Imperialism, Colonialism, and Resistance in the Nineteenth Century

- Imperialism In The Nineteenth Century
- Change and Continuity: Causes of Imperialism
- The Legacy of Imperialism
- Indentured Labour
- Colonial Nationalist Movement
Age of Imperialism

- Imperialism = a policy of conquering and ruling other lands
Imperialism In The Nineteenth Century

- Significant shift occurred in the second half of the nineteenth century.

- After 1870 and more so after 1885, there was a remarkable increase in the European acquisition of colonial territories in the South Pacific, Asia, and Africa.
New Imperialism

- After 1870 European powers began to rely more on colonization of formal empire, than on informal economic ties.
- Period is called “new imperialism”
What conclusion can you make from looking at the political cartoon?
Nations competed for overseas empires. Britain’s lead was challenged.

- In the mid-1800s, Britain was the most powerful nation in the world.
  - It’s factories produced more goods than those of any other country.
  - The British Navy guarded the oceans so that those goods could be shipped safely to ports around the globe.
  - British banks loaned the money needed to build factories, mines, and railroads worldwide.

- By the late 1800s, however, Germany and the United States were challenging Britain’s economic leadership.

- Faced with possible decline, Britain looked increasingly to its colonies for markets and resources.
New Imperialism in Asia and the Indies – this fostered rivalries -

- Other countries followed Britain’s lead and came to see colonies as necessary for their economic well-being.
  - The French and Dutch expanded their holdings and by 1900 France had an empire second in size only to Britain’s.
  - Spain and Portugal attempted to build new empires in Africa.
  - Austria-Hungary moved into the Balkans.
  - Russia expanded into the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Siberia.

- Countries that had no colonies set out to acquire them.
  - Belgium, Italy, and Germany all took over lands in Africa (with Germany also taking an interest in East Asia & the Pacific islands).
New Imperialism in Asia and the Indies – this fostered rivalries -

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- Two non-European countries, the United States and Japan, also became involved in overseas expansion during this period.
  - Both the U.S. and Japan were interested in East Asia.
  - The U.S. was also deeply tied to Latin America.
- Increasingly, Europeans viewed an empire as a measure of national stature.
- Thus, the race for colonies grew out of a strong sense of national pride as well as from economic competition.
Map of Imperialism in Asia
New Imperialism in Africa

- 1880 - 1900, every corner of the Earth, from the highest mountains in the Himalayas to the most remote Pacific island and Antarctica, came to be claimed by one or other European power.

- Africa saw the most dramatic colonisation. It was divided up as if it had been a cake split between greedy European leaders. This was called the "Scramble for Africa".
New Imperialism in Africa

- 1870 - 10% of Africa had been colonized

- 1895 - 90% had come under European colonial control
Before European colonization of Africa in 1880
A Map of Africa (1914), showing the extent of colonization
The key political event in the race for colonization in Africa was the **Berlin Conference of 1884-1885**

- Bismarck called together representatives of 15 nations to deal with rival colonial claims in Africa.

- Ignoring the rights of existing African kingdoms and peoples altogether, European powers claimed the right to acquire inland territories by expansion from existing coastal possessions.

- To avoid dominance by a single state or war between rival colonial powers, the Conference agreed that possession involved more than a “paper partition” based on claims made over a map; they agreed that possession should involved effective occupation of the land and control over the people.
Unequal Power Relations

- Level of success of a dominant power has been attributed to its level of technological advancement
- Those with more advanced military technology and methods of production have tended to dominate.
Nationalism and Geopolitics

- Some argue the primary motive for colonization was political.
- Governments encouraged by the emerging sense of nationalism enhanced their power and prestige by possessing colonies.
- Colonies are providing them with "bargaining chips" at the tables of international conferences.
Colonies often also carried geopolitical significance.

It was important because they were placed on the map.

For example: Britain established control in Egypt in order to preserve control of the Suez Canal, which was vital to maintaining a quick trade route to India.
It was not a matter of politics alone

- Proponents of empire claimed that the superiority of **industrial civilization** gave Europeans the right to take over territories.

- Do they have that right?
Others argued that the primary motive for empire was **economic**

- Hobson and Lenin argue that colonies were acquired as fields for investment, as the urging of capitalists with surplus wealth.
- These investors, some of whom owned popular newspapers and had an influence on politicians, promoted imperialism to get the state to acquire territories and protect their overseas investments.
- Lenin predicted that competition for colonies would eventually lead to war and revolution.
Here, a group of upper-class British hunters has taken a break from shooting tigers in India. Notice the mingling of British and Indian traditions. The hunters have traveled with their Indian servants on howdahs and elephants. Yet they have stopped for tea (a very British tradition) and are eating Huntley & Palmers Biscuits, a very British product.)
The Legacy of Imperialism

The Economic Legacy

- Shift from commercial capitalism to industrial capitalism created greater differences in wealth
- Transformed relations between the colonizers and the colonized
- Under industrial capitalism and its doctrine of laissez faire, the restraints of the colonial empires came under attack, and the new idea of free trade became the orthodox economic doctrine
The Legacy of Imperialism

- Under imposed conditions of free trade, Indian handloom weavers could not compete in price with British manufactures of cotton cloth, so India became an importer of cotton textile and an exporter of raw cotton.

