

Age of Imperialism



THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.—*The Journal, Detroit.*
From *The Detroit Journal*, February 18, 1899

A New Period of Imperialism

- ▣ European colonization during the Age of Exploration differed from that of the Age of Imperialism
 - Now, Europeans wanted complete control over the lives of their subjects
 - The “Westernization” of the world

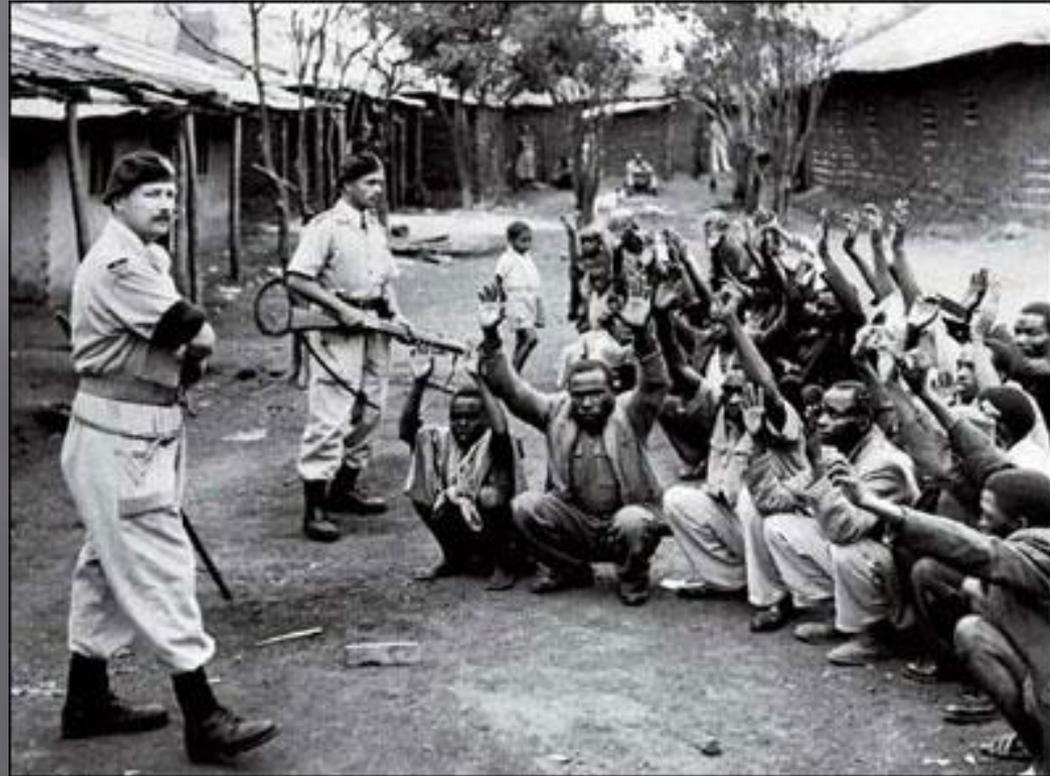


European Expansion, ca. 1400-1900

	Colonization 15 th -18 th Centuries	Imperialism 19 th Century
Major players	Britain, France, Spain, Holland, Portugal	Britain, France, Germany, Italy
Areas Colonized	Coastal ports in Africa and Asia; Interior in the Americas	Coastal and Interior regions in Africa and Asia
Chief Motivations	"Gold, God, Glory"	Strategic naval bases, exclusive access to resources and markets, national prestige
Goods sought	Gold, slaves, spices, rum, molasses, sugar	Rubber, minerals, diamonds, tea, coffee
Political control	Direct control in Americas; Native control in Africa and Asia	Direct control or indirect control (sphere of influence or protectorate)
Relationship with colonized	Respect for native rulers; disdain for cultural practices	"White Man's Burden"; disdain for all things native

What is imperialism?

- ▣ The seizure of a country or territory by a stronger country
- ▣ Subsequently, the stronger country dominated the political, economic, and social life of the weaker countries



Why imperialism?

- ▣ It's quite simple actually – the industrial revolution!
- ▣ Industrial countries competed for natural resources and customers
 - As they exhausted their own resources, they looked for new (and cheaper) supply
 - They also looked for new markets of people to sell their goods to!
 - ▣ Prior to 1914, how beneficial were these new markets?



