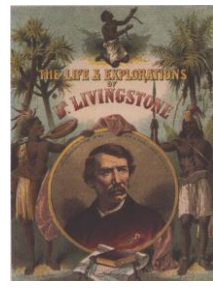
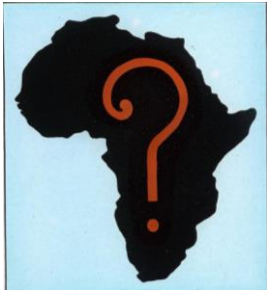
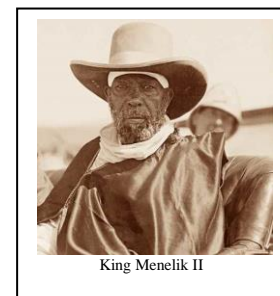
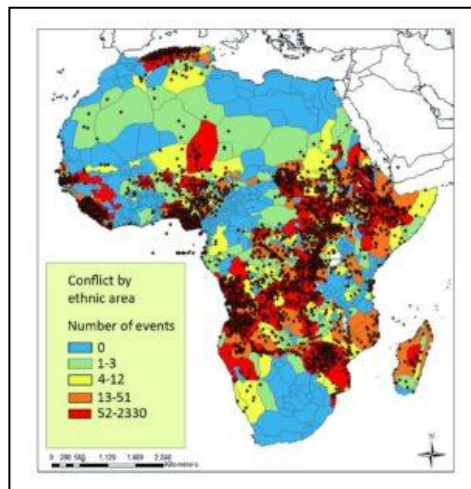
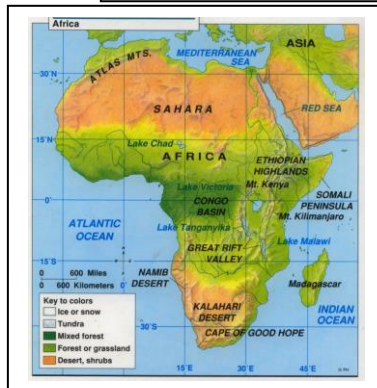
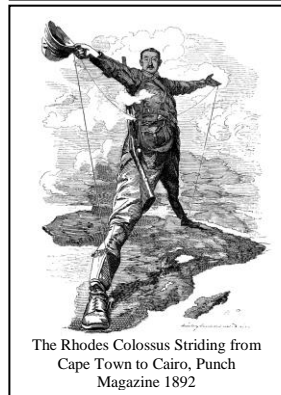
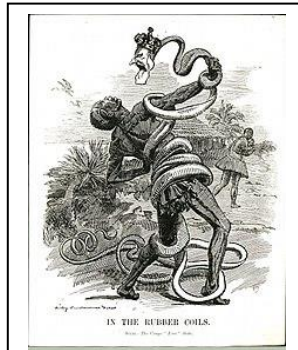
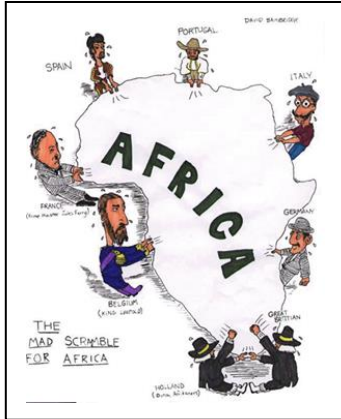


