksheet 1 The Berlin Conference

1884



THE BERLIN CONFERENCE

Because of its size, surface features, climate, resources, and strategic importance, Africa became a prime candidate for conquest by ambitious European empires. Although Africa is physically remote from the power centers of Europe, North America, and Asia, it is surrounded by water and can therefore be reached easily from the other continents. This meant that the Europeans needed to establish rules for dealing with one another if they were to avoid constant bloodshed and competition for African resources. The Berlin Conference established those ground rules.

By the mid-nineteenth century, Europeans had established colonies all along the African coast and competed for control. The push for overseas territories was made even more intense by the Industrial Revolution and the need for cheap labor, raw material, and new markets. The competition between the Europeans often lead to violent conflict.

The conference was held in Berlin between November 15, 1884 and November 26, 1885, under the leadership of German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. Although controlling the slave trade and promoting humanitarian idealism were promoted as the focus of the conference, the conference only passed empty resolutions about the ending of slave trade and providing for the welfare of Africa. In truth, the result of the Conference was a method of dividing the continent of Africa between the European powers.

Article 34 of the Berlin Act states that any European nation that took possession of an African coast, or named themselves as "protectorate" of one, had to inform the other powers of the Berlin Act of this action. If this was not done then their claim would not be recognized. This article introduced the "spheres of influence" doctrine, the control of a coast also meant that they would control the hinterland to an almost unlimited distance.

Article 35 determined that in order to occupy a coastal possession, the nation also had to prove that they controlled sufficient authority there to protect existing rights such as freedom of trade and transit. This was called the doctrine of "effective occupation" and it made the conquest of Africa a less bloody process.

The Berlin Act was an important change in international affairs. It created the rules for "effective occupation" of conquered lands, ensuring that the division of Africa would take place without war among the European powers. Through the Berlin Act, the European powers justified dividing a continent among themselves without considering the desires of the indigenous peoples.

While this appears extremely arrogant to us now, it seemed to them to be the obvious extension of their imperialism. The Berlin Conference is one of the most clear examples of the assumptions and preconceptions of this era, and its effects on Africa can still be seen today.

the above information used with permission from <http://www.campus.northpark.edu/history/WebChron/Africa/BerlinConf.html>

Answer these questions based on the reading below

1. List 3 reasons why Europeans wanted to take over Africa?
2. What was the Berlin Conference?
3. What agreements came out of the Berlin Conference?
4. What considerations were made by the Europeans to the native Africans?
5. Make a guess: How will the decisions made at the conference change Africa?

1. What is the main difference between the 2 maps?

2. What part did the Berlin Conference play in the creation MAP 2?

3. What happened to the native African political entities by 1914?

4. According to Map 2-- Which 2 European countries held the most territory in Africa?

Define the following terms from your book:

Suez Canal:

Social Darwinism:

