

# Imperialism in Africa (see reading below)

1. When did the scramble for African territory begin? \_\_\_\_\_ What country began it? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Berlin Conference in 1884-1885-

Who was not in attendance at the conference? Why do you think so?

3. By 1914 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were the only African nations not taken over by Europe.
4. Who were the 3 groups fighting over South Africa? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ first came to the Cape of Good Hope in \_\_\_\_\_ (year) because it was between the East Indies and home.
6. Boers-
7. Why did the Boers fight with the British in the early 1800s?
8. Boer War-
9. The winner of Boer War was \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Look at the chart. Which of the 4 forms of imperialism do you feel is the controlled the MOST by foreign powers?

Which was controlled the LEAST?

11. List at least five positive impacts of imperialism on Africa.
12. List at least five negative aspects of imperialism in Africa.
13. What was the long-term problem with the way the Europeans divided Africa?
14. In effort to modernize Egypt, Isma'il supported the construction of the \_\_\_\_\_.
15. What did it connect?

## Imperialism in Africa

### The Division of Africa

The scramble for African territory had begun in earnest about 1880. At that time, the French began to expand from the West African coast toward western Sudan. The discoveries of diamonds in 1867 and gold in 1886 in South Africa increased European interest in colonizing the continent. No European power wanted to be left out of the race.

### Berlin Conference Divides Africa

The competition was so fierce that European countries feared war among themselves. To prevent conflict, 14 European nations met at the **Berlin Conference** in 1884–85 to lay down rules for the division of Africa. They agreed that any European country could claim land in Africa by notifying other nations of its claims and showing it could control the area. The European nations divided the continent with little thought about how African ethnic or linguistic groups were distributed. No African ruler was invited to attend these meetings, yet the conference sealed Africa's fate. By 1914, only Liberia and Ethiopia remained free from European control.

### Three Groups Clash over South Africa

South Africa demonstrated the impact that Europeans had on African peoples. The history of South Africa is a history of Africans, Dutch, and British clashing over land and resources. Although the African lands seemed empty to the Europeans, various ethnic groups had competing claims over huge areas.

Around 1816, the Zulu tribe used highly disciplined warriors and good military organization to create a large centralized state. Yet later they were unable to keep the kingdom together against the superior arms of the British invaders. In July 1879, however, the Zulus lost the Battle of Ulundi and their kingdom. The Zulu fell to the British in 1887.

### Boers and British Settle in the Cape

The first Europeans to settle in South Africa had been the Dutch. The Dutch came to the Cape of Good Hope in 1652 to establish a way station for their ships sailing between the Dutch East Indies and the Netherlands.

Dutch settlers known as **Boers** (Dutch for “farmers”) gradually took Africans’ land and established large farms. (The Boers are also known as Afrikaners.) When the British took over the Cape Colony permanently in the early 1800s, they and the Boers clashed over British policy regarding land and slaves.

### The Boer War

Diamonds and gold were discovered in southern Africa in the 1860s and 1880s. Suddenly, adventurers from all parts of the world rushed in to make their fortunes. The Boers tried to keep these “outsiders” from gaining political rights. An attempt to start a rebellion against the Boers failed. The Boers blamed the British and, in 1899, took up arms against them. In many ways, the Boer War (also known as the South African War) between the British and the Boers was the first modern “total” war. The Boers launched commando raids and used guerrilla tactics against the British. The British countered by burning Boer farms and imprisoning women and children in disease-ridden concentration camps.

Black South Africans were also involved in the war. Some fought; others served as scouts, guards, drivers, and workers. Many black South Africans were captured by the British and placed in concentration camps, where over 14,000 died.

Britain finally won the war. In 1910, the Boer republics were joined into a self-governing Union of South Africa, which was controlled by the British. The establishing of colonies signaled a change in the way of life of the Africans. The Europeans made efforts to change the political, social, and economic lives of the peoples they conquered.

### Egypt Initiates Reform

Efforts to modernize Egypt were continued by Egyptian ruler Isma’il. He supported the construction of the **Suez Canal**. The canal was a human-made waterway that cut through the Isthmus of Suez. It connected the Red Sea to the Mediterranean. It was built mainly with French money from private interest groups, using Egyptian labor. The Suez Canal opened in 1869 with a huge international celebration. However, Isma’il’s modernization efforts, such as irrigation projects and communication networks, were enormously expensive. Egypt soon found that it could not pay its European bankers even the interest on its \$450 million debt. The British insisted on overseeing financial control of the canal, and in 1882 the British occupied Egypt.

### Positive Effects

On the positive side, colonialism reduced local warfare. Humanitarian efforts in some colonies improved sanitation and provided hospitals and schools. As a result, lifespans increased and literacy rates improved. Also positive was the economic expansion. African products came to be valued on the international market. To aid the economic growth, railroads, dams, and telephone and telegraph lines were built in African colonies. But for the most part, these benefited only European business interests, not Africans’ lives.

### Negative Effects

On the negative side, Africans lost control of their land and their independence. Many died of new diseases such as smallpox. They also lost thousands of their people in resisting the Europeans. Famines resulted from the change to cash crops in place of subsistence agriculture. Africans also suffered from a breakdown of their traditional cultures. Traditional authority figures were replaced. Homes and property were transferred with little regard to their importance to the people. Men were forced to leave villages to find ways to support themselves and their families. Contempt for the traditional culture and admiration of European life undermined stable societies and caused identity problems for Africans.

The most harmful political legacy from the colonial period was the division of the African continent. Long-term rival chiefdoms were sometimes united, while at other times, kinship groups were split between colonies. The artificial boundaries combined or unnaturally divided groups, creating problems that plagued African colonies during European occupation. These boundaries continue to create problems for the nations that evolved from the former colonies.

### Forms of Imperialism

| Form                 | 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 | An independent but less-developed country controlled by private business interests rather than other governments | The Dole Fruit company controlled pineapple trade in Hawaii.    |