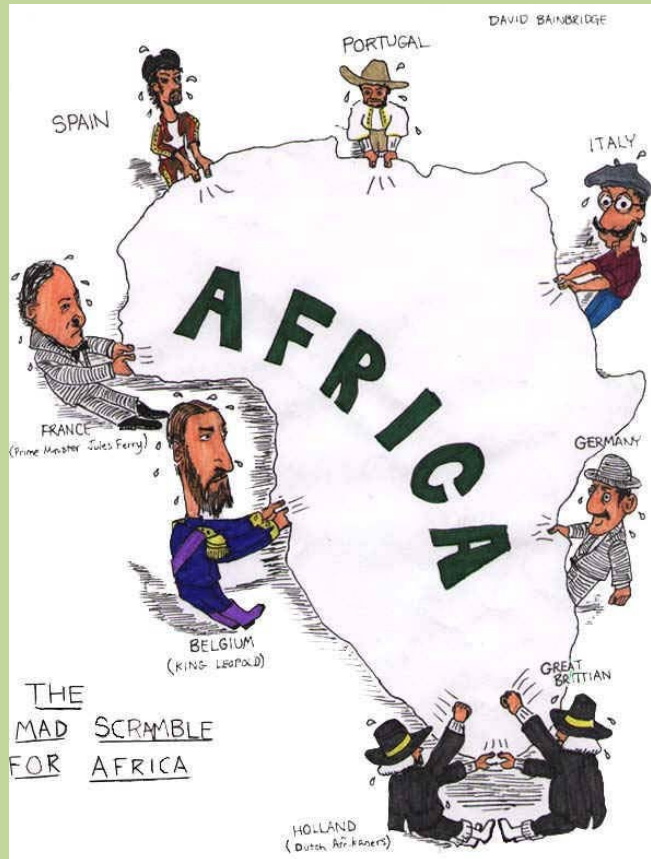


# The New Imperialism

THE EUROPEAN MOMENT (1750 – 1900)



- A new era of imperialism (imperialism itself was not new – since the voyage of Columbus Europeans had been establishing colonies in the New World, and then early on it's history the U.S. was practicing Manifest Destiny) took place between 1869 – 1914 where Europe & the U.S. grabbed up land and held economic dominance over foreign territories at an unprecedented rate.

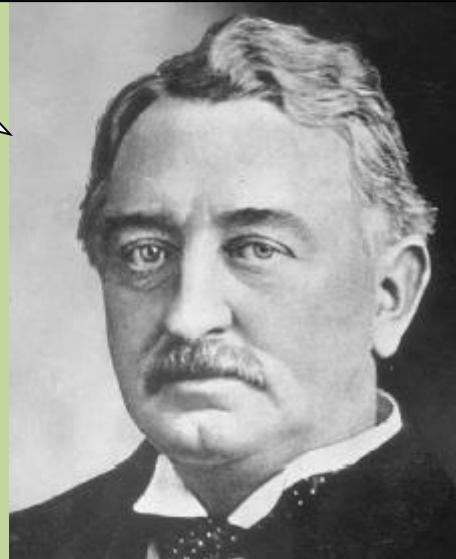


## The motives of imperialism:

- Political – Nations (mostly in Europe) wanted to establish national prestige by creating an empire with overseas territories.
- Cultural – There was a desire to “civilize” the rest of the world. The “*White Man’s Burden*” was the notion that it was the white man’s responsibility to improve (Westernize) the lives of others, it rested on the philosophy of cultural superiority.
- Economic – Industrialization put a demand on natural resources (cotton, rubber, minerals), each nation wanted to ensure it had a supply chain.

“I contend that we [Britons] are the first race in the world, and the more of the world we inhabit, the better it is for the human race . . . It is our duty to seize every opportunity of acquiring more territory and we should keep this one idea steadily before our eyes that more territory simply means more of the Anglo-Saxon race, more of the best, the most human, most honorable race the world possesses.”