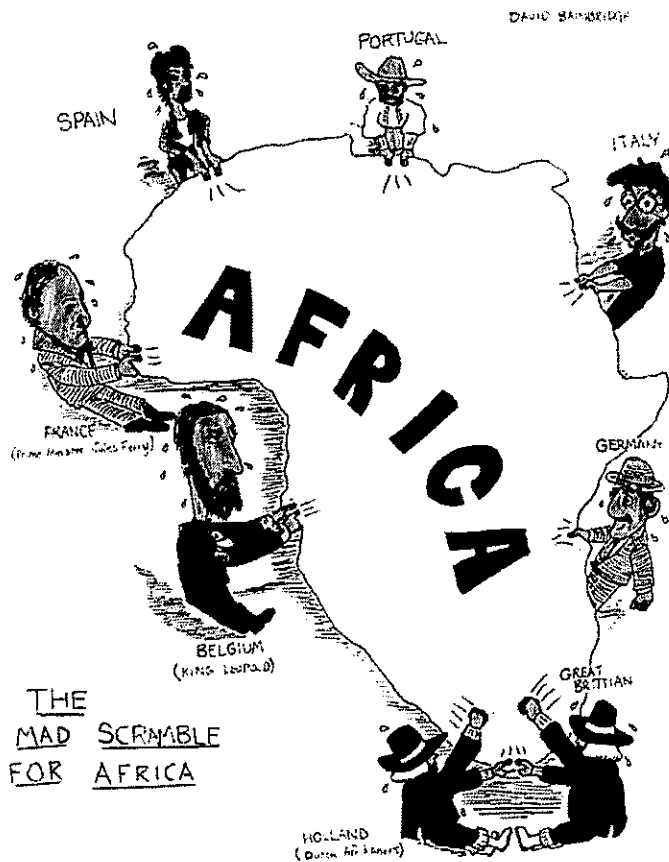


The Scramble for Africa

SCRAMBLE CARTOON



Answer the following questions based on the Scramble for Africa cartoon

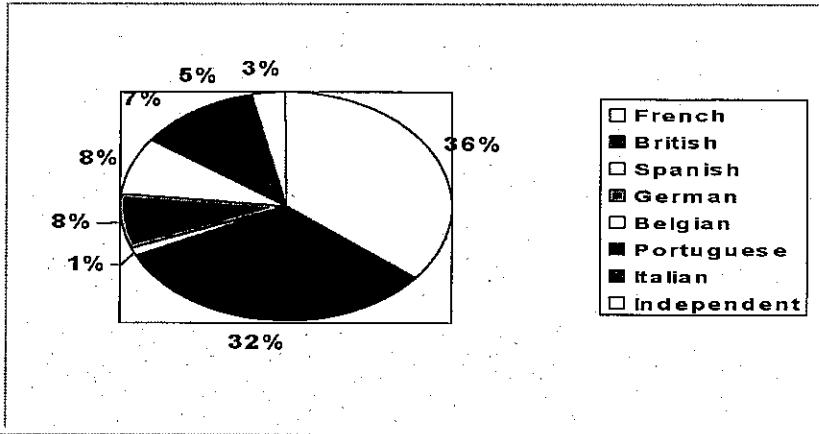


1. According to the cartoon, which European countries were fighting for a position in Africa?

2. How did the Berlin Conference lead to the situation shown in this cartoon?

AFRICA POLITICAL DIVISIONS IN 1913

Percentage of Africa Controlled by European Countries in 1913



data above compiled from *Modern World History: Patterns of Interaction*, 1999 by McDougal Littell, page 308

