

Chapter 16

EUROPE'S WORLD SUPREMACY, 1871–1914

16.75 IMPERIALISM: ITS NATURE AND CAUSES

Study Questions

1. Define imperialism. What were the major phases in the history of European expansion?
2. How did the new imperialism differ from the colonialism of earlier times? How did the level of European domination change over time? How was the European rule generally imposed?
3. What was the analysis put forward by critics of the global economic system in the early twentieth century?
4. Discuss the motives behind European expansion in the late nineteenth century. How important were economic pressures, the quest for security, nonpolitical motives, and noneconomic motives?
5. How do the illustrations on pp. 647, 649, and 652 depict different aspects of nineteenth-century imperialism?
6. With what mission was imperialism identified? How would you evaluate the attitude expressed in the lines by Kipling?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. In the short span of two decades, from about 1880 to 1900, the advanced industrial countries partitioned most of the earth among themselves.
2. Purely financial considerations also characterized the new European imperialism. Money invested in the so-called “backward” countries by the close of the nineteenth century brought a higher rate of return than if invested in the more industrialized ones.
3. Politics went along with economics in the whole process of imperialist expansion. National security, both political and economic, was as important an aim as the accumulation of

private wealth.

4. Faith in “modern civilization” had become a kind of substitute religion. Imperialism was its crusade.

Identifications

Colony	Neomercantilism	Protectorate
Surplus capital	Sphere of influence	J. A. Hobson
White Man’s burden	Sheltered markets	Joseph Chamberlain
<i>Mission civilisatrice</i>	<i>Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism</i>	

16.76 THE DISSOLUTION OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Study Questions

1. How did the Ottoman Empire differ from the European states in its political organization and nature? What efforts at reform were made from 1856 to 1876? How effective were these efforts?
2. Why was Turkey called the “sick man of Europe”? Where did Turkey lose territory by 1850? What territory did it still encompass?
3. What was the significance of the Crimean War in Ottoman history?
4. Why and when was the treaty of San Stefano signed? What were the results of this treaty?
5. Why were the British concerned about the Russo-Turkish War of 1877? How was a general European war averted?
6. What does the illustration on p. 660 suggest about the importance of the Middle East in Britain’s control of its Asian empire?
7. What was the impact on international relations of the rivalry for the spoils of the Ottoman Empire? How did Egypt become a British protectorate? How did the French react?
8. What problems persisted in the Ottoman Empire after 1878? Explain the events that led to the dissolution of the empire.

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Ottoman Turkey came to be called the “sick man of Europe,” and its declining power led to what Europeans referred to as the “Eastern Question.” That the empire lasted another two centuries was mainly due to the European balance of power.
2. In the Crimean War the Turks were on the winning side, but the war affected them as it affected Russia, the loser. Collaboration with the major European powers exposed the Ottoman Empire’s military and political weakness and pointed to the need for better organization.
3. The Congress of Berlin initiated a partition of the Ottoman domain, thereby keeping peace in Europe at the expense of the Ottoman government in Turkey. The European balance now both protected and dismembered the Ottoman Empire at the same time.
4. The dissolution of the Ottoman Empire became indistinguishable from the whole chronic international crisis before 1914.

Identifications

Capitulations	Pan-Slavism	Berlin to Baghdad railway
Hatt-i Humayun	Suez Canal	Khedive Ismail
Abdul Aziz	Treaty of San Stefano	Colonel Arabi
Midhat Pasha	Jingoism	Abdul Hamid
Congress of Berlin	Young Turks	

Map Exercise

1. Study the map on p. 661 in your text, The Dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, 1699-1914. What successive stages may be observed in the territorial disintegration of the Ottoman Empire? What had happened to the empire by 1914?

16.77 THE PARTITION OF AFRICA

Study Questions

1. Explain the process by which Africa was partitioned after 1870. How successful were attempts at international control in the partition of Africa? Which areas were occupied and controlled by Germany, France, Britain, and by other European powers?