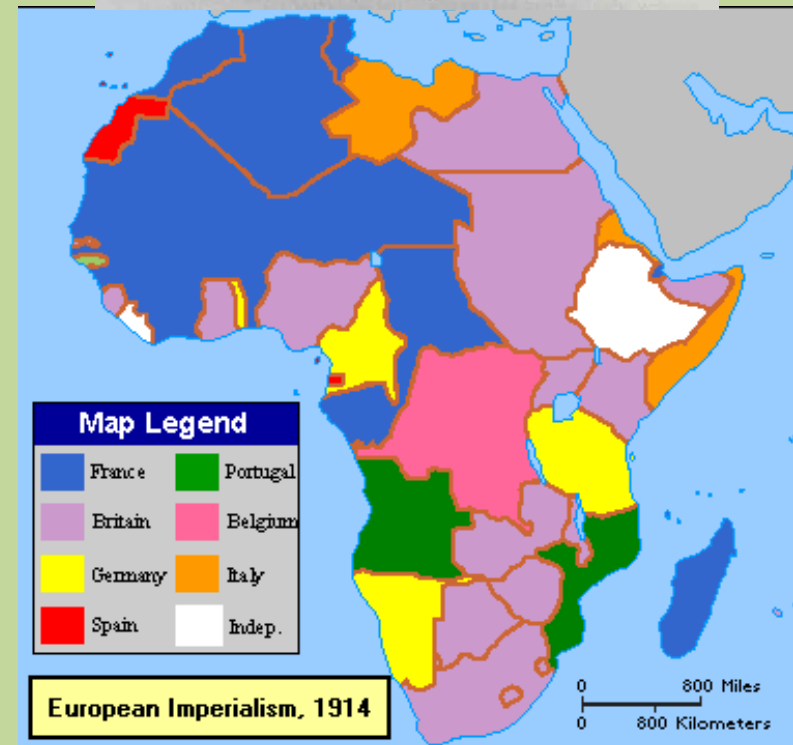
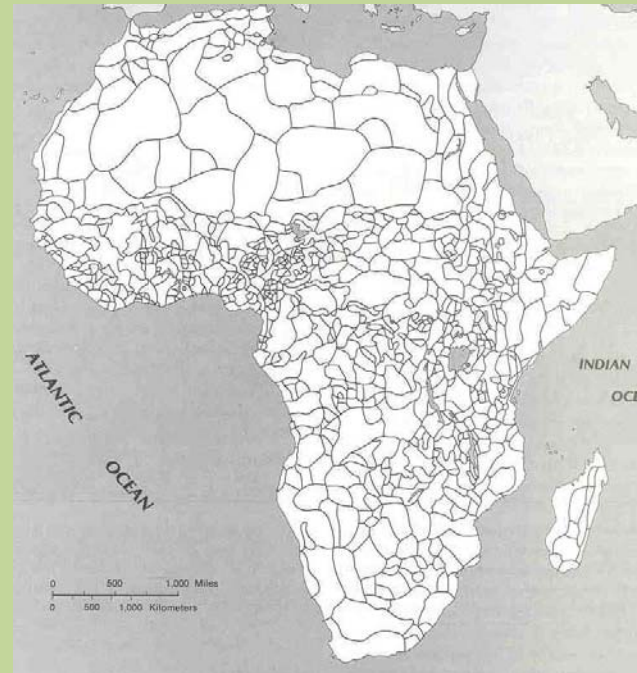
Cecil Rhodes



- Technology and industrial advancement made imperialism possible:
  - The adoption of steamships increased European dominance of the seas (occasionally passenger liners were used as troopships).
  - Submarine telegraph cables permitted communication between colonial officials and the mother country.
  - New medicines decreased European malaria deaths
  - Improved firearms (repeating rifles, Gatling gun)
- Colonial administration varied – if there were less “white” settlers rule was usually more hands-on.
- At first women rarely took part in colonialism, but over time more & more ventured to the colonies consequently increasing racial segregation.

# IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA

- The era of new imperialism was most dramatic in Africa. Excluding the Atlantic slave trade its history had been shaped mostly by internal forces.
- However, in a very short amount of time Europeans took over the continent (in 1879, Africans ruled 90% of their own continent, by 1914 there were only 2 independent countries).





- The future of Africa was discussed at the **Berlin Conference** (1884-1885), which signaled a change in European policy toward the continent – instead of having “trading” relations there would be “occupation.” (In a sense, a set of rules for dividing up the continent took place, which triggered a “scramble” for Africa).



