In the latter half of the 19th century, the industrial powers of western Europe swiftly extended their control over vast areas of Africa and Asia. This new imperialism was rationalized by theories of racial and cultural superiority; it was made possible by new technologies of warfare. The U.S. and Japan, and to a lesser extent Russia, were late arrivals on the imperial stage but soon established themselves as well. Modern imperialism is characterized by the following:

• **Mixed motives.** Imperial powers claimed economic necessity, strategic imperatives, and a high-minded “civilizing mission.” Frequently motives were confused, so it became “the White Man’s Burden” to convert Africans to Christianity while at the same time enslaving them.

• **Competition Between Imperial Powers.** The “Scramble for Africa” and later for the Pacific islands illustrates the intense competition between imperial nations. The U.S. took over the Philippines in order to be on an equal footing with other powers already in China. Japan seized Korea and Taiwan for the same reason.

• **Different Models of Colonial Rule.** In practice, the new imperialism varied considerably; incl settler colonies such as Australia, indirect rule as in British Africa, direct rule as in French Indochina, and even the private fiefdom of Leopold II in the Belgian Congo. In all cases, ultimate authority rested with the imperial state, and local rulers had little real power.

• **Economic Colonialism.** The purpose of the colony was to supply cheap raw commodities to the imperialist state and to be a market for manufactured goods. All resources, natural and human, were directed to this effort. Forests were transformed into plantations, and workers impressed into service. There was no effort to develop a colonial industry that might compete with the imperial state.

• **Contempt for Local Cultures.** With few exceptions, the imperial powers regarded colonial people as their inferiors and treated them as such. The French made an effort to convert and educate colonial peoples. The British also employed colonials as soldiers and minor civil servants, but made little provision for education. This disrespect contributed to a growing nationalism in India.

### 1. Foundations of Empire

**A. Motives of Imperialism**

1) “Modern” imperialism
   
   a. Refers to domination of industrialized countries over subject lands, common from late 1800s to early-mid 1900s.
   
   b. Domination achieved through trade, investment, business activities

2) Two types of modern colonialism
   
   a. Colonies ruled and populated by migrants
   
   b. Colonies controlled by imperial powers w/o significant settlement

3) Economic motives
   
   a. European merchants and entrepreneurs made personal fortunes
   
   b. Overseas expansion for raw materials: rubber, tin, copper, oil
   
   c. Colonies were potential markets for industrial products

**ENV-Q#2** How and to what extent has human migration and settlement been influenced by the environment during different periods?

**ECON-Q#4** What is the relationship among local, regional, and global economic systems; how have those relationships changed over time?
4) Political motives
   a. Strategic purpose: harbors & supply stations for industrial nations
   b. Overseas expansion used to defuse internal tensions

5) Cultural justifications
   a. Christian missionaries sought converts in Africa and Asia
   b. “Civilizing mission” or “White Man’s Burden” = justification

B. Tools of Empire
   1) Transportation technologies supported imperialism
      a. Steam-powered gunboats reached inland waters of Africa and Asia
      b. Railroads organized local economies to serve imperial power
   2) Western military technologies increasingly powerful
      a. Firearms: from muskets to rifles to machines guns
      b. Battle of Omdurman, 1898, British killed 11,000 Sudanese in 5 hrs
   3) Communication technologies linked imperial lands w/ colonies
      a. Steamships cut travel from Britain to India from years to weeks
      b. Telegraph invented in 1840s, global reach by 1900

2. European Imperialism

A. The British Empire in India
   1) Company rule under the English East India Company
      a. EIC took advantage of Mughal decline, began conquest in 1750s
      b. Built trading cities and forts at Calcutta, Madras, Bombay
      c. Ruled w/ small British force & Indian troops called sepoys
      d. Sepoy Mutiny, 1857: attacks on British civilians led to reprisals
   2) British imperial rule replaced the EIC, 1858
      a. Viceroy and high-level British civil service ruled India
      b. Appointed a viceroy, formed all domestic & foreign policy
      c. Indians held low-level bureaucratic positions
   3) Economic restructuring of India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka)
      a. Introduction of commercial crops: tea in Ceylon, coffee & opium
      b. Built RR & telegraph lines, new canals, harbors, & irrigation
   4) British rule did not interfere w/ Indian culture or Hindu religion
      a. Established English-style schools for Indian elites
      b. Outlawed Indian customs considered offensive, such as sati:

