Imperialism and colonialism
Imperialism and colonialism

- Imperialism/Colonialism: a policy of conquering and ruling other lands
- It existed from the very beginning of mankind’s history
- From 1870, the industrial powers carried out an astonishing expansion, building up worldwide empires
Imperialism and colonialism
Economic Motives

- Industrial nations needed raw materials/natural resources (Rubber from rainforests in Central Africa)
- Markets to sell industrial products (British India)
- Overseas investments (constructing railways, ports...)

Which motives caused imperialism?
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- England: Turns raw materials into finished goods
  Sends finished goods to Indian market for sale

- India: Sends raw materials to England
  Purchases finished goods from England
Which motives caused imperialism?
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Political causes:

• National prestige: to be the best and have the biggest empire -

• Different national reasons: France to forget the defeat in 1870, Germany and Italy to become great powers...

• New rivalries: GB vs. Germany, GB vs. France, US vs. Japan
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- By the late 1800s, Germany was challenging Britain’s economic leadership.
- This rivalry was a key factor to understand WWI’s outbreak.
Which motives caused imperialism?

Geostrategic causes:
• Great Britain fought for controlling the seas by acquiring strategic enclaves (Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus....)
Which motives caused imperialism?

Ideological causes

- Belief in European superiority
- Racism, Social Darwinism: conflict between nations and races leads to social progress as superior races outcompete inferior ones.
- Western civilization undertook the mission of civilizing the world (Rudyard Kipling’s “White Man Burden”)
- Spreading Christianism
Which motives caused imperialism?

Other factors involved

- Technological superiority
- Steam engine and railroads allowed easier travel
- Quinine to protect Europeans from malaria
- African and Asian diversity made it easy to encourage rivalries between different groups

Gunboat diplomacy
Great Figures of Colonialism: Benjamin Disraeli
Great Figures of Colonialism: Jules Ferry
The Great Colonial Empires

1800

- United Kingdom
- France
- Portugal
- Spain
- Netherlands
- United States
- Russia
- Turkey
From the 18th century, the greatest European naval power

After the Industrial Revolution, in the mid-1800s, Britain was the most powerful nation in the world.

- It’s factories produced more goods than those of any other country.
- The British Navy guarded the oceans so that those goods could be shipped safely to ports around the globe.
The Great Colonial Empires
The Great Colonial Empires
Imperialism and colonialism

- Other countries followed Britain’s lead and came to see colonies as necessary for their economic well-being.
- The French and Dutch expanded their holdings and by 1900 France had an empire second in size only to Britain’s.
- Spain and Portugal attempted to build new empires in Africa.
Imperialism and colonialism

- Russia expanded into the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Siberia.
- Countries that had no colonies set out to acquire them:
  - Germany, Italy, and Belgium all took over lands in Africa (with Germany also taking an interest in East Asia & the Pacific islands).
Imperialism and colonialism

- Two non-European countries, the United States and Japan, also became involved in overseas expansion during this period.
- Both the U.S. and Japan were interested in East Asia.
- Japan took Korea and Taiwan.
- The U.S. took Philippines in Asia and Puerto Rico in the Caribbean after US-Spanish war.
The Great Colonial Empires
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Russian Expansion 1533 - 1894
Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.
In 1870, the African inland was almost unknown.

When Europeans started their expansion in the continent, an agreement was needed to set the bases of the conquest and colonization of Africa.

In the Berlin Conference (1885), the colonial powers reached different agreements to organize the carve up of Africa.
The Scramble for Africa, also known as the Race for Africa or Partition of Africa, was a process of invasion, occupation, colonization and annexation of African territory by European powers between 1881 and 1914.
The carve up of Africa
Colonisation in other continents

- China (strong and very populated state) → Concessions: territories controlled by a foreign country. China maintained sovereignty but gave all commercial rights to the dominating power.
- China conceded important ports to UK and USA.
Colonisation in other continents
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- GB: India and Burma
- France: Indochina
- The Netherlands: Indonesia
- Japan: Korea and Manchuria
- Russia: Siberia
Colonisation in other continents
Mixed consequences of imperialism

- In some cases, consequences were devastating for the colonized peoples:
  - Economic exploitation
  - Subjection to a foreign control
  - Foreigners became the dominant social class
  - Loss of its own culture

Bangalore, India, 1877
Mixed consequences of imperialism

- To some extent there were positive consequences:
  - Improvement of health conditions
  - Access to education for the native elite
  - Construction of railways, ports...

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- For the colonisers, consequences were, in general, positive (wealth, power, self-esteem).
- However, colonial expansion caused new tensions among powers. This rivalry was one of the causes of WWI.