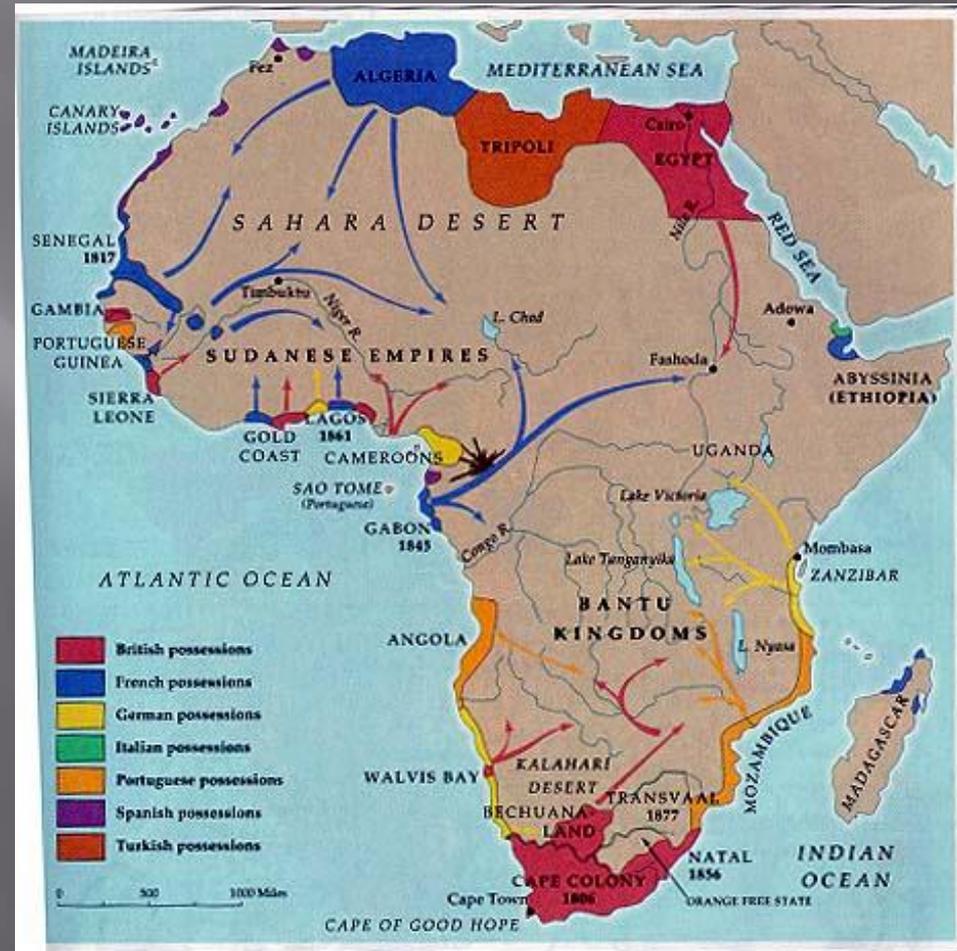
Other forces behind Imperialism

- Nationalism
 - The race for world dominance!
 - Colonies = Prestige!
 - Maintain a balance of power
- Belief in European Superiority
 - Based on theory of Social Darwinism
 - Heinrich von Treitschke
- Tool of Mass Politics
 - Divert attention away from domestic issues
- Missionary aspect
 - Bring civilization and Christianity to foreign lands
 - “White man’s burden”



Africa before Imperialism

- Composed of hundreds of ethnic and linguistic groups
 - More than 1,000 languages
- Since 1450, Europeans only controlled 10% of the land (the coasts)
- Disease, geography, and African armies kept them from accessing the interior



Interest in the Congo

- ▣ Travels of African explorers peaked curiosity among Western readers
- ▣ King Leopold II of Belgium hired reporter Henry Stanley to obtain land in the Congo River Valley
 - Claimed he would abolish slavery and promote Christianity
 - Instead, he forced Africans to collect rubber