- Just prior to the conference Egypt had been taken over by the British. The importance of Egypt was the Suez Canal (built during the 1860s it connected the Mediterranean to the Red Sea & the Indian Ocean trading network).



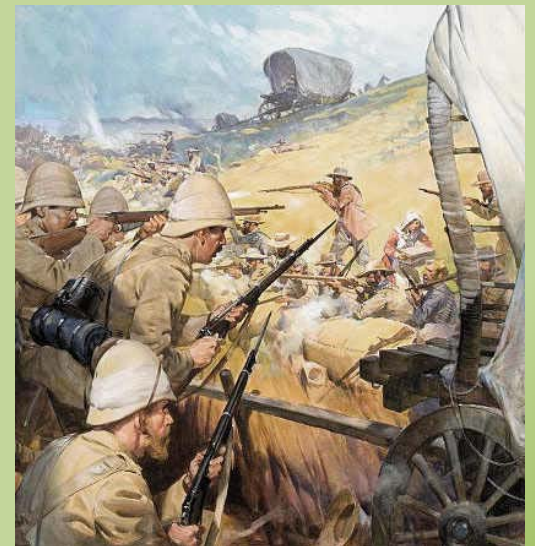
- Egypt had been freeing itself from Ottoman control, but in the process of becoming more autonomous (*and also trying to construct an empire of its own in Africa*) went into debt to European creditors, this led to the canal falling into the hands of the British in 1882.
- Egypt resented the British occupation (the poor paid taxes that funded the occupation, the drinking of alcohol & the relative freedom of Western women offended them).



- Belgium was one of the first European nations to obtain land in the interior forming the “Congo Free State.” (The Belgian Congo colony was 80 times larger than Belgium itself).
- Belgian **King Leopold II** licensed companies that brutally exploited the locals into collecting sap from rubber plants (10 million died from the abuses inflicted).



- In contrast to the interior of Africa, the South had attracted settlers for many years (predominately the Dutch known as Afrikaners) because of its good pastures & farmland.
- An increase of British prospectors (looking for diamonds & gold) angered Afrikaners & the Zulus, both of which fought wars against the British (i.e. Boers War).
- The victorious British had hoped that more settlers would create a colony like Australia, instead Afrikaners emerged as the ruling class and implemented a strict segregationist government.



- Politically & socially Africa had been diverse (from Islamic Empires in the west to bands of hunter gathers in more remote areas) and the response to European imperialism also varied (some welcomed the invaders as allies against local enemies, some sought to collaborate with the Europeans to improve their own status, some fought back).
- Resistant movements were normally squashed, however in Ethiopia Emperor Menelik II (who had been stockpiling artillery pieces & machine guns bought from the Italians) successfully defended his country from European threats (Battle of Adowa).

