

Unit 11

Imperialism

Section 1: Introduction

The Age of Imperialism (1850–1914)

- Imperialism definition= a policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or military force; seizure of a country or territory by a stronger country
- 1850-1914= Western countries colonize large areas of Africa and Asia, leading to political and cultural changes
- Europeans want to control all aspects of their colonies:
 - influence political, social lives of people
 - shape economies to benefit Europe
 - want indigenous people to adopt European customs

Reasons for Imperialism

1. Economic= Imperial governments, and/or private companies under those governments, sought ways to maximize profits. Economic expansion demanded cheap labor, access to or control of markets to sell or buy products, and natural resources such as precious metals and land.
2. Exploratory= Imperial nations or their citizens wanted to explore territory that was, to them, unknown. Sometimes they did this for the purpose of medical or scientific research.

Reasons for imperialism (Cont.)

3. Ethnocentric= Imperial nations sometimes believed that their cultural values or beliefs were superior to other nations or groups. For example, European powers clung to the racist belief that other races should be conquered in order to “civilize” them.

Social Darwinism—survival of the fittest applied to human society
4. Political= Patriotism and growing imperial power spurred countries to compete with others for supremacy. Empires sought strategic territory to ensure access for their navies and armies around the world.

Forms of Imperialism

Forms	Definition	Example
Colony	A country or a territory governed internally by a foreign power	Somaliland in East Africa was a French colony
Protectorate	A country or a territory with its own internal government but under the control of an outside power	Britain established a protectorate over the Niger River delta
Sphere of influence	An area in which an outside power claims exclusive investment or trading privileges	Liberia was under the sphere of influence of the United States
Economic imperialism	Private business interests have influence over the government of a foreign nation	The Dole Fruit company controlled pineapple trade in Hawaii

Methods of Management

- Europeans use two methods to manage colonies, both of which based government institutions on European styles of governance:
 - direct control
 - indirect control
- Indirect Control
 - Limited self-rule for local governments
 - Legislative body includes colonial and local officials
- Direct Control
 - Paternalism—the policy or practice on the part of people in positions of authority of restricting the freedom and responsibilities of those subordinate to them in the subordinates' supposed best interest
 - Europeans somewhat provided for colonial peoples' needs, but did not give them full rights
 - Assimilation—adaptation of local people to the ruling culture

Section 2: Africa

Africa Before European Domination

- Historically several issues discouraged extensive exploration of Africa from outside forces: warring armies, rivers, disease
 - As late as 1880, Europeans controlled only 10 percent of the continent's land, mainly on the coast
- Late 1860s= David Livingstone, a missionary from Scotland, traveled with a group of Africans deep into central Africa to promote Christianity
 - Several years with no word from Livingstone
 - Newspaper hired reporter Henry Stanley to find Livingstone; 1871, he found Dr. Livingstone
 - At this point Stanley makes his famous greeting—"Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

The Congo Sparks Interest

- Henry Stanley helps King Leopold II of Belgium acquire land in the Congo
- Leopold brutally exploits Africans; millions die
- Belgian government takes the colony away from Leopold
- The Belgian Congo, as the colony later became known, was 80 times larger than Belgium
- Soon France, Britain, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Spain were also claiming parts of Africa

Africa Imperialized

- Factors Promoting Imperialism in Africa
 - Technological inventions like the steam engine and Maxim gun help conquest
 - Perfection of quinine protects Europeans from malaria
 - Within Africa, Africans are divided by language and culture
- Scramble for African territory began about 1880- discovery of gold and diamonds increases interest in colonization; eventually raw materials become the greatest source of wealth in Africa + businesses develop cash-crop plantations
- European countries feared war among themselves over African colonization. To prevent conflict, 14 European nations met at the Berlin Conference in 1884–85 to lay down rules for the division of Africa (this is done without consulting African leaders).
 - Agreed that any European country could claim land in Africa by notifying other nations of its claims and showing it could control the area
- By 1914, only Liberia and Ethiopia are free of European control

South Africa

- Zulus fight the British; Shaka—Zulu chief—creates centralized state around 1816; British defeat Zulus and gain control of the Zulu nation in 1887
- Boers/Afrikaners, or Dutch farmers, took Africans' land in the mid-1600s near the Cape of Good Hope, established large farms
 - British take over Cape Colony in 1800s- Boers clash with British and many move north leading to clashes with Zulus
 - After the discovery of gold/diamonds in Southern Africa the Boers take up arms against the British= Boer War
 - 1910= British win the war and establish a self-governing area called the Union of South Africa, but it was actually controlled by the British

African Resistance

- There was broad African resistance to imperialism, but in most cases Europeans had superior weapons
- Ethiopia: A Successful Resistance
 - Menelik II, emperor of Ethiopia in 1889, resists European control
 - plays European nations against each other
 - stockpiles arsenal of modern weapons (purchased from the French and Russians)
 - defeats Italian colonization in the Battle of Adowa, remains independent

