

◀ This photograph shows Tagore in 1929, when he was nearly 70. Although a passionate nationalist, he nevertheless strove for a balance between modern Western influence and ancient Indian traditions. One expression of this effort was his habit of writing his poetry first in Bengali and then translating it into English.

1800–1914

The Reach of Imperialism

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THE STORY MATTERS ...

After 1870 the industrialized nations of Europe engaged in an unprecedented competition to acquire overseas colonies. A struggle for economic and military power largely motivated this intense rivalry, which historians refer to as the “new imperialism.” The “Jewel in the Crown” of the vast British Empire was India. The British attempted to dominate every aspect of Indian life, including the culture. One Indian who resisted this cultural imperialism was the Bengali writer Rabindranath Tagore.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What are the causes and effects of imperialism?
- How do some groups resist control by others?

LESSON 1

Colonial Rule
in Southeast Asia

LESSON 2

Empire Building in Africa

LESSON 3

British Rule in India

LESSON 4

Imperialism in Latin America

Place & Time: Asia and Africa 1800–1914

The nineteenth century was known for a new wave of imperialism as European powers, Japan, and the United States seized control of new territories and conquered peoples in Asia and Africa. The race for new colonies was fueled by competition among the European powers, nationalism, demand for raw materials, superior technology, and a belief in racial hierarchies. In Latin America, independence movements struggling to throw off Spanish authority succeeded by the mid-nineteenth century.

Step Into the Place

Read the quotes and look at the information presented on the map.

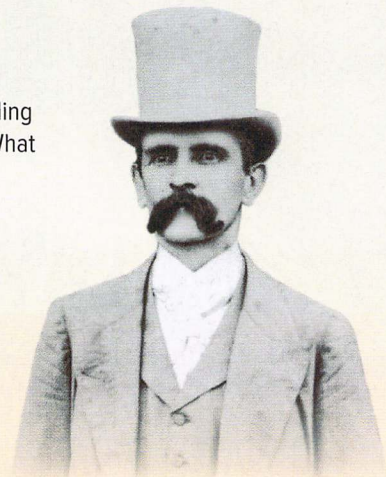
DBQ

Analyzing Historical Documents In 1893 Frederick Lugard was arguing for more funding for African colonies, while journalists like Edmund Morel argued against the practice. What were the central motivations for imperialism, and what were the perceived costs to conquered peoples?

PRIMARY SOURCE

“We owe to the instincts of colonial expansion of our ancestors, those vast and noble dependencies which are our pride and the outlets of our trade to-day; and we are accountable to posterity that opportunities which now present themselves of extending the sphere of our industrial enterprise are not neglected, for the opportunities now offered will never recur again.”

—Frederick Lugard, British colonial administrator, from *The Rise of Our East African Empire*, 1893



PRIMARY SOURCE

“What the partial occupation of his soil by the white man has failed to do; what the mapping out of European political ‘spheres of influence’ has failed to do; what the maxim and the rifle, the slave gang, labour in the bowels of the earth and the lash, have failed to do; what imported [diseases] have failed to do; what even the oversea slave trade failed to do, the power of modern capitalistic exploitation, assisted by modern engines of destruction, may yet succeed in accomplishing. For from the evils of the latter, scientifically applied and enforced, there is no escape for the African.”

—Edmund D. Morel, British author, from *The Black Man's Burden*, 1920

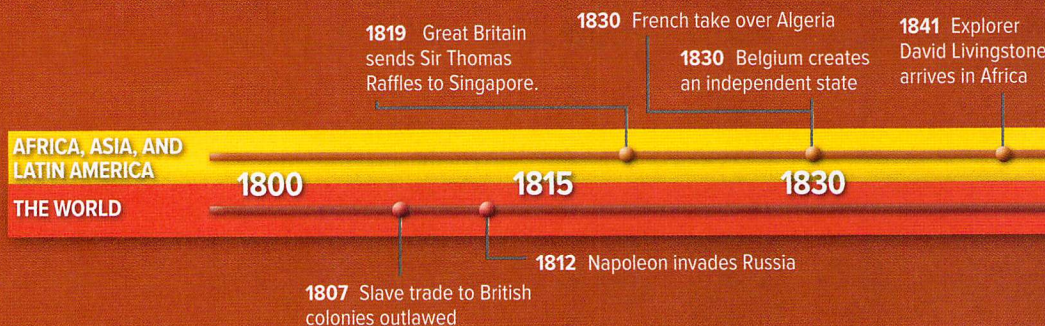


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Step Into the Time

DEMONSTRATING UNDERSTANDING

Choose an event from the time line and explain how it shows resistance to European imperialism.



The Spread of European Colonialism by 1914