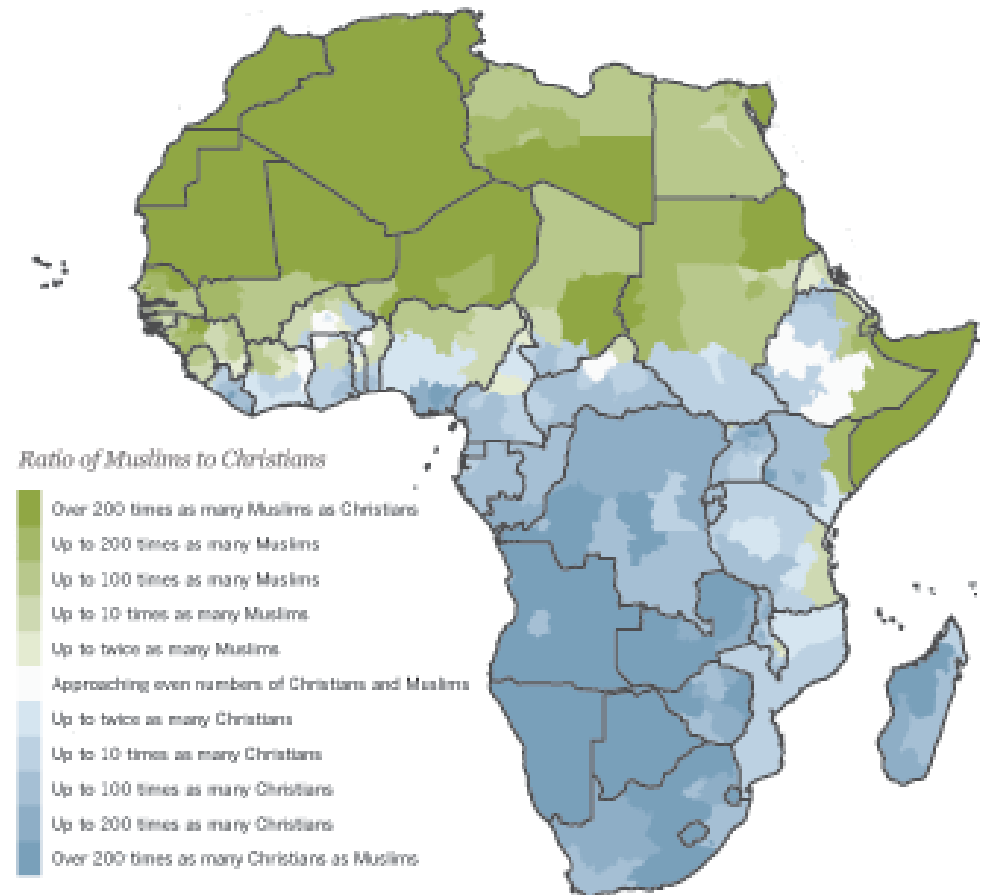


- Most African simply tried to live as they did before imperialism, but could not . . .
  - new political borders created new divisions
  - Some Africans were compelled to grow cash crops or build railroads for the Europeans.
  - Some men migrated to cities or mining camps to look for other “opportunities” leaving their families behind.
  - Missionaries taught African to read
  - Missionaries converted people to Christianity. However, converts quickly realized that colonialism clashed with Christian ideals. As a result, Islam (which did not have the stain of colonialism) became more relevant to sub-Saharan Africans.

- Christian missionaries found success in “spreading the faith” in the sub-Saharan, but in the North Islam remained the dominant religion.

## Muslims and Christians in Africa

*This map shows the ratio of Muslims to Christians in each country and province. The North is heavily Muslim, and the South is heavily Christian.*