2. How and when did the Congo Free State become the Belgian Congo?
3. How would you assess the impact of European control upon the African peoples? How do the illustrations on pp. 665 and 668 depict the relationship?
4. How did the partition of Africa affect relations among the European powers? What do the illustration and caption on p. 671 tell you about the Boer War?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Missionaries, explorers, and individual adventurers first opened Africa to Europe without much assistance or interest from national governments.
2. The Berlin conference of 1885 had two goals—to set up the territories of the Congo Association as an international state, under international auspices and restrictions; and to draft a code governing the way in which European powers wishing to acquire African territory should proceed.
3. In the 15 years from 1885 to 1900, the Europeans in Africa came dangerously near to open blows.
4. The ensuing Fashoda crisis brought Britain and France to the verge of war. Already at odds over Egypt and Morocco, the two governments used the encounter at Fashoda to force a showdown.
5. Labor was the overwhelming problem. For pure slavery Europeans now had abhorrence, and they abolished it wherever they could. But Europeans all over Africa resorted to forced labor, thereby disrupting the social communities that most Africans valued more than the very low wages of European companies.
6. As in the case of the Ottoman Empire, imperial rivalries between the Great Powers over the spoils of Africa embittered European international relations and helped prepare the way for the First World War.

Identifications

Scot David Livingstone
H. M. Stanley
Indirect rule
Paul Kruger

Brussels conference
Jameson Raid
Boer War
Leopold II

Cecil Rhodes
Karl Peters
Brazza
Hut tax

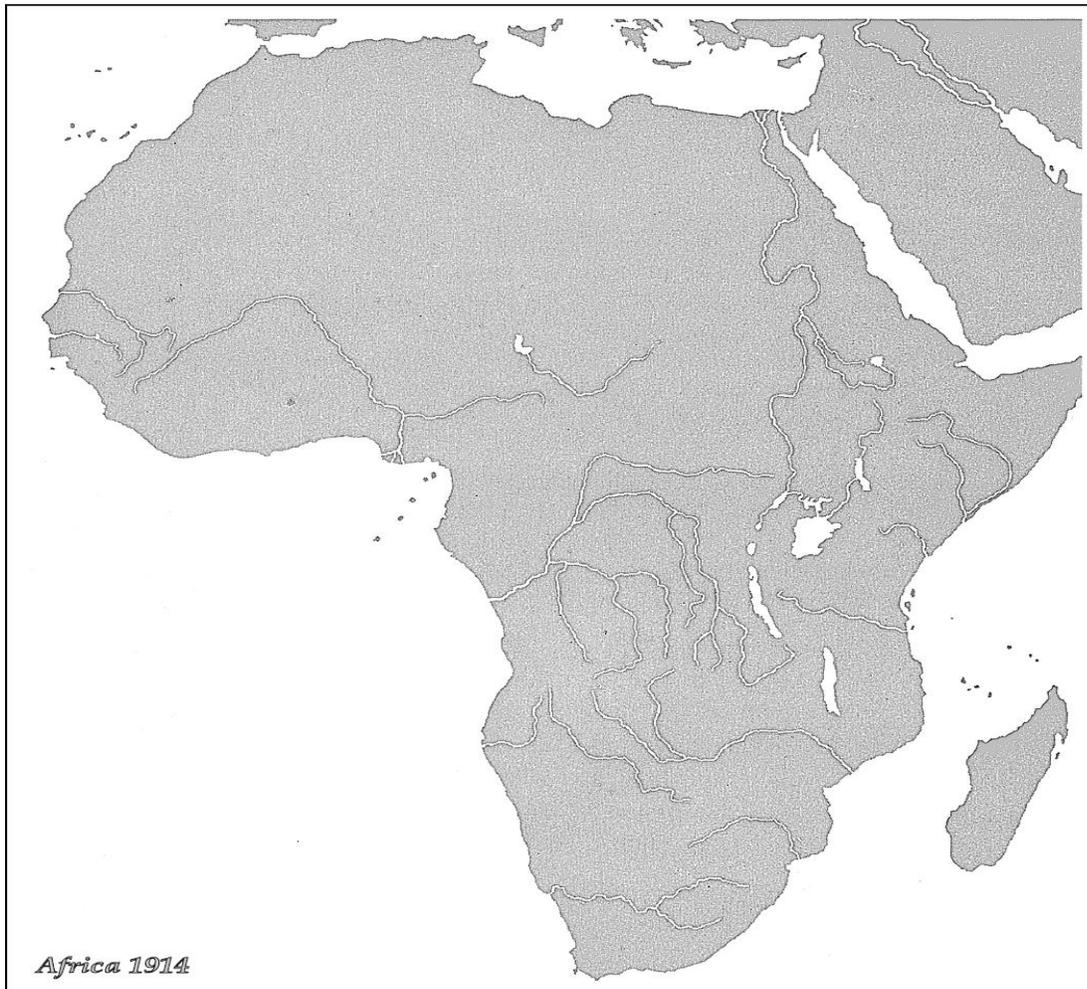
Adowa
Fashoda crisis

Union of South Africa
Congo Free State

Berlin conference of 1885

Map Exercises

1. Study the map on p. 667 in your text, *Precolonial Africa: Sites and Peoples*. What does the map and its caption tell you about developments in Africa before the penetration of the Europeans?
2. On the outline map of Africa show the recognized holdings of the European powers by 1914. Draw arrows indicating the direction of expansionist pressure by the Germans, the French, and the British about 1898. Source: *A History of the Modern World*, p. 670.
3. Can you locate each of the places mentioned in Section 16.77?



16.78 IMPERIALISM IN ASIA: THE DUTCH, THE BRITISH, AND THE RUSSIANS

Study Questions

1. How did the Dutch create and maintain their empire in the East Indies?
2. How did British rule in India change after the events of 1857?
3. How would you describe the economy of India under British rule?
4. Explain the growth and nature of Indian nationalism.
5. How were the British different from the Dutch in terms of the usage of medium of instruction in the colonies?
6. How do the illustrations on pp. 674 and 675 demonstrate the British social, political, and economic impact on India? How would you assess the British presence in India?
