Imperialism: The Making of the European Global Order (1750–1914)
Europe's Scramble for Africa
Visual Source Documents 1 & 2

Document 1

Document 2

The Granger Collection, New York
Reforming Parliament

In 1815, Britain was a constitutional monarchy. Yet, it was far from democratic:

- Less than five percent of the people had the right to vote.
- Wealthy nobles and squires dominated politics.
- The House of Lords could veto any bill passed by the House of Commons.
- Catholics and non-Anglican Protestants could not vote or serve in Parliament.
- Populous new cities had no seats in Parliament, while rural towns with few or no voters still sent members to Parliament.
- In 1832, Parliament finally passed the **Great Reform Act**.
- It redistributed seats in the House of Commons.
- It enlarged the **electorate** by granting suffrage to more men.
The Victorian Age

From 1837 to 1901, the greatest symbol in British life was Queen Victoria. Although she exercised little real political power, she set the tone for what is now called the Victorian age.

- Victoria embodied the values of duty, thrift, honesty, hard work, and respectability. She embraced a strict code of morals and manners.
- Under Victoria, the British middle class — and growing numbers of the working class — felt great confidence in the future. That confidence grew as Britain expanded its already huge empire.
A New Era in British Politics

In the 1860s, the old political parties regrouped under new leadership:

- The Tories (Nobles, landowners, agricultural interests) became the Conservative party, led by Benjamin Disraeli. Pushed for the Reform Bill of 1867, which gave the vote to many working-class men & doubled the electorate.

- The Whigs (Middle-class & business interests) evolved into the Liberal party, led by William Gladstone. In the 1880s, they gave the vote to farm workers and most other men and provided for a secret ballot.

In the late 1800s, these two parties pushed little by little for suffrage to be extended. By century’s end, almost-universal male suffrage had been achieved, including the use of secret ballots.

In 1911, a Liberal government passed measures to limit the power of the House of Lords. In time, the House of Lords would become a largely ceremonial body, while the elected House of Commons would reign supreme.
Social and Economic Reforms

During the early and mid-1800s, Parliament passed a wide variety of important new laws.

- In 1807, Britain became the first leading European power to outlaw the slave trade. In 1833, Parliament passed a law banning slavery in all British colonies.

- Laws were passed to reduce the number of capital offenses and end public hanging. Additional reforms improved prison conditions and outlawed imprisonment for debt.

- Some British tariffs were repealed in the 1820s. In 1846, Parliament finally agreed to repeal the Corn Laws, which imposed high tariffs on imported grain.
Reforms for the Working Class

By the early 1900s, Parliament gradually passed a series of reforms designed to help the workers whose labor supported the new industrial society.

- Parliament passed laws to regulate the conditions in factories and mines.

- Government and business leaders slowly accepted worker organizations. Workers won higher wages and shorter hours.

- Social reforms were enacted to benefit the working class. These included improved public health and housing for workers, free elementary education for all children, and protection for the poor and disadvantaged.
Votes for Women

In Britain, as elsewhere, women struggled for the right to vote against strong opposition.

- Suffragists led by Emmeline Pankhurst used aggressive tactics and sometimes resorted to violent protest.
- Many middle-class women disapproved of such radical actions. Yet they, too, spoke up in increasing numbers.
- Some women, including Queen Victoria, opposed suffrage altogether.
- Despite these protests, Parliament refused to grant women’s suffrage. **Not until 1918 did Parliament finally grant suffrage to women over age 30.** Younger women did not win the right to vote for another decade.

Emmeline Pankhurst (c. 1913)
The Irish Question

The Irish never accepted English rule:

- They resented English settlers, especially **absentee landlords**.
- Many Irish peasants lived in poverty while paying high rents to landlords living in England.
- The Irish, most of whom were Catholic, were forced to pay tithes to the Church of England.

Irish nationalists campaigned for freedom and justice.

In 1845, a disease destroyed the potato crop, causing a terrible famine called the “Great Hunger.” At least one million Irish died while the British continued to ship healthy crops outside Ireland. The Great Hunger left a legacy of Irish bitterness that still exists today.

