

# Motives for Imperialism



**OBJECTIVE: I CAN  
DESCRIBE THE POLITICAL,  
ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL  
ROOTS OF IMPERIALISM.**

# Understanding Imperialism



- Probably everyone has known a bully at some point in life.
- Bullies use their overpowering strength or size to get their way.
- On a playground, the bully uses threats to get others to cooperate.
- If someone doesn't do what the bully wants, he or she might attack the person.
- The bully's victim may give in, but he or she usually remains angry at the bully for a long time.

# Development of Imperialism



- During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, many European nations and the United States became bullies on a large scale by engaging in *imperialism*.
- Imperialist nations use their power to gain political, economic, or social control over other parts of the world.

# Development of Imperialism

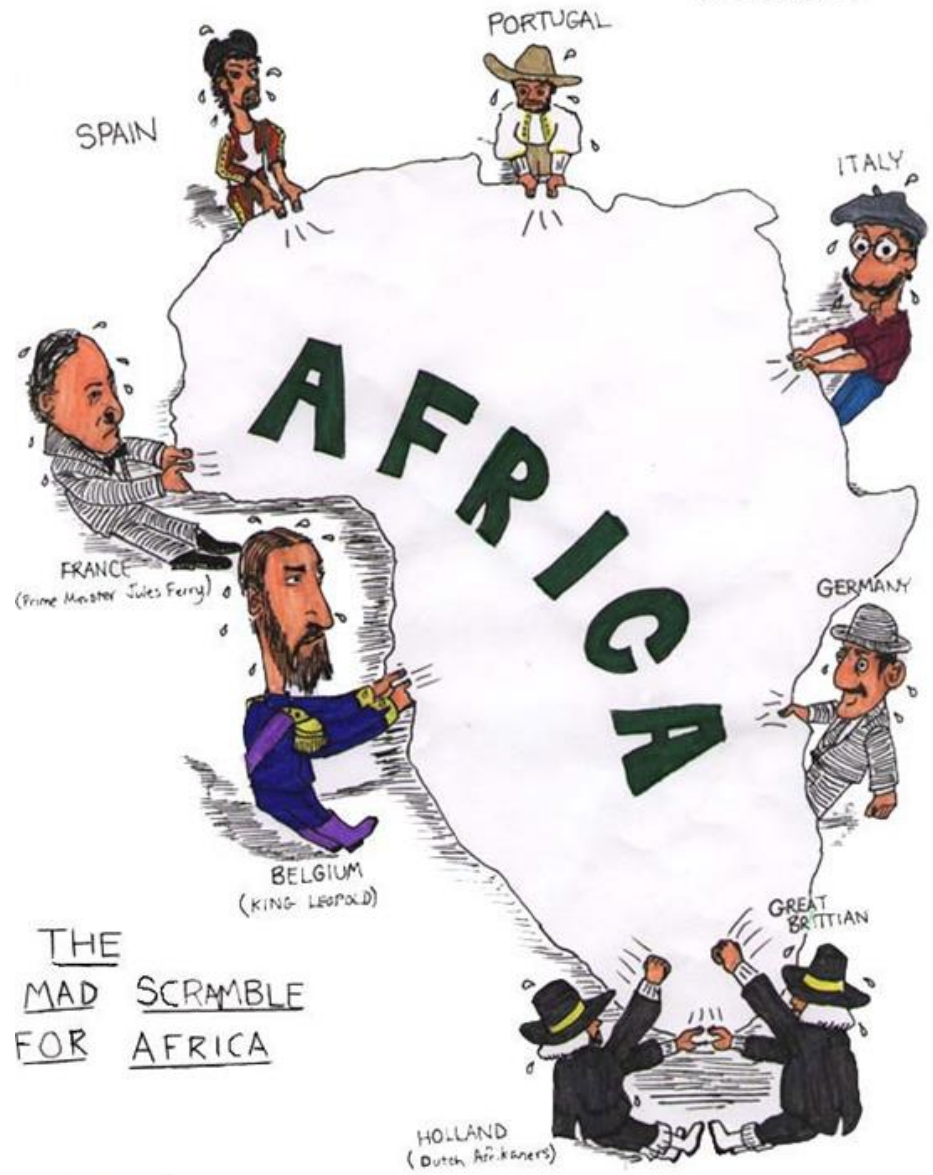


- Imperialism has occurred throughout history.
- The Assyrians of Mesopotamia, the Romans, and the Han dynasty of China created empires in the ancient world.
- The Franks in Europe, the Mongols of Asia, and the Aztecs in Mesoamerica created empires in the 800s through the 1500s.
- From the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, England, Spain, and Portugal founded colonies in North and South America.

