

The Age of Imperialism

1850 - 1914

The Scramble for Africa

- **Main Idea**

- *Ignoring the claims of African ethnic groups, kingdoms, and city-states, Europeans established colonies.*

- **Why It Matters Now**

- *African nations continue to feel the effects of the colonial presence more than 100 years later.*

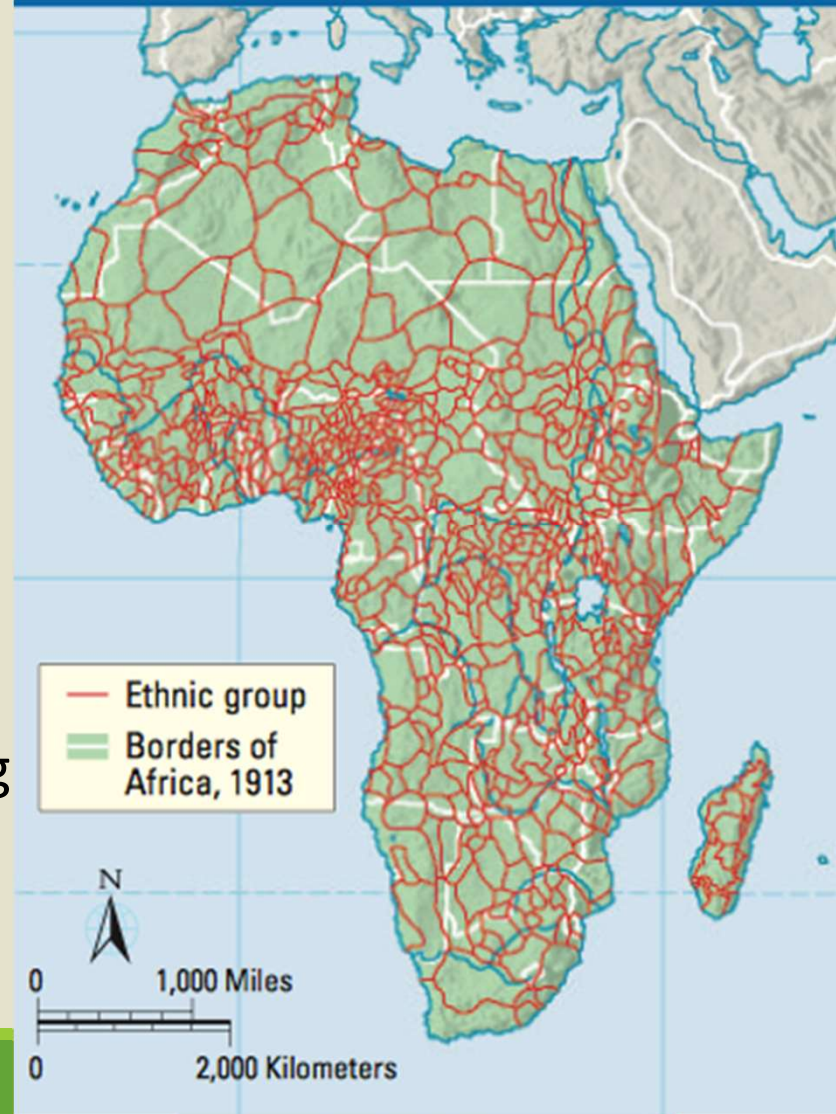
The Scramble for Africa

Imperialism: the seizure of a country or territory by a stronger country.

Africa Before European Domination

- African people were divided into hundreds of ethnic and linguistic groups. These groups spoke over 1,000 different languages.
- Europeans could not navigate African rivers, which had many rapids, cataracts, and changing flows. Disease also discouraged European exploration.

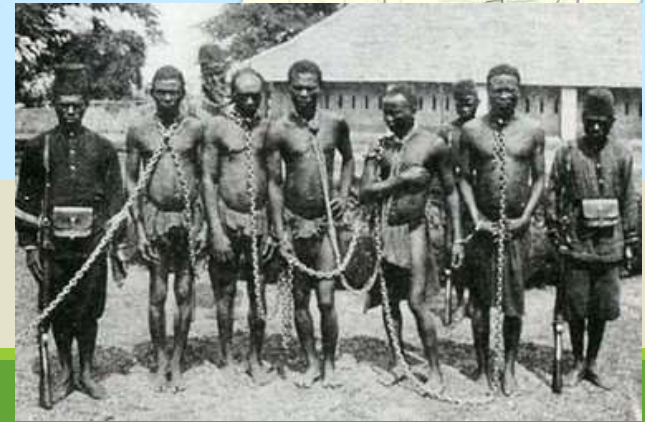
Traditional Ethnic Boundaries of Africa



The Scramble for Africa

Africa Before European Domination

- Around 1882, Henry Stanley signed treaties with local chiefs of the Congo River valley. The treaties gave King Leopold II of Belgium control of these lands.
- At least 10 million Congolese died due to the abuses inflicted during Leopold's rule.
- Soon, other European colonies were also claiming parts of Africa.



Nationalism

During the 1800's, nationalism created new countries and broke up old ones. It changed the balance of power in Europe and fed the desire of many to be free of rule of empires.

