

The Scramble for Africa – Outline

I. “Dark” continent

- a. “Dark continent” – racist terminology referred to both the peoples of Africa and their alleged ignorance
- b. In reality, Africa has always had diverse groups of people with their own unique cultures and histories
 - i. Civilizations
 - ii. Languages
 - iii. Religions

II. Geography of Africa

- a. Continent – not a country
- b. Continent is three times larger than Europe
- c. Northern Africa – desert
- d. Mid-to-southern Africa – diverse climates and topography

III. Foreign history in Africa

- a. Greeks controlled Egypt after conquest by Alexander the Great
 - i. Ptolemaic dynasty
- b. Romans ruled all areas along the Mediterranean coastline, including northern Africa
 - i. Mediterranean Sea – “Roman lake”
- c. Arab traders converted many Africans to Islam from the 7th century
- d. Source of slaves for the Americas from the 17th century
- e. But little foreign interest in the interior of sub-Saharan Africa

IV. “Opening up” of Africa

- a. Mid-1800s
- b. Missionaries and explorers sparked foreign interest in Africa

V. David Livingstone (1813-1873)

- a. Scottish missionary
- b. 1841-1873 – lived in central Africa
 - i. Explored Africa
 - 1. Named Lake Victoria after the British queen
 - ii. Converted many Africans to Christianity
 - iii. Wrote books on Africa which piqued Foreign interest
- c. 1871 – reported “lost”
 - i. “Found” by Henry Stanley
 - ii. “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?”

VI. Henry Stanley (1841-1904)

- a. Welsh-American reporter
- b. “Found” Dr. Livingstone in Africa
 - i. “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?”
- c. Explored Africa
 - i. Congo River
 - ii. Lake Tanganyika
 - iii. Lake Victoria
- d. Worked with Belgium’s King Leopold II and his African colonization company
 - i. International African Society

VII. Karl Peters (1856-1918)

- a. German explorer in Africa
- b. Organized and propagandized for Germany’s colonial expansion
 - i. Founded the Society for German Colonization
- c. Acquired German East Africa (modern-day Tanzania)
- d. Convinced Otto von Bismarck to take over German East Africa and increase Germany’s colonies in Africa

VIII. Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902)

- a. British businessman and politician in southern Africa
- b. Made a fortune from African diamond mines
- c. Established South African Company
 - i. Land later became Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)
- d. Prime minister of Cape Colony (1890-1896)
 - i. Wanted British control over South Africa
 - ii. Wanted Cape-to-Cairo Railroad
- e. Architect of British imperialism in southern Africa
 - i. Great Britain became leading colonial power in southern Africa

IX. King Leopold of Belgium (1835-1909)

- a. Took over land in central Africa
- b. Berlin Conference (1885)
 - i. Leopold’s control over Congo Free State recognized by major powers
- c. Belgian Congo (1908)
 - i. Leopold criticized for the cruelty of his rule in the Congo
 - ii. Leopold forced to sell Congo Free State to Belgian government
 - iii. Renamed Belgian Congo
- d. Created European race for African colonies – “Scramble for Africa”
 - i. Diamonds, foodstuffs, gold, ivory, rubber

X. British in southern Africa

- a. 1815 – British took Cape Colony from the Dutch
 - i. Boers moved north
 - 1. Transvaal
 - a. 1886 – gold discovered and British moved in
 - b. 1881 and 1895 – British attempted to take Transvaal from the Boers

- 2. Orange Free State
- b. Boer War (1889-1892)
 - i. Dutch led by President Paul Kruger
 - ii. British won

XI. Union of South Africa

- a. Created in 1910
- b. Included Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Natal, and Transvaal
- c. Self-government

XII. British colonies in southern Africa

- a. Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe)
 - i. Named for Cecil Rhodes
 - ii. North of Union of South Africa
- b. Bechuanaland (now Botswana)
 - i. 1885 – became a British protectorate
- c. Kenya
 - i. 1888 – became a British protectorate

XIII. British in north Africa

- a. Egypt – in name ruled by Ottoman Turks but largely independent
- b. European capital investments
 - i. Suez Canal opened in 1869
 - 1. Built by the Egyptians and French
 - 2. Taken over by the British (1875)
 - a. British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli
 - i. Bought shares in Suez Canal Company from Egypt
 - 1. Egypt was nearly bankrupt from the expense of building the Suez Canal
 - ii. British government became largest shareholder

