

Imperialism

*An Age of Revolutions
(1750–1914)*



New Imperialism

India and Africa

Southeast Asia and the U.S.

Persian and Ottoman Empires

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about imperialism in India and Africa, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- How did Great Britain spread its power into India?
- In what ways was Africa colonized in the 19th century?
- How did the native people in Africa and India react to their colonization?





British involvement in India dates back to the 1600s, when the **East India Company** was given its charter to operate there. The company traded in a number of goods such as silk, cotton and opium.

The Company relied on its military strength to gain control and expand. Its military forces were made of both **sepoy** regiments, which were made up of native soldiers, and British soldiers.



Between 1750 and 1870 nearly all of the Indian subcontinent either directly or indirectly came under British rule.



The **Sepoy Rebellion** was a defining moment in the British rule of India. Watch this animation to find out what happened.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Britain began to establish a large system of government in India. In 1858, the **Indian Civil Service** was established, but this was mainly made up of educated Britons – by 1870 only one member of the service was a native Indian.

The British also spent a great deal of money developing India's infrastructure. This included canals and irrigation systems.

Technology such as the railroads and the telegraph were also brought to India from Britain.





The cost of progress



British colonialism brought some progress to India, however a lot of this came at a cost. Press on each example of progress to view the disadvantages of some of the progress in the colonial era.

Press **start** to begin.

start





At the beginning of the 19th century, some Indians began demanding that India modernize the country's customs and practices, in order to achieve self-government.

Thinkers such as Ram Mohan Roy argued that there were a number of Indian social practices, such as arranged child marriages, the strict **caste** system, and the funeral practice of **sati**, that should be outlawed.

This movement was controversial, since a number of these practices were religious traditions in India.



Why do you think that this modernization school of thought grew in India?





Although some wanted reform of the British colonial government, a strong **nationalist** movement grew, which began demanding a national homeland and British expulsion.

The **Indian National Congress** was formed in 1885. Initially it was not opposed to British rule.

However, the party soon became more active in the Indian independence movement, and some members of the party became more militant.



Why do you think that many Indians were demanding independence from British rule?



Throughout the 17th and 18th century, Europe's primary interest in Africa was along the western coast of the continent, for the slave trade. There was little exploration of the interior of the continent.

However, with the end of the slave trade, that began to change.

- In 1808 the British took over Sierra Leone to use as a base for anti-slavery missions along the coast.
- When the slave trade was made illegal by the Congress of Vienna in 1815, the Europeans became interested in other commodities, for example rubber, ivory, diamonds and gold.

As the century progresses, exploration along the great rivers of Africa began to create interest in the interior of the continent.





On the eve of greater European interest in Africa, a number of rising kingdoms emerged on the continent. Press on each kingdom for more information.

Press **start** to begin.

start





These rising African empires did little to stop European imperialist actions in the continent.

Early European involvement in Africa included:

- King Louis Philippe of France invading Algeria to build national pride. It took 18 years of fighting in the country for him to finally gain control.
- The British took control of the Cape Colony (a part of land which is now South Africa) in 1806, after the Battle of Blaauwberg.



Africa began to be seen as a symbol of imperial power.





The “Scramble for Africa”



Africa became an important continent to control for the European nations. Watch this animation to learn about the scramble for African lands in the 19th century.

Press **start** to begin.

start





The Berlin Conference



In order to prevent a war amongst themselves, 14 European countries met in Berlin in 1884 to decide how to divide Africa.

The countries agreed that a country could only stake a claim to an African nation if it showed that it could rule effectively, and as long as other countries were notified.

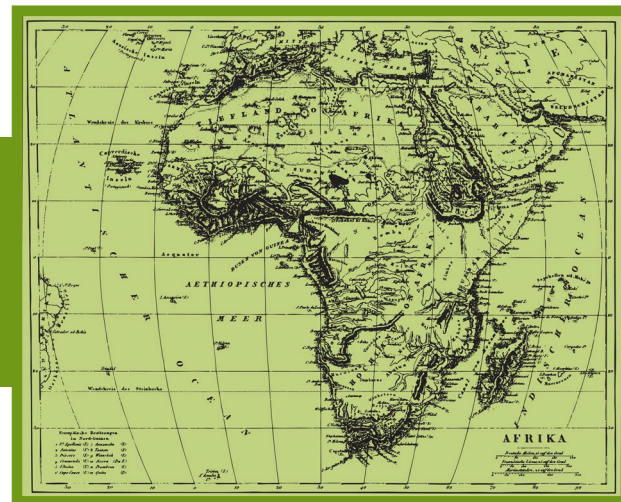


The imperial power also had to make economic use of the colony, otherwise another country could take control.

What problems do you think African nations may have had with the organization of the Berlin Conference?



Think back to the reasons for European interest in imperialism. What is it about Africa that made it so appealing?



How were the imperialist policies of France different than those of the British in Egypt and South Africa? How were they similar?