The Irish struggled for years to achieve **home rule**, or local self-government. However, Parliament did not pass a home rule bill until 1914. It then delayed putting the new law into effect until after World War I.
Europe's Scramble for Africa

Visual Source Documents 3 & 4

Document 3

Document 4

The Granger Collection, New York
When the Congress of Vienna restored Louis XVIII to the French throne, he issued a constitution, the Charter of French Liberties, which created a two-house legislature and allowed limited freedom of the press.

Ultraroyalists, supported the king and despised the constitutional government and wanted to restore the old regime.

Liberals wanted to extend suffrage and win a share of power for the middle-class.

Radicals on the left, wanted to have a republic like that of the 1790s.

The working-class wanted better pay and bread they could afford.
Why did Revolutions Occur in France in 1830 and 1848?

1830
Charles X, a strong believer in absolutism, suspended the legislature, limited the right to vote, and restricted the press.

Liberals and radicals rebelled and took control of Paris in the July Revolution.

Moderate liberals put in place a constitutional monarchy, and chose Louis Philippe as king.

1848
Recession led to more unrest. When the government tried to silence critics and prevent public meetings, angry crowds took to the streets in “February Days”.

Louis Philippe abdicated.

Revolutionary leaders proclaimed a Second Republic.
More Upheaval

- Deep differences between the liberal middle-class and socialists divided the new government from the start.
- Socialists forced the government to set up national workshops to provide jobs for the unemployed.
- By June, upper- and middle-class interests won and the workshops were removed.
- Workers took to the streets in “June Days” crying out “Bread or Lead!”
- The National Assembly then issued a constitution setting up a Second Republic with a president, one-house legislature, and suffrage for all adult men.
- Louis Napoleon is elected president overwhelmingly.
- Once in office he used his popularity to declare himself emperor, becoming Napoleon III.
- Like his uncle, Napoleon Bonaparte, he ruled during a time of rapid economic growth.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOMESTIC POLICIES</th>
<th>FOREIGN POLICIES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issued a new constitution that extended democratic rights.</td>
<td>Unsuccessfully tried to turn Mexico into a French satellite.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoted investment in industry and large-scale ventures.</td>
<td>Helped Italian nationalists defeat Austria and gained Nice and Savoy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legalized labor unions, extended public education to girls, and created a small public health program.</td>
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Challenges of the Third Republic

- In 1871, an uprising broke out, as rebels set up the Paris Commune. The government violently suppressed the Paris Commune, leaving bitter memories that deepened social divisions within France.

- In the first ten years of the Third Republic, 50 different coalition governments were formed and fell.

- A series of political scandals shook public trust in the government.

*The Representatives of Foreign Powers Coming to Greet the Republic as a Sign of Peace, 1907* painting by Henri Rousseau
The Dryfus Affair

In **Dryfus affair**, a Jewish officer was falsely accused of treason to cover up corruption in the military. The controversy scarred French politics and society for decades.

- Royalists, ultranationalists, and Church officials charged Dreyfus supporters with undermining France and he was wrongly convicted of spying for Germany.

- Dreyfus supporters upheld ideals of justice and equality in the face of massive public anger.

The Dryfus affair reflected the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe.

It also helped to stir Theodor Herzl to call for a Jewish state.

The bordereau (memorandum) which sparked the Dreyfus affair.

Alfred Dreyfus →
Reforms in France

France achieved serious reforms in the early 1900s.

- New laws were passed regulating wages, hours, and safety conditions for workers.
- A system of free public elementary schools was created.
- A law was passed to separate church and state.
- The women’s rights movements made some gains, but women were not granted suffrage until after World War II.
Territorial Expansion

From the earliest years of its history, the United States followed a policy of **expansionism**, or extending a nation’s boundaries.
### Expanding Democracy

**BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR**

- States slowly expanded suffrage so that by the 1830s, most white men had the right to vote.
- Some Americans, called **abolitionists**, called for an immediate and complete end to slavery.
- The women’s rights movement fought for equality and the right to vote.

