Imperialism Unit

Assignment 1

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**The New Imperialism 1870 to 1914**

-conquest of Africa and Asia

-started out with the idea to civilize the people, turned into a material enterprise

-4 features make it different from old imperialism

-Imperialism adopted as an official policy—replaced empires governed by traders/companies

-new nations entered in race and changed it

-Belgium, Germany, Italy, United States, and Japan

-Britain control over the planet threatened—more competition

-political objectives of imperialism changed—wanted territorial occupation and political conquest instead of informal influence

-new ideological mission—believed in an unbreakable gap between Europe and colonial subjects

-moved away from the goal of civilizing empire to securing and consolidating rule through force

**Europe Transformed: Explain the New Imperialism**

-lots of changes made it happen

*Technology*

-steamships, new weapons, and quinine allowed Europeans to penetrate Africa and take Burma and China

-iron clad warships with steam engines—navigate rivers

-telegraph made it easier to mobilize military

-dynamite made it easier to build infrastructure

-modern medicine made it safe to live there

*Nationalism*

-propelled the movement forward

-became more aggressive and exclusionary

-no longer associated with the liberal left

-linked with the mass politics of the right

-imperial conquest seen a sign of national vigor and prestige

-played a role in the rise of political and economic order—new countries became world powers—USA, Germany, Japan—challenged British global dominance

-France became a third rate power

-Britain and France looked to expand empires to regain prestige—US, Germany, Japan responded by making their own empires

*Economic Factors*

-colonies are markets for industrial goods, sources of raw materials and cash crops, as well as places to invest money

-Europeans started to see colonies as a buffer against economic recession

-abandoned free trade for more mercantilist policies

-raised trade barriers in the domestic market and colonies were protected economic spheres

-empire seen as an essential outlet for surpluses of goods—protect against over production

*Political Motives*

-the importance of the nation state made strategic and territorial ambitions important

-jockeying for political position

-Kaiser Wilhelm built up the German navy to rival the British

-Italy wanted an empire to achieve great power status

*Cultural Incentives*

-nation states sought to unify citizens—shift allegiance from local community to the nation

-colonial empires allowed all a nation’s citizens (peasants, workers, aristocrats) to see themselves as above the colonial subjects

-substituted racial hierarchies for hierarchies of class

**The Scramble for Africa**

-between 1880 and 1912 seven European countries took over almost all of Africa

-only Abyssinia (Ethiopia) and Liberia remained independent

*The Berlin Conference*

-attempt to settle the question of how Africa should be settled—laid the ground rules for colonization

-led by Otto von Bismarck between 1884 and 1885

-huge deal in European diplomacy—showed cooperation between nations

-Bismarck allowed Britain and France to take over most of Africa

-they felt compensated for the loss of power in Europe

-approved the principle that a costal settlement by Europeans gave them the rights to the land behind it as long as they could establish order

-for Africans, redrew the map and put previously separate ethnic groups and politics into a single colony

-centralized power in a previously de-centralized landscape

-used the artificial term “tribe” to lump people together

-extended European abolition of slavery and the slave trade to Africa (although most Africans likely did not see the difference)

-humanitarianism gave them a reason for conquest

-forced labor continued

*Wars of Conquest*

-fierce wars took over Africa (1880s to 1910)

-European Advantages:

-footholds on coasts provided them with supplies and a base of operations

-divisions among the Africans

-technology advantages-guns

*New Imperial Nations*

-Belgium-King Leopold II took over the Congo

-major power in Africa

-the Congo was 76 times the size of Belgium

-Germany-few colonies until Wilhelm came to the throne and Bismarck was dismissed

-started a new era of foreign policy

-colonies started as missions

-posed a threat to France and Britain

-demanded their own sphere of influence

-Agadir Incidnet-1911

-German chancellor sent a gun boat to Morocco to intimidate the French

-resolved diplomatically

-the French saw it as evidence of a belligerent diplomatic stance

-Portugal-enlarged Angolan holdings and established Portuguese East Africa (aka Mozambique)

