

Imperialism and Colonialism Notes

- During the 19th century, the most advanced and industrialized countries in Europe were Great Britain, France, and Germany
 - They wanted to increase their land and resources in order to increase their power.
 - This led to the creation of huge empires where these countries dominated the territories or colonies that they took control of both militarily and politically

Political Reasons for Colonization

- Politically, European countries wanted to increase their sphere of influence, that is the amount of people that their country had influence
 - Expand their ability to produce good.
 - Controlling other countries also gave the mother country a sense of power.
 - Part of the reason for colonization was territory. The more land you had the more you could exploit that land for wealth which would ultimately lead to power in Europe.

Social Reasons for Colonization

- Colonies provided Europe with a place to dump their excess population by encouraging the poorest people to up and move far away from the mother country.
 - Before we saw colonies of exploitation, whose sole purpose was to export raw materials to the mother country, not we start to see colonies of settlement.
 - In the 19th century almost 50 million people left the poorest regions of Europe to start new lives in Australia and Canada for English Emigrant sand Algeria for the French.

Economic Reasons for Colonization

- Most of the world's manufacturing took place in Europe by 1850.
- They had the means to export the products that they made
- They still need raw materials for their goods, markets or places that they could sell these goods, and new companies to invest their money in.
- Products were traded between the mother country and the colony.
 - Now we saw many times already in this course the idea of **mercantilism**, well in a lot of ways this continued.
 - We would have the colony sending raw materials to the mother country who in turn would make finish products to be sold both domestically and to the colony.
- Africa had a ton of natural resources from gold, diamonds, and copper, to ivory, rubber, and wood.
 - The climate in Africa was perfect for growing coffee, cotton, sugar cane, peanuts, pepper and spices.
 - Europeans controlled part of the coast of Africa because of the slave trade, now they started to go to the interior of the country to exploit the resources without the consent of the people of Africa.

- The Africans really had not weapons that could match the Europeans and could not resist the power of the colonizers.

The Berlin Conference

- The problem was England, France and Germany had all some sort of claim to Africa, but they needed a way to divide it up without going to war with one another.
 - German Chancellor Otto Von Bismarck organized **the Berlin conference** in 1884.
 - The countries came to an agreement that said everyone must practice free trade in Africa, everyone should use the Congo and Niger river for shipping, slavery and slave trading were prohibited, importing weapons into Africa was prohibited, and to take possession of a region a colonizing country had to establish a permanent presence there.
- By the end of the conference the Europeans carved Africa into about 50 countries without actually consulting with the people of Africa.
 - This had profound consequences on the continent such as the way the colonizers made the borders didn't correspond with ethnic boundaries of people of Africa. This led to an increase in tension between different ethnic groups in Africa.

Imperialism, Colonialism, and its Effects

- Imperialism is when a country or state spreads its rule over other countries.
- Colonization had some pretty profound impacts on the people.
- By creating the colonies Europeans began to occupy land and imposed their way of life on the people. They essentially tried to assimilate people into their own culture.
- The French Revolution and the English enlightenment saw people calling for equal rights, so how did Europeans justify dominating the people of Asia and Africa.
 - Europeans were convinced that the people in these territories were inferior to them because their technology and weapons were not as advanced as theirs were
 - they also felt that their religion was not as advanced so they brought missionaries to "help" the people of Africa.
 - They felt that by colonizing the lands of Asia and Africa that they were civilizing the people who they felt were inferior to them. This led to discrimination against the people of Africa.
- Economically, entrepreneurs saw Africa as a place to make money. They built transportation infrastructure such as roads, canals, and railways and mines to extract the natural resources of Africa,
- Africans were hired or forced to work in terrible conditions in mines so that Europeans could get raw materials at a low cost.
 - The Europeans didn't build and factories or foundries in the colonies.
 - By doing this they made sure that Africans could not get manufacturing jobs which would be reserved for Europeans in the mother countries.

Acts of Resistance

- There were acts of resistance on the part of Africans. People wrote letters in newspapers challenging what the Imperial powers were doing.
- There were also protests in the colonies.
- The West african **Samory Toure** organized armed resistance against the european invaders.
- But for a successful resistance you need only look at Ethiopia Menelik the II who defeated the Italians in battle securing independence, but his own empire.
- But by the 20th century protests and uprising were not enough to stop the power of the colonizers.
- By 1914 the industrial powers of France, Britain, Germany, and Spain had transformed africa and ruled over the continent.

Different Ways of Colonizing

- The British colonization of Africa is prime example of **indirect rule**.
 - African leaders were chosen by the british colonial authorities from the local elites, that is the highest ranking members of society, and they were allowed to keep some of their authority over their people and way of life.
 - The british merchants and administrators who made their homes, albeit temporarily in the colony, did not mix with the population, but rather ruled through these african elites
- France worked differently than britain to exert their influence in the colony.
 - France wanted to assimilate the people of Africa into their own culture.
 - They did this mainly through education. In the french colonies Africans were introduced to western ideas of language, religion, laws and customs.
 - If you could learn french well enough you could work as an official in the colony and in some cases members of the african elite participated in france's political life, but this did not extend to all people, some did not want to abandon their culture, and did not trust the colonizers

Imperialism had a profound effect on the people of Africa

- Economically when africa gained their freedom in the mid 20th century there was no manufacturing industry in place and now capital. And the countries in africa are still feeling the effects of this form of economic discrimination and is now classified as a developing country.
- Culturally Africans were led to adopt aspects of European culture, such as learning about christianity from missionaries to going to schools built and run by europeans and learning about the european way of life.
- When we look at the impact on people the colonization of africa led to a large number of africans dying. People who tried to resist were killed and another died because of forced labor or punishment. Laws were passed that discriminated against the people of africa. And in places like the cono blacks and whites couldn't live in the same neighborhood.

