



2 Imperialism

CASE STUDY: Nigeria

TERMS & NAMES

- paternalism
- assimilation
- Menelik II

PATTERNS OF CHANGE

MAIN IDEA

Europeans embarked on a new phase of empire-building that affected both Africa and the rest of the world.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Many former colonies have political problems that are the result of colonial rule.

SETTING THE STAGE The Berlin Conference of 1884–85 was a Europeans’ conference, and the Boer War was a Europeans’ war. Europeans argued and fought among themselves over the lands of Africa. In carving up Africa, the European countries paid little or no attention to historical political divisions such as kingdoms or caliphates, or to ethnic and language groupings. Uppermost in the minds of the Europeans was the ability to control the land, its people, and their resources.

Colonial Control Takes Many Forms

The imperialism of the 18th and 19th centuries was conducted differently than the empire-building of the 15th and 16th centuries. In the earlier period, imperial powers often did not penetrate far into the conquered areas in Asia and Africa. Nor did they always have a substantial influence on the lives of the people. During this new period of imperialism, the Europeans demanded more influence over the economic, political, and social lives of the people. They were determined to shape the economies of the lands to benefit European economies. They also wanted the people to adopt European customs.

Forms of Colonial Control Each European nation had certain policies and goals for establishing colonies. To establish control of an area, Europeans used different techniques. Over time, four forms of colonial control emerged: colony, protectorate, sphere of influence, and economic imperialism. In practice, gaining control of an area might involve the use of several of these forms.

PATTERNS OF CHANGE: Imperialism

| Forms of Imperialism | Characteristics | Example |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Colony | A country or a region governed internally by a foreign power | Somaliland in East Africa was a French colony. |
| Protectorate | A country or territory with its own internal government but under the control of an outside power | Britain established a protectorate over the Niger River delta. |
| Sphere of Influence | An area in which an outside power claims exclusive investment or trading privileges | Liberia was under the sphere of influence of the United States. |
| Economic Imperialism | Independent but less developed nations controlled by private business interests rather than by other governments | The Dole Fruit company controlled pineapple trade in Hawaii. |

SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts

1. Which two forms are guided by interests in business or trade?
2. What is the difference between a protectorate and a colony?

Patterns of Imperialist Management

In addition to the external form of control preferred by the colonizing country, European rulers also needed to develop methods of day-to-day management of the colony. Two basic methods of internal management emerged. Britain and other nations such as the United States in its Pacific Island colonies preferred indirect control. France and most other European nations wielded a more direct control. Later, when colonies gained independence, the management method used had an influence on the type of government chosen in the new nation.

Indirect Control Indirect control relied on existing political rulers. In some areas, the British asked a local ruler to accept British authority to rule. These local officials handled much of the daily management of the colony. In addition, each colony had a legislative council that included colonial officials as well as local merchants and professionals nominated by the colonial governor.

The assumption was that the councils would train local leaders in the British method of government and that a time would come when the local population would govern itself. This happened earlier in the British colonies of South Africa and Canada. In the 1890s, the United States began to colonize. It chose the indirect method of control for its colonies.

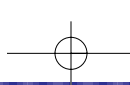
Direct Control The French and other European powers preferred a more direct control of their colonies. They viewed the Africans as children unable to handle the complex business of running a country. Based on this attitude, the Europeans developed a policy called **paternalism**. Using that policy, Europeans governed people in a fatherly way by providing for their needs but not giving them rights. To accomplish this, the Europeans brought in their own bureaucrats and did not train local people in European methods of governing.

The French also supported a policy of **assimilation**. That policy was based on the idea that in time, the local populations would become absorbed into French culture. To aid in the transition, all local schools, courts, and businesses were patterned after French institutions. In practice, the French abandoned the ideal of assimilation for all but a few places and settled for a policy of “association.” They recognized African institutions and culture but regarded them as inferior to French culture. Other European nations used this style of rule but made changes to suit their European culture.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY
A. Comparing How was the policy of paternalism like Social Darwinism?

| Management Methods | |
|--|--|
| Indirect Control | Direct Control |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local government officials were used• Limited self-rule• Goal: to develop future leaders• Government institutions are based on European styles but may have local rules | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foreign officials brought in to rule• No self-rule• Goal: assimilation• Government institutions are based only on European styles |
| Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">• British colonies such as Nigeria, India, Burma• U.S. colonies on Pacific Islands | Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">• French colonies such as Somaliland, Vietnam• German colonies such as Tanganyika• Portuguese colonies such as Angola |

- SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts**
1. In which management method are the people less empowered to rule themselves? Explain.
 2. In what ways are the two management methods different?



