

# Imperialism: Beginnings and Basic Structures

## I. Colonialism speeds up

- a. Age of Exploration ∨
  - i. Europeans raced for overseas colonies ∨
    - 1. Growth of European commerce and trade worldwide ∨
      - a. Commercial Revolution

## II. “Old” imperialism

- a. 1500s-1700s
- b. England, France, Holland, Portugal, and Spain
- c. Wars over colonies

## III. Interlude – late 1700s-late 1800s

- a. Europeans were preoccupied with happenings on the European continent and in the existing European colonies
- b. Such as: American Revolution, French Revolution, Napoleonic wars, Latin American wars for independence, growth of nationalism, Industrial Revolution

## IV. “New” imperialism

- a. Beginning circa 1875
- b. Renewed race for colonies
- c. Spurred by needs created by the Industrial Revolution
  - i. New markets for finished goods
  - ii. New sources of raw materials
- d. Nationalism
  - i. Colonies = economic and political power
  - ii. Social Darwinism = racist justification

## V. What is “new” imperialism?

- a. No longer about setting up colonies or exercising direct control over areas
- b. Became largely economic
  - i. Possession of an area for economic gain
  - ii. Spheres of influence and extraterritoriality rather than colonial settlement

**VI. Economic motives**

- a. Markets for finished goods
  - i. Products of British Industrial Revolution sold in China and India
- b. Sources of raw materials
  - i. Egypt – cotton
  - ii. Malaya – rubber and tin
  - iii. Middle East – oil
- c. Capital investments
  - i. Profits from Industrial Revolution invested in mines, railroads, etc., in unindustrialized areas

**VII. Political motives**

- a. Nationalism – national pride
  - i. “The sun never sets on the British empire.”
- b. Large empires increased national pride
- c. French acquisitions in Africa and Asia followed France’s defeat in the Franco-Prussian War

**VIII. Military motives**

- a. Bases
  - i. British naval bases
    - 1. Aden, Alexandria, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Singapore
- b. Manpower
  - i. British – Indian sepoy
  - ii. French – north African troops

**IX. Social motives**

- a. Surplus population
  - i. Japanese in Korea
  - ii. Italians in Africa
- b. “White Man’s Burden”
  - i. Rudyard Kipling’s poetry and prose
  - ii. Whites morally obligated to bring the “blessings of civilization” to “backward” peoples
  - iii. Cecil Rhodes – imperialism is “philanthropy—plus five percent”

**X. Religious motives**

- a. Conversion to Christianity
- b. End-of-the-century crusading spirit
- c. Missionaries in Africa, Asia, Hawaii, etc.

**XI. Justifications**

- a. Social Darwinism
  - i. Interpreted Darwin’s evolutionary theory in terms of powerful nations
    - 1. “Only the strong survive”

- ii. Powerful nations able to develop areas and resources being “wasted” by native peoples
- b. Racism
  - i. Increased feelings of white/European superiority
    - 1. Also increased feelings of Japanese superiority in Asia
  - ii. Eugenics developed as a branch of science

**XII. Concession imperialism**

- a. Economic privileges and rights given for a specific purpose
- b. U.S. and British oil concessions throughout the Middle East
- c. Ottoman Turks granted Germany permission to build Berlin-to-Baghdad Railroad

**XIII. Sphere of influence imperialism**

- a. Exclusive control over an area
- b. Examples
  - i. British trading rights in Chin’s Yangtze valley
  - ii. French trading rights in southeastern China
  - iii. Japanese trading rights in Korea

**XIV. Leasehold imperialism**

- a. Lease over an area
- b. Suez Canal Corporation
  - i. Suez Canal built by French in 1860s
  - ii. Controlled by British shortly thereafter until 1968
- c. Panama Canal
  - i. United States
- d. Germans in Kiachow
- e. French in Kwangchow
- f. British in Weihaiwei

**XV. Protectorate imperialism**

- a. Foreign control exercised through native “puppet” rulers
- b. French – Morocco (1906-1956)
- c. British – Egypt (1914-1968)
  - i. Britain held a sphere of influence in Egypt from 1882-1914
  - ii. Britain gained control of Egypt as Egypt’s protectorate when the Ottoman empire fell apart during World War I

**XVI. Annexation imperialism**

- a. Territory annexed and turned into a colony under the complete control of a foreign power
- b. German colonies in east and southwest Africa – until 1918 & the end of World War I
- c. French Indochina (Vietnam) – until 1955
- d. British Burma – until 1948