# The New Imperialism

Europeans extend their culture,  
government and economy.

DAVID BAINBRIDGE



THE  
MAD SCRAMBLE  
FOR AFRICA

HOLLAND  
 (Dutch Afrikaners)

## New Imperialism

**IMPERIALISM**  
YOU CAME, YOU PLAYED, YOU CONQUERED



- The term **New Imperialism** is sometimes applied to the period in the mid-to late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, when **European** nations and the United States **extended** their **influence** over countries in **Asia, Africa, and the Pacific**.
- New Imperialism also refers to the guiding principles and ideologies that characterized imperialist nations during this period.

# Roots of Imperialism



- Beginning in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, nations such as Portugal, Great Britain, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Spain began to seek control of other parts of the world.
- In time, Russia, Japan, Germany, Italy and the United States joined these countries in the race to colonize non-Western areas of the world.
- For example, by the early 1900s, European nations vied with one another in a “scramble for Africa.”
- By 1914, only the African nations of Ethiopia and Liberia remained free of foreign domination.



# Motivations for Imperialism



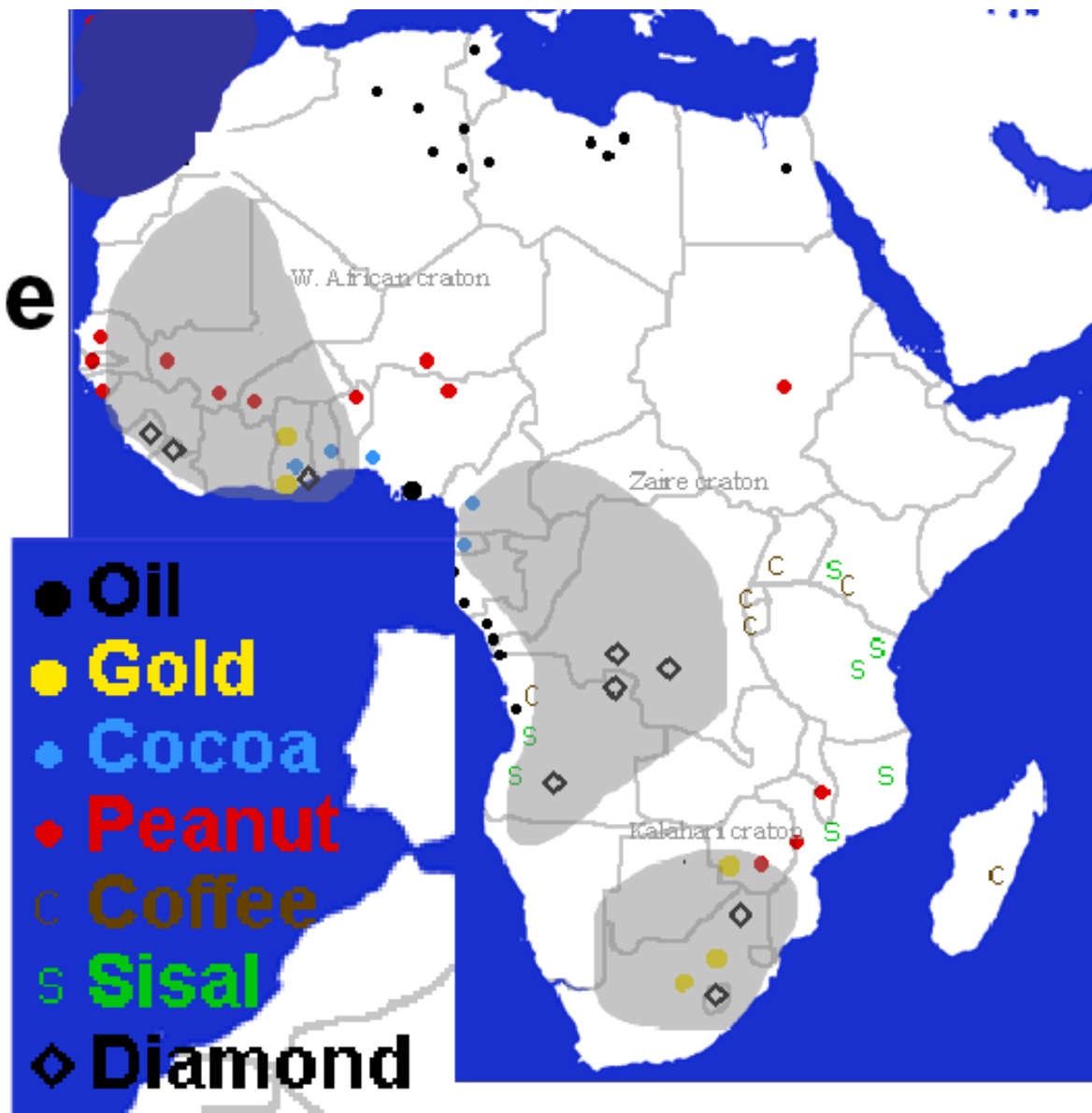
- There were four main factors motivating imperialism:
  - R.....Racism
  - E.....Economics (\$)
  - N.....Nationalism (Pride)
  - T.....Territory (Power)