**AFTER THE CIVIL WAR**

- Three amendments to the Constitution banned slavery throughout the country and granted political rights, including the right to vote, to African American men.
- Still, African Americans faced **segregation** and economic hardships.
## Expansion of Suffrage in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>People Granted the Vote</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Late 1700s</td>
<td>Most white men aged 21 or older who meet property requirements (state laws)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early 1800s–1850s</td>
<td>Most white men aged 21 or older (state laws)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Black men (Amendment 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Women (Amendment 19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>People in the District of Columbia in presidential elections (Amendment 23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>People aged 18 or older (Amendment 26)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic Growth

By 1900, the United States was the world’s leading industrial giant.

- Cotton mills turned out great quantities of mass-produced goods.
- Rich coals and iron resources fed other industries.
- A huge work force, swelled by immigrants, labored in the mines and factories.
- Farm output soared as settlers flooded the fertile Midwest.
- A growing network of transportation and communication aided economic growth.
Social Reform

The Industrial Revolution brought rapid industrialization and a growing need for reform.

- In the late 1800s, farmers and city workers supported the new Populist party. The Populists sought reforms, such as an eight-hour workday.

- By 1900, reformers known as Progressives again pressed for change. They sought laws to ban child labor, limit working hours, regulate monopolies, and grant suffrage to women.
“It seems to me that the tendency of the time is to throw all power into the hands of those greater empires, and the minor kingdoms—those which are non-progressive—seem to be destined to fall into a secondary and subordinate place.”

- What exactly is the “tendency of the times” that Chamberlain is referring to here?
- What do you think he means by “non-progressive” minor kingdoms?
- Was Chamberlain describing the tendency of the times accurately? Why or why not?
**Imperialism** is the domination by one country of the political, economic, or cultural life of another country or region.

Between 1500 and 1800, European states won empires around the world. However, Europe had little influence on the lives of the people of these conquered lands.

By the 1800s, Europe had gained considerable power. Encouraged by their new economic and military strength, Europeans embarked on a path of aggressive expansion that today’s historians call the “new imperialism.”
# Causes of Imperialism

**ECONOMIC INTERESTS**

1. Manufacturers wanted access to natural resources.
2. Manufacturers hoped for new markets for factory goods.
3. Colonies offered a valuable outlet for Europe’s growing population.

**POLITICAL & MILITARY INTERESTS**

1. Merchant ships and naval vessels needed bases around the world.
2. Western leaders were motivated by nationalism.

**HUMANITARIAN GOALS**

1. Many westerners felt concern for their “little brothers” overseas.
2. Missionaries, doctors, and colonial officials believed they had a duty to spread western civilization.

**SOCIAL DARWINISM**

1. Many westerners viewed European races as superior to all others.
2. They saw imperial conquest as nature’s way of improving the human species.
Cecil Rhodes: Cape-Cairo railway project

He founded the De Beers Mining Company and owned the British South Africa Company, which established Rhodesia for itself. He liked to "paint the map British red," and declared: "all of these stars ... these vast worlds that remain out of reach. If I could, I would annex other planets."
The Successes of Imperialism

In just a few decades, imperialist nations gained control over much of the world. Western imperialism succeeded for a number of reasons:

- While European nations had grown stronger in the 1800s, several older civilizations were in decline.

- Europeans had the advantages of strong economies, well-organized governments, and powerful armies and navies.