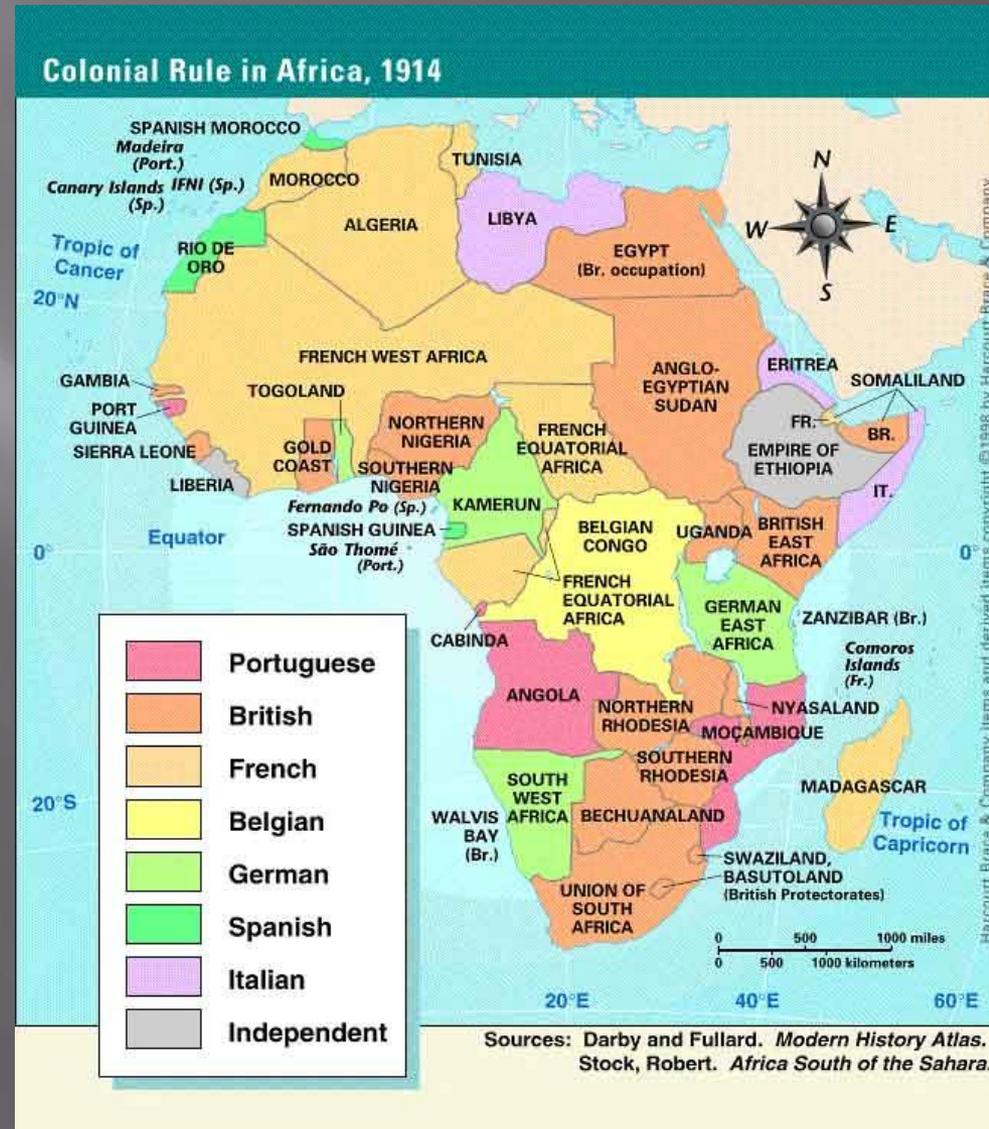
What allowed the Europeans to be successful?

- ▣ External factors:
 - The Maxim gun, world's first automatic machine gun
 - Improvement in transportation
 - ▣ Steamboats, railroads
 - Invention of quinine, which protected against Malaria
- ▣ Internal factors:
 - Diversity among Africans discouraged unification, which helped Europeans