# Economics



- The economics of the **Industrial Revolution** played a major role in the **rise of imperialism**.
- By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, much of Europe had become industrialized.
- For industrialized nations, **colonies** were not only a source of **natural resources** but also a **market** for manufactured **goods**.

**Why  
does  
everyone  
want  
Africa  
?**



# Economics



- As manufacturing grew in importance, factory owners looked for new sources of raw materials (natural resources), such as lumber and cotton, that were needed to manufacture finished goods.



# Economics



- **Manufacturers** found what they wanted in the kingdoms and empires of **Africa, Asia, and the Pacific islands**.
- Raw materials **flowed** from these areas to the **factories** of **Europe**, which turned the raw materials into finished goods.
- Industrialized nations **sent** these **goods** back to their **colonies** for **sale** to the indigenous (native) peoples.



# Economics



- The cycle of industrial nations taking raw materials from colonies and then selling the goods manufactured from them to colonies created tremendous amounts of **capital (?)** for the industrial powers.
- These nations realized that the more they could **control** the sources of **natural resources** and **new markets**, the **wealthier** they would become.

# Nationalism

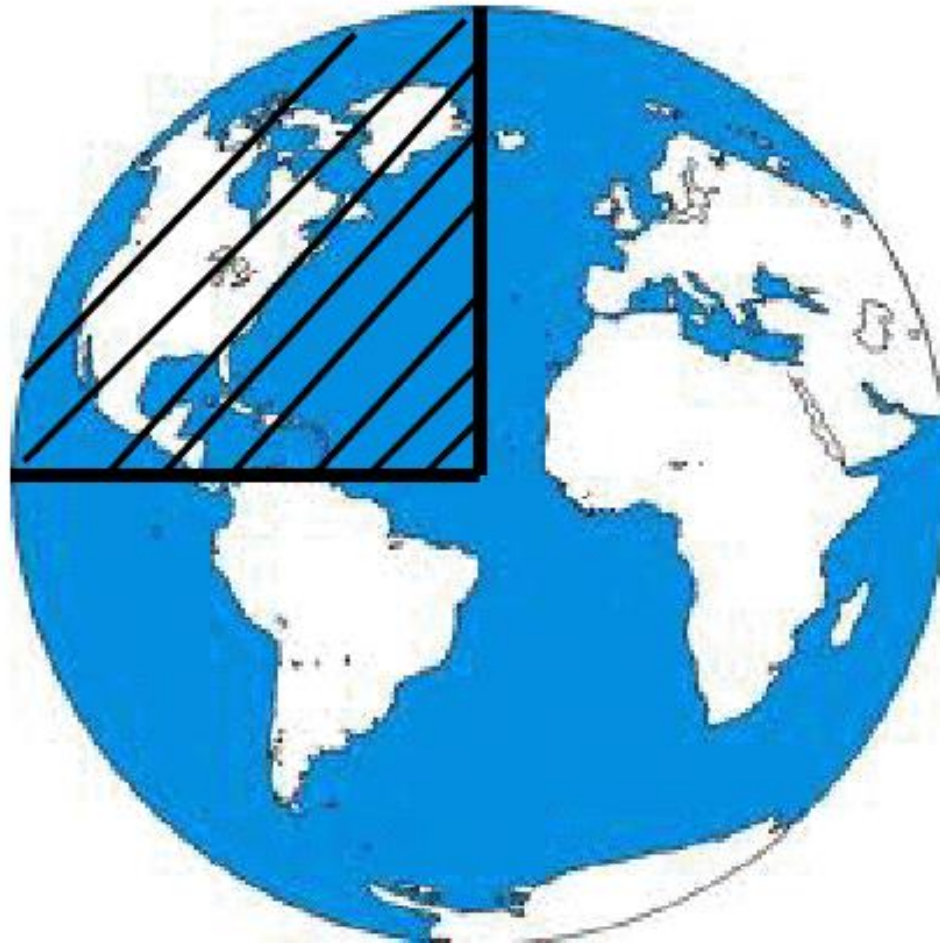


- **Nationalism**, which swept many European countries in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was another strong motivating force behind imperialism.
- Nationalism is **a feeling of intense pride in one's nation, including its language and culture** (Quote).
- For the citizens of many European nations—and, at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the United States—colonies were not only a source of wealth, but also **a source of pride**.
- The more colonial holdings a nation had, the greater its power and the more important it was on the world stage.





By 1922 Britain controlled  $\frac{1}{4}$  (25%)  
of the world's population.



# Racism



- Nationalist feelings were often **mixed** with feelings of **cultural** and **racial** superiority, as evidenced by the theory of Social Darwinism.
- Social Darwinism is the application of Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection to humans and society.
- Natural selection is the theory that the species best equipped to adapt to a changing environment has the highest chance of survival.

# Racism



- It is often referred to as the “**survival of the fittest**,” a phrase created in the mid-1800s by the English sociologist **Herbert Spencer**, who applied the theory to society.
- Social Darwinists believed that **some** societies were **better** equipped to be successful than others, an idea closely tied to **racism**.
- Social Darwinists **supported** imperialism because they believed that it was **natural** for “stronger” societies to conquer “weaker” ones.

How does the following political cartoon illustrate Imperialist ideas?



How does this political cartoon question the idea of natural selection or the survival of the fittest?



*Natural selection does not grant organisms what they "need".*

# Racism



- Not surprisingly, Social Darwinists believed the **white** race was **superior** to all others.
- Many Westerners believed they had a duty to “**civilize**” the people of “**inferior**” **rac**es.
- (Which 2 areas represent the West?)