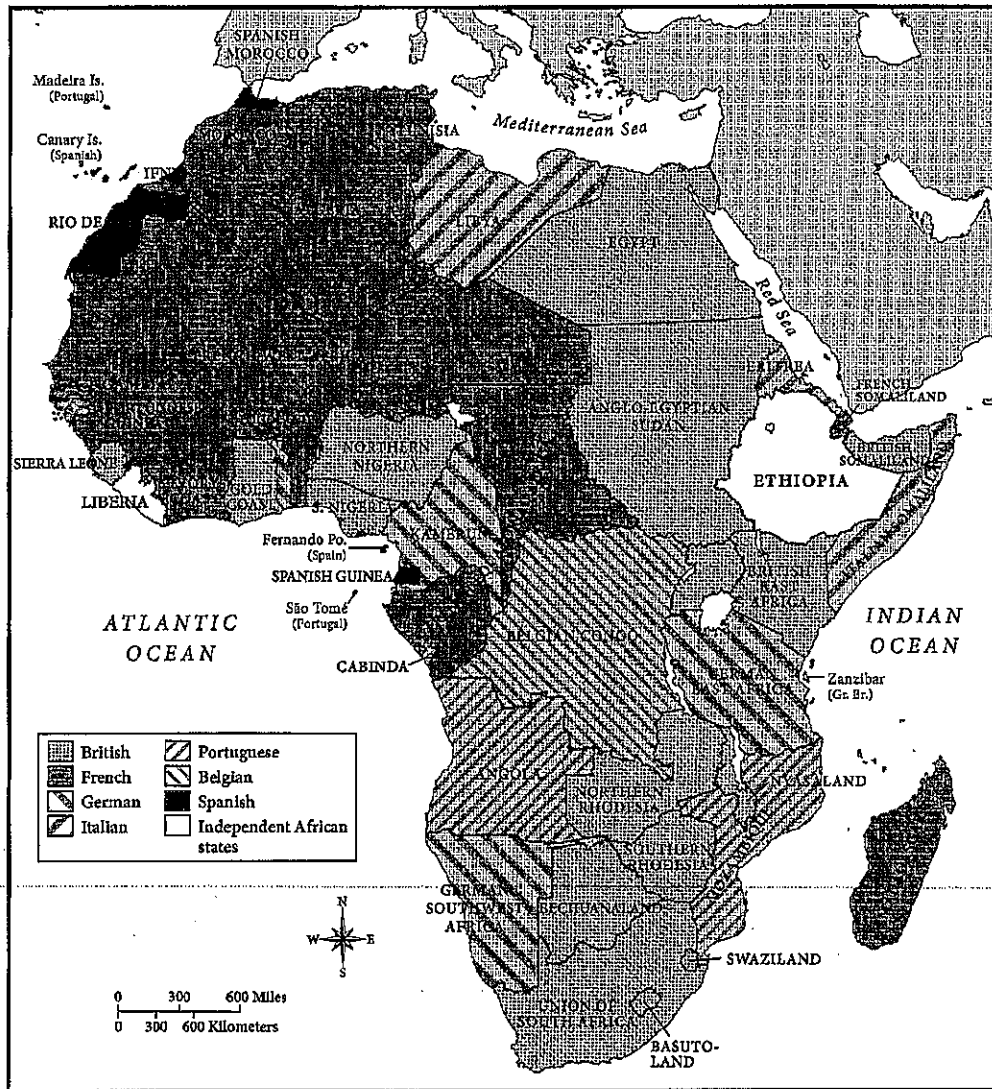


Answer the following questions based on the chart above

1. What percentage of Africa was colonized by 1913?
2. According to the graph, Which 2 European countries held the most territory in Africa? (did you get the same answer as #4 in the Map Comparison above?)
3. What percentage Africa was controlled by the rest of the countries (excluding the 2 countries mentioned in #2)?
4. Think about it: Would the information in MAP 2 and the pie chart above be the same if there had never been a Berlin Conference?

Document A

Source: Partition of Africa, 1884-85. Map Created from various sources.



EV

Document Analysis

1. How many European countries held African colonies by 1914?
2. Which two European countries were the biggest winners in the race to seize African colonies?
3. Was Germany in a position to block a British dream of building a railroad from the Mediterranean Sea to South Africa (i.e. from Cairo to Capetown)? Explain.
4. Which two African countries remained independent?
5. How could this document be used to explain a driving force behind European imperialism in Africa?

Document B

Source: John Ruskin, lecture at Oxford University, February 8, 1870.

Note: John Ruskin (1819-1900) was a well regarded English intellectual, author, and speaker whose interests ranged from art critic to social reformer. This talk at Oxford was delivered to a standing room only crowd. A short excerpt follows.

[Will the] youths of England, make your country again a royal throne of kings; ... for all the world a source of light, a center of peace?... (T)his is what [England] must either do or perish: she must found colonies as fast and as far as she is able, formed of her most energetic and worthiest men; – seizing every piece of fruitful waste ground she can set her foot on, and there teaching these her colonists ... that their first aim is to be to advance the power of England by land and by sea.

EV

Source: Freidrich Fabri, *Does Germany Need Colonies?* 1879.

Note: Freidrich Fabri (1824-1891) has been called the “father of the German colonial movement.” Fabri was impressed by the colonial achievements of the English and wanted Germany to do something of the same. His book was quite well received.

But should not the German nation who is fundamentally so very capable, so seaworthy, so industrially and commercially minded ... successfully pave the way for this new course? ... It would be wise if we Germans would learn about colonial skills from our Anglo-Saxon cousins and would begin—in a friendly competition—to strive after them. When the German Reich centuries ago was at the peak of the states in Europe, it was the Number One trade and sea power. Should the New German Reich wish to prove and maintain its newly won position of power for a long time, it will have to take up the same culture-mission and delay no longer to acknowledge its colonial task anew.

Document Analysis

1. Why does Ruskin say England must found colonies “as fast and far as she is able”?
2. What does he say should be the colonists’ “first aim”?
3. According to Fabri, what were Germany’s strengths when it was “at the peak of the states in Europe”?
4. Why does Fabri believe that Germany needs to “strive after” colonies?
5. What is the driving force behind European imperialism in Africa, according to these two sources?

Document C

Source: Information drawn from various sources..