7. What were the principal motives for Russian expansion in Asia? Why and where did the Russians come into conflict with the British? What were the results of those conflicts?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. British India and the Dutch East Indies, in the half-century before the First World War, became what the Europeans envisioned when they imagined their “ideal colonies.” They illustrated the kind of empire that all imperialists would have wished to have, and a glance at them suggests the goal toward which European imperialism was moving and the system that it was trying to create.
2. Indian nationalism became increasingly anti-British; and radical nationalism turned also against the Indian princes, capitalists, and businessmen, as accomplices in imperialism, and so the new nationalism often took on the color of socialism.
3. Russia pushed by land against the Ottoman Empire, Persia, India, and China, all of which the British (and others) reached by sea.
4. The British had already fought two Afghan wars to keep Afghanistan as a no-man’s land between Russia and India.

5. Imperial ambitions had deepened the hostility between Great Britain and Russia, with disputes over Persia and the Indian borderlands adding fuel to the quarrel they had long waged over the Ottoman Empire.

Identifications

Culture system	British East India Company	All-India Muslim League
Suttee	Mogul Empire	Afghan wars
Sepoys	Empress of India	Anglo-Russian agreement
Indian Mutiny	Indian National Congress	Hybrid elites

Map Exercise

1. Study the map on p. 679 in your text, “The British Lake,” 1918. What does the map tell you of the size and extent of the British Empire at its height? Why were the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal considered the lifeline of the empire?

16.79 IMPERIALISM IN ASIA: CHINA AND EUROPE

Study Questions

1. Discuss the major internal developments that took place in China in the early nineteenth century. What policies did the Europeans pursue with respect to China?
2. What rights did Europeans and other outsiders acquire as a result of the Opium Wars? What further gains did Europeans make in China from 1860 to 1898?
3. What did Japan gain as a result of the war with China in 1894? What kind of international crisis followed? Why were the Russians concerned over the status of Manchuria?
4. Summarize the concessions extracted from China in 1898 by the Germans, the Russians, the French, and the British. What were the motives behind the Open Door policy?
5. What were the consequences of imperialist expansion in China by the end of the nineteenth century? How does the illustration on p. 684 reflect one aspect of Chinese reaction to these events?
6. What were the consequences of the Boxer Uprising?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. The Qing dynasty in nineteenth-century China was showing the signs of a dynastic cycle nearing its end. It was failing to preserve order or to curb extortion.
2. While China was thus permeated at the center by the extraterritorial and other insidious privileges for Europeans, whole blocks of its territory were cut away at the outer rim.
3. The Open Door was a program not so much of leaving China to the Chinese as of assuring that all outsiders should find it literally “open.”
4. One Chinese secret society, its name somewhat literally translated as the Order of Literary Patriotic Harmonious Fists, dubbed the Boxers by hostile foreigners, broke out in insurrection in 1899.

