Imperialism is an institution under which one nation asserts the right to seize the land or at least to control the government or resources of another people.

-John T. Flynn
Introduction

- Imperialism - The social, economic, and political domination of one nation by another country.
Nationalism

- Feeling of intense pride towards your country.
- Nationalistic thought led to a feeling of superiority, so imperialists felt they had the right to take control of other countries they viewed as weaker.
New Imperialism

- Between 1850 and 1914, nationalism had produced strong, centrally governed nation-states. The Industrial Revolution had made economics stronger as well.
- The new imperialism was focused mainly in Asia and Africa, where declining empires and local wars left many states vulnerable. In Africa, many states had been weakened by the legacy of the slave trade.
Three types of imperialism

**Colony**- Direct and complete control

**Protectorate**- Control foreign affairs - not directly ruled

**Sphere of Influence**- Control trade
(think of a street gang & its turf)
Causes of Imperialism

Economic

- Industrialization gave the West the ability to conquer other parts of the world.
- Large-scale industrial production made Western factories demand more raw materials, which could be seized from less powerful nations.
- Also, Western nations needed markets for goods produced.
Causes of Imperialism

Military Factors

- Industrialization bestowed new weaponry of all types upon the armies and navies of the West:
  - Ocean-going fleets
  - Modern rifles and rapid-fire artillery.

- Occasions were rare that native populations could resist Western military forces.
Causes of Imperialism

Social Factors

- Europe’s rapid population growth during the 1800’s-played a role in prompting imperial activity.
  - Many people and families left Europe to live in European controlled colonies.
Causes of Imperialism

Role of Science & Technology

- Instrumental in allowing West to conquer & colonize.
  - Advances in transportation, communication, and warfare brought by the Industrial Revolution enabled Western nations to build empires.
  - New wave of exploration allowed for better knowledge of the geography of the world.
Causes of Imperialism

Cultural Factors

■ Sense of racial superiority was widespread among Westerners.

■ Created a sense that Western nations were entitled to conquer & colonize areas that appeared “backwards” or “primitive”.

-Cecil Rhodes, British imperialist, “I contend that we are the finest race in the world, and the more of it we inhabit, the better.”

Cecil Rhodes
Causes of Imperialism

Cultural Factors

- Social Darwinism encouraged imperialism.
- Social Darwinists argued that it was natural for stronger nations to dominate weaker nations.

Charles Darwin
Causes of Imperialism

Cultural Factors

- Westerners believed that it was the White Imperialists duty to teach & modernize the darker-skinned, supposedly “primitive” peoples of Africa & Asia.

- English poet Rudyard Kipling, “White Man’s Burden”.

Rudyard Kipling
Europe’s Overseas Empires

India

- British East India Company
  - The company employed Indian Soldiers called SEPOYS.
  - The Sepoys were forced to follow rules against their Hindu religion and revolted, this was crushed by the British army. **Sepoy Mutiny**
  - The tension that followed caused the British government to take complete control of India in 1858.
Europe’s Overseas Empires

China

- China did not want western culture in their part of the world and greatly resisted imperialism.

- British merchants began trading opium with China in the 1700’s. When the Chinese tried to ban the import of the illegal drug, Britain overpowered them and established colonies in China. This battle is considered the **Opium War**.

- After the Opium War other European powers carved up the East with “**Spheres of Influence**” – which meant that foreign countries had exclusive trade rights within the country.
Europe’s Overseas Empires
Scramble for Africa

- After 1880, African colonization moved away from gold & slave trade to one of taking over territory.

- The competition to conquer Africa almost led to war amongst the nations of Europe several times so the Berlin Conference was called.
  - At the conference the European powers laid down guidelines for African expansion and worked to find ways to maintain peace in Europe.

- European leaders divided Africa with no regards of who lived there, in 1850 most of Africa was free, by 1914 all of Africa was conquered accept Ethiopia and Liberia.
European Territorial Claims in Africa About 1850

- British
- French
- Portuguese
- Spanish