

World History

Perspectives of Colonization and Imperialism

Name: _____

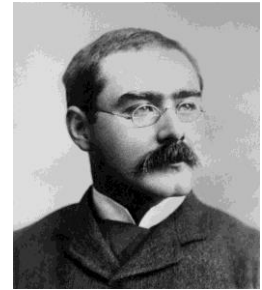
Section: _____

Score: ____/5

Directions: Read each of the following excerpts that deal with the question of colonialism in Africa. For each document explain if you think it is for, or against colonialism (and provide evidence from the article to support), then explain what might influence their bias or Point of View (POV). And finally what is the overall message of the excerpt.

Document 1: The famous poem “The White Man’s Burden” written by American journalist Rudyard Kipling in 1899 in response to America’s take-over of the Philippines

“Take up the White Man's burden--
Send forth the best ye breed--
Go bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need;
To wait in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild--
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
Half-devil and half-child.”



For or against colonization? Evidence.

Possible Bias/POV

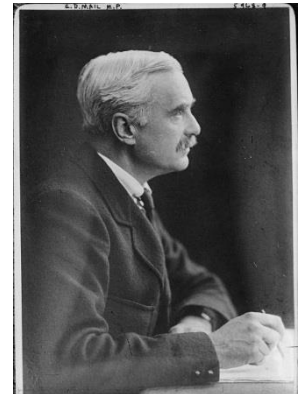
Message

Document 2: Edward Morel, British Journalist, 1903 an excerpt from “The Black Man’s Burden”, an article written in response to the poem White Man’s Burden

“It is the Africans who carry the Black Man’s Burden. In hewing out for himself a fixed abode in Africa, the man has massacred the African in heaps...

What the partial occupation of his soil by the white man has failed to do...what the machine gun and the rifle, the slave gang, labor in the bowels of the earth and the lash, have failed to do; what imported measles, smallpox, and syphilis have failed to do; whatever the overseas slave trade failed to do; the power of modern capitalistic exploitation, assisted by modern engines of destruction, may yet succeed in doing....

The African is really helpless against the material gods of the white man, as embodied in the trinity of imperialism, capitalistic exploitation, and militarism.”



For or against colonization? Evidence.

Possible Bias/POV

Message

Document 3: The following was filed in the Report of the East African Commission in 1925 by the Chief Native Commissioner about the state of Kenya.

“You may travel through the length and breadth of Kitui Reserve and you will fail to find in it any enterprise, building, or structure of any sort which Government has provided at the cost of more than a

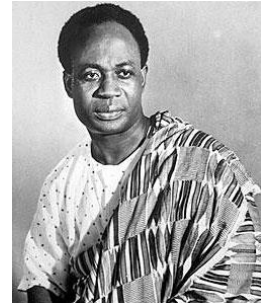
few sovereigns for the direct benefit of the natives. The place was little better than a wilderness when I first knew it 25 years ago, and it remains a wilderness to-day as far as our efforts are concerned. If we left that district to-morrow the only permanent evidence of our occupation would be the buildings we have erected for the use of our tax-collecting staff.

For or against colonization? Evidence.

Possible Bias/POV

Message

Document 4: Kwame Nkrumah, the leader in the fight for Ghana's independence, described the movement with these words which were published in his autobiography that was published in 1957.



“Independence for the Gold Coast was my aim. It was a colony and I have always regarded colonialism as the policy by which a foreign power binds territories to herself by political ties, with the primary object of promoting her own economic advantage . . . Thus we have witnessed the greatest awakening ever seen on this earth of suppressed and exploited peoples against the powers that have kept them in subjection. This, without a doubt, is the most significant happening of the twentieth century.”

For or against colonization? Evidence.

Possible Bias/POV

Message

Document 5: This excerpt, from the “Declaration against Colonialism,” was adopted by the United Nations in 1960.

“The General Assembly, Mindful of the determination proclaimed by the peoples of the world in the Charter of the United Nations to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person . . . , Solemnly proclaims the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms . . . And to this end Declares that:
The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation . . . is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and co-operation. All peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.”

For or against colonization? Evidence.

Possible Bias/POV

Message

Document 6: These are the words of Nelson Mandela as he fights for the end of apartheid in South Africa. He used these words at his trial in 1964 for plotting sabotage against the government of South Africa.



“During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African People. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”

_____ For or against colonization? Evidence. _____ Possible Bias/POV _____ Message _____

Document 7: Jomo Kenyatta, leader of in 1965.the fight for independence for Kenya, and its first president, said the following



“The land is ours. When Europeans came, they kept us back and took our land. The freedom tree can only grow when you pour blood on it.”

_____ For or against colonization? Evidence. _____ Possible Bias/POV _____ Message _____

Thesis Activity: Write a thesis statement that would set up an answer to the following prompt:

“How did the views of colonialism in Africa change during the 20th century?”