Identifications

Taiping Rebellion	Extraterritorial privileges	Trans-Siberian Railway
Opium Wars	Annam	Liaotung peninsula
The Summer Palace	French Indochina	Open Door
Boxer Uprising	Treaty system	Treaty of Shimonoseki

Map Exercises

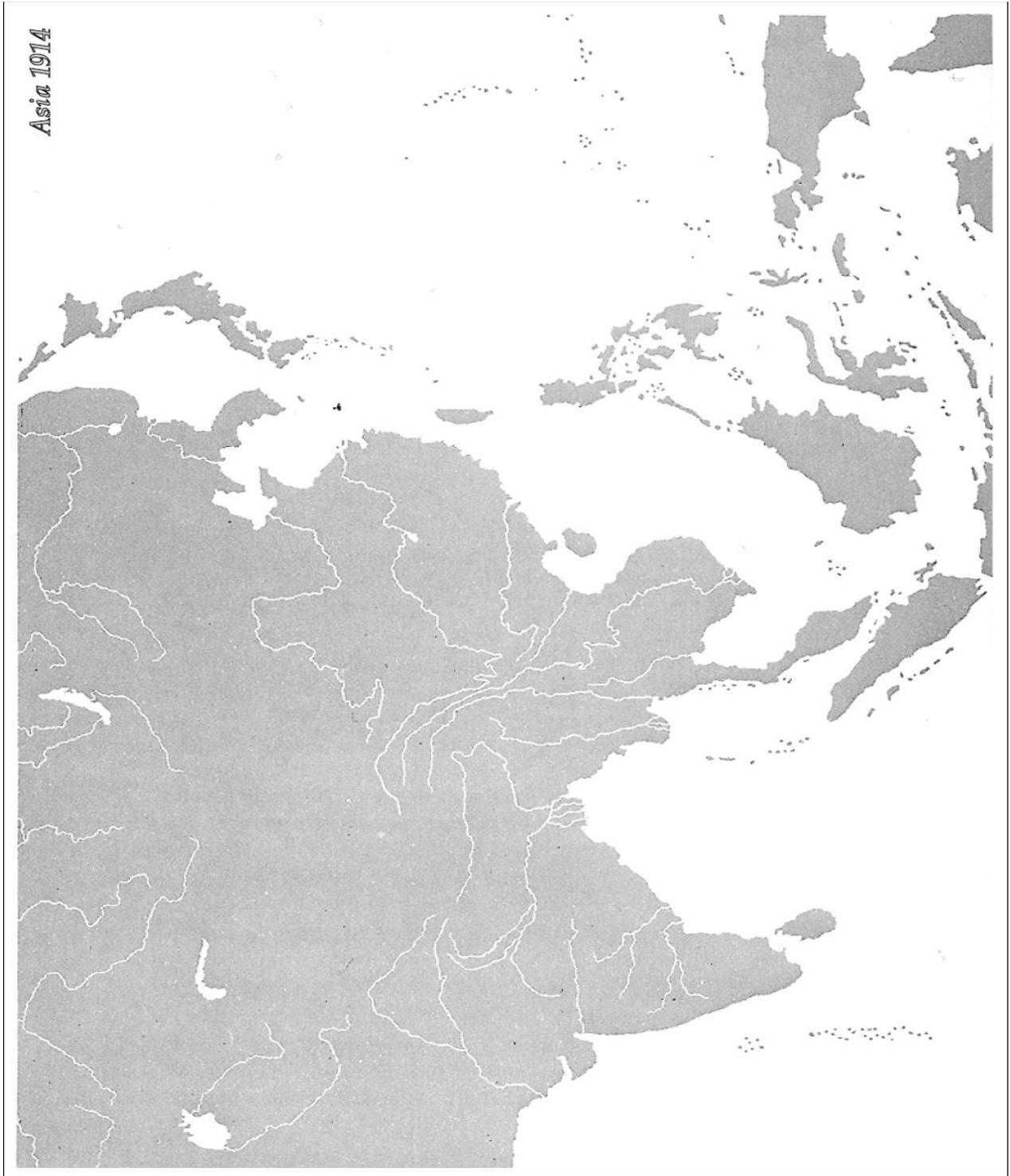
1. On the outline map of Asia show the expansion of the foreign powers in Asia by 1914. What gains, territorial and nonterritorial, had been made by each of the major powers by 1914? Source: *A History of the Modern World*, pp. 676–677.
2. Can you locate on the map the places mentioned in Section 16.80?

16.80 THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Study Questions

1. How did the interests of Russia and of Japan conflict in northeast China?
2. Describe the nature and outcome of the Russo-Japanese War. What was President Theodore Roosevelt’s objective in his offer of mediation?
3. What were the effects of the treaty of Portsmouth?

