**Imperialism (in Africa)**

Imperialism is the policy of extending a nation’s authority by territorial occupation or by the establishment of economic and political hegemony over another state, reached by either peaceful or aggressive means. It was an outcome of the Industrial revolution which caused a drift between two types of societies, those who advanced and became rich and strong, and those who remained traditional and were poor and weak. However, it was only till after the Industrial revolution did the Western powers turn to colonial expansion on such a scale. Before it, their focus was mostly on the commerce without changing the societies culturally or politically. After that, new medication, better communication, cheaper transportation, and railroads were introduced which facilitated occupations. The increasing advantage of the Europeans meant that they could swiftly conquer any poor nation, and one of their most effective tactics was the Gunboat Diplomacy, which worked by simply firing a few canons from several navy ships that paraded the coast.

It did give rise to several negative effects, such as racism, bloodshed, condescension, and loss of culture and tradition. It was due to the supposed superiority of the white men race, also known as ethnocentricity, or due to the growing religious duty of missionaries of Christianity. They believed that it was their duty to save the souls of those uncivilized by civilizing their societies and reforming their ways of life. Politically, in order to stabilize their investments, they had to fully control and occupy the colony. Consequently, the social, political, and economic aspects of their society were disrupted. A large gap existed between the locals of the colony and the imperialists that resided there, and this intolerance resulted in bloodshed.

Types of imperialism:

1. Colonies: requires direct occupation and complete control of local governments.
2. Protectorate: colonials work with existing government if it is willing to preserve their interest, and it appoints a commissioner to carry out their plans.
3. Mandate: a power will assign a nation to govern another via a Consul General that represents the mandatory and rules until it is independent.
4. Spheres of influence: applied to large countries that are difficult to control (China & Persia)

Their incentives were economic, that aimed for commerce, technology, and finance; scientific, that aimed for exploration what advanced intellect, religion, and adventures; immigration, that aimed for deceasing over populated European cities; politic, that aimed for more power and national pride by getting more colonies and starting a colonial race. The powers, including Britain, France, and Germany, viewed it as their burden to civilize the backward countries. This would’ve been considered good had it not been in self-interest, exploitation, and cruel discrimination.

The US had annexed Puerto Rico, controlled an independent Cuba, and organized a protectorate in Panama to build the transoceanic canal. Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina. Britain occupied Egypt after its economic downfall in the Suez Canal incident and moved south to create a railroad that stretched across factory. France occupied Algeria, Tunisia, and most of Western Africa. Germany eventually took over some other pats, including the Cameroons, Togo, and southwest Africa.

However, the situation worsened when the Black Continent of Africa was exploited for their raw materials. This included regions below the Sahara Desert and was ventured by missionaries, scientists, and hunters, and the like. A well-known missionary would be David Livingstone, who called for the commerce of Christianity to thwart the indecency of the slave trade, given that the Europeans appealed to human rights and democracy and the cruelty of the colonialists’ conduction of business would be opposed by the public. The government solved this dilemma by allowing the public to invest and profit from the colonies, and imposed laws that prohibited the slaves from over taking their jobs.

Another infamous exploitation of the Black Continent was by the king of Belgium, King Leopold II, who was notoriously tied with the butchery of the African Congo. He abused and killed millions of Africans to collect natural rubber, a very rare and expensive resource.

Once these atrocities reached news, a conference was called by Bismarck in Berlin in 1894 to peacefully resolve the Congo crisis and divide the Congo basin. The powers agreed on an international slave trade ban, permitted free trade in the Congo, made the rivers international waters, and agreed on the principles of Effective Occupation, which stated that in order to avoid further confrontation between powers, prior notice would be given to any occupation to fully give legal rights to the land.

A climax of disputes was reached when an incidence occurred in Fashoda between the British and French. They had both landed into the same land and claimed rights for transportation, however as their armies stood face to face, the French backed down in order to relieve tensions between them and the British, given that they had a bigger enemy to face together in Germany. Another incident was the Boer wars between the British and the Dutch settlers in the Cape, where they were forced to relocate, and when gold and diamonds were find at their relocation, the British demanded a share. In resulted in another bloodshed where the Africans were once again defeated. However, during the war, the Germans had supported the Boers, which intensified overall tension between the powers.