Note: The Industrial Revolution led to many discoveries and inventions that helped Europeans to take over Africa.

Technological Development (Date Invented)	Use and Significance
Steam engine (1787) first used in boats; (1804) first used in locomotives	A more constant and forceful source of power than sails on ships or horse-drawn carriages. Steam engines powered ships and railroads.
Method of getting quinine from cinchona tree bark (1820)	Treatment for the disease malaria
Electric telegraph (1837)	Communication over long distances
Bessemer process (1855)	Quicker and cheaper method of manufacturing steel, which was lighter and more durable than iron
Maxim gun (1884)	First machine gun
Repeating rifle (late 1800s)	A faster-loading gun that was able to fire multiple shots more accurately than older muskets

EV

Document Analysis

1. During which century was most of the technology in this chart invented?
2. Which technological advancement cured a tropical disease? Which of the technological developments gave European armies an advantage over African armies?
3. Which of the inventions do you think would have been the most important for spreading European influence in Africa?
4. How could this document be used to explain the primary cause of European imperialism in Africa?
5. Are technological factors more of a primary cause of European imperialism in Africa than political reasons or national pride?

Document D

Source: Information drawn from various sources.

Selected African Colonies and Their Exports

African Colony (European Colonizer)	Resources Exported	Industrial or Economic Use
Angola (Portugal)	cotton palm oil and palm-kernel oil coffee and sugar	fabrics soap and candles, some food products food processing
Congo Free State (King Leopold of Belgium)	rubber palm oil and palm-kernel oil ivory	waterproof clothes, tires, electrical insulation soap and candles, some food products handles, piano keys, billiard balls
French West Africa (France)	gum palm oil and palm-kernel oil cotton peanuts, bananas, coffee, cocoa	cosmetics, drugs, food products soap and candles, some food products fabrics food processing
Rhodesia (Great Britain)	copper zinc lead coal	coins, metal alloys, electrical wiring metal alloys, rust-protection metal alloys, ammunition fuel
South Africa (Great Britain)	gold diamonds	banking, national currencies, jewelry jewelry, industrial cutting tools
Tanganyika (Germany)	sisal coffee rubber cotton	rope and twine food processing waterproof clothes, tires, electrical insulation fabrics

EV

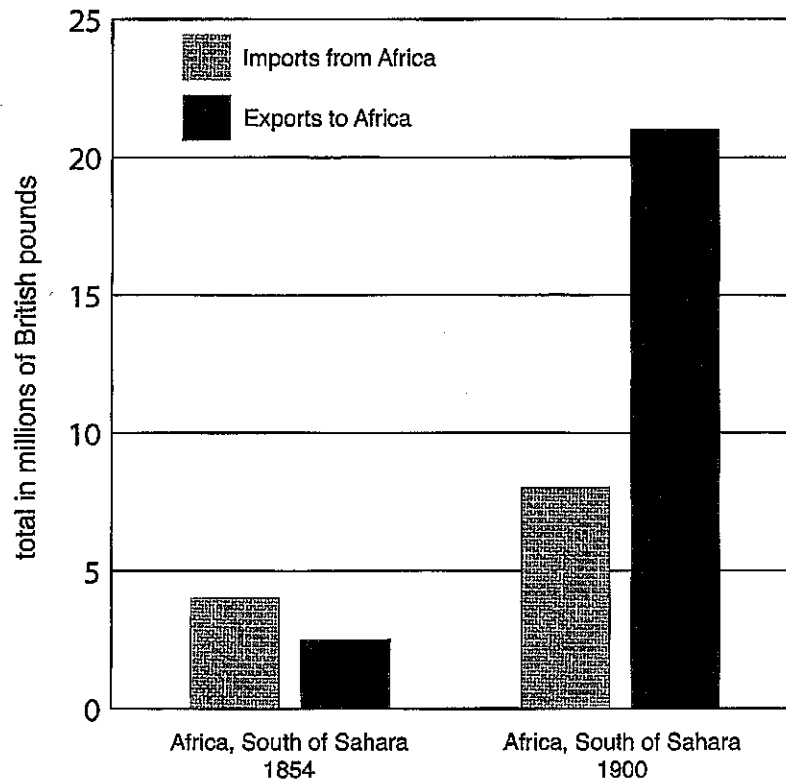
Document Analysis

1. What European industries benefited from African resources?
2. If you owned a textile mill, which colony or colonies would you want your country to rule? Explain.
3. Which European country do you think had the most valuable colonies? Why?
4. How could this document be used to explain the primary cause of European imperialism in Africa?
5. Are trade and markets more important reasons for European imperialism in Africa than politics and nationalism or technology?