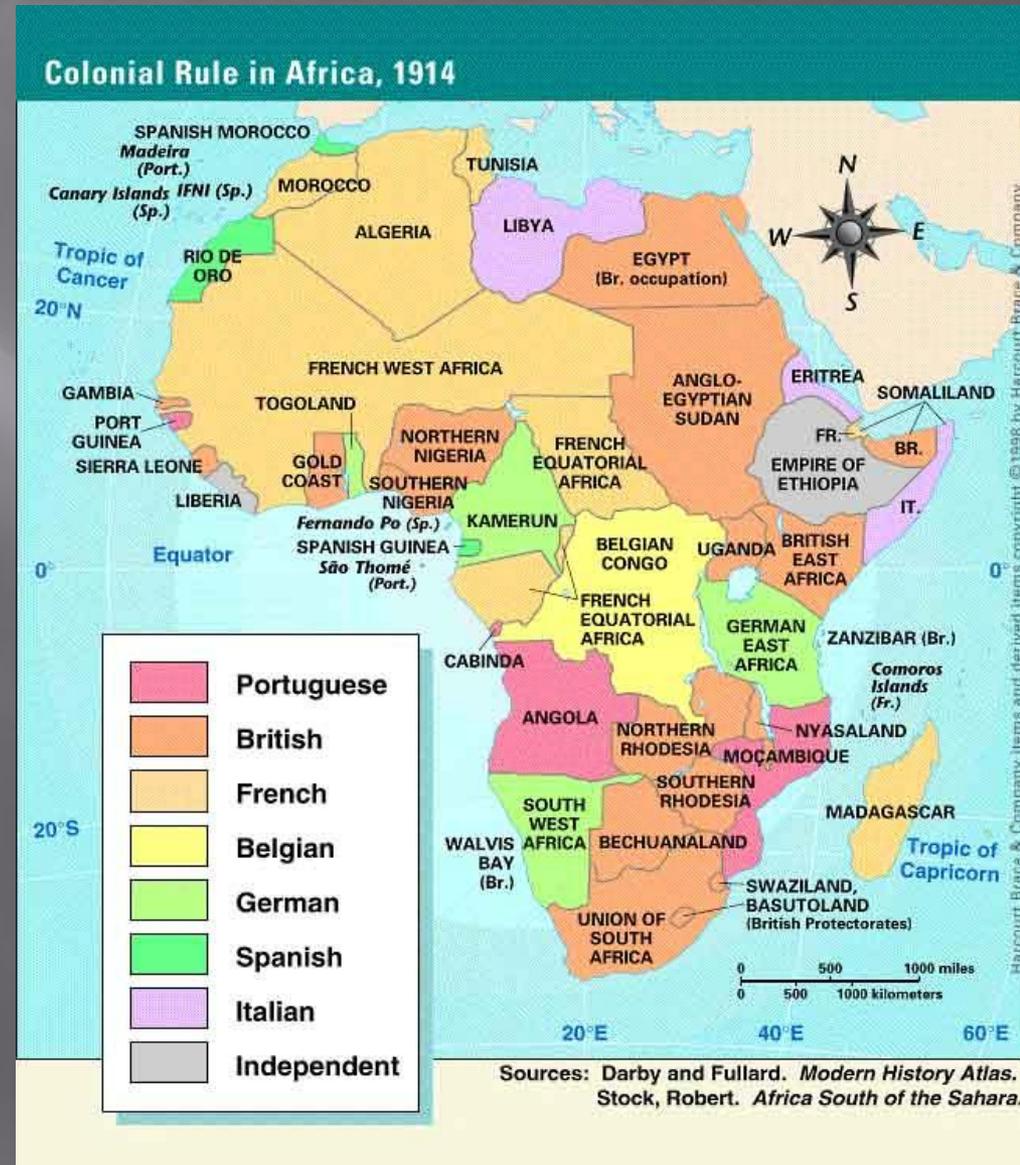
The Scramble for Africa

- Berlin Conference 1884-85
 - Called by Ferry and Bismarck
 - 14 European countries divided Africa up amongst themselves
 - Recognition based upon “effective occupation”
 - Result: Gold rush!
- Legacy:
 - No African nations were invited
 - No concern for African ethnic or linguistic groups
 - Only Ethiopia and Liberia remained independent