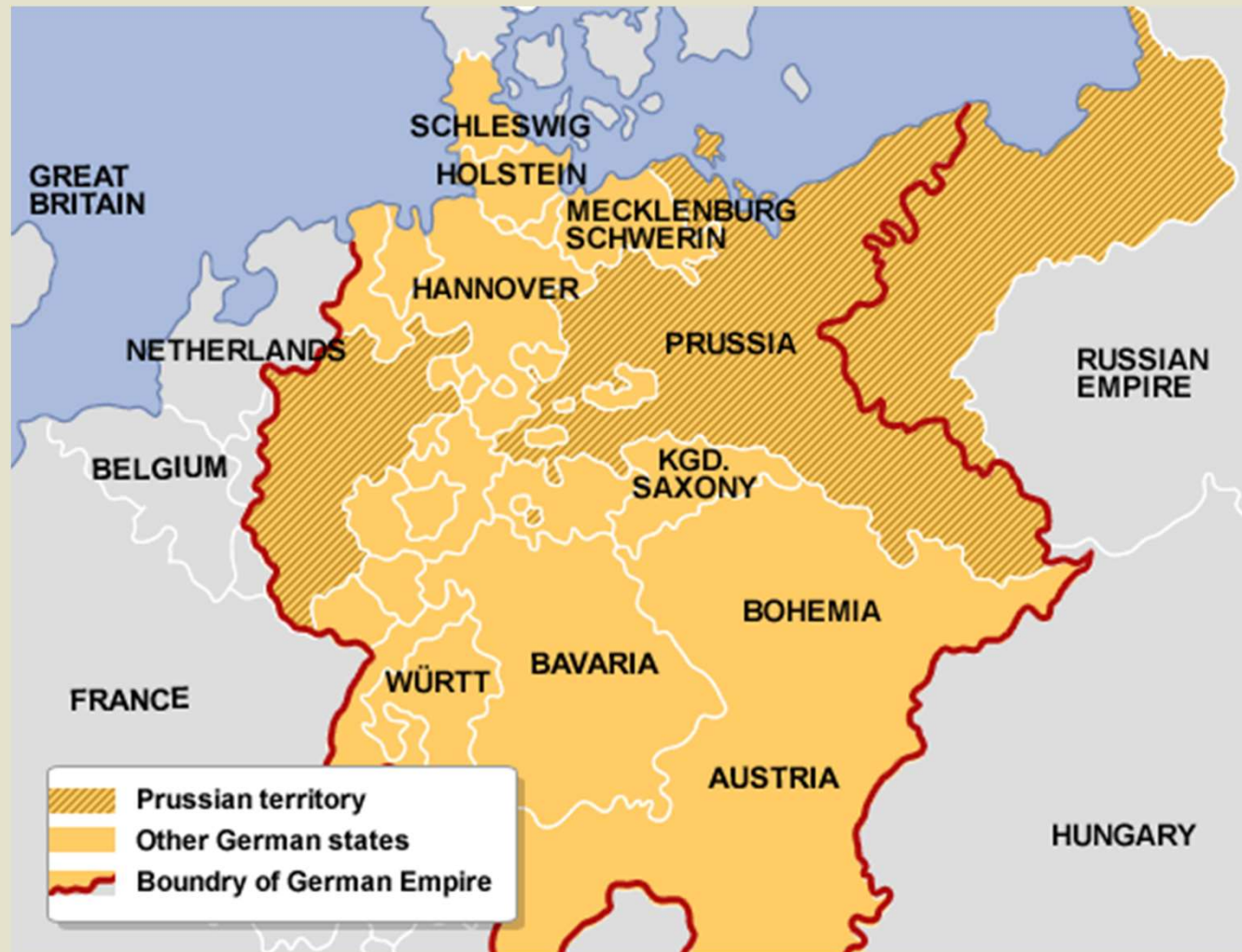
Nationalism: A Force for Unity or Disunity

- Nationalists believed people of a single “nationality” should unite under a single government.
- Authoritarian rulers saw that nationalism could unify masses of people.

Nationalism

Bismark Unites Germany

- In 1815, 39 states formed a loose grouping called the German Confederation.
- People of these states shared a common language and culture, if not a common ruler.



Imperialism

- **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.*

Imperialism

Bismark Unites Germany

- Otto Von Bismark, prime minister of Prussia, was determined to create a German empire, ruled by Prussia. He declared he would rule by “blood and iron.”
- To accomplish this, he incited three wars with neighboring states. Each war stirred national pride among the German speaking states. With each Prussian victory, more German states unified with Prussia.



Imperialism

Egypt Initiates Reforms

- The Suez Canal opened in 1869. It connected the Red Sea to the Mediterranean.
- When Egypt could not pay its debt, the British insisted on overseeing financial control of the canal, and in 1882 the British occupied Egypt.



British Imperialism in India

- **Main Idea**

- *As the Mughal Empire declined, Britain seized Indian territory and soon controlled almost the whole subcontinent.*

- **Why It Matters Now**

- *India, the second most populated nation in the world, has its political roots in this colony.*

British Imperialism in India

In the 1600's, the British East India Company set up trading posts around India. In 1757, the company's troops defeated Indian forces and became the leading power in India.

British Expand Control over India