Section 3: Middle East and India

Ottoman Empire Loses Power

- After Suleyman I dies in 1566, the Ottoman Empire starts to decline
- Ottoman Empire falls behind Europe in technology; Selim III attempts to modernize the army and is overthrown
- Subject peoples in Greece and Serbia gain independence; European powers look for ways to take Ottoman lands
- Russia and the Crimean War
 - Crimean War—Russia attacks Ottomans in 1853 to gain a warm-water port
 - Russia loses against a coalition of the Ottomans, British, and French, but Ottomans are shown to be weak; still lose land

Egypt

- Observing the slow decline of the Ottoman Empire, some Muslim leaders decided that their countries would have to adjust to the modern world
- Egypt initiated political and social reforms, in part to block European domination of its land
- Muhammad Ali began a series of reforms in the military and in the economy
 - Shifts Egyptian agriculture from food crops to cash crops
- Suez Canal
 - Egypt builds the Suez Canal—human-made waterway connects Red Sea to the Mediterranean; goes into massive debt to build the canal
 - Egypt soon found that it could not pay its European bankers even the interest on its \$450 million debt
 - Therefore, the British insisted on overseeing financial control of the canal, and in 1882 the British occupied Egypt

Persia (Modern Day Iran)

- The Exploitation of Persia
 - Russia wants access to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean
 - Britain wants Persian oil and Afghanistan (controlled by Persia) as a buffer between India and Russia
 - Persia concedes to Western businesses
- Division of Persia
 - Persian ruler Nasir al-Din sold land concessions to the British to export tobacco
 - Many of the Persian people resent this deal and boycott tobacco, leads to riots
 - In 1907, Russia and Britain seize and divide Persia between them

British Imperialism in India

- British East India Company rules India until 1850s
- Company has its own army led by British officers
- Army is staffed by sepoys—Indian soldiers
- India is Britain's most valuable colony, or "jewel in the crown" of British imperialism
- India is used to produce raw materials for British manufacturing
- India is also a market for British goods

British in India

- British Transport Trade Goods
 - Railroads move cash crops and goods faster
- Impact of Colonialism
 - British hold political/economic power
 - Cash crops result in a loss of self-sufficiency, famine
 - British modernize India's economy, improve public health

The Sepoy Mutiny

- Sepoys rebel after refusing to use cartridges of new rifles for religious reasons
- Many Sepoys are jailed; others start Sepoy Mutiny against British
- Many Indians, especially Sikhs, remain loyal to British
- As a result of the Sepoy Mutiny the British gov't takes direct command of India
- Raj= term for the time period in which the British dominated India, lasts from 1757 to 1947

Nationalism in India

- In 1800s, Ram Mohun Roy leads modernization movement
 - Example: he called for an end to traditional practices such as arranged child marriages
- Many Indians adopt western ways and call for social reforms
- Indians resent being second-class citizens in their own country
- India does not achieve independence until August 15, 1947

Section 4: South East Asia

Imperialism in Southeast Asia

- Demand for Asian products and markets is high
- Western imperialists seek to take possession of Southeast Asian lands
- Pacific Rim= Lands of Southeast Asia that border the Pacific Ocean and form the Pacific Rim; Pacific Rim areas include: Indochina, Singapore, the Philippines
 - Dutch, British, French, Germans claim parts of Pacific Rim because of the natural resources available in these nations and their strategic locations
 - establish trading ports
 - land perfect for plantation agriculture

Pacific Rim

- Britain seizes Singapore as a port in order to obtain use of its harbor as a 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

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

- Siam (now Thailand) remains an independent, neutral zone between French, British
- King Mongkut used modernization to successfully keep Siam from foreign control:
 - starts schools
 - builds railroad, transportation, and telegraph systems
 - because modernization came from their own government, the Siamese people escaped the social turmoil, racist treatment, and economic exploitation that occurred in other countries controlled by foreigners

Section 5: China Resists Outside Influence

China and the West

- In 1793, China rejects gifts brought by the British ambassador
- China is strong politically because it is largely self-sufficient
 - agriculture, mining, manufacturing sectors highly productive
- Guangzhou, southern port, is the only port open to foreign trade
- China earns more from its exports than it spends on imports
- British smuggle in opium (late 1700s) because it is a product that the Chinese people will buy and consume (it improves the balance of trade between Britain and China); by 1835, as many as 12 million Chinese people were addicted to the drug

Opium War

- In 1839, Opium War erupts—fight caused by opium trade
- China loses the war to the more modern British navy + army
- Treaty of Nanjing (1842) gives British control of Hong Kong
- In 1844, other nations win extraterritorial rights
- Rights mean foreigners are exempt from laws at Guangzhou, other ports

Growing Internal Problems

- Population Problems
 - China's population booms from 1790 to 1850
 - Crop yields do not grow as fast, producing widespread hunger, unrest
- The Taiping Rebellion
 - In late 1830s, Hong Xiuquan recruits followers to build a "new China"
 - Taiping Rebellion—name given to Hong's movement; taiping means "great peace"
 - In 1850s, Hong's army grows large, captures large areas in the southeast
 - By 1864, rebellion defeated by internal fighting, outside attack, but at least 20 million people died in the rebellion