- Under free trade, colonies in Asia, Africa, and the Americas became dependent sources of raw materials as well as markets for manufactured goods.
A British Merchant's Home in Colonial India
The Legacy of Imperialism

- Prior to the development of the dependent relationship of imperialism, most people in the non-Western world were involved in **subsistence agriculture** – farming primarily for themselves.

- Imperialist powers succeeded in forcing Native peoples to change to producing **agriculture for export** (known as???)
Today, the term is also referred to as “cash crops”. The agricultural products are grown primarily for exporting purposes. Products such as banana, pineapple, coffee or sugar canes are grown to be exported to developed countries’ consumption.
The imperialist powers need their colonies to supply raw materials to support the growth of industrial European cities.

The transformation of local production from a subsistence economy to an export economy had various effects.

- As more and more land was used to grow cash crops for export, these territories would become increasingly depend on imports of both food and manufactured goods
- Created a dependency in the colony
- Mass-produced goods from Europe were far cheaper and often of a better quality than locally produced goods.
- What happened to the local entrepreneurs?
Africans found their lives changed against their will but also came to endure working and living conditions worse than it was prior to Western intervention.

The process of converting Africans into labourers in a cash economy was extremely brutal.

They often had to work far from their home villages, and brutal punishment was inflicted upon them for failure to meet the required quotas.

Adolescent boys were punished by mutilation, including the cutting off of ears or hands.

Failure of particular villagers to meet quotas resulted in raids on their home villages, where women were raped, children and elderly beaten and houses destroyed.
In the image, African slaves toil on a pepper plantation in the East Indies as a dealer samples a peppercorn to see if it is smell or taste is strong enough.
The economic impact of imperialism had far reaching consequences.

The global economic relationship established during this period have shaped the modern world system and some would argue, are the foundation of poverty in developing nations in the twenty first century.

Do you are with this last statement? Why or why not?
Indentured Labour

- The most extensively organized system of immigrant labour was the trade of indentured labourers from India and China
- A contract to work for a specified period of time, usually five years
- Most were men that would work to send money back home to their families
- Though it was technically a voluntary contract labour system, it was considered by many to be a new system of slavery
Labourers faced horrible conditions that were bad - inadequate food, no health care, demanding physical work.

When they had a conflict with their employers, they faced a legal system and a police force ready to enforce their employer’s conditions.

Labourers would have to earn money to buy their return passage.

Consequently, indenture though intended to be temporary, often became a permanent migration into a new home.
(con’t)

- Many would compete with others for employment on the plantations.
- Chinese immigrants more commonly worked in mining and construction than on plantations.
- Fifteen thousand were recruited from Hong Kong to complete the Canadian Pacific Railway.
Indentured Labourers

Image of three Chinese immigrants working on the construction of the railroad. Unknown numbers died during construction.

Chinese immigrants worked primarily as labourers and lived largely in the states and territories of the American West.
War and Resistance to Colonization

- Colonial nationalist movements developed a sense of belonging to a larger international movement of colonized peoples
- Seeking liberation from colonialism and racial oppression
- Anti-Western protests (primary resistance movements), organized to expel foreigners and restore the culture to its original state
Colonial Nationalist Movement

- Leaders of nationalist movement in the colonies tended to be from the Western-educated elite.

- The Indian National Congress (INC)
  - Founded in 1885, one of the earliest colonial nationalist political parties
  - The modernization of agriculture and the extension of railroads had changed patterns of landholding and had converted some areas to the production of export crops
These reforms had also increased the peasant’s indebtedness and their vulnerability to famines that struck in the 1870s and 1880s.

Some Indian nationalists charged the British connection acted as an economic drain on the resources of India.

British officials viewed them as unrepresentative trouble makers until more radical voices and popular protest began to change the face of Indian nationalism.
The Russo – Japanese War (1904-1905)

- Victory over Russia was remarkable in two ways
- Not only had a non-Western power defeated a major European power in war, but the conflict had been fought using the full arsenal of modern military technology.
- Russian interest were deflected from Asia to Europe and added to the buildup of diplomatic tension that lead to the Russian Revolution in 1905
“The fate of the empire rests upon this one battle, let every man do his utmost.”

Admiral Togo addressing the Japanese Fleet 27 May 1905
Put yourself in the time…

- Read *Rudyard Kipling’s “White Man’s Burden”…*, and compare it to *Henri Labouchere’s “Brown Man’s Burden”*
- Create a Concept Map by using the words on the board. The challenge will be to make connections between ideas, people and events. Start with *Imperialism* and perhaps the *consequences*. Add more ideas, people and events if needed.