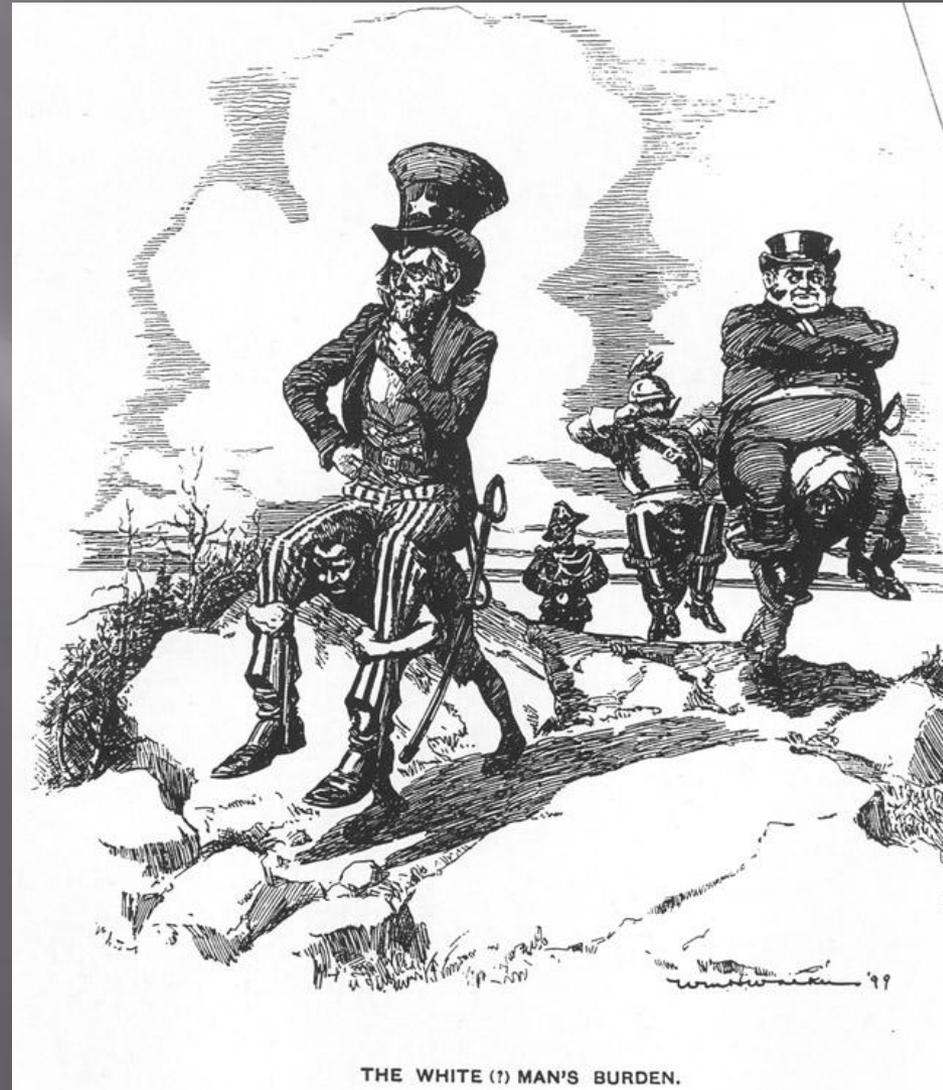
Rising international tension

- ▣ Fashoda Crisis of 1898
 - After British victory at Omdurman, they found a French force had beat them to the south Sudan
 - On the brink of war, the French backed down
 - The British could continue their plan to unite the entire west coast of Africa
 - ▣ Cecil Rhodes – Cape to Cairo railway



Critics of Imperialism

- ▣ Socialists
 - J.A. Hobson – *Imperialism*
 - Lenin
 - Delayed the inevitable proletarian revolution!
- ▣ Humanitarians
 - Edward Morel – *Black Man's Burden*
 - Henry Labouchere – *Brown Man's Burden*
 - Joseph Conrad – *The Heart of Darkness*



THE WHITE (?) MAN'S BURDEN.

Different Forms of Control

- Colony
 - A territory governed internally by a foreign power
 - Ex: India after Sepoy Mutiny
- Protectorate
 - A territory controlled by an outside power
 - Ex: Cuba under USA
- Sphere of Influence
 - An outside power claims exclusive trading rights in an area
 - Ex: China
- Economic Imperialism
 - An independent country controlled by private businesses
 - Ex: British East India Company in India



Negative Effects of Colonization

- ▣ Spread of smallpox
- ▣ Increase in famines due to creation of cash crop economies
- ▣ Loss of traditional African culture
- ▣ Creation of artificial boundaries
 - Unnaturally combined or divided groups
 - Still causes problems today!