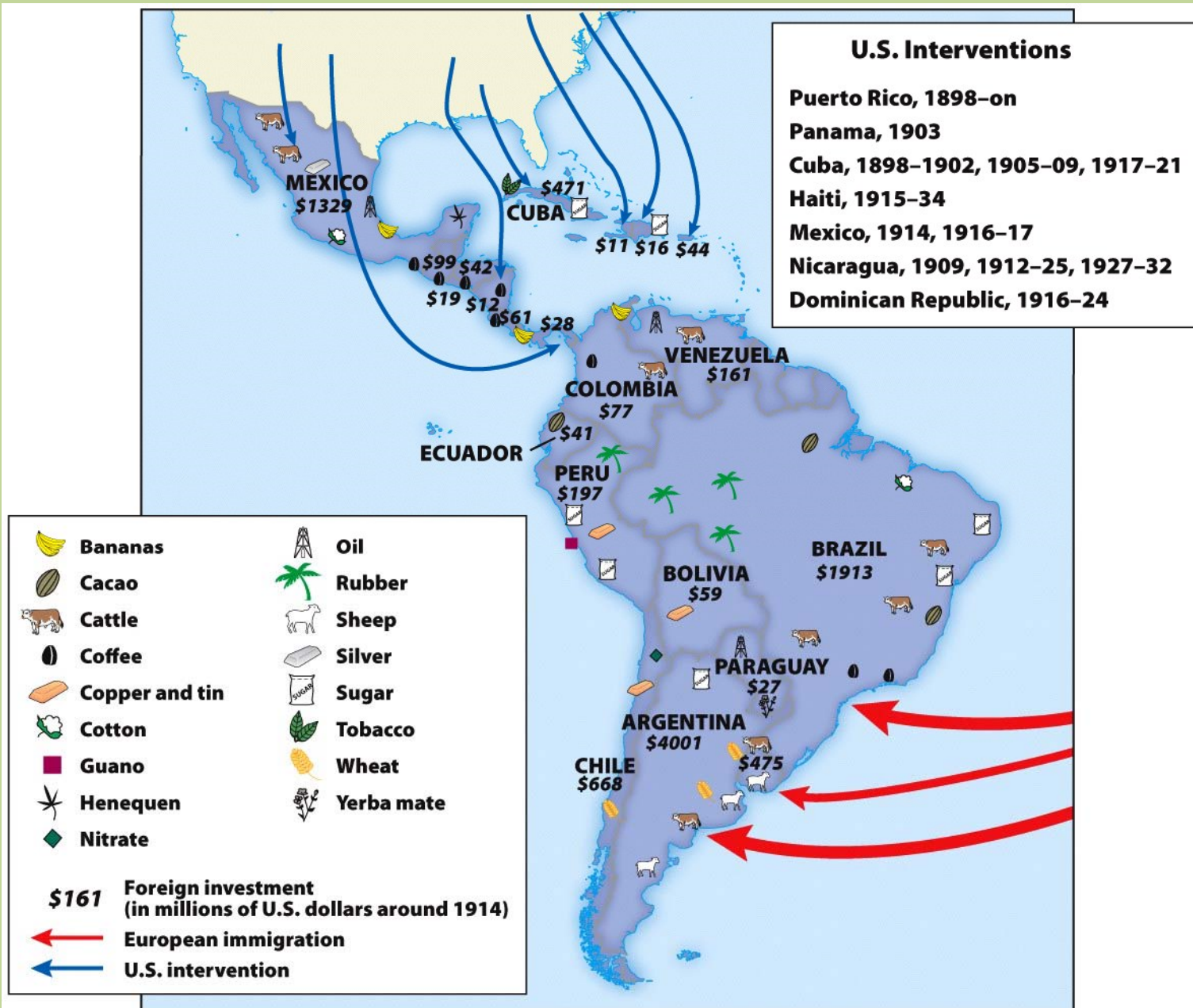
Sources: censuses, demographic and health surveys, and the World Religion Database  
Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, April 2010



# IMPERIALISM IN LATIN AMERICA

- In contrast to the U.S. & Canada, most of Latin America did not industrialize in the mid 1800s and as a result became dependent on exporting raw materials (& importing manufactured items from the Industrial nations) and like Africa became susceptible to imperialism.





Map 18-3  
*Ways of the World, First Edition*  
 © 2009 Bedford/St.Martin's

- However, instead of there being a “scramble” for territory imperialism came in the shape of economic domination. *Why: These nations already broke free of colonialism & as long as their governments cooperated by providing raw materials there was no reason to send in troops.*
- The construction of railroads (as in Africa) allowed industrialized nations to gain access to agricultural & mineral products in the interior. *Almost always these railroads were owned by American or European firms. By 1914, 86% of the railroads in Argentina were owned by the British!*

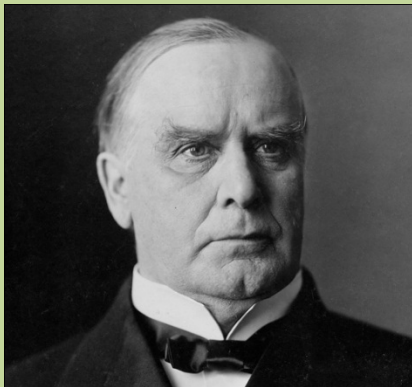


- The U.S. played a much larger role than Europe in Latin America. *Why:* Europe was preoccupied with lands elsewhere, & the U.S. under the Monroe Doctrine claimed the Western Hemisphere off limits to the *Old Powers*. For some Americans imperialism was simply the next phase of Manifest Destiny.
- **Spanish American War (1898):** The U.S. fights Spain in a short “splendid little war” for which they took Cuba, Guam, Puerto Rico, & the Philippines from Spain. *Spanish were harsh rulers of their colony Cuba, which worried American investors who had put large sums of money into sugar plantations there. Aided by newspaper propaganda & a mysterious explosion upon an American ship the U.S. declared war on Spain.*

- Cuba thought the war was for their independence, not simply to be traded from one colonial mother to another.