Document E

Source: Trevor Owen Lloyd, *The British Empire: 1558-1995*, 1996.

**Great Britain and South Saharan Africa
Imports and Exports, 1854 and 1900**



EV

Document Analysis

1. How much money did Great Britain make from exports to South Saharan Africa in 1854? In 1900?
2. Describe the difference between Great Britain's imports from and exports to Africa in 1854 and 1900. Which experienced a higher rate of growth?
3. According to this chart, what benefit is Great Britain deriving from its African colonies?
4. How could this document be used to explain an important cause of European imperialism in Africa?
5. Are economic factors more of driving force behind European imperialism than national pride? Than improved technology?

Policy Worksheet

Background: Great Britain has been selling Opium, a powerful drug, to China. The drug is illegal in Great Britain, but it is being exported to China since it makes great profits for British merchants. Many people in China are addicted to the drug. The people in China who abuse the drug become lazy, sleepy, lose their ability to concentrate, stop eating and drinking, and have impaired judgement. The Chinese Emperor's son died from an overdose of the drug. You are a commissioner of China and you are now responsible for solving this problem in China. You have been ordered by the Chinese Emperor to put a stop to use and trade of Opium.

You must propose a plan to stop the abuse of Opium.

Consider:

- How do you feel about the situation?
- What laws would you enact to try to stop the use of Opium?
- What laws would you enact to try to stop the trade of Opium?
- Would you confront British merchants?
- Would you confront Great Britain's government?
- What solutions or compromises can you think of?

Section 2: The Taiping Rebellion

Due to the large indemnity, as well as massive _____ due to unreliable irrigation systems, by the 1800s the Qing dynasty of China was in decline.

As poverty and misery increased, peasants began to _____. One particular rebellion, the _____, from 1850-1864, was particularly devastating. Led by _____, a village schoolteacher, the rebellion called for land reform, equality among men and women, and an end to the Qing dynasty.

Ultimately, the rebellion caused between 20 and 30 _____ deaths. While the Qing dynasty survived, it was considerably weaker and in dire need of reform.

Primary Source: The Treaty of Nanjing

Primary Source Document with Questions (DBQs)

Introduction

Following China's defeat by the British in the Opium War of 1839-1842, the following conditions were imposed on the Chinese government by the British in a treaty signed in the city of Nanjing (Nanking).

Document Excerpts with Questions

From *Changing China: Readings in the History of China from the Opium War to the Present*, by J. Mason Gentzler (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1977). © 1977 Praeger Publishers. Reproduced with the permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

EXCERPTS FROM THE TREATY OF NANJING, AUGUST 1842

Article I

There shall henceforth be Peace and Friendship between ... (England and China) and between their respective Subjects, who shall enjoy full security and protection for their persons and property within the Dominions of the other.

Article II

His Majesty the Emperor of China agrees that British Subjects, with their families and establishments, shall be allowed to reside, for the purpose of carrying on their commercial pursuits, without molestation or restraint at the Cities and Towns of Canton, Amoy, Foochowfu, Ningpo, and Shanghai, and Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, etc., will appoint Superintendents or Consular Officers, to reside at each of the above-named Cities or Towns, to be the medium of communication between the Chinese Authorities and the said Merchants, and to see that the just Duties and other Dues of the Chinese Government as hereafter provided for, are duly discharged by Her Britannic Majesty's Subjects.

Article III

It being obviously necessary and desirable, that British Subjects should have some Port whereat they may careen and refit their Ships, when required, and keep Stores for that purpose, His Majesty the Emperor of China cedes to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, etc., the Island of Hong-Kong, to be possessed in perpetuity by her Britannic Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, and to be governed by such Laws and Regulations as Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, etc., shall see fit to direct.