- Europeans had superior technology and medical knowledge.
Forms of Imperial Rule

The new imperialism took several forms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLONIES</th>
<th>PROTECTORATES</th>
<th>SPHERES OF INFLUENCE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The French practiced direct rule, sending officials to administer their colonies.</td>
<td>In a <strong>protectorate</strong>, local rulers were left in place but were expected to follow the advice of European advisers.</td>
<td>A <strong>sphere of influence</strong> is an area in which an outside power claimed exclusive investment or trading privileges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The British practiced on indirect rule, using local rulers to govern their colonies.</td>
<td>A protectorate cost less to run than a colony and usually did not require a large military presence</td>
<td>The United States claimed Latin America as its sphere of influence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Africa in the Early 1800s

To understand the impact of European domination, we must look at Africa in the early 1800s, before the scramble for colonies began.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTH AFRICA</th>
<th>WEST AFRICA</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Since long before 1800, the region had close ties to the Muslim world.</td>
<td>▪ On the grasslands, Islamic leaders preached <em>jihad</em>, a holy struggle, to revive and purify Islam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ In the early 1800s, much of the region remained under the rule of the declining Ottoman empire.</td>
<td>▪ In the forest regions, the Asante controlled smaller states. These smaller tributary states were ready to turn to Europeans to help them defeat their Asante rulers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTH AFRICA</th>
<th>EAST AFRICA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zulu aggression caused mass migrations and wars and created chaos across much of the region.</td>
<td>Islam had long influenced the coast, where a profitable slave trade was carried on.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
European Contacts Increased

From the 1500s through the 1700s, difficult geography and disease prevented European traders from reaching the interior of Africa. Medical advances and river steamships changed all that in the 1800s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPLORERS</th>
<th>MISSIONARIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explorers were fascinated by African geography but had little understanding of the people they met.</td>
<td>Catholic and Protestant missionaries sought to win people to Christianity. Most took a paternalistic view of Africans. They urged Africans to reject their own traditions in favor of western civilization.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Scramble for Colonies

King Leopold II of Belgium sent explorers to the Congo River basin to arrange trade treaties with African leaders.

King Leopold’s activities in the Congo set off a scramble among other European nations. Before long, Britain, France, and Germany were pressing for rival claims to the region.

At the Berlin Conference, European powers agreed on how they could claim African territory without fighting amongst themselves.

European powers partitioned almost the entire African continent.
Imperialism in Africa to 1914
African Resistance

Europeans met armed resistance across the continent.

- Algerians battled the French for years.

- The Zulus in southern Africa and the Asante in West Africa battled the British.

- East Africans fought wars against the Germans.

- In Ethiopia, King Menelik II modernized his country. When Italy invaded, Ethiopia was prepared. Ethiopia was the only nation, aside from Liberia, to preserve its independence.
“For when the German has once learned to direct his glance upon what is distant and great, the pettiness which surrounds him in daily life on all sides will disappear.”

- What do you think Kaiser Wilhelm is referring to here when he speaks of the “pettiness” surrounding the ordinary German of his day?

- What, if anything, does this suggest about life in Germany (or Europe in general) in the late 1800s? What does it suggest about Kaiser Wilhelm’s reasons for wanting to carve out an empire in Africa and elsewhere?
Debate the Issue

Are British policies (and British control) good for India?

1. British entrepreneurs
2. Upper-class Indian, who supports British rule
3. Indian who resents British rule

Rules for Debate:

1. No technical language
2. No reading
3. Don’t focus on the instructor
4. Argue with passion
5. Don’t worry about being polite, but address what people say, not how they say it.
The Sepoy Rebellion: Causes and Effects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAUSES</th>
<th>EFFECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The British East India Company:</td>
<td>The sepoys brutally massacred British men, women, and children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- required <strong>sepoys</strong>, or Indian soldiers in its service, to serve anywhere, including overseas, which violated Hindu religious law</td>
<td>- The British took terrible revenge, slaughtering thousands of unarmed Indians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- passed a law allowing Hindu widows to marry, which undermined Hindu beliefs</td>
<td>- Both sides were left with a bitter legacy of fear, hatred, and mistrust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ordered the sepoys to bite off cartridges made of animal fat when loading their rifles, which violated both Hindu and Muslim religious law</td>
<td>- The British put India directly under British rule, sent more troops to India, and taxed Indians to pay for the cost of the occupying forces.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
British-French Rivalry

- English and French made alliances with local leaders and organized sepoys, Indian troops.

- Fighting in India and Europe broke out between them in 1756.