B. Imperialism in Central Asia and Southeast Asia
   1) “The Great Game” = competition btwn Britain-Russia in Central Asia
      a. By 1860s Russian expansion reached N frontiers of British India
      b. Afghanistan: Russian & British explorers mapped & scouted, but
         never colonized (Britain tried & failed 4 times in 1800s)
      c. Russian dominance of central Asia lasted until 1991

SB-Q#3 How have conflicts, exchanges, and alliances influenced the processes of state building, expansion, and dissolution?
2) Dutch East India Company (VOC) held tight control of Indonesia (Dutch East Indies)
3) British colonies in SE Asia
   a. Established colonial authority in Burma, 1880s
   b. Singapore founded 1824; base for conquest of Malaya, 1870s
4) French Indochina created, 1859-1893
   a. Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos—all former tribute states of Qing
   b. French encouraged conversion to Christianity, established western-style schools
5) Kingdom of Siam (Thailand) left as buffer between Burma & Indochina

C. The Scramble for Africa
1) Between 1875-1900, European powers seized almost entire continent
   a. Early explorers charted waters, gathered information on resources
   b. Missionaries like David Livingstone set up mission posts
   c. Henry Stanley sent by Belgium’s Leopold II to create colony in Congo, 1870s
   d. Britain occupied Egypt, 1882 to protect investments & Suez Canal.
2) South Africa settled 1st by Dutch farmers (Afrikaners) ~1600 C.E.
   a. By 1800, European settler colony w/ enslaved black African pop
   b. British seized Cape Colony in early 1800s, abolished slavery, 1833
   c. British-Dutch tensions in Cape led to Great Trek of Afrikaners inland to claim new lands, 1830s
   d. Mid-19th C, established Orange Free State, 1854; Transvaal, 1860
   e. Discovery of gold & diamonds in Afrikaner lands; influx of British settlers after 1867 (including Cecil Rhodes)
   f. Boer War, 1899-1902: British defeated Afrikaners, established the Union of South Africa
3) The Berlin Conference, 1884-1885
   a. European powers set rules for carving Africa into colonies
   b. Occupation, supported by Euro armies, established colonial rule
   c. By 1900 all Africa controlled by Europe, except Ethiopia & Liberia
4) Colonial rule challenging and expensive
   a. “Concessionary companies”: granted considerable authority to private co’s
      (1) empowered to build plantations, mines, railroads
      (2) made use of forced labor and taxation, as in Belgian Congo
      (3) unprofitable, often replaced by more direct rule
   b. Direct rule: replacing local rulers w/ Europeans—French
      (1) justified by “civilizing mission”
      (2) hard to find enough European personnel
   c. Indirect rule: control over subjects thru local institutions—British
      (1) worked best in African societies that were highly organized
      (2) assumed firm tribal boundaries where often none existed

SB-Q#1 How have different forms of governance been constructed and maintained over time?
SB-6 Assess the relationships between states with centralized gov’ts & those without, including pastoral & agricultural societies.
D. European Imperialism in the Pacific
   1) Settler colonies in the Pacific
      a. 1770s, Capt James Cook reported Australia suitable for settlement
      b. 1788, 1,000 settlers established colony of New South Wales
      c. 1851, gold discovered; surge of European migration to Australia
      d. Fertile soil and timber of New Zealand attracted European settlers
      e. Europeans diseases dramatically reduced aboriginal populations
      f. Large settler societies forced indigenous peoples onto marginal lands
   2) Imperialists in paradise: delayed colonization of Pacific Islands until late 19th C
      a. Early Pacific visitors mostly whalers, merchants, some missionaries
      b. Late 19th C, Europeans sought coaling stations/ naval ports
      c. By 1900, all islands but Tonga claimed by Fr, Br, Ger, U.S.
      d. Island plantations produced sugarcane, copra, guano