# Politics-Acquire New Territory

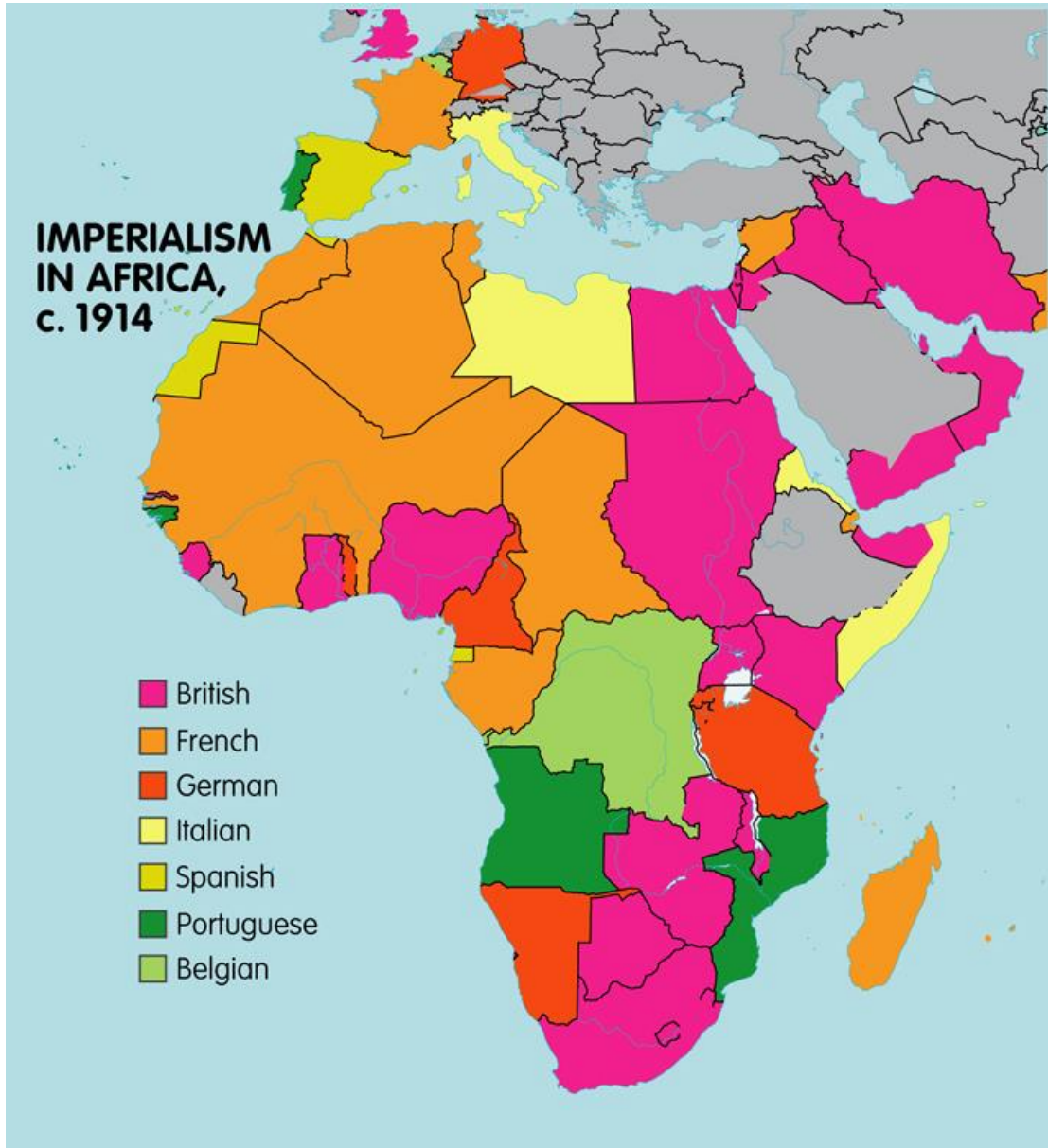


- Imperialist nations were also driven by political considerations in their quest to acquire new territory.
- The race for territory was a race for **political** power.
- Nations tried to **grab** territory to keep **rival** nations from occupying it and **gaining** exclusive (*sole*) **control** over its **resources** and **markets**.



# IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA, c. 1914

- British