4. What was the special significance of the Russo-Japanese War for later history? In what sense did it herald important developments of the twentieth century?



Key Discussion Sentences

1. With a new colonial outpost in the Philippines and a growing interest in China, it was to the American advantage to have neither Russia nor Japan win too overwhelming a victory in the Far East.
2. The Russo-Japanese War was the first war between Great Powers since 1870. It was the first war fought under conditions of developed industrialism.
3. The Japanese victory and Russian defeat in the Russo-Japanese War can therefore be seen as starting points for three mighty developments—the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the Revolt of Asia against European imperialism.

Identifications

Chinese Eastern Railway
Anglo-Japanese military alliance

Battle of Mukden
Battle of Tsushima Strait

Treaty of Portsmouth

Map Exercise

1. Study the map on p. 683, Northeast China and Adjoining Regions in the Era of Imperialism. Why had northeast China and its adjoining regions long been one of the world's trouble zones? Why were both Russia and Japan interested in the area? Of what significance was the area before the First World War?

GENERAL ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 16

1. Why are the years 1870–1914 considered the age of Europe's world supremacy? What were the earlier phases of European expansion? What developments would end European supremacy?
2. Assess the incentives and motives for nineteenth-century European imperialism. What impact did imperialism have upon non-European people (a) in Africa and (b) in Asia? What resentments arose? In what sense did the imperialism of 1870–1914 help to create a worldwide civilization? What were the positive and negative aspects of European imperialism?
3. Explain how the imperialist rivalries of the great powers brought them into conflict in the Middle East, Africa, and the Far East. What were the results?
4. What role did the colonial race play in Africa? How did imperial rivalries between the

Great Powers over the spoils of Africa affect European international relations?

GENERAL DISCUSSION PASSAGES FOR CHAPTER 16

1. For the first time in human history, by 1900, it was possible to speak of a world civilization. (p. 644)
2. In opposition to European empires, subject peoples began to assert ideas learned from Europe—ideas of liberty and democracy, and of an anticapitalism that passed easily into socialism. (p. 644)
3. Imperialism arose from the commercial, industrial, financial, scientific, political, journalistic, intellectual, religious, and humanitarian impulses of Europe compounded together. It was an outthrust of modern European civilization that had forcefully asserted its power and influence around the world for almost four centuries; and its advocates claimed that it would bring civilization and enlightenment to those who still sat in darkness. Faith in modern civilization had become a kind of substitute religion. Imperialism was its crusade. (p. 652)
4. The psychology of imperialism contained strands of idealism and humanitarianism as well as greed, and numerous Europeans went to the colonies to build schools or hospitals rather than railroads or mines. They saw their colonial labors as contributions to a humanitarian campaign to spread modern education; to put down slave raiding, torture, and famine, to combat degrading superstitions, to fight the diseases of neglect and filth, and to promote the ideas and institutions of legal justice. But these accomplishments, however real, went along too obviously with European self-interest and were expressed with unbearable complacency and gross condescension to the larger part of the human race. (pp. 653)
5. Ottoman Turkey came to be called the “sick man of Europe,” and its declining power led to what Europeans referred to as the “Eastern Question.” Since the loss of Hungary in 1699 the Ottoman Empire had entered on a long process of territorial disintegration. (pp. 655)
6. Under the colonial government, everything was done to uproot the Africans, and little was done to benefit them or to protect the social systems in which they had lived. (p. 666)
7. Had the Germans won the First World War, the map of Africa would probably have been greatly revised, but because they lost it, the only change was to assign the German colonies, under international mandate, to the French, British, and Belgians. (p. 671)
8. If readers will examine the results of imperialism in China by about 1900, they can

understand how observant Chinese felt at the end of the nineteenth century and why the term imperialism came to be held by so many of the world's peoples in abomination.(p. 684)

9. The moral of the Japanese victory in 1905 was clear. Everywhere leaders of subjugated peoples concluded, from the Japanese precedent, that they must bring European science and industry to their own countries, but they must do it, as the Japanese had done, by ending European political control of Asian or African colonies, supervising the process of modernization themselves, and preserving their own distinctive cultures. (p. 687)
10. The Japanese victory and Russian defeat in 1905 can be seen as starting points for three mighty developments—the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the Revolt of Asia against European imperialism. They gradually put an end to Europe's world supremacy and undermined confident ideas about the inevitable progress and expansion of European civilization. (p. 687)