Article V

The Government of China having compelled the British Merchants trading at Canton¹ to deal exclusively with certain Chinese Merchants called Hong merchants (or Cohong) who had been licensed by the Chinese Government for that purpose, the Emperor of China agrees to abolish that practice in future at all Ports where British Merchants may reside, and to permit them to carry on their mercantile transactions with whatever persons they please, and His Imperial Majesty further agrees to pay to the British Government the sum of Three Millions of Dollars, on account of Debts due to British Subjects by some of the said Hong Merchants (or Cohong) who have become insolvent, and who owe very large sums of money to Subjects of Her Britannic Majesty.

Article VII

It is agreed that the Total amount of Twenty-one Millions of Dollars, described in the three preceding Articles, shall be paid as follows:

Six Millions immediately.

Six Millions in 1843 ...

Five Millions in 1844 ...

Four Millions in 1845 ...

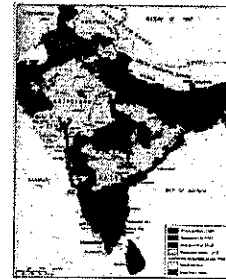
Article IX

The Emperor of China agrees to publish and promulgate, under his Imperial Sign Manual and Seal, a full and entire amnesty and act of indemnity, to all Subjects of China on account of their having resided under, or having had dealings and intercourse with, or having entered the Service of Her Britannic Majesty, or of Her Majesty's Officers, and His Imperial Majesty further engages to release all Chinese Subjects who may be at this moment in confinement for similar reasons.

Article X

His Majesty the Emperor of China agrees to establish all the Ports which are by the 2nd Article of this Treaty to be thrown open for the resort of British Merchants, a fair and regular Tariff of Export and Import Customs and other Dues, which Tariff shall be publicly notified and promulgated for general information, and the Emperor further engages, that when British Merchandise shall have once paid at any of the said Ports the regulated Customs and Dues agreeable to the Tariff, to be hereafter fixed, such Merchandise may be conveyed by Chinese Merchants, to any Province or City in the interior of the Empire of China on paying further amount as Transit Duties which shall not exceed the tariff value of such goods.

SITUATION: It is the late 19th century and you are a newspaper reporter for the *London Times*. You've been assigned to cover the brewing situation that is happening in India around this time. You begin by traveling around the country, talking to everybody that will give a statement. You make sure to include Indians, both rich and poor, as well as British nationals that have moved to India. You want to know how people view British imperial activities in India; whether they view it in a positive or negative light. You become rather confused when you find that most people see both positive and negative effects of imperialism. Suddenly, you receive an angry telegram. It's from your editor back in London. He says he needs a story from you by the end of the week or your rear end will be hanging from the wall. You decide to write a story concluding that imperialism had both positive and negative effects for England, the mother country, and India, the colony.



TASK: Using the information that you've collected, you now must answer a series of questions in order to clarify the documents you will be using in your story. You must then write the story and submit it to your editor by the end of the week. Assignment is worth 65 HW Points!

PART 1: Read and analyze each of the documents below and answer the questions that follow.

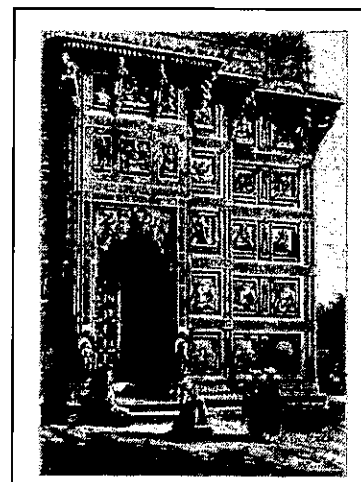
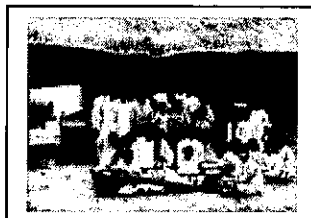
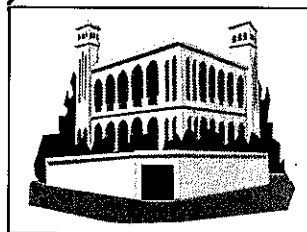


1. In this excerpt, adapted from O.P. Austin's "Does Colonization Pay?" in *The Forum*, both positive and negative results of imperialism are pointed out.

