# AP World History

## Old Imperialism (Colonialism) vs. New Imperialism

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### DIFFERENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Old Imperialism (Colonialism) c. 1450 - c. 1650</th>
<th>New Imperialism c. 1870 - c. 1914</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Overall Nature** (Larger Context) | • Aspect of exploration & Commercial Revolution  
  > Africa & Asia—commercial empire  
  > Americas more a land empire  
  > Founded settlements  
  > Established rule | • Aspect of Industrial Revolution  
  > Africa & Asia—land empires  
  > Pushed social reforms, western education  
  > Spread blessings of Western culture  
  > Nationalism  
  > Glory (place in the sun) |
| **Methods of Conquest** | • Military conquest of native peoples | • Concessions  
  > Spheres of influence  
  > Colonies |
| **Leading States** | • 1500s—Portugal & Spain  
  • 1600s—France, Britain, & Netherlands | • Great Britain dominant  
  > France  
  > USA  
  > Belgium  
  > Germany  
  > Italy  
  > Russia |
| **Economic Causes** | • “God, Glory, and Gold”  
  > Sought precious metals/goods they could not produce  
  > Asia—luxury goods  
  > America—cash crops/land  
  > Africa—labor, ivory  
  > Sought new routes to Asia | • Cheap, raw materials (metals, vegetable oils, dyes, cotton, hemp)  
  > Colonies functioned as markets for exported manufactured goods  
  > Large profits w/ minimum risks  
  > Military bases & materials  
  > Outlet for surplus population (migration) |
| **Administration** | • Large geog areas under single nation  
  > Profit over empire  
  > Dutch & British East India Co’s: (joint-stock co’s) monopolies through trading posts  
  > British—established permanent colonies w/ limited self-rule  
  > Spain—subjected conquered people to forced labor sys (encomienda, repartimiento, hacienda)  
  > Not interested in territorial acquisitions/war, (though they did occur) | • Smaller colonial areas  
  > British—relayed on indirect rule  
  > Other powers ruled directly through paternalism & assimilation  
  > Not result of coherent planning  
  > More control (fr/ mother country, telegraph)  
  > More racism & segregation  
  > Social snobbery (Social Darwinism)  
  > Finances enabled by Corporations, (Economic imperialism, Dollar Diplomacy) |
| **Religion** | • Primarily Roman Catholic missionary zeal | • Protestant as much as Roman Catholic  
  > Humanitarianism |
| **Geographic Focus** | • Africa—coastal  
  > Asia—coastal, islands  
  > Americas—primary colonization focus | • Sub-Saharan Africa (Berlin Conf)  
  > South & SE Asia colonized  
  > Spheres of influence—Asia |
| **Technology** | • Ocean-going vessels  
  > Muskets | • Quinine  
  > Machine gun  
  > Telegraph  
  > Cannon  
  > Writing  
  > Vaccination  
  > Railroad  
  > Steamboat |
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<td>Education Policies</td>
<td>• State-supported in Java &amp; India</td>
<td>• Africa—not state education; left to Missionaries; higher ed not promoted</td>
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<td>• Asia—More access to higher ed</td>
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<td>• Superiority of Western learning &amp; culture stressed; ultimately provoked anti-colonial resistance &amp; nat’lism</td>
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<td>Resistance to Colonial Rule</td>
<td>• Natives of New Mexico revolted against Spanish settlers</td>
<td>• Algerians &amp; E Africans failed in resistance attempts, tho Ethiopia repelled Italy (Battle of Adowa)</td>
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<td>Impact of Colonization</td>
<td>• Negative</td>
<td>• Negative</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Death of natives from war &amp; European diseases</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Breakdown of traditions</td>
<td>• Economic exploitation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Positive</td>
<td>• Arbitrary political divisions</td>
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<td>• Global exchange of food items &amp; livestock</td>
<td>• Breakdown of traditions</td>
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<td>• Positive</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Reduced local warfare</td>
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<td>• Unification</td>
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<td>• Modernization</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Raised standards of living</td>
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<td>Reason for End</td>
<td>• Nations lost interest because:</td>
<td>• World War I</td>
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<td>• Napoleonic Wars</td>
<td>• Native uprisings</td>
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<td>• Nationalistic movements</td>
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<td>• Industrial development</td>
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<td>• Cost of colonies outweighed benefits</td>
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Similarities

Never a single, simple process, western imperialism evolved over a 400-year period from 1450 to 1914. New Imperialism is the mature stage of western expansion.

1. Both periods were shaped by an elite political control.
2. Colonial government in both periods legitimized their authoritarian, non-representative methods w/ claims of progress & maintenance of order.
3. Export-oriented development functioned to integrate the colony into the world economy.
4. Sharp social/racial divisions were maintained.
   Ex: Mexico & Indonesia—a multi-racial/plural society, strict class lines
   Ex: South Africa—sharp racial divisions (European/African)
5. Paternalist, racist colonial culture increased inequalities while ignoring needed social reforms
6. Gender divisions of labor intensified
7. Systems of exploitation & indebtedness were imposed.
8. Precedents of administrations, legal & educational systems (British India, French Senegal, Dutch Java) continued to be used.
9. Recruitment of one group against another (favored minorities like Christian converts, or western educated youths) was used for civil service or police.
10. Europeans tended to concentrate in urban areas or provincial towns.