HISTORY THROUGH ART: **Textiles**

African Weaving

When Europeans began colonizing Africa, they found a variety of cultures, many with distinctive textiles. Just as the colonizers learned to identify peoples from the textiles they wore, so historians also learn from these fabrics. For example, the materials used in the fabrics reveal clues about the environment of the weavers. The designs and patterns often used traditional symbols or myths of the culture. When and how the fabrics were used also provide information about the culture's celebrations and social roles. Many of these fabrics, such as the ones below, continue to be produced in modern times.

Adinkra Cloth

Gyaman people of the Ivory Coast produced this hand-printed and embroidered cloth. Stamp patterns were made from a gourd and dipped in a dye made of bark paste. The cloth was stamped with symbols. The name of each symbol represented a proverb, an event, or a human, animal, or plant. The symbol shown (rams' horns) is a sign of strength and humility.

Kuba Cloth

Made by Kuba people of Congo, this cloth was made of raffia, a palm-leaf fiber. The cloth design was based on traditional geometric styles. The cloth was worn at ceremonial events, was used as currency, and may have been offered for part of a dowry.

A modern-day Ivory Coast chief wears kente cloth. *Kente* is a general term for silk cloth. Only royalty are allowed to wear kente cloth.

Kente Cloth

This cloth was produced by the Asante people of Ghana. The word *kente* is not used by the Asante. It comes from a Fante (another society) word for basket. The Asante called the cloth *asasia*. Asasia production was a monopoly of the king of the Asante.

Connect to History

Contrasting Each of these textiles reflects a specific group. Identify characteristics that make the textiles different from each other.

 SEE SKILLBUILDER HANDBOOK, PAGE R7

Connect to Today

Comparing To show their roots, some African Americans wear clothing with a kente cloth pattern. What other ethnic groups have specific clothing that connects them to their roots?



CASE STUDY: Nigeria

A British Colony

A close look at Britain's rule of Nigeria illustrates the forms of imperialism used by European powers to gain control of an area, and also shows management methods used to continue the control of the economic and political life of the area.

In 1807, Britain outlawed the slave trade. The British freed some slaves on the West African coast, who then assisted the British in overpowering other groups. To get a group's land, the British persuaded that group's enemies to help fight them. The winning African groups might then be open to British control.

Later, the Royal Niger Company gained control of the palm-oil trade along the Niger River. In 1884–85, the Berlin Conference gave Britain a protectorate in lands along the Niger River. In 1914, the British claimed the entire area of Nigeria as a colony. But in this new age of imperialism, it was necessary to not only claim the territory but also to govern the people living there.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

B. Summarizing

Which forms of imperialistic control did Britain use in Nigeria?

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

C. Analyzing

Motives Why was using local governments to control a colony a logical solution for the British?

African Resistance

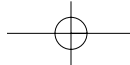
Across Africa, European attempts to colonize the lands were met with resistance. The contest between African states and European powers was never equal due to the Europeans' superior arms. Sometimes African societies tried to form alliances with



Nigeria is one of the most culturally diverse areas in Africa. About 250 different ethnic groups lived there. The three largest groups were the Hausa-Fulani in the north, the Yoruba in the southwest, and the Igbo in the southeast. The groups in the area claimed by Britain were different from each other in many ways including language, culture, and religion. The Hausa-Fulani people of the north were Muslim and were accustomed to a strong central government. The Igbo and Yoruba peoples relied on local chiefs or governing councils for control. The Hausa-Fulani and Yoruba were traditional enemies.

Britain did not have enough troops to govern such a wide and complex area. So it turned to indirect rule of the land. The British relied on local administrations and chiefs to keep order, avoid rebellion, and collect taxes.