-extended wars of resistance

-Italy-only nation to be defeated by an African nation

-Eritrea and Somaliland (aka Somalia) seized by Italy in 1889

-the Italians failed to take Abyssinia (aka Ethiopia)

-defeated by king Menelik II’s troops

-Italy took over Libya in 1912

*France*

-dominated West and North Africa

-started in Algeria and expanded all over

-squeezed Italian and British interests

-took over Tunisia

-by 1895 France owned French West Africa, the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Guinea, and Mali

-1897-French Congo (aka the Republic of the Congo)

-1900-linked up all its possessions by taking over the Lake Chad region

-1911-created French Equatorial Africa by combining Chad and the French Congo

-took Madagascar and ran sugar plantations with forced labor

*Britain and the Boer War*

-the British wanted a rail road from Cairo to Cape Town—spanning their entire African empire

-late 1880s they looked to consolidate their hold on Egypt and the Sudan

-shared financial control over Egypt with France

-France financed the Suez Canal

-the British pushed the French out of Egypt in the 1870s and 1880s and claimed Egypt as a protectorate in 1882

-in 1885 moved to take the Sudan and met Islamists resistance

-tried again in 1896 and finally defeated the Sudanese in 1898

-allowed the British to link up Egypt with holdings in East Africa

-chartered the Royal Niger Company—under George Goldie to help palm oil merchants

-later expanded into Nigeria

-from the Cape Colony the British fought the Zulus in the Anglo-Zulu War of 1878-1879

-led by Cecil Rhodes, the British took Bechuanaland (Botswana) in 1885, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in 1889, and Nyasaland (Malawi) in 1893

-separated German South West Africa (Namibia) and German East Africa (Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and parts of Mozambique)

-threatened the independent Afrikaner republics north of the Cape Colony, which led to the Boer War of 1899 to 1902

-discovered diamonds in the Afrikaner Republics in 1860 and gold in 1880

-by 1890 overrun by the British and surrounded by British colonies

-1899 Afrikaners declared war

-British forces quickly took over Afrikaner cities, but a skillful guerilla resistance took two years to put down

-British destroyed homes and forced Afrikaners into concentration camps— disease and starvation killed 20,000

-initially a patriotic feeling took over Britain, but soon the politicians and public were tired of the war

-1910 the British established the Union of South Africa which implemented the Afrikaner policy of Apartheid (the legal separation of black and white)

*Intra-European Conflict in Africa*

-turn of the century more competition led to more intra-European conflict

-Fashoda-the British and French clashed

-Britain wanted to combine North and South possessions on the Nile and the French opposed it

-after weeks of threats, the French backed down

-French agreed to recognize the British control of the Nile and the British agreed to recognize French West Africa

**Imperialism Assignment #2**

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**Conquests in Asia**

-second sight of expansion

*The Middle East*

-late 19th Century the British began to withdraw support from the Ottoman Empire

-they no longer needed it after the Suez Canal opened in 1869

-the Ottoman Empire was poor and full of internal conflict

*South and Central Asia*

-India-Jewel of the Crown—most valuable British colony because of trade and capital investment

-huge investment in the rail road

-chief export market for British goods

-Britain was obsessed with protecting India from other expansionist powers (mostly Russia)

-Crimean war—Russia vs. a combined force of Britain, France, the Ottoman Empire and Sardinia

-all the major European powers wanted influence over the lands of the Ottoman Empire

-Treaty of Paris ended the war—all European powers pledged to respect the lands of the Ottomans

-Lasted until 1871

-The “Great Game”-formal and informal diplomacy between Britain and Russia

-put on hold with the Anglo-Russian Entente of 1907—resolved Russian and British differences over Persia, Tibet, and Afghanistan