- French
- German
- Italian
- Spanish
- Portuguese
- Belgian

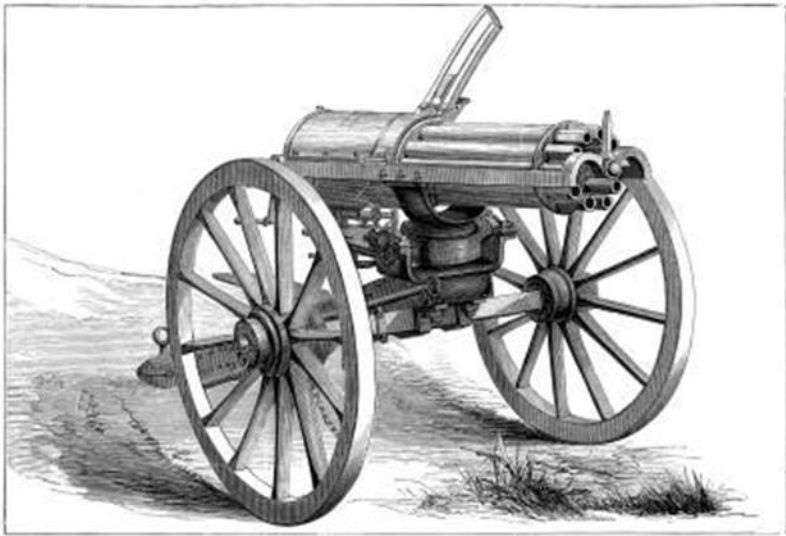


# Politics-Acquire New Territory



- **Technology** helped Western nations to set up colonies.
- **Advanced** weapons enabled their armies to take control of territories whose people were ill-prepared to **defend** themselves against **guns** and **cannons**.

## European Weapons of the 1800s



## African Weapons of 1800s

