

Global Imperialism

Review Sheet

Imperialism

- Imperialism is a result of the industrialization of Europe and the need for raw materials and markets
- The “White Man’s Burden” reflects that idea that many Europeans believed it was their responsibility to improve the lives of colonial peoples
- Imperialism led to the exploitation of the labor and resources of the various areas
- Imperialism benefited the economies of the colonial powers
- Westerners believed they had a responsibility to bring civilization to ‘inferior’ races (Social Darwinism)

Africa

- At the Berlin Conference Africa was divided up with no regard for the cultural and ethnic diversity of the African people
- Colonies were needed in Africa because there was a need for raw materials and markets as a result of the Industrial Revolution
- Borders established during this period were based on territorial claims of colonial powers
- Ethiopia was one of the few African nations that remained independent because they modernized and imported European weapons.
- The Boer War was fought to satisfy imperialistic goals in South Africa.
- The Zulus in southern Africa adopted European military technology in an attempt to keep out the British.

India

- The Sepoy Rebellion was a resistance to foreign influence in India
- The Sepoy Rebellion was likely caused by the use of new military technology (greased cartridges)
- British influence in India eventually led to a constitutional government

China

- The Boxer Rebellion was a resistance to foreign influence in China
- The Boxer Rebellion was a reaction to European imperialism
- China wanted to remain economically isolated prior to imperialism
- As a result of the Opium War, Europeans dominated China and set up spheres of influence
- Europeans defeated China and its Asian counterparts because of advanced military technology

Japan

- Matthew Perry’s visit to Japan opened the door for trade with the West
- The Meiji Restoration resulted in modernization of Japan
- Japan’s major goal during the Meiji period was to establish itself as an industrial power
- The Meiji Restoration was a major reason why Japan became an imperialistic nation
- Japan annexed Korea and invaded Manchuria in order to gain raw materials (natural resources)

Southeast Asia

- France and Japan wanted to control Indochina because of the valuable resources that were present in the area