

## CHAPTER 32-THE BUILDING OF GLOBAL EMPIRES

Modern imperialism refers to the state of an industrial nation dominating another nation, sometimes through military force, but more often through trade, investment, and business. Imperialism was also connected to colonialism. The economic motives for imperialism included the desire for wealth, the need for raw materials, and markets for industrial products. The political motives included increasing strategic supply points for the military, as well as distracting the population from internal national problems by using expansion. The religious motives included saving the natives' souls and taking responsibility for those less civilized ("the white man's burden").

Much of this success was achieved through technology. Advanced technology and weaponry were used to conquer the natives and more quickly move people, goods, and information.

British imperialism in India began in the 1750s with the East India Company, a private company with a government charter. The EIC ruled India with a small British force and a large army of native troops (sepoys). The rebellion of the sepoy in 1857 caused the British government to move in and take control. The British took over the government, introduced export crops including opium, built railroads and canals, and put up telegraph lines.

In some places, there was competition between the British and other nations. Between 1875 and 1900, in what was termed "the scramble for Africa," the European powers first explored and mapped Africa, and then began to take over the continent. At the Berlin Conference of 1884–1885, the European powers set the rules for taking control of Africa and by 1900 all of Africa, except Liberia and Ethiopia, were controlled by Europeans. But whether by concessionary companies (like the EIC) or direct or indirect rule, colonial rule was both challenging and expensive.

In the east and Oceania, European imperialism was accomplished differently. One single imperial power, such as the Dutch, British, or French, moved into a country and took over. This was the case in Indonesia, Burma, and Vietnam.

The European powers were not the only imperial powers. The United States intervened in Latin America in the 1830s, purchased Alaska in 1875, and annexed Hawai'i in 1898. The Spanish-American War (1898–1899) and the defeat of Spain gave the United States Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.

Imperial Japan began its expansion in the 1870s by taking control of the nearby islands. The Meiji bought British ships, built a navy, and established military academies. They imposed unequal treaties on Korea (1876), and when the Chinese army moved into Korea, the Japanese declared war, defeated the Chinese, and won major concessions. In 1904–1905, the Japanese defeated the Russians in the Russo-Japanese War and became a major imperial power.

The legacies of imperialism are numerous. Colonial rule changed the crops produced in countries for economic advantage. Large numbers of people, both free and indentured, migrated around the globe, bringing new cultures and traditions to different areas. It also resulted in many conflicts and rebellions, helped reinforce racism and social Darwinism, and spawned both nationalistic and anti-colonial

movements, especially in India.

### Key Concept 5.1. Industrialization and Global Capitalism

IV. There were major developments in transportation and communication, including railroads, steamships, telegraphs and canals.

### Key Concept 5.2. Imperialism and Nation-State Formation

- I. Industrializing powers established transoceanic empires.
- II. Imperialism influenced state formation and contraction around the world.
- III. New racial ideologies, especially Social Darwinism, facilitated and justified imperialism.