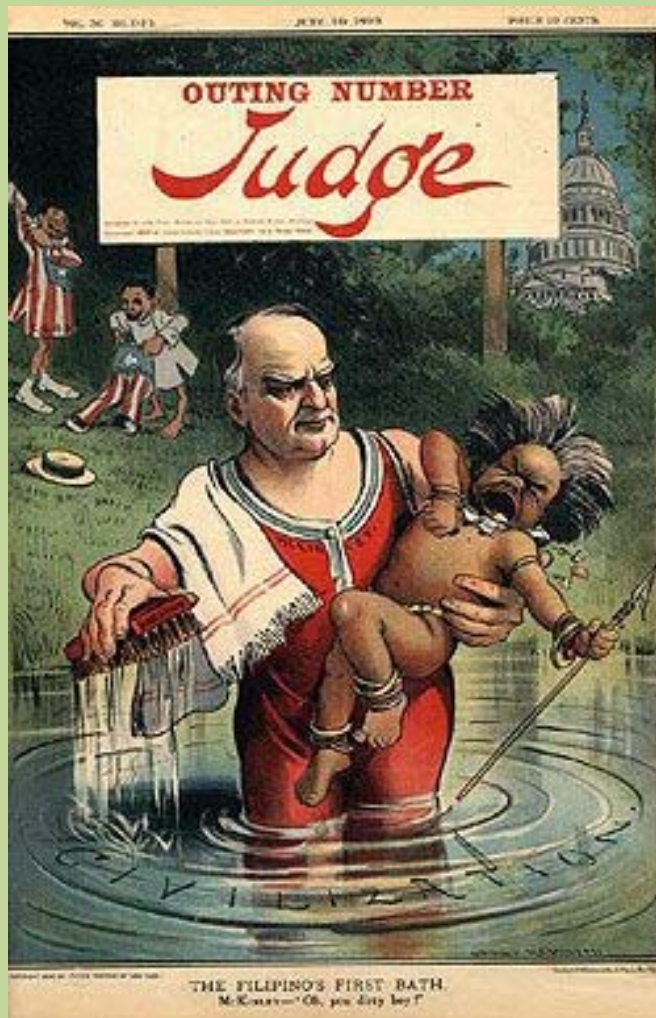
- The U.S. implemented the Platt Amendment, which allowed America to intervene at will. In a sense Cuba became a “protectorate” of the United States – and resented it.



- President McKinley’s imperialist policies were continued under his predecessors:
  - Teddy Roosevelt’s Big Stick Policy, Roosevelt Corollary
  - William H. Taft’s Dollar Diplomacy

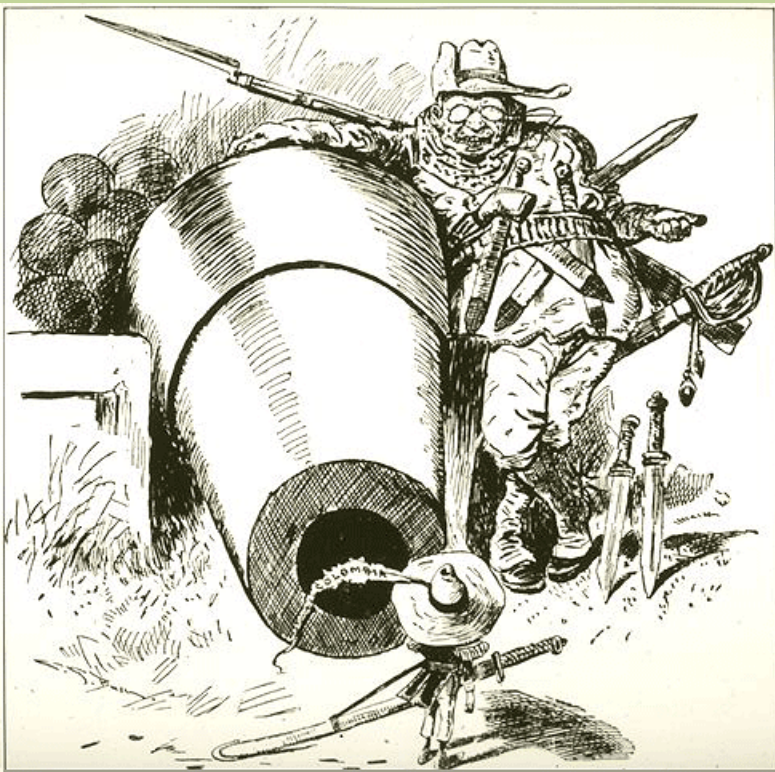


- Similar to European motives Americans were driven by economic interests and the White Man's Burden.