3. The Emergence of New Imperial Powers

A. U.S. Imperialism in Latin America and the Pacific
   1) The Monroe Doctrine, 1823: proclamation by U.S. president Monroe
      b. U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867
      c. Hawaii became a protectorate in 1875, formally annexed in 1898
   2) The Spanish-American War (1898-99)
      a. U.S. took over Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippines
      b. U.S. backed Filipino revolt vs Spain, purchased/took over colony
      c. 1902-04, bitter civil war killed 200K Filipinos, U.S. victorious
   3) The Panama Canal, 1903-1914
      a. Colombian govt refused U.S. request to build canal
      b. U.S. helped rebels establish Panama (for the right to build a canal)
      c. Completed in 1914; gave U.S. access btwn Atlantic and Pacific
   4) Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine 1904.
      a. Asserted U.S. right to intervene in W hemisphere nations if unable to “maintain security” (of U.S. investments)

B. Imperial Japan
   1) Resented unequal treaties of 1860s, resolved to become imperial power
   2) Early Japanese expansion in nearby islands, 1870s
   3) Meiji govt bought British warships, built up navy, established mil acad
      a. 1876, imposed unequal treaties on Korea at gunpoint
      b. Made plans to invade China
4) The **Sino-Japanese War** (1894-95)
   a. Rebellion in Korea: Chinese army sent to restore order, reassert authority
   b. Meiji leaders declared war on China, demolished Chinese fleet
   c. China forced to cede Korea, Taiwan, Liaodong peninsula

5) The **Russo-Japanese War** (1904-05)
   a. Russia also had territorial ambitions in Liaodong peninsula, Korea, Manchuria
   b. Japanese navy’s surprise attack destroyed local Russian forces; Baltic fleet sent, Japan sank/damaged 38 of 40 Russian ships!
   c. Japan now a major imperial power

### 4. Legacies of Imperialism

**A. Empire and Economy: Two Patterns of Changes**

1) Colonial rule transformed traditional production of crops/commodities
   a. Indian cotton grown to serve British textile industry
   b. Inexpensive imported textiles undermined Indian production

2) New crops transformed landscape and society
   a. Rain forests of Ceylon converted to tea plantations
   b. Ceylonese women recruited to harvest tea
   c. Rubber plantations transformed Malaya and Sumatra

**B. Labor Migrations**

1) European migration
   a. 50 million Europeans emigrated 1800-1914, >50% to U.S.
   b. Other settler colonies in Canada, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa
   c. Most Euro migrants became cultivators, herders, or skilled laborers

2) **Indentured labor** migration more typical from Asia, Africa, Pacific Is.
   a. ~2.5 million indentured laborers globally during 1820-1914
   b. Indentured migrants work on tropical and subtropical plantations
      (1) Indian laborers to Pacific island and Caribbean plantations
      (2) Japanese laborers to Hawaiian sugar plantations
   c. Large-scale migrations reflected global influence of imperialism

**C. Empire and Society**

1) Colonial conflict not uncommon in 19th C
   a. In India, numerous insurrections, (Sepoy Rebellion of 1857)
   b. 1905, **Maji Maji** rebellion in E Africa thought traditional magic would defeat Germans
   c. Resistance incl boycotts, political parties, anticolonial publications
   d. Conflict among different groups united under colonial rule
2) **“Scientific racism”** popular in 19th C
   a. Race became the measure of humans; Europeans considered themselves (automatically, obviously) superior
   b. Gobineau divided humanity into four main racial groups, each w/ peculiar traits
   c. **Social Darwinism**: “survival of fittest” applied Theory of Evolution to all human institutions (e.g. nations, corporations, empires) used to justify European domination

3) Colonial experience only reinforced popular racism
   a. Assumed moral superiority of Europeans
   b. Examples: U.S. treatment of Filipinos, Japan’s treatment of Koreans

D. Nationalism and Anticolonial Movements
   1) **Ram Mohan Roy** (1772-1833), “father of modern India”
      a. Sought a society based on Euro science & traditional Hinduism
      b. Used press to mobilize educated Hindus and advance reform
   2) The **Indian National Congress**, founded 1885
      a. Educated Indians met, w/ British approval, to discuss public affairs
      b. Congress aired grievances re: colonial rule, sought Indian self-rule
   3) 1906, All-India **Muslim League** formed for Indian Muslims
   4) Limited reform, 1909; wealthy Indians could elect representatives to local councils
      a. Indian nationalism a powerful movement, achieved independence in 1947 (more on this in later chapters)
      b. India served as model for anticolonial campaigns in other lands

CUL-Q#2 How have religions, belief systems, philosophies, and ideologies affected the development of societies over time?

SOC-Q#2 How, by whom, and in what ways have social categories, roles, and practices been maintained or challenged over time?