

IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA

AFRICA BACKGROUND

Myth

- “The Dark Continent”
 - ▣ term relating to both the peoples of Africa and alleged ignorance (savages)



Reality

- diverse groups of people with unique cultures and histories
 - ▣ Egypt
 - ▣ Mali, Ghana
 - ▣ Ethiopia

“SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA”

- most visible form of “new imperialism”
 - ▣ economic, political, cultural motives





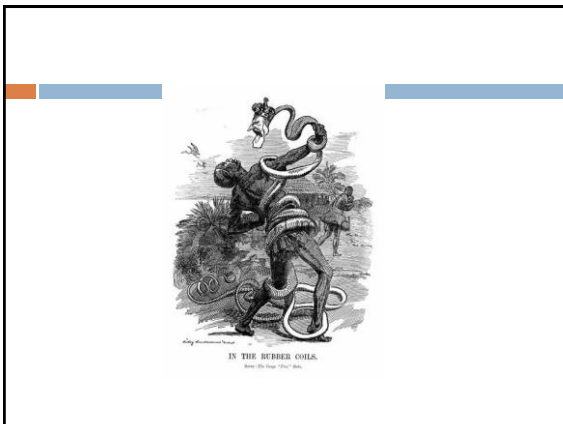
Result

- 1890
 - Ethiopia and Liberia only independent countries

Motives for African Imperialism

Economic

- valuable source of raw materials rubber, coffee, ivory, palm oil
- drive for profit = brutality of natives



The White Man's Burden

- Europe's obligation to instruct and "lift up" Africans

THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.

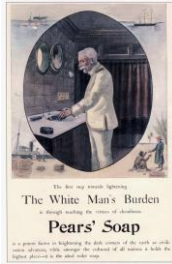
BY RUDYARD KIPING.

Take up the White Man's burden—
—Send forth the best ye breed—
Go to the lands behind you,
—Till from their bent you bring
—Them to the blither plains,
—With gleaming harbours and
—The many-towered citadels,
—Of modern cities.

Take up the White Man's burden—
—Safely through life and danger—
—His weary, restful sleep,
—His smile and glow—
—His tall ship on the wave,
—His quiet crew,
—For the White Man's burden—
—Is still to be met—
—Not to the faint—
—To the cowardly—
—To the run away—
—To the man who flings
—His burden to his neighbors,
—To the one who will not
—Take it up—
—To the one who will not
—Stare and stare—
—At the farthest
—The farthest
—The farthest

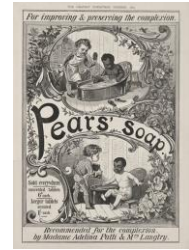
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- advertising and the “white man’s burden”



Social Darwinism

- applying “survival of the fittest” to society and imperialism



Problems Ruling Africa

- cost enormous amounts to rule large land areas
- solution = indirect rule

Indirect Rule

- cooperating with native leaders in order to use the labor power of local populations
 - western corporations pay chiefs for production
 - militias force laborers to make quotas
 - colonial administrators “oversee”


Evidences of Abuse

- Roger Casement
 - member of British consular service
 - reported on abuses in Belgian-ruled Congo

Casement: “How much did you get paid for this?”
 Audience: “We got no pay. We got nothing.”
 One local: “Our village got cloth and a little salt, but not the people who did the work. Our chief ate up the cloth; the workers got nothing...it use to take ten day to get the twenty baskets of rubber- we were always in the forest to find the rubber vines, to go without food, and our women had to give up cultivating the gardens. Then we starved.”

- *Heart of Darkness* (1902)
 - Joseph Conrad
 - fictional story based on reported atrocities





A slight clinking behind me made me turn my head. Six black men advanced in a file, toiling up the path. They walked erect and slow, balancing small baskets full of earth on their heads, and the clink kept time with their footsteps. Black rags were wound round their loins, and the short ends behind wagged to and fro like tails. I could see every rib, the joints of their limbs were like knots in a rope; each had an iron collar on his neck, and all were connected together with a chain whose blights swung between them, rhythmically clinking.

Heart of Darkness