Positive Effects of Colonization

- ▣ Reduction in local warfare
- ▣ Increased life expectancy due to better sanitation and hospitals
- ▣ Increase in literacy due to schools
- ▣ Economic expansion and modernization of African infrastructure



Colonization of the Pacific Rim

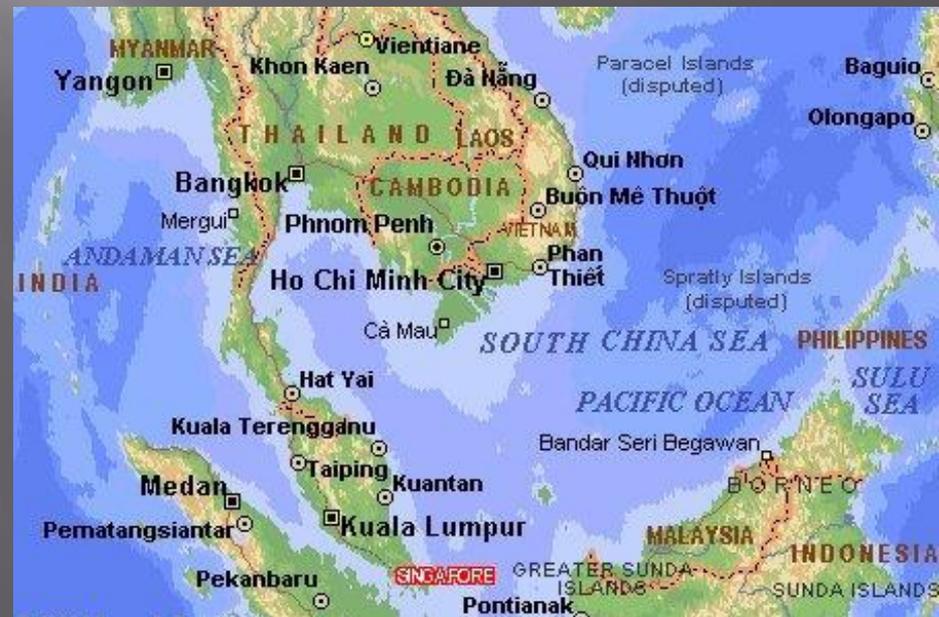
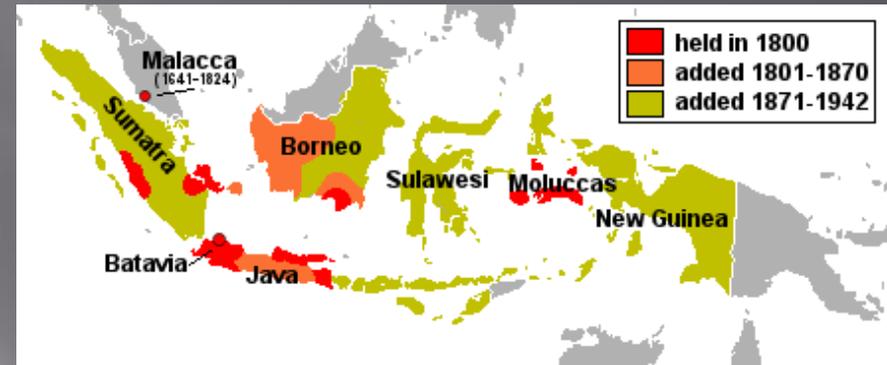
- During the 18th century, Europeans rushed to colonize Southeast Asia
 - Strategic location on the way to China
 - Perfect for the development of plantation agriculture



Colonies in Southeast Asia

- ▣ Dutch
 - Controlled Indonesia
 - Oil, tin, and rubber
 - Dutch colonists made it home and set up rigid class system

- ▣ British
 - Controlled Singapore, Malaysia, and Burma
 - Tin and rubber
 - Problem: Brought Chinese workers to Malaysia who now make up majority



Colonies in Southeast Asia

- ▣ French
 - Indochina (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia)
 - Rice
 - Direct control led to violent resistance
- ▣ Siam (Thailand)
 - Independent
 - Served as buffer between British and French colonies
 - King ushered in modernization