## Aim #16: How did European Imperialism Impact Africa?



King Leopold of Belgium



King Menelik II

### Mini Lecture

- The British acquired South Africa from the Dutch in the early 1800s. Dutch farmers, **Boers**, resented British rule & moved North to escape the British.
- The Boers were met with resistance by the Zulu tribe, whose lands were being invaded. The Boers easily defeated them with superior weapons.
- In 1867, diamonds were discovered near Boer territory & became the riches source of diamonds in the world. A few years later, gold was also discovered. A leading developer of the gold & diamond industries was **Cecil Rhodes**- who forced the African population off their lands to work in mines.
- Until the 1850, Europeans only conquered coastal Africa. Interior Africa had too many obstacles such as rainforests, deserts, & diseases. Africa was called the “**Dark Continent**” because it was unknown to Europeans.
- One missionary/explorer, **Dr. David Livingstone**, crisscrossed E. Africa for 30 years & became a trailblazer- showing the interior is navigable.
- American journalist/explorer, **Henry M. Stanley’s** expeditions in the **Congo** in 1870s (he was searching for Livingstone) increased interest of Europeans in this region.
- **King Leopold II** of Belgium hired Stanley to set up trade posts & eventually claimed the right to rule over all of Congo- his own personal colony- benefitting about \$1 billion.
- Leopold’s agents forced the Congolese to work for him in brutal conditions, harvesting ivory & rubber for no payments. Workers’ hands were cut off in order to terrorize others into submission. Workers who could not meet their quotas were beaten or killed. To ensure that they did not run away, their spouses were held captive. About 3-8 million people perished under Leopold’s reign of terror in the Congo.
- This brutal treatment became documented and international outrage forced Leopold to give up his power over the Congo to the Belgian government.
- As European countries increased their desire for overseas colonies, they came into conflict with each other. Their push for colonial holdings surged after 1875 & the result was a “**scramble for Africa**”- which caused an effort to create some diplomatic rule to govern colonization. One such example was the **Berlin Conference** of 1884, which set rules for dividing Africa (no Africans were present). 90% of African was then imperialized.
- Africans were easily conquered because they were divided by rival tribes & were no match to European’s superior weapons.
- Imperial rivalries often reshaped borders drastically, with little regard for traditional cultures because they thought an African is an African. In some cases, people of various cultures & enemies were thrown together in the same political state. These randomly drawn borders caused major tensions & wars among Africans until today.
- Imperialism had tremendous effects on Africans, who were forced to adapt to the conditions imposed upon them by outsiders. They lost their lands, culture, resources, & the right to rule themselves. In response, many resisted, but with varying degrees of success.
- In the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879, the Zulus resisted British expansion. They were victorious in the first battle, but were then defeated.
- Ethiopia, under **King Menelik II**, successfully resisted & defeated Italy in the Battle of Adowa and remained independent- inspiring later Africans in their battles for independence.

### Review Questions:

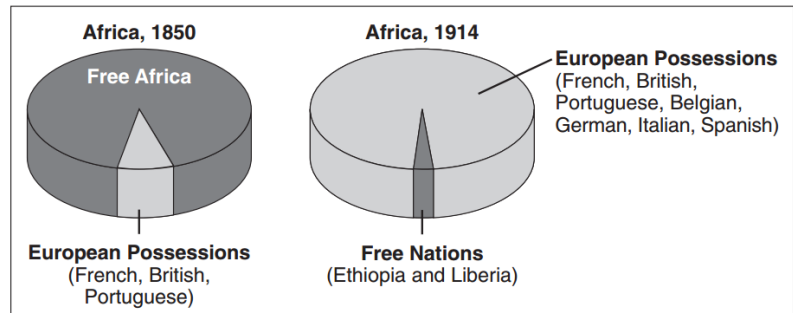
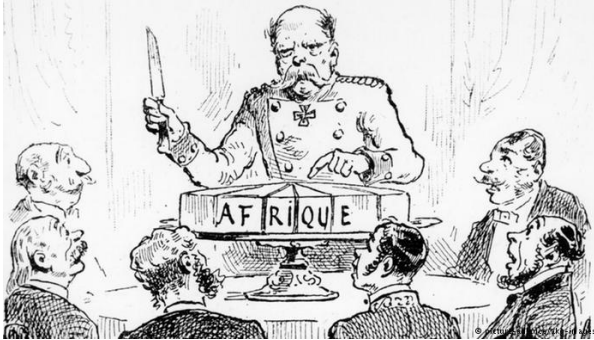
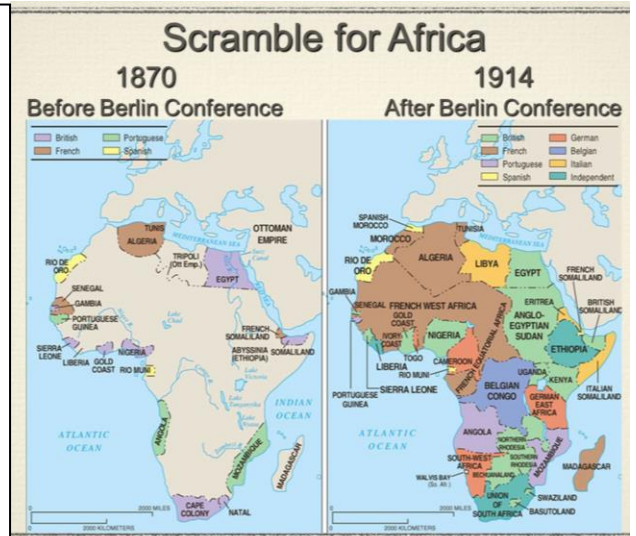
1. Why was European contact with Africa limited & how did that change?
2. Why were Europeans so successful in conquering Africa?
3. How did Africans resist Imperialism? Were they successful?
4. What were the impacts of imperialism on Africa?
5. Describe the conditions in the Congo under King Leopold.

