

Imperialism Rational

- Definition
 - o Empire building
 - Taking over colonies
 - 19th century
 - Mostly in Africa and Asia
- Colonialism
 - o 16th-18th Century
 - Mostly in Americas
 - o New World
 - Spanish in South America
 - Lost colonies in Napoleonic Era
 - Maintained control of Caribbean territories till 1898
 - French in North America
 - Sold territory to United States
 - Lost to British during Seven Years War
 - Dutch in North American and Caribbean
 - Lost North American holdings in 17th century
 - Held onto Netherlands Antilles till 1950s
 - Portuguese in South America
 - Brazil declares independence in 1822
 - British Dominant
 - Lost United States
 - Dominance in Caribbean
 - Canada main territory
 - o United to Britain in 1840
 - o Pacific and Indian Ocean
 - Spanish heavy presence in Philippines
 - Lost to United States in 1898
 - British domination in Australia and New Zealand
 - Australia used as penal colony
 - New Zealand approached much more tentatively
 - Russia in control of North Pacific
 - Spanning eastern Asia and Western North America
 - o Alaska sold to United States in 1867
 - Dutch struggling for control of straits of Malacca
 - Dutch control of Indonesia
 - British control of Malaysia
 - French control of Indo-China
 - South Asian dominance by British
 - Control of India
 - o Maintained control till mid-20th Century
- New Colonial Empires
 - o 19th Century
 - Emphasis on Africa and Asia

Reasoning for Imperialism

- Humanist Rational

- Spread “Civilization”
 - Missionary activity
 - Conversion to “superior” religion
 - Medical improvements
 - Protect natives from abuse
 - Education
 - Build up infrastructure
 - “White Man’s Burden”
 - Rudyard Kipling
- Faults
 - Brutal labor practices
 - Sale of harmful objects to natives
 - Drugs, alcohol, weapons
 - Destruction of native culture
 - Language and religion mostly
 - Europeans mostly separate from natives
 - No permanent settlement
 - Exception South Africa
- Economic Rational
 - Markets, resource and investment
 - Europe coming out of a long term depression
 - 1873-1890s
 - Resources
 - Rubber, coffee, palm oil, sugar, cocoa, tea, peanuts
 - Faults
 - Still traded with United States
 - Africa got few of economic benefits
 - Britain sent more goods to Belgium in 1890s than they did to all of Africa
 - Costs higher than benefits
 - More expensive to establish, administer, and police than money made from imperialism
- Political Rational
 - Aggressive nationalism
 - National glory/prestige
 - Military supremacy
 - Maintain balance of power
 - **Jingoism**
 - Willing to go to war to secure foreign policy
 - Take land to prevent rivals from getting it
 - Romantic adventure
 - Game of the rich and powerful
 - Excessive populations
 - Principles of Malthus
 - Very few colonies settled
 - Scientific Exploration
 - Conquest of exploration
 - David Livingstone and the source of the Nile
 - Race for the Poles



- Domination of Indigenous People
 - Orientalism
 - Right to exploit conquered territories and decide what is best for them
 - Even well-meaning reforms assumed inferiority of natives
 - **Social Darwinism**
 - Natural superiority of some cultures
 - Europeans believe they could not learn anything from non-western cultures
 - Aggressive
 - Natives were obstacles to progress
 - Led to terrible treatment of natives
 - Ex. Australia and Belgian Congo
 - Technical advantages over natives
 - Industrial advantages
 - Railroads, steamships, telegraphs
 - Military advantages
 - Searchlights, machine guns, artillery, observation balloons
 - Economic Exploitation
 - Exploited natural and human resources
 - With little regard to health and safety of native
 - Forced labor
 - Production quotas
 - Natives lost rights to property
 - Destroyed natural hunting/grazing patterns
 - European monopoly on production
 - Destroyed handicraft industries