**Imperialism (in Asia)**

Britain already had India and Singapore, the Dutch had Indonesia, and the French has Indochina as previous colonies in the Far East. These colonies were under similar standards to that of Africa, including the military control, forced labor, taxation, their own European laws and culture. Russia, in the other hand, was searching for colonies to occupy in order to gain warm waters, so in 1860 they occupied Vladivostok in Japan. They then moved towards Afghanistan but were confronted by the British, so they remained in Tashkent in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Iran itself was then stuck in between Russia in central Asia and Britain in India, and its situation worsened when it discovered oil in 1900. It pacified by Russia and Britain splitting the country into two spheres of influence and controlling the economy to benefit the Europeans. China, at that time, was a large country in civilian conflict between the feudal lords, and this instability enabled the foreign powers to intervene. The reason the powers wanted a share in China was because it offered unlimited markets and an abundant of opportunities to invest in. A major product exploited was opium, which was a very profitable business that the Chinese government tried to end. When the government attempted to ban the trade of opium with an anti-opium policy, all powers, including Britain, France, USA, and Russia declare war and immediately defeat China, who were then forced to sign the Tientsin Treaty that stated all foreign ports to be opened and opium trade legalized. This was known was the Opium Wars of 1839 & 1842. Britain then goes on to occupying Hong Kong to secure all their ports and establish a state within the state in China. This disgraced the Chinese and several of them, under an organization called the Boxer Rebellion, attempted to revolt against imperialism. Their defeat resulted in an open door policy in China where multiple powers had access.

Russia and Japan were also fighting over Manchuria and Korea, in a war called the Russo-Japanese War in 1905. It was the great war of the 20th century and last one fought in the colonial race. Ultimately, Japan is victorious and embarrasses Russia. The alarming surprise of their victory changed the balance on power in East Asia, and resulted in the addition of Japan to the world powers.

**Imperialism Aftremath**

After the Boer wars, Britain was critisized more and opposition began to spring up. However, it had both negative and postitive side effects. On the plus side, the colonies were adapting to new technologies, were advancing economically, adopting new life styles, and were still good sources of materials. On the other hand, mainting colonies was becoming more expensive and it was more proftiable for the colonials to close the colonies and continue trading normally. The only reason imperialsim did remain was to ease tensions in Europe by distracting the home front tension with competition in the colonies, which induced the proxy wars. This only was profitable in individual cases, but in general the cost of keeping direct control out weighed the profits.

Another reason why imperialism kept on was the supposed consequential increase in power with an increase on colonies. As diplomatic rivalry grew in Europe, the powers needed to be stronger be growing their colonial empire. This caused deliberate competition in Africa between powers like Britain, France, Germany, and Italy.

The negative side effect of this competition was the damage of certain national relations. For example, after the Boer wars, the Anglo-German relation ceased and resulted in the Anglo-French Entente which ws a mutual understanding between Britain and France where Morocco would solely be left to France and Egypt to Britain. This left Germany frustrated and in need of new alliances, and instead they created new crisis in Morocco. 1st they attmeped to enourage the Sultan there to revolt against the French, which only ended in humiliation for the Germans. 2nd, they caused a crisis in Agadir in 1911 which only resulted in more tension.

Imprialism also impacted how was war fought, because the degree of weakness in their opponents was so low it resulted in over confident armies. Once the colonials were victorious, they added the colony to their empire under a mandate, which meant that they conducted the affairs of the colony to their own intesrest. This disrgarded the inestesrts of the natives, and in most of the cases, resulted in fundamental changes economic, political, and social levels. They did this msotly by drawing new boundaries that encompased illogical divisions, which grouped or separated different ethnicities and races. These colonies were then used only to serve the mother nation, implying that the sole purpose behind the colony's infrastructure, economy, agriculture, politics, demography was only to benefit the colonials.

In conclusion, whether or whether not colonization was necessary for such progress, it is undoublty certain that it accelerated the process of world wide industrialization which formed the modern world.

**WWI**

While tension and last of trust among nations grew, each nation continued to build up their power through colonies, arms, and naval bases. There was a balance of fear among all nations which led to long period of peace, however with conflicts going on with Germans and Balkan rivalry, this quickly ended.

Germany had conerns for its geographic position in the middle of eaurope where it was sandwiched between other nations and a very narrow outlet to the coast. Its relation with Britain was tense due to competition on all sectors, and its relation with France was also tense due to historical conflicts in Alsace-Lorraine. Suspicion between them worsened when Bismark had created an alliance with Austria, Russia, and Italy in order to protect Germany from the French.

Germany, and other nations, begin creating alliances to defend one another and prevent war, but realistically that created a complicated web then would involve everyone if anything happened.

Germany had an alliance with Austria-Hungary than insured they supported each other in case they were attacked by Russia. They also had one with Italy. While Bismark was in still in power, he also created one with Russia to keep them as an ally and prevent any alliances with them and France. However, once he was out of power, Caprivi cancelled the treaty. Russia, in turn, turns to France for an ally and creates a mility-supporting alliance.

Meanwhile, France and Britain create an informal alliance called the Entente Cordial to cease tension in African colonies without providing military support. Britain and Russia also come to terms on their conflict of Persia and split it into spheres of influence. This makes Germany uneasy about the security so they decide to test its limits by encouraging further conflict. They create crisis in Morocco, knowing that France's full invilvement there had Britain uneasy. First in 1905 he attempts to sway the Sultan there by offering his full support and peruading him to reject French reforms. But after a conference, Germany is rejected and embararrased, and France and Britain extend their Cordial to involve military support. Second in 1911, when a rebellion against the Sultan took place, Germany attempted to send a gunboat to support the Sultan. However, the British reject the German presense in the Atlantic and the hostility between the two magnifies. In turn, BR&FR reform their agreement to the British navy protecting French coast while French troops protect British colonies. This way France stays in contact with all the colonies and Britain can focus on German fleets.