## What was the historical context for European imperialism in Africa?

**Directions:** Examine the map, graphs, and text below and Answer the accompanying questions.

### The Berlin Conference and Scramble for Africa

Though Europeans had trading posts on the coasts of Africa and Asia starting in the 15th and 16th centuries, they were unable to move into the interior of either continent because of resistance from the people who lived there and disease. This changed in the 19th century as the Industrial Revolution fueled European desire for more natural resources like gold, oil, rubber, diamonds, and ivory from Africa to fuel industrial production of goods and new innovations like the steamboat, advanced weapons, and medicine that lessened the effects of diseases like malaria led to the colonization of Africa. European nations competed for control of Africa during a period of time called the **Scramble for Africa** (1881-1914). During the Scramble for Africa, Europeans went from controlling 10% of Africa in 1870 to 90% of the continent in 1914. By 1914, only Ethiopia and Liberia were independent African nations not under the control of European powers. Competition for control over Africa led to disputes between European countries and those disagreements led to the **Berlin Conference** (1884-1885). The Berlin Conference of 1884–85 was a meeting held in Berlin, Germany and organized by Otto von Bismarck, first chancellor of Germany. The purpose of the Berlin Conference was to regulate European colonization and trade in Africa by identifying which European nations would be allowed to control which parts of Africa. During the Berlin Conference, the European nations divided Africa up between themselves on maps, often drawing lines on the maps without any knowledge of the people who lived there and dividing up cultural, linguistic, and ethnic groups. No Africans were invited to the Berlin Conference and no Africans took part in deciding how the continent would be “carved up.” In the following decades, European governments sought to take over and control the sections of Africa that they agreed upon in Berlin in a little over three months.



1. What was the Scramble for Africa?
2. Who organized the Berlin Conference & why was it organized?
3. Who attended the Berlin Conference? Who was not invited to attend the Berlin Conference? Why were they not invited?
4. What impact did the Berlin Conference have on Africa?

### South Africa

#### The 1913 Natives' Land Act

In 1910, the British and the Boers formed the Union of South Africa, a country that was part of the British Empire but was autonomously governed, meaning that the people who controlled the government in South Africa could rule it without much interference from the British government. In the first decade of the Union of South Africa, Boer representatives gained influence in the government by winning elections and passed laws that reflected their ideals and values over those of the British.

The Natives' Land Act of 1913 was the first law passed by the Union of South Africa parliament that enforced the legal separation of blacks and whites that was common in the Boer states before the union in 1909, but had been illegal in the British controlled parts of the country like the Cape Colony. The law was designed so that only certain areas of the country could be owned by Africans who were named, “natives.” At the time the law was passed in June 1913, it is estimated that white people made up about 20% of South Africa's population, and Africans about 70% of the population. The law mandated the following:

- 93% of the farmable and useful South African land was reserved for whites
- 7% of agricultural land was set aside on reserve for blacks
- Africans were forbidden from buying or leasing land outside those reserves, called Bantustans.
- Europeans, likewise, were unable to buy or lease land from Africans.

#### The Impact of the 1913 Natives' Land Act

- White farmers issued notices of eviction to Africans
- Africans were denied access to land which they owned or leased
- Africans who were forced to move to the reserves often could not find enough fertile land to use for crops
- African families and their livestock roamed the countryside in search of accommodation and living space
- African farmers had to work for white landowners for small wages or small pieces of land
- White farmers took over land that was previously owned or farmed on by African farmers
- The government began to offer low-interest loans to White farmers which allowed them to make improvements to their farms and buy agricultural machinery and improve their yields.
- African farmers who owned land inside and outside the reserves did not receive any aid from the government in the form of loans and found it increasingly difficult to compete with White farmers who could use improved methods and now had more land for their crops.