XIV. Europeans in Egypt

- a. 1870s – with the Egyptian government bankrupt, the British and French took over financial control of the country
 - i. Egyptian monarchs (technically Ottoman viceroys) ruled as puppet leaders
- b. 1882 – Egyptian nationalist rebellion
 - i. France withdrew its troops
 - ii. Great Britain left in control of Egypt
 - 1. Lord Cromer introduced reforms
 - iii. *De facto* British protectorate
 - 1. Made official in 1914
 - 2. Independence came in 1922

XV. British in northern Africa

- a. Sudan
 - i. Area south of Egypt
 - ii. Under Anglo-Egyptian control
 - iii. Cotton needed for British textile mills

- iv. Entente Cordiale (1904)
 - 1. Great Britain controlled Sudan
 - 2. France controlled Morocco
- b. Cape-to-Cairo Railroad
 - i. Idea of Cecil Rhodes
 - ii. Would secure Great Britain's dominance in Africa
 - iii. Never completed – sections missing through modern Sudan and Uganda

XVI. French in Africa

- a. Algeria
 - i. 1830 – invasion
 - ii. 1831 – annexation
- b. Tunis
 - i. 1881 – controlled by France
 - 1. Led Italy to join the Triple Alliance with Austria-Hungary and Germany
- c. Morocco
 - i. 1881 – large part under French control
 - ii. 1905 and 1911 – nearly sparked a European war between France and Germany
 - 1. 1906 – Algeciras Conference – Germany recognized French rights in Morocco
 - 2. 1911 – Agadir Crisis – Germany recognized French protectorate over Morocco in exchange for part of France's territory in the Congo
- d. Madagascar
 - i. 1896 – controlled by France
- e. Somaliland
 - i. 1880s – partly under French control
- f. West Africa
 - i. Late 1800s – largely under French control
- g. Sudan
 - i. 1898 – met Britain's area of control and nearly went to war
 - ii. Entente Cordiale settled British-French disputes in Africa
- h. By World War I – 1914
 - i. France controlled 3,250,000 square miles in Africa
 - 1. 14 times the area of France
 - ii. France ruled 30,000,000 Africans
 - 1. 75% of the population of France

XVII. Germans in Africa

- a. Togoland (now Togo and Ghana)
- b. Cameroons (now Cameroon and Nigeria)
- c. Southwest Africa (now Namibia)
- d. East Africa (now Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania)

XVIII. Italians in Africa

- a. 1882-1896
 - i. Eritrea (along the Red Sea)
 - ii. Somaliland (along the Indian Ocean, part of today's Somalia)
- b. 1896

- i. Defeated in attempt to conquer Abyssinia (Ethiopia)
- c. 1912
 - i. Won Tripoli from Ottoman Turks

XIX. Belgians in Africa

- a. 1908
 - i. Belgium gained control of Congo (Congo Free State) from King Leopold II
 - ii. Leopold was infamous for the cruelty of his rule in the Congo
- b. Congo Free State (today's Democratic Republic of Congo)
 - i. 80 times the size of Belgium
 - ii. Source of uranium

XX. Portuguese in Africa

- a. Under "old imperialism" Portugal gained African territory and led the early trans-Atlantic African slave trade
- b. Angola
- c. Mozambique

XXI. Spanish in Africa

- a. Spain had few possessions in Africa
- b. Tip of Morocco
- c. Rio de Oro
- d. Rio Muni

XXII. Africans in Africa

- a. By the time of the First World War (1914) – only 2 independent African countries
 - i. Abyssinia (Ethiopia)
 - 1. Ruled by dynasty stretching back to at least the 13th century
 - 2. Last emperor was Haile Selassie, deposed in 1974
 - 3. Home to Ethiopian Orthodox Church (strongly tied to Egyptian Coptic Church)
 - ii. Liberia
 - 1. Formed by freed slaves under auspices of the United States government

XXIII. Review questions

- a. What led to the "scramble for Africa"?

- b. Which European nations controlled the most land in Africa?

- c. Which African nations were left independent at the time of World War I?