-divided Persia (Iran) in spheres of influence for both Russia and Britain

-consolidated Russian power in central Asia

*South East Asia and the South Pacific*

-the Dutch owned the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) and ran a plantation economy based on rubber and coffee

-British owned Burma and Malaysia

-French owned Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos)

-Vietnamese resistance, Black Flags, were organized and militant

-the French won and formed the Indochina Union in 1894

-Europeans thought the South Pacific Islanders were primitive and childlike—needed European protection

-divided the islands among themselves

-valuable for sugar

-USA became involved in the Pacific in 1898

-Hawaii-sugar and pineapple

-Philippians after the Spanish America War

-fierce resistance led by Emilio Aguinaldo

*East Asia*

-decline of China and the rise of Japan in the late 1800s

-Chinese conservatives rejected plans for rail roads and telegraphs

-Europeans and the US took advantage Europeans and the US took advantage

-Forced trade concessions

-Annexed territory

-Sino-Japanese War

-China lost and had to borrow money to pay a huge indemnity to Japan

-Europeans demanded more rights inside China in exchange for the loan

-trade concessions and the right to build rail roads

-Europeans divided China up

-to stop more partitioning, (mostly because they didn’t get a piece) the US demanded the Open Door Policy in 1898

-All nations have equal trading rights in all parts of China

-Maintained China’s borders

-Japan disagreed

-the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 was a rebellion against foreign influence

-secret society-the Patriotic Harmonious Fists (aka Boxers) organized resistance against foreigners

-attacked Europeans, Americans and Chinese Christians

-20,000 European, American and Japanese forces viciously suppressed the rebellion

-imposed an huge indemnity on the Qing Government which resulted in further economic exploitation by Westerners and Japan

-weakened the Qing Dynasty to the point it was overthrown by Sun Yet Sen in 1911

-Japan became industrialized in 1868

-wanted an empire to reflect its global standing

-Sino-Japanese War 1894-1895 (Japan vs. China)

-Japan won and took Taiwan and China’s influence over Korea

-Russo-Japanese War

-Japanese victory stunned the world

-gave hope to colonial people over Europeans

-undermined Tsar Nicholas

-1910 Japan took Korea

**The New Imperial Mission**

-Europeans reconsidered their relationship with colonial people

*Failure of the Liberal Vision*

-less emphasis on westernizing natives—more about improving their own culture

-replaced paternalistic justifications with brute force

-intolerance of cultural differences

-more likely to see the differences as a biological inferiority

-questioned their role as civilizers and likelihood that they will be successful

*Darwinian Challenges to the Enlightenment*

-Darwin’s ideas changed what it meant to be European

-changed the way that Europeans viewed other cultures

-felt because they were less than human they could not be civilized

-undermined the tenants of liberal Enlightened thought

-Darwin linked humans to apes (animal nature) and the fundamental primitiveness of all humans

-Europeans emphasized their civilized nature with other uncivilized “races”

-discussion about whether the gap was big enough to consider other races another species

-Darwin’s theory of natural selection

-seen as a driver of human development

-felt that biology determined culture

-Darwin argued traits emerged through sexual selection

-since they did not impact survival, they emerged more slowly than other traits

-race scientists made the leap and assumed racial difference were permanent

*Popular Views of Race*

-Darwin, popular novels, and newspapers perpetrated the fact that colonial “natives” were biologically inferior and did not have the ability to improve

-Darwin granted a new legitimacy to racist propaganda

-Africans were close to apes

-Benjamin Kidd’s theory of Social Evolution argued that Africans would be extinct and whites would rule Africa

*Race Science and Eugenics*

-race scientists believed in the un-breachable gap between groups

-polygenism—belief in many human species

-eugenics-“science” of selective breeding

-goal of a fitter race

-highly influential in USA, Europe, and Japan

-led to the forced sterilization of “unfit” groups

*The Rise of Anthropology*

-emerged as an academic discipline in the 1880s

-studied evolution and the universal cultural human traits

-debated whether natives were remnants from Europe’s past or if they had degenerated from a higher level of civilizations and if they had the ability to improve