Modern progressive nations [European colonizers] . . . seek to control "garden spots" in the tropics. Under their direction, these places can yield the tropical produce that their citizens need. In return the progressive nations bring to the people of those garden spots the food-stuffs, and manufactures they need. They develop the territory by building roads, canals, railways and telegraphs. The progressive nations can establish schools and newspapers for the people of the colonies. They can also give these people the benefit of other blessings of civilization which they have not the means of creating themselves.

According to this author, what are the benefits of imperialism to the colony?

What are the benefits of imperialism to the colonizer?

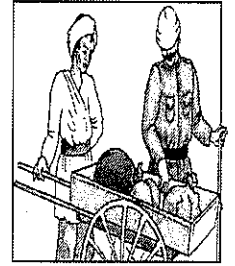


2. In this speech, Dadabhai Naoroji, an Indian, describes the effect of imperialism on India.

To sum up the whole, the British rule has been – morally, a great blessing; politically peace and order on one hand . . . on the other, materially, impoverishment . . . The natives call the British system . . . “the knife of sugar.” That is to say there is no oppression, it is all smooth and sweet, but it is the knife, nevertheless.

In later comments, he stresses the negative aspects.

Europeans [the British] occupy almost all the higher places in every department of government . . . Natives, no matter how fit, are deliberately kept out of the social institutions started by Europeans . . . All they [the Europeans] do is live off of India while they are here. When they go, they carry all they have gained.

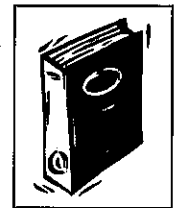


How is British imperialism both positive and negative for India?



3. This excerpt is adapted from *The Economic History of India Under Early British Rule*, by an Indian, Romesh Dutt.

Englishmen . . . have given the people of India the greatest human blessing – peace. They have introduced Western education. This has brought an ancient and civilized nation in touch with modern sciences, and modern life. They have built an administration that is strong and efficient. They have framed wise laws and have established courts of justice.



What benefits did India gain during British imperialism?

4. This excerpt is adapted from British historian, J.A.R. Marriott’s book, *The English in India*.

British brains, British enterprise, and British capital have changed the face of India. Means of communication have been developed. There are great numbers of bridges, more than 40,000 miles of railway, and 70,000 miles of paved roads. These testify to the skill and industry of British engineers. Irrigation works on a very large scale have brought 30 million acres under cultivation. This has greatly added to the agricultural wealth of the country. Industrialization has also begun. India now has improved sanitation and a higher standard of living. It has a fine transport system and carefully thought-out schemes for relief work. Because of these things famines have now almost disappeared.

List 5 benefits of imperialism cited by this author.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

5.

5. This excerpt, from *India: A Restatement* by British writer Sir Reginald Coupland, points out the social and economic impact of imperialism on India.

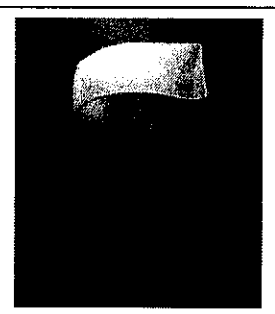


British rule brought with it from the West certain standards of humanity that Indian society had not yet reached. Early action was taken to stop infanticide [the killing of girl babies] . . . The slave trade was ended and the owning of slaves was forbidden . . . One result of the new order was a steady rise in the value of India's export trade.

What are the benefits of imperialism identified by this author?

6. This excerpt, from *The Discovery of India*, by Jawaharlal Nehru, explains how India became a "typical" colonial economy.

This process continued throughout the 19th century. Other old Indian industries – shipbuilding, metalwork, glass, paper – and many crafts were broken up. Thus the economic development of India was stopped and the growth of new industry was prevented . . . A typical colonial economy was built up. India became an agricultural colony of industrial England. It supplied raw materials and provided markets for England's industrial goods. The destruction of industry led to unemployment on a vast scale . . . The poverty of the country grew. The standard of living fell to terribly low levels.



What negative effects of imperialism does Nehru point out?

7. Mohandas Gandhi offers a complaint about imperialism.



You English committed one supreme crime against my people. For a hundred years you have done everything for us. You have given us no responsibility for our own government.

What is Gandhi's criticism of imperialism?