- Between 1903-1914 the U.S. took advantage of Central America in order to build the Panama Canal. After Colombia denied the U.S. from building a canal through its country, the U.S. supported a rebellion by the Panamanians to obtain their freedom from Colombia. In exchange for our support, the new country of Panama let us build our canal.



## IMPERIALISM IN ASIA

- After the U.S. took over the Philippines from Spain, there were years of guerilla warfare against the American occupiers (they too wanted independence, eventually the U.S. caved in, in 1916).
- In 1898, the U.S. annexed Hawaii (the Queen was overthrown by American settlers with business interests).



- Southeast Asia consisted of small independent trading kingdoms (*ex: Malacca*) that had participated for many years in the Indian Ocean trading network – and although since the days of early exploration Europeans had an interest in the area (*remember how Portugal wanted to dominate the trading network?*), their desire to reap economic benefits intensified as industrial powers.





- Weaker states along with fertile soil and the ability to transfer crops (tobacco, rubber trees, sugar) from other regions to S.E. Asia made the area especially ripe for the taking.
  - Indochina (Vietnam) → France, 1895
  - Malaysia → Britain, 1880s
  - Northern Sumatra (basically Indonesia) → the Netherlands, early 1900s
  - Only Thailand remained somewhat independent (it had promoted “Western” learning and made friendly relations with European powers; as a result it was able to become a “buffer state” between French & British possessions).
- European rule over S.E. Asia reflected the economic imperialism in Latin America. An advantage for locals was an increased food supply, which led to massive population increases.



- Immigrants from India & China migrated to these European colonies too, often changing the ethnic & cultural makeup of Southeast Asian lands.
- With little success European missionaries attempted to spread Christianity, but Islam made greater inroads. *Why?* Islam had been brought by merchants centuries earlier and was more established, plus Christianity was seen as something being imposed by foreigners. Today, Indonesia has the largest number of Muslims in the world.



- In Central Asia Russia took advantage of the people of the steppes (no longer fiercely united as they were under the Mongols) to utilize its fertile soil (they grew cotton). Russian settlers moved in and railroads were built, however unlike Europeans in Africa, the Russians did not attempt to change the customs of these Muslim people.





Map 20-1  
*Ways of the World, First Edition*  
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## *New Imperialism*

- **Similarities**

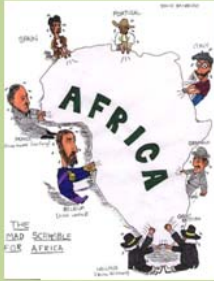
- Motives: economic & cultural (White Man's Burden)
- People resented being "imperialized"
- U.S. & Europe were both in Asia
- Major canals (Suez & Panama) in Africa & L.A., both important to the U.S. & Europe
- Imperialist countries build railroads
- Spreading Christianity was more difficult than spreading Islam

- **Differences**

- The U.S. focused on Latin America & the Pacific; Europe on Africa & Asia
- In Latin America & S.E. Asia territory was less likely to be taken over, instead it was imperialism through economic domination
- Europe had direct & indirect rule over territories in Africa

# The New Imperialism

THE EUROPEAN MOMENT (1750–1900)



*in a . . .*



- Wealthy and industrialized “Great Powers” motivated by politics, economics, and culture (*white man’s burden*) rapidly took over the weaker non-industrialized world (*who resented it*).
- European nations focused on Africa and Asia, while the U.S. dominated parts of Latin America and the Pacific. Japan imperialized too.
- In some areas territory was directly or indirectly ruled over (*Africa*), whereas in others it resembled more so economic domination (*Latin America, S.E. Asia*).



# Quick Video



*Asian Responses to Imperialism: Crash Course World History #213*

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxmWfbXS4Pw>