-Edward Burnett Tylor’s doctrine of survivals suggested that the “savages” provided a window to the past

-developed outside the evolutionary mainstream and would always remain inferior to the Europeans

-European countries spent a lot of money trying to understand the cultures they attempted to rule as they had in the past

-what made it different in the late 19th Century was

-Europeans belief that they were biologically superior

-their right to rule was a permanent feature of the global order

**Imperialism at its Peak**

-by 1900, Europeans had changed the culture, economies, and social order of their colonies

-imposed Western culture on the world and brought the colonies into the heart of the West

**The Reordering of Colonial Life**

-Europeans changed life in the colonies

*Building Colonial Infrastructure*

-built colonial town and cities—hospitals, schools, road, bridges and more

-modernized cities that already existed-Singapore, Bombay, Cairo and more

-new ways of transportation—highways, rail roads, canals

-telegraph lines

-new colonial administrations reorganized the police, army, judiciary, and postal service to be more European

-introduced European style schools and western medicine

-changes made it easier for Europeans to exploit the colonies

-Europeans built cities like those in Europe, keeping the natives segregated in crowded urban slums or outside the city

New Colonial Economy

-according to Europeans, the point of colonies was to make money

-metropole-term used to describe European countries in the context of the dominant economic and cultural relationship they had with their colonies

-economic polices widened the gap between colony and metropole

-colonies were important markets for manufactured goods

-colonies were not permitted to enter into trade agreements with others

-mother countries dumped manufactured goods on the colonies

-forced used to get raw materials and cash crops from the colonies

-turn away from subsistence farming made them more vulnerable to famine and fluctuations in the market

-Europeans moved labors far from their homes to work in mines, on projects, or on farms

*The Cultural Dimensions of Colonial Rule*

-Europeans dominated the culture of the world

-created new hierarchies and divisions in colonial society

-western schools created a western educated colonial elite

-worked in colonial administration

-Europeans hoped it would create loyal subjects

-found themselves kept out of jobs by Europeans and alienated by the other colonial subjects

**Methods of Governance**

*Brute Force: Exploitation of the Belgian Congo*

-King Leopold II’s troops forced the Congolese into slave labor

-produced rubber for Belgium

-murdered, enslaved, and dismembered natives

-estimated that between 20 and 30 million were killed

-other European countries condemned the treatment

-the Belgian Parliament took over control of the Congo in 1908 to quell the outcry

*Indirect Rule in the British Empire*

-British delegated powers to local chiefs, kings and princes who were expected to carry out the orders of colonial officials

-British like it because

-relied on local people which made it less expensive

-attached to local tradition helped the British claim legitimacy

-hoped it would make the administration more stable

-negative consequences for the colonies:

-indigenous cultures not left intact (as the British claimed)

-cleared the way for the establishment of despotic regimes—leaders no longer responsible to the people, only answer to the British

-promoted tribal identity over other factors that hold people together—set up hatred and rivalries between ethnic groups

-emphasized tribal tradition and neglected education of the colonial people and at the same time marginalized educated Africans as a threat to colonial rule

*Sustaining the Civilizing Mission in the French Empire*

-French used direct rule-colonial political institutions and rules swept away in favor of the French

-attempt to civilize the natives and make them French

-outgrowth of the idea that the French have always been the guardians of civilization in Europe

-destroyed indigenous political and cultural institutions

-“natives” seen as potential Frenchmen—once civilized they had the potential to be granted the rights of French citizens

-intense racism undermined this

*Comparing French and British Rule*

-both relied on direct rule through a European official and indirect through local collaborators

-French focused assimilation efforts on those they felt had the most potential to be like Europeans, as Darwinian ideas grew stronger the debate over whether cultural assimilation was possible got louder

-overall, by 1914 differed more in theory than practice