Foreign Influence Grows

- China suffers attacks from other nations; forced to grant more rights
- Europeans, Japan gain spheres of influence (areas of economic control)
- U.S. declares Open Door Policy (1899) in which Chinese trade would be open to all nations
- Many Chinese resent growing power of outsiders, press for change

Boxer Rebellion

- Anti-government, anti-European peasants form a secret organization
- In 1900, they launch the Boxer Rebellion—their campaign for reforms
- Rebels take Beijing, but foreign army defeats them, ending the rebellion
- Though the rebellion fails, Chinese nationalism surges

Section 6: Japan Modernizes

Japan Ends Its Isolation

- Treaty of Kanagawa (1854)—Japan signs this treaty with the United States which opens two ports to American ships
- By 1860, Japan has trade agreements with many nations
- Anger over these trade deals forces the shogun to step down in 1867
- Meiji era—time of reform begun by Meiji emperor, Mutsuhito
 - Meiji emperor reforms, modernizes using Western models
 - By early 1900s, Japan has industrialized, is competitive with West

Growth of Japanese Power

- By 1890, Japan has a strong navy and large army
- In 1894, Japan gets Western nations to give up special rights for foreign visitors who were in Japan
 - Japanese foreign minister assured foreigners that they could rely on fair treatment in Japan, because its constitution and legal codes were similar to those of European nations
 - Japan's feeling of strength and equality with Western nations rose

Japan Attacks China

- 1876= Japan forces Korea to open three ports to Japanese trade
- 1885= Japan and China agree not to send troops to Korea
 - 1894= China broke that agreement and sent troops to put down rebellion in Korea
 - Japan protested and sent its troops to Korea to fight the Chinese= Sino-Japanese War
- Sino-Japanese War
 - Lasted only a few months but, Japan drove the Chinese out of Korea, destroyed the Chinese navy, and gained a foothold in Manchuria
 - 1895= China and Japan signed a peace treaty that gave Japan its first colonies, Taiwan and the neighboring Pescadores Islands

Russo-Japanese War

- Japan's victory over China changed the world's balance of power in East Asia; Russia and Japan emerged as the major powers/enemies
- 1903= Japan and Russia begin a struggle over Russia's presence in Manchuria
- 1904= Japan launches a surprise attack on Russian ships anchored off the coast of Manchuria; starts the Russo-Japanese War
- 1905= Treaty of Portsmouth ends the war (deal was brokered by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt); treaty forced Russia to withdraw from Manchuria and to stay out of Korea

Japanese Occupation of Korea

- 1905= Japan makes Korea a protectorate; Japan issued "advisers" to Korea who made decisions for the Korean government
- 1910= Japan officially annexed Korea
- Japan rules harshly in Korea; shut down the press and took over Korean schools
- The rest of the world clearly saw the brutal results of Japan's imperialism, but the U.S. and other European countries mostly ignored what was happening in Korea

Section 7: U.S. Imperialism

The Monroe Doctrine

- U.S. believed its security partially depended on the security of Latin American nations
- Most Latin American nations were independent by the early 1800s, but independence was not necessarily secure; fear they could be reconquered by a European power
- 1823= James Monroe issues the Monroe Doctrine
 - Monroe Doctrine= any intervention by external powers in the politics of the Americas (including Latin America) is a potentially hostile act against the U.S.

Hawaii

- Americans establish sugar-cane plantations on the independent nation of Hawaii
- Queen Liliuokalani tries to restore Hawaiian control (last Hawaiian monarch)
- American businessmen have her removed from power
- Sugar-cane planters push for the U.S. annexation of Hawaii so that sugar could be sold for higher profits- Hawaii is annexed by the U.S. in 1898

Spanish American War

- 1895= José Martí—Cuban writer—launches war for Cuban independence against the Spanish
- U.S. fights to help Cuba win independence in 1898, leading to the Spanish-American War
 - Spain is defeated after only a few months and loses control of Cuba
- Cuba is granted independence, but the U.S. continued to exert control over Cuba
- After the war, Spain gives the U.S. control of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Philippines

Philippines

- U.S. gains Philippines after the Spanish-American War
- Emilio Aguinaldo leads Filipino nationalists against U.S. rule
- U.S. defeats the three-year nationalist revolt (1902)
- Focus on cash crops leads to food shortages

Panama Canal

- U.S. wants a faster way of going from the Pacific to the Atlantic by way of ship (more productive shipping, lessens the need for a two ocean navy)
- President Roosevelt backs the idea of building a canal across Panama (which was originally part of Colombia)
- After the French fail to construct the canal, Colombia rejects Roosevelt's \$10 million canal offer
- 1903= Panama gains independence from Colombia with U.S. aid
- Panama sells land to the U.S. to build the canal
- U.S. builds the Panama Canal—waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

The Roosevelt Corollary

- U.S. bolsters its influence in Latin America through many avenues
 - Many U.S. businesses invest in Cuba, other countries
- 1904= to protect those business interests Roosevelt issues an update of the Monroe Doctrine called the Roosevelt Corollary
- Roosevelt Corollary= U.S. can be a police power in the Americas
- U.S. uses corollary to justify repeated military interventions