Chapter 11: The Age of Imperialism, 1850–1914

Western countries colonize large areas of Africa and Asia, leading to political and cultural changes.

Soldiers fighting in Boer War (South African War, 1899–1902)
Section 1: The Scramble for Africa

Ignoring the claims of African ethnic groups, kingdoms, and city-states, Europeans establish colonies.
Africa Before European Domination

Problems Discourage Exploration
• Armies, rivers, disease discourage exploration

Nations Compete for Overseas Empires
• Imperialism—seizure of a country or territory by a stronger country
• Missionaries, explorers, humanitarians reach interior of Africa

The Congo Sparks Interest
• Henry Stanley helps King Leopold II of Belgium acquire land in Congo
• Leopold brutally exploits Africans; millions die
• Belgian government takes colony away from Leopold
• Much of Europe begins to claim parts of Africa
Forces Driving Imperialism

Belief in European Superiority
- Race for colonies grows out of national pride
- **Racism**— belief that one race is better than others
- **Social Darwinism**— survival of the fittest applied to human society

Factors Promoting Imperialism in Africa
- Technological inventions like steam engine, Maxim gun help conquest
- Perfection of quinine protects Europeans from malaria
- Within Africa, Africans are divided by language and culture
The Division of Africa

The Lure of Wealth
• Discovery of gold and diamonds increases interest in colonization

Berlin Conference Divides Africa
• **Berlin Conference** (1884–85): 14 nations agree on rules for division - countries must claim land and prove ability to control it
• By 1914, only Liberia and Ethiopia are free of European control

Demand for Raw Materials Shapes Colonies
• Raw materials are greatest source of wealth in Africa
• Businesses develop cash-crop plantations
Three Groups Clash over South Africa

Zulus Fight the British

- **Shaka**— Zulu chief — creates centralized state around 1816
- British defeat Zulus and gain control of Zulu nation in 1887
Three Groups Clash over South Africa

Boers and British Settle in the Cape
- **Boers**, or Dutch farmers, take Africans’ land, establish large farms
- Boers clash with British over land, slaves
  - *move north to escape British*

The Boer War
- 1899: **Boer War** between British, Boers begins
- British win; Boer republics united under British control in the Union of South Africa (1910)
Section 2: Imperialism (Case Study: Nigeria)

Europeans embark on a new phase of empire building that affects both Africa and the rest of the world.
A New Period of Imperialism

Extending Influence
- Europeans want to control all aspects of their colonies:
  - influence the political, social lives of people
  - shape economies to benefit Europe
  - want people to adopt European customs

Forms of Control
- Europeans develop four forms of control of territory:
  - colony — governed by a foreign power
  - protectorate — governs itself, but under outside control
  - sphere of influence — outside power controls investment, trade
  - economic imperialism — private business interests assert control
A New Period of Imperialism

Methods of Management
- Europeans use two methods to manage colonies:
  - *indirect control*
  - *direct control*

Indirect Control
- Limited self-rule for local governments
- Legislative body includes colonial, local officials

Direct Control
- **Paternalism**— Europeans provide for local people, but grant no rights
- **Assimilation**— adaptation of local people to ruling culture
A British Colony

Gaining Control
• Britain conquers southern Nigeria using both diplomacy and force
• Conquest of northern Nigeria through Royal Niger Company
• 1914: Britain claims all of Nigeria as a colony

Managing the Colony
• Nigeria is culturally diverse area, with about 250 ethnic groups
• British use indirect rule successfully with Hausa-Fulani
• Yoruba and Igbo chiefs resent limits on their power
The Legacy of Colonial Rule

Negative Effects
• Africans lose land and independence, many lose lives
• Traditional cultures break down
• Division of Africa creates problems that continue today

Positive Effects
• Colonialism reduces local fighting
• Sanitation improves; hospitals and schools created
• Technology brings economic growth
Section 3: Europeans Claim Muslim Lands

European nations expand their empires by seizing territories from Muslim states.
Ottoman Empire Loses Power

Reforms Fail
• After Suleyman I dies in 1566, empire starts to decline
• Ottoman Empire falls behind Europe in technology
• Selim III attempts to reform and modernize army; gets overthrown
• Subject peoples in Greece and Serbia gain independence
• European powers look for ways to take Ottoman lands
Europeans Grab Territory

Geopolitics
- **Geopolitics**— taking land for its strategic location or products
- Access to sea trade routes focuses attention on Ottoman lands

Russia and the Crimean War
- **Crimean War**— Russia attacks Ottomans in 1853 to gain warm-water port
  - Russia loses, but Ottomans are shown to be weak; still lose land

The Great Game
- **Great Game**— war waged between Russia and Britain over India
  - Battles fought in Afghanistan until British withdrawal in 1881
Egypt Initiates Reforms