1. What was the 1913 Native's Land Act and how did it affect black Africans?

**To what extent did people in the 19th and 20th centuries express different points of view about the impacts of imperialism? How did these authors present their points of view to their audiences?**

**Directions:** Analyze the documents below and answer the following questions for each document.

1. Who wrote this document? What do you know about the author of this document?
2. Based on the document, explain the author's **point of view** about the impacts of imperialism.
3. explain the **author's purpose** for writing about the impact of imperialism.
4. Identify the **audience** for this document.
5. Based on the document, explain how the **audience affects the way the author presents their ideas.**

**Document 1**

Sir Frederick Lugard (1858-1945) was a British soldier, explorer of Africa, and colonial administrator who played a major role in British colonial efforts. He served as the Governor of Hong Kong (1907–1912), the last Governor of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate (1912–1914), the first High Commissioner (1900–1906) and last Governor (1912–1914) of the Northern Nigeria Protectorate and the first Governor-General of Nigeria (1914–1919). The excerpt below comes from a memoir written by Lugard at the end of his career in the British colonies and later became a handbook for others colonial administrators.

... Let it be admitted at the outset [beginning] that European brains, capital, and energy have not been, and never will be, expended [spent] in developing the resources of Africa from motives of pure philanthropy [goodwill]; that Europe is in Africa for the mutual benefit of her own industrial classes, and of the native races in their progress to a higher plane; that the benefit can be made reciprocal [equivalent], and that it is the aim and desire of civilized administration to fulfill this dual mandate. By railways and roads, by reclamation [recovery] of swamps and irrigation of deserts, and by a system of fair trade and competition, we have added to the prosperity and wealth of these lands, and [have] checked famine and disease. We have put an end to the awful misery of the slave trade and inter-tribal war, to human sacrifice and the ordeals of the witch-doctor. Where these things survive they are severely suppressed. We are endeavoring [trying] to teach the native races to conduct their own affairs with justice and humanity, and to educate them alike in letters and in industry. . . .

**Document 2**

*The Crime of the Congo* is a 1909 book by British writer and physician Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) about life for Africans in the Congo Free State under the rule of King of the Belgians, Leopold II.

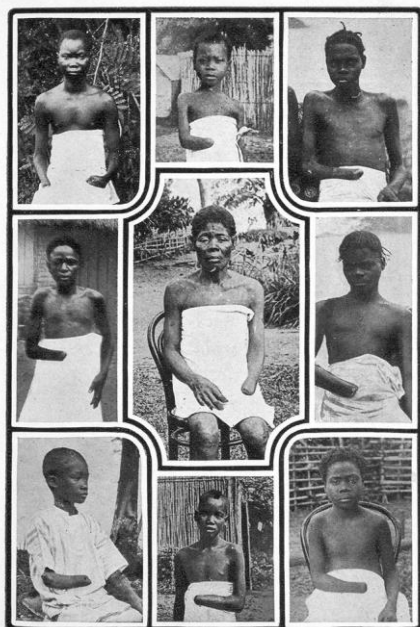
There are many of us in England who consider the crime which has been wrought in the Congo lands by King Leopold of Belgium and his followers to be the greatest which has ever been known in human annals. [...] There have been massacres of populations like that of the South Americans by the Spaniards [...]

I am convinced that the reason why public opinion has not been more sensitive upon the question of the Congo Free State, is that the terrible story has not been brought thoroughly home to the people[...]

Should he, after reading it, desire to help in the work of forcing this question to the front, he can do so in several ways. He can join the Congo Reform Association (Granville House, Arundel Street, W. C). He can write to his local member and aid in getting up local meetings to ventilate the question. Finally, he can pass this book on and purchase other copies, for any profits will be used in setting the facts before the French and German public [...]

Mr. Murphy [an American missionary] says: "The rubber question is accountable for most of the horrors perpetrated in the Congo. It has reduced the people to a state of utter despair. Each town in the district is forced to bring a certain quantity to the headquarters of the Commissary every Sunday. It is collected by force; the soldiers drive the people into the bush; if they will not go they are shot down, their left hands being cut off and taken as trophies to the Commissary. The soldiers do not care whom they shoot down, and they most often shoot poor, helpless women and harmless children. These hands — the hands of men, women and children — are placed in rows before the Commissary, who counts them to see the soldiers have not wasted the cartridges. The Commissary is paid a commission of about a penny per pound upon all the rubber he gets; it is, therefore, to his interest to get as much as he can."