Ruling indirectly through local officials functioned well in northern Nigeria. There the traditional government was most like the British style of government. The process did not work as well in eastern or southwestern Nigeria, where the chiefdoms and councils had trouble with British indirect rule. One reason was that the British appointed chiefs where there had been no chiefs before. Then the British restricted their powers. This left the chiefs with little real status and led to problems governing the area.



the Europeans. They hoped the agreement would allow them to remain independent. In some cases the Europeans did help defeat the rivals, but they then turned on their African allies. Other times Africans resisted the Europeans with whatever forces they could raise. With the single exception of Ethiopia, all these attempts at resistance ultimately failed. Edward Morel, a British journalist who lived for a time in the Congo, made an observation about the Africans' fate:

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Nor is violent physical opposition to abuse and injustice henceforth possible for the African in any part of Africa. His chances of effective resistance have been steadily dwindling with the increasing perfectibility in the killing power of modern armament.

Thus the African is really helpless against the material gods of the white man, as embodied in the trinity of imperialism, capitalistic exploitation, and militarism.

EDWARD MOREL, *The Black Man's Burden*

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

D. Clarifying What does Morel believe is the fate of Africa?

Unsuccessful Movements The unsuccessful resistance attempts included active resistance and religious movements. Algeria's almost 50-year resistance to French rule was one outstanding example of active resistance. In West Africa, Samori Touré led resistance against the French for 16 years.

Africans in German East Africa put their faith in a spiritual defense. African villagers resisted the Germans' insistence that they plant cotton, a cash crop for export, rather than attend to their own food crops. In 1905, the belief suddenly arose that a magic water (*maji-maji*) sprinkled on their bodies would turn the Germans' bullets into water. The uprising became known as the Maji Maji rebellion. When resistance fighters armed with spears and protected by the magic water attacked a German machine-gun post, they were mowed down by the thousands. Officially, Germans recorded 26,000 resisters dead. But almost twice that number perished in the famine that followed.

Ethiopia: A Successful Resistance

Ethiopia was the only African nation to successfully resist the Europeans. Its victory was due to one man—**Menelik II**. He became emperor of Ethiopia in 1889. He successfully played Italians, French, and British against each other, all of whom were striving to bring Ethiopia into their spheres of influence. In the meantime he built up a large arsenal of modern weapons purchased from France and Russia. About to sign a treaty with Italy, Menelik discovered differences between the wording of the treaty in Amharic—the Ethiopian language—and in Italian. Menelik believed he was giving up a tiny portion of Ethiopia. However, the Italians claimed all of Ethiopia as a protectorate. Meanwhile, Italian forces were advancing into northern Ethiopia. Menelik declared war. In 1896, in one of the greatest battles in the history of Africa—the Battle of Adowa—Ethiopian forces successfully defeated the Italians and maintained their nation's independence.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

E. Analyzing Causes Why would the French and Russians sell arms to Ethiopia?



Resistance Movements in Africa, 1881–1914



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- Region** Which region had the largest area affected by resistance?
- Region** Was any region unaffected by resistance movements?

Impact of Colonial Rule

European colonial rule forever altered Africans’ lives. For the most part, the effects were negative, but in some cases the Europeans brought benefits.

On the positive side, colonialism reduced local warfare. Now, under the control of the European military, raids between rival tribes were reduced. Humanitarian efforts in some colonies improved sanitation and brought hospitals and schools. As a result, life spans increased and literacy rates improved. Also positive was the economic expansion. African products came to be valued on the international market. To aid the economic growth, African colonies gained railroads, dams, and telephone and telegraph lines. But for the most part, these only benefited European business interests, not Africans’ lives.

On the negative side, Africans lost control of their land and their independence. Many died of new diseases such as smallpox. They also lost thousands of their people in resisting the Europeans. Famines resulted from the change to cash crops in place of subsistence agriculture.

Africans also suffered from a breakdown of their traditional cultures. Traditional authority figures were replaced. Homes and property were transferred with little regard to their importance to the people. Men were forced to leave villages to find ways to support themselves and their families. They had to work in mines, on European-owned farms, or on government projects such as railroad building. Contempt for the traditional culture and admiration of European life undermined stable societies and caused identity problems for Africans.

The most troublesome political legacy from the colonial period was the dividing of the African continent. Long-term rival chiefdoms were sometimes united, while at other times, kinship groups were split between colonies. The artificial boundaries that combined or unnaturally divided groups created problems that plagued African colonies during European occupation. These boundaries continue to create problems for the nations that evolved from the former colonies.

The patterns of behavior of imperialist powers were similar, no matter where their colonies were located. Dealing with local traditions and peoples continued to cause problems in other areas of the world dominated by Europeans. Resistance to the European imperialists also continued, as you will see in Section 3.