US Imperialism in Asia

- ▣ Philippines
 - Attained after the Spanish-American War
 - Filipino nationalists fought the US for their own independence
 - US economic influence
- ▣ Hawaii
 - American plantation owners overthrew the Queen in 1893
 - Declared Hawaii to be a republic
 - Annexed in 1898



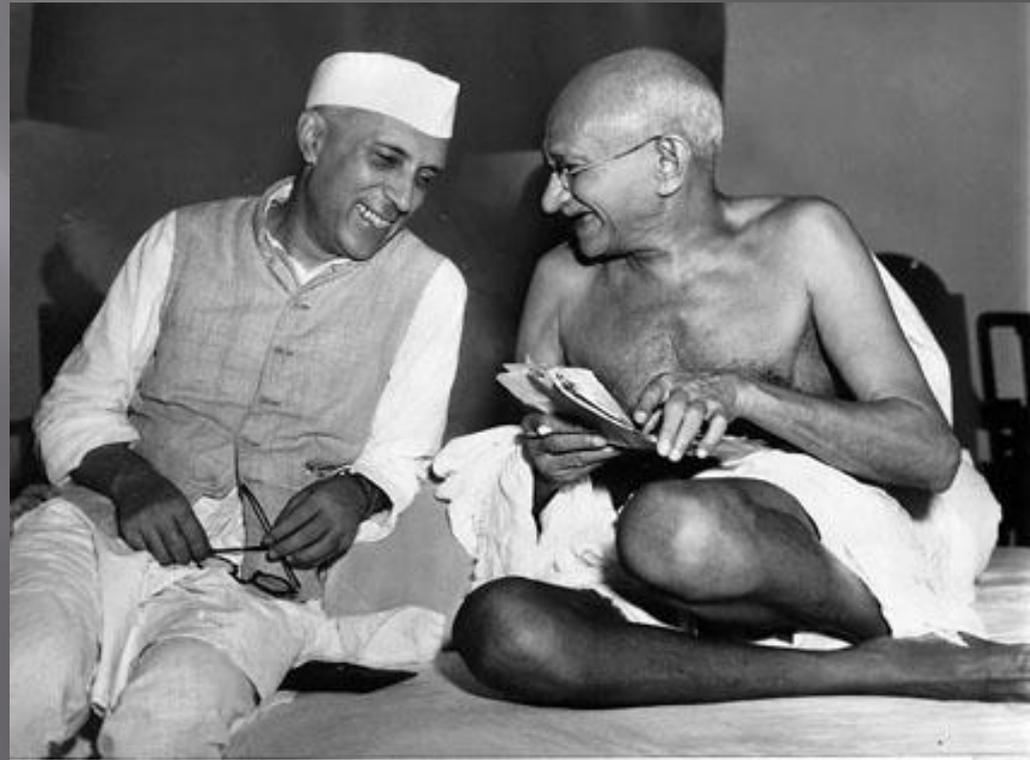
Native Response to Imperialism

- ▣ Traditionalists
 - Initial reaction of most non-Western countries
 - Preservation at all costs!
- ▣ Westernizers
 - Independence may only lie in one's ability to adopt Western culture
 - Modernize or perish!
- ▣ Nonconformists
 - Imperialism incompatible with human dignity
 - Proponents of liberalism and nationalism



“Jewel in the Crown”

- ▣ Sepoy Mutiny
 - Cause: Religious insensitivity
 - Result: Direct control of India
- ▣ Viceroyalty of India
 - Created a Western-educated Indian bureaucracy
 - Modernization of Indian economy
 - Creation of unified state
- ▣ Rise of Indian Nationalism
 - Indian National Congress
 - Muslim League



Meiji Restoration

- ▣ Cause: Western humiliation of Tokugawa shogunate
- ▣ Result: “Westernizer” Mutsuhito gains gov’t control
 - Adopted the “Dual Revolution” in order to strengthen the state
 - Became an imperialist power in East Asia



Fall of an ancient empire

- Domestic peace destroyed by Sino-Japanese War in 1894
- Result: Manchu dynasty becomes increasingly influenced by foreigners
 - Creation of spheres of influence
 - US Open Door Policy
- Growth of Chinese Nationalism
 - Boxer Rebellion
 - Revolutionary alliance topples Manchu in 1912

