

# Imperialism

## Age of Imperialism

### Beginning of Imperialism

The Age of Imperialism started in the 1800's and lasted until 1914. Imperialism resulted from three key factors. First, nationalism prompted rival European nations to build empires. Also, the Industrial Revolution created a tremendous demand for raw materials and expanded markets, which prompted industrialized nations to seek new territories. Finally, religious fervor and feelings of superiority inspire Europeans to spread their beliefs.

### Colonies

Countries started to start colonies in faraway places. Slow communication enabled people in the colonies to control themselves. Military officials expanded the colony's borders, and this was okay until multiple places started claiming the same lands.

### Protectorates

Imperialists used several types of territorial control. A protectorate had its own government, but officials of a foreign power guided its policies, particularly in foreign affairs.

### Sphere of Influence

A sphere of influence was a region of a country in which an imperialist power held exclusive investment or trading rights.

### Explorers

Explorers began exploring Africa, hoping to find raw materials and new markets. David Livingstone and Henry Stanley were two explorers. Both explored for decades, sending back exciting reports about Africa.

### Social Darwinism

The theory of Social Darwinism adapted Darwin's ideas about the evolution of animals and applied them to people. Europeans believed that they were the best and fittest, while Africans were backwards. Africans learned about the European ways of life instead of their traditional ways.

### King Leopold II

King Leopold II was an ambitious ruler of Belgium, and he formed a private company called the International Africa Association to promote Belgian colonization in Africa. He claimed the Congo Basin and named it the Congo Free State. The Congo soon became Leopold II's private plantation. People were forced to work for him, and this stripped the Congo of people and raw materials. He eventually gave up his plantation in return for a large loan.

### Boxer Rebellion

The Boxer Rebellion was where a group of people known as the Boxers began killing foreigners and Chinese Christians. Foreign powers were sent and they killed many Chinese while the empress fled.