- In India, Robert Clive, an agent of British East India Company, used British troops and sepoys to drive French out of their posts, take over Bengal, and spread its influence into other parts of India.

- He then forced the Mughal emperor to recognize the companies right to collect taxes in Bengal, allowing it to become real ruler there and providing opportunities for its influence to spread.
The British built roads and an impressive railroad network.

The British flooded India with machine-made textiles, ruining India’s once-prosperous hand-weaving industry.

Britain transformed Indian agriculture.

Better health care and increased food production led to rapid population growth. Over-population led to terrible famines.

The British revised the Indian legal system.

British rule brought peace and order to the countryside.

Upper-class Indians sent their sons to British schools.
Imperialism in India to 1858

- British colonies in 1765
- Territory under British rule in 1805
- Territory under British rule in 1858
- Main area affected by Sepoy Rebellion

The map shows the expansion of British territories in India from 1765 to 1858, with key areas such as Bengal, Assam, and the Indian Ocean.
Different Views on Culture

During the Age of Imperialism, Indians and British developed different views of each other's culture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIAN ATTITUDES</th>
<th>BRITISH ATTITUDES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some educated Indians were impressed by British power and technology and urged India to follow a western model of progress.</td>
<td>Most British knew little about Indian achievements and dismissed Indian culture with contempt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Indians felt the answer to change lay with their own Hindu or Muslim cultures.</td>
<td>A few British admired Indian theology and philosophy and respected India's ancient heritage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Indian Nationalism

The British believed that western-educated Indians would form an elite class which would bolster British rule.

As it turned out, exposure to European ideas had the opposite effect. By the late 1800s, western-educated Indians were spearheading a nationalist movement.

In 1885, nationalist leaders organized the Indian National Congress. Its members looked forward to eventual self-rule, but supported western-style modernization.

In 1906, Muslims formed the Muslim League to pursue their own goals, including a separate Muslim state.
How Did Canada Achieve Self-Rule?

- Canada’s first European rulers were French.
- When France lost Canada to Britain in 1763, thousands of French-speaking settlers remained.
- In 1791 Britain passed the Canada Act, which created two provinces: English-speaking Upper Canada and French-speaking Lower Canada.
- During the 1800s, unrest grew in both colonies.
- In 1839, the Durham Report called for the two Canadas to be reunited and given control over their own affairs.
- In 1840, Parliament passed the Act of Union, a major step toward self-government.
- As Canada expanded westward, John Macdonald and George Étienne Cartier urged confederation, or unification, of all Canada’s provinces.
- Britain passed the British North America Act of 1867, creating the Dominion of Canada. It united four provinces into a dominion, or self-governing nation. Six additional provinces later joined the union.
Canada, 1867–1914
Europeans in Australia

- In 1770, Captain James Cook claimed Australia for Britain. At that time, it was too distant to attract European settlers.

- Australia had long been inhabited by indigenous people, later called Aborigines. When white settlers arrived, the Aborigines suffered disastrously.

- In 1788, Britain made Australia into a penal colony.

- In the early 1800s, Britain encouraged free citizens to emigrate to Australia. As the newcomers took over more and more land, they thrust aside or killed the Aborigines.

- In 1851, a gold rush in eastern Australia brought a population boom.

- By the late 1800s, Australia had won a place in a growing world economy.
New Zealand

- In 1769, Captain Cook claimed New Zealand for Britain.
- Missionaries arrived to convert the local people, the Maoris, to Christianity.
- In 1840, Britain annexed New Zealand.
- White New Zealanders won independence.
- By the 1870s, Maori resistance crumbled. Many Maoris died in the struggle.
- Colonists took over Maori land and engaged in fierce wars with the Maoris.
- New Zealand pioneered in several areas of democratic reform.
- In 1893, it became the first nation to give suffrage to women.
- Later, it was in the forefront of other social reforms.

A Maori chief with tattoos (moko) seen by Cook and his crew. →

1846: Hone Heke, holding a rifle, with his wife Hariata and his uncle Kawiti, holding a taiaha. ↓