HISTORY MAKERS

Samori Touré about 1830–1900

Samori Touré is a hero of the Mandinka people. His empire is often compared to the great Mali Empire of the 1300s.

Touré was a nationalist who built a powerful Mandinkan kingdom by conquering neighboring states. His kingdom became the third largest empire in West Africa.

For 16 years, Touré opposed the French imperialists in West Africa. The well-armed Mandinkas were France’s greatest foe in West Africa, and the two armies clashed several times. The Mandinkan Empire was finally brought down, not in battle, but by a famine.

Sekou Touré, the first president of the nation of Guinea in 1958, claimed to be the grandson of Samori Touré.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY
F. Recognizing Effects Why might the problems caused by artificial boundaries continue after the Europeans left?

Section 2 Assessment

1. TERMS & NAMES

Identify

- paternalism
- assimilation
- Menelik II

2. TAKING NOTES

Re-create the chart below on your paper. Fill in the information on how Europeans controlled and managed other areas of the world.

| European Imperialism | |
|----------------------|--|
| Forms of Control | |
| Management Methods | |

3. FORMING OPINIONS

Do you think Europeans could have conquered Africa if the Industrial Revolution had never occurred? Explain your answer.

THINK ABOUT

- the limited role of Europeans in Africa until the late 1800s
- what inventions changed Europeans’ ability to enter Africa

4. THEME ACTIVITY

Power and Authority With a small group of students, divide into two teams, one representing the Europeans and one representing the Africans. Debate the following statement: “The negative effects of imperialism outweighed its positive results.”

different PERSPECTIVES

Views of Imperialism

European imperialism extended to the continents beyond Africa. As imperialism spread, the colonizer and the colonized viewed the experience of imperialism in very different ways. Some Europeans were outspoken about the superiority they felt toward the peoples they conquered. Others thought imperialism was very wrong. Even the conquered had mixed feelings about their encounter with the Europeans.

ESSAY

J. A. Hobson

A journalist and essayist, Hobson was an outspoken critic of imperialism. His 1902 book, *Imperialism*, made a great impression on his fellow Britons.

For Europe to rule Asia by force for purposes of gain, and to justify that rule by the pretence that she is civilizing Asia and raising her to a higher level of spiritual life, will be adjudged by history, perhaps, to be the crowning wrong and folly of Imperialism. What Asia has to give, her priceless stores of wisdom garnered from her experience of ages, we refuse to take; the much or little which we could give we spoil by the brutal manner of our giving. This is what Imperialism has done, and is doing, for Asia.

POLITICAL CARTOON

Devilfish in Egyptian Waters

Notice that Egypt is not yet one of the areas controlled by the British.



SPEECH

Jules Ferry

In a speech before the French National Assembly on July 28, 1883, Jules Ferry summarized reasons for supporting French imperialism.

Nations are great in our times only by means of the activities which they develop; it is not simply 'by the peaceful shining forth of institutions . . . that they are great at this hour. . . . Something else is needed for France: . . . that she must also be a great country exercising all of her rightful influence over the destiny of Europe, that she ought to propagate this influence throughout the world and carry everywhere that she can her language, her customs, her flag, her arms, and her genius.

SPEECH

Dadabhai Naoroji

Dadabhai Naoroji was the first Indian elected to the British Parliament. He was also a part of the founding of the Indian National Congress. In 1871, he delivered a speech answering a question about the impact of Great Britain on India. In the speech he listed positives and negatives about the rule of the British. The conclusion of the speech is printed below.

To sum up the whole, the British rule has been — morally, a great blessing; politically peace and order on one hand, blunders on the other, materially, impoverishment. . . . The natives call the British system “Sakar ki Churi,” the knife of sugar. That is to say there is no oppression, it is all smooth and sweet, but it is the knife, notwithstanding. I mention this that you should know these feelings. Our great misfortune is that you do not know our wants. When you will know our real wishes, I have not the least doubt that you would do justice. The genius and spirit of the British people is fair play and justice.

Connect to History

Analyzing Effects For each excerpt, list the positive and negative effects of imperialism mentioned by the speaker.

SEE SKILLBUILDER HANDBOOK, PAGE R6

Connect to Today

Research List the countries controlled by England as shown in the political cartoon. Research to find out what year each of them became independent. Make a chart showing the countries in order by the year they were freed from colonial status. Next to each one also write its current name.



CD-ROM For another perspective on imperialism, see World History: Electronic Library of Primary Sources