

The Dutch, French, and Italian Empires, and the Results of Imperialism – Outline

I. Dutch empire

- a. Dutch East Indies
 - i. Conquered and controlled beginning in the 16th century by the Dutch East India Company
 - ii. Territory of the Netherlands, 1800-1942
 - iii. 575,000 square miles
 - iv. Borneo, Celebes, Indonesia, Java, Sumatra, West New Guinea
- b. Indonesian independence
 - i. Nationalists led by Achmed Sukarno
 - ii. Movement followed Japanese invasion (World War II)
 - iii. Independent, 1949
 - iv. Indonesians took over Dutch property and forced the Dutch to leave, 1957
 - v. United Nations gave Netherlands (Dutch) New Guinea to Indonesia

II. French empire

- a. Geography
 - i. Second in size to the British empire – 4,500,000 square miles
 - ii. Africa – Algeria, Equatorial Africa, the French Cameroons, Morocco, Tunis, West Africa
 - iii. Asia – Indo-China
 - iv. Americas – French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Pierre et Miquelon
 - v. Pacific – New Caledonia, New Hebrides
- b. French Community – Communauté française
 - i. Established in the constitution of the Fifth Republic (1958)
 - ii. Nations independent in 1960 – organization defunct by 1970s
- c. Morocco
 - i. 1953 – France deposed the sultan
 - ii. 1955 – sultan returned to power

- iii. 1956 – independent
- d. Tunisia
 - i. 1955 – granted self-government
 - ii. 1956 – independent
 - iii. 1957 – became a republic
- e. Indo-China
 - i. Modern Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
 - ii. Guerrilla warfare waged by communist-backed nationalists
 - iii. 1950 – self-rule
 - iv. 1955 – Cambodia and Laos withdrew from French Union
 - v. 1955 – Vietnam divided at 17th parallel
 - 1. North – communist – led by Ho Chi Minh
 - 2. 1959-1975 (or 1945-1975) – Vietnam War
 - a. Fought between North Vietnam (Vietcong with Chinese support) and South Vietnam (backed by United States and members of SEATO)
 - b. North Vietnamese won
 - c. Today – one united country --- Vietnam
- f. Algeria
 - i. 1954-1962 – fought for independence
 - ii. March, 1962 – ceasefire
 - iii. July, 1962 – independent
- g. French Guiana
 - i. 1958 – voted for its independence and joined the United Nations
- h. Togoland and Cameroon
 - i. French held trusteeships from League of Nations (after WWI) and United Nations (after WWII)
 - ii. Independent in 1960
 - iii. Did not join the French Community
 - iv. Joined the United Nations
- i. Malagasy and Mali
 - i. 1960 – free states
 - ii. Joined the soon-defunct French Community

III. Italian empire

- a. Libya
 - i. Won from Turkey by war in 1912
 - ii. Independent, 1951
- b. Ethiopia
 - i. Conquered, 1936
 - ii. Independent, 1941
- c. Eritrea
 - i. 1890 – acquired as an Italian colony
 - ii. 1941-1951 – controlled by the British under United Nations mandate
 - iii. 1962 – officially annexed by Ethiopia
 - iv. 1993 – independent country
- d. Somaliland
 - i. 1889 and on – acquired by treaties
 - ii. After World War II – United Nations trusteeship
 - iii. 1960 – independent as Somalia

IV. Results of imperialism – for the “mother” country

- a. Positives/Pros
 - i. Increased industrial productivity from investments
 - ii. Profits from trade
 - iii. New drugs (e.g., quinine) and products from colonies
- b. Negatives/Cons
 - i. Wars – against both natives and competing imperial powers
 - ii. Expense of maintaining large military and naval forces
 - iii. Hatred and resentment from native peoples

V. Results of imperialism – for the colonized

- a. Positives/Pros
 - i. Natural resources developed
 - ii. Industrialization
 - iii. Raised standards of living
 - iv. Improvements in education, medical care, and sanitation
 - v. Nationalism developed
 - vi. Exposure to new ideas

b. Negatives/Cons

- i. Natural resources developed for benefit of mother country
- ii. Native labor poorly paid and often mistreated
- iii. Destruction of native cultures and languages
- iv. Western diseases, vices, and other problems
- v. Racism
- vi. Discouragement of native industries that might compete with the imperial power
- vii. Lack of self-government and democracy

VI. Review questions

- a. What company controlled the Dutch East Indies prior to 1800?

- b. What sparked the movement for Indonesian independence?

- c. What European country controlled the world's second-largest empire?

- d. Summarize the events of the Vietnam War.

- e. Describe the colonization and independence of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

- f. Describe the pros and cons of imperialism for a colonized nation.

- g. Many now-independent colonies hold deep resentment toward their former imperial powers, while others have close working relationships (particularly members of the Commonwealth). How might you explain these different attitudes and feelings?