**Document 3**



The photographs below were published in a pamphlet written by Mark Twain (1835-1910), an American writer, entitled *King Leopold's Soliloquy* published in 1905 that was critical of the Belgian King's rule of the Congo Free State. The Belgian government ran numerous rubber collection/production areas in the rainforest and on plantations where Congolese Africans were enslaved and forced to collect rubber. They suffered amputations for not gathering enough rubber.

FROM PHOTOGRAPHS, CONGO STATE  
 "The pictures get sneaked around everywhere," — Page 40.

#### **Document 4**

The excerpt below was published in a pamphlet written by Mark Twain (1835-1910), an American writer, entitled *King Leopold's Soliloquy* published in 1905 that was critical of the Belgian King's rule of the Congo Free State. The Belgian government ran numerous rubber collection/production areas in the rainforest and on plantations where Congolese Africans were enslaved and forced to collect rubber.

It is a majestic thought: that this, this ghastliest episode in all human history is the work of man alone; one solitary man; just a single individual--Leopold, King of the Belgians. He is personally and solely responsible for all the myriad crimes that have blackened the history of the Congo State. He is the sole master there; he is absolute. He could have prevented the crimes by his mere command; he could stop them today with a word. He withholds the word. For his pocker's sake. [...] it is a mystery, but we do not wish to look; for he is king, and it hurts us, it troubles us, by ancient and inherited instinct of shames us to see a king degraded to this aspect, and we shrink from hearing the particulars of how it happened. We shudder and turn away when we come upon them in print.

#### **Document 5**

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) was a British short-story writer, poet, and novelist. He was considered one of the most popular writers in Britain during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1899, Kipling wrote the poem "The White Man's Burden: The United States and the Philippine Islands" in response to America's conquest of the Philippines after the Spanish-American War. The poem is commonly referred to as just, "The White Man's Burden" an excerpt of which is below.

Take up the White Man's burden--  
The savage wars of peace--  
Fill full the mouth of Famine  
And bid the sickness cease;  
And when your goal is nearest  
The end for others sought,  
Watch sloth and heathen Folly  
Bring all your hopes to nought.

Take up the White Man's burden--  
No tawdry rule of kings,  
But toil of serf and sweeper--  
The tale of common things.  
The ports ye shall not enter,  
The roads ye shall not tread,  
Go mark them with your living,  
And mark them with your dead.

Take up the White Man's burden--  
And reap his old reward:  
The blame of those ye better,  
The hate of those ye guard--  
The cry of hosts ye humour  
(Ah, slowly!) toward the light:--  
"Why brought he us from bondage,  
Our loved Egyptian night?"

#### **Document 6**

Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902) was a British businessman who became wealthy by buying gold and diamond mines in South Africa. In the late 1800s, his company, De Beers, owned 90% of the world's diamond supply and continues to play a major role in the industry in the 21st century. Later in life, Rhodes became the Prime Minister of the Cape Colony. He wrote "Confessions of Faith" when he was 23 years old. It was a document that he wrote for himself and that he shared with some people that he thought were like-minded. He never formally published it.

It often strikes a man to inquire what is the chief good in life; to one the thought comes that it is a happy marriage, to another great wealth, and as each seizes on his idea, for that he more or less works for the rest of his existence. To myself thinking over the same question the wish came to render myself useful to my country...I contend that we are the finest race in the world and that the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race. Just fancy those parts that are at present inhabited by the most despicable specimens of human beings what an alteration there would be if they were brought under Anglo-Saxon influence, look again at the extra employment a new country added to our dominions gives. I contend that every acre added to our territory means in the future birth to some more of the English race who otherwise would not be brought into existence. Added to this the absorption of the greater portion of the world under our rule simply means the end of all wars...Africa is still lying ready for us it is our duty to take it. It is our duty to seize every opportunity of acquiring more territory and we should keep this one idea steadily before our eyes that more territory simply means more of the Anglo-Saxon race more of the best the most human, most honourable race the world possesses.

To forward such a scheme what a splendid help a secret society would be a society not openly acknowledged but who would work in secret for such an object.

Let us form the same kind of society [as] a Church for the extension of the British Empire. A society which should have members in every part of the British Empire working with one object and one idea we should have its members placed at our universities and our schools and should watch the English youth passing through their hands just one perhaps in every thousand would have the mind and feelings for such an object, he should be tried in every way, he should be tested whether he is enduring, possessed of eloquence, disregarding of the petty details of life, and if found to be such, then elected and bound by oath to serve for the rest of his life in his County. He should then be supported if without means by the Society and sent to that part of the Empire where it was felt he was needed.