(-> balkan crisis)

**WW1 Campaigns**

The main causes of WWI: Alliance system, pasisonate Germany, global economy.

Battles took place sequentially in Serbia, Belgium-France, Africa, Asia-Pacific front

In Africa, Germany wanted to divert the forces from Europe to Africa to include the Indian and South African soldiers. But this was a failed campaign with no results.

In Asia, Japan (an ally of Entente powers) occupies German colonies, New Guinea, and Samoa.

In the Mediterranean, the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers whilst Russia joins the allies. The campaigns were mostly in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Persia, Gallipoli, while some minor in North Africa and south Arabia. The local populations however joined the allies in order to gain independence from the ottomans. The arabs participated in the arab revolt, while the amenian militia participated in the armenian resistance.

In Europe:

Germany always wanted to avoid a two-front war, and in order to do this they came up with the Schliffen Plan, which focused on defeating the Western front first before moving to the East. This was a massive fail due to the Belgian resistance on the Western front, British expeditionary forces, the speed of Russian deployment, french railway mobility, and logistical shortcomings for Germany. While they were to focus on the West, they relied on Austra to stop the Russians from advancing in the East. However, they were too preoccuipied with Serbia to deal with Russia as well. This resulted in a dilemma where Germany had to choose one front to fight on and lose the other; their solution resulted in a statelmate on the Western front while things remained calm in the East. This was mostly becuase the war was fought in trenches with no major victories or defeats ever occurred.

Instead, the war was extremely destructive, resulting in very high casualties, due to all the improved technologies of the Industrial Revolution, including communication and weaponry aspects. When land progress stalled, they turned to naval bases. Britain deployed blockades on Germany to impose maximum damage and in return Germany used its effect U Boats. A famous incident was the sinking of the British ocean liner Lusitania which also affected Americans, and led to their involvement.

On the American side, the war was beneficial to their economy, and after the Lusitania sink, the public were becoming more aggressive towards the Germans; as well as the fact of the German intervention in Mexico, the idealism of Woodrow Wilson, and the Russian Revolution of 1917. In mexico, the german foerign minister sent a telegram to the german ambassador in washington, offering Mexico terms of a German-Mexican alliance vs USA in return for Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona; it also required Mexico to broker an alliance with Japan; it informed them that the U Boat attacks would continue. Once these telegrams were intercepted by the british, it caused an uproar In USA. The idealism of Wilson was that of his optimism on spreading democracy, creating a new world order to peace and justice, and ending oppressive and autocratic regimes. But when the U Boat attacks continued, this relation was broken and war preparation began in 1917 when they declared war on Germany. The Russian revolution was when the russians were fighting against the despotism of the Tsars, and peace was finally won at that side, so now the Germans could focus their efforts on the West. However, now that USA was involved with the allies, they easily defeated Germany and war was finally over on **November 11, 1918**.

**Post WW1**

While the war was still going on, the powers were already making secret bargains to divide the land and people of the empires defeated. This distortion had many negative effects that still go on today. While doing so, they offer Italy, in the Treaty of London, parts of Austria if they were to declare war on Germany. In the Middle East, they take advantage of the The Great Arab revolt that aimed for Arab independence from the Ottomans, and promised an Arab state to Sharif Hussein. Simultaneously, they also issued the Balfour Declaration which promised the Zionists a homeland in Palestine. The powers easily manipulated and seduced all these minorities with the dirty business of fake promises.

Initially Germany had goals to Dominate central Europe, create satellite states in the Baltic, annex parts of Poland, and occupy what was left of Lorraine. And even when they lost the war, they did not acknowledge that defeat and refused to sign the humiliating peace treaties.

Immediate outcome: 4 empires collapsed: Russian, Austri-Hungary, Germany, and Ottoman. Austria-Hungry becomes Austria, Hungary, Czechslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Romania. In Germany, a president rose who signed the new Weimer Republic which was imposed all the German people; this led the way to Fascism. The ottoman empire was split up with the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which either made some countries independent, or put them or French and British mandates.

USA emerges as the strongest victor, and Woodrow Wilson attempts to press on his idealism in his 14 points based on no annexations and no indemnities. France loses the most, they had the greatest damage and required indemnities and annexations to provide a buffer zone between them and Germany, aka Rhineland and Saar. However, the Anglo-American guarantee of french safety failed because the American senate refused it and britian ignored it.

The Germans are forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles, which included the war guilt clause holding them and their allies responsible for all losses. They also had to limit their armies and fleets, give up properties, and pay up an impossible debt.

Conclusion: the victors divided the lands irrespective of the local’s aspirtations, which resulted in more problems in the Eastern Europe and Middle East. The New Europe was born that rid of old feudal systems, and included stronger nation states with better social classes. However, it carried the seeds to WWII