Military and Economic Reforms
• Muhammad Ali breaks away from Ottoman control and rules Egypt
• Begins series of reforms in military and economy
• Shifts Egyptian agriculture from food crops to cash crops

The Suez Canal
• Egypt builds Suez Canal—a human-made waterway connects Red Sea to Mediterranean
• Modernization efforts create huge debt
• British oversee financial control of canal, occupy Egypt in 1882
Persia Pressured to Change

The Exploitation of Persia
• Russia wants access to Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean
• Britain wants Persian oil and Afghanistan
• Persia concedes to Western businesses

Battle over Tobacco
• Persian ruler sells concession to Britain to export tobacco
• Persians boycott tobacco, leads to riots
• 1907: Russia and Britain seize and divide Persia between them
Section 4: British Imperialism in India

As the Mughal Empire declined, Britain seizes Indian territory and soon it controls almost the whole subcontinent.
British Expand Control over India

East India Company Dominates
- British East India Company rules India until 1850s
- Company has its own army led by British officers
- Army is staffed by sepoys—Indian soldiers

 Britain’s “Jewel in the Crown”
- India is Britain’s most valuable colony, or “jewel in the crown”
- Forced to produce raw materials for British manufacturing
- Also forced to buy British goods
British Expand Control over India

British Transport Trade Goods
- Railroads move cash crops and goods faster
- Trade in specific crops is tied to international Events

Impact of Colonialism
- British hold much of political and economic power
- Cash crops result in loss of self-sufficiency, famine
- Indian life disrupted by missionaries and racist attitudes
- British modernize India’s economy, improve public health
The Sepoy Mutiny

Indians Rebel
- 1857: Sepoys refuse to use cartridges of new rifles for religious reasons
- Many are jailed; others start **Sepoy Mutiny** against British
- Many Indians, especially Sikhs, remain loyal to British

Turning Point
- British put down rebellion, take direct command of India
- **Raj**— term for British rule over India, lasts from 1857 to 1947
- Uprising increases distrust between British and Indians
Nationalism Surfaces in India

Call for Reforms
• In 1800s, Ram Mohun Roy leads modernization movement
• Many Indians adopt western ways and call for social reforms
• Indians resent being second-class citizens in own Country

Nationalist Groups Form
• The Indian National Congress and Muslim League form
• Nationalists angered by partition of Bengal
  - pressure forces Britain to divide it differently

Ram Mohun Roy, the “Father of the Indian Renaissance”
Section 5: Imperialism in Southeast Asia
Demand for Asian products drive Western imperialists to seek possession of Southeast Asian lands.
European Powers Invade the Pacific Rim

Europeans Race to Claim Pacific Rim
- Lands of Southeast Asia that border Pacific Ocean form the Pacific Rim
- Dutch, British, French, Germans claim parts of Pacific Rim
  - establish trading ports
  - land perfect for plantation agriculture

Dutch Expand Control
- Dutch colonies, called Dutch East Indies, include Indonesia
- Settle Indonesia, establish rigid social class system
European Powers Invade the Pacific Rim

**British Take the Malayan Peninsula**
- Britain seizes Singapore as a port and trading base
- Also gets colonies in Malaysia, Burma
- Chinese immigration to Malaysia creates Problems

**French Control Indochina**
- French come to control Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia
- Directly control French Indochina
- Export rice, angering Vietnamese
European Powers Invade the Pacific Rim

Colonial Impact
- Modernization mainly helps European businesses
- Education, health, sanitation improve
- Millions migrate to Southeast Asia to work in mines, plantations
- Colonialism leads to racial and religious clashes
Siam Remains Independent

Modernization in Siam
- Siam remains independent, neutral zone between French, British
- **King Mongkut** modernizes Siam:
  - starts schools
  - reforms legal system
  - reorganizes government
  - builds transportation and telegraph systems
  - ends slavery
U.S. Imperialism in the Pacific Islands

The Philippines Change Hands

- U.S. gains Philippines after Spanish-American War
- **Emilio Aguinaldo** leads Filipino nationalists against U.S. rule
- U.S. defeats three-year nationalist revolt (1902)
- U.S. promises to prepare Filipinos for self-rule
- Focus on cash crops leads to food shortages
U.S. Imperialism in the Pacific Islands

The Philippines Change Hands
- U.S. gains Philippines after Spanish-American

Hawaii Becomes a Republic
- Americans establish sugar-cane plantations on Hawaii
- By mid-1800s, sugar accounts for 75 percent of Hawaii’s wealth
- U.S. business leaders want annexation—adding territory to country
- Queen Liliuokalani tries to restore Hawaiian control
- American businessmen have her removed from power
- 1898: U.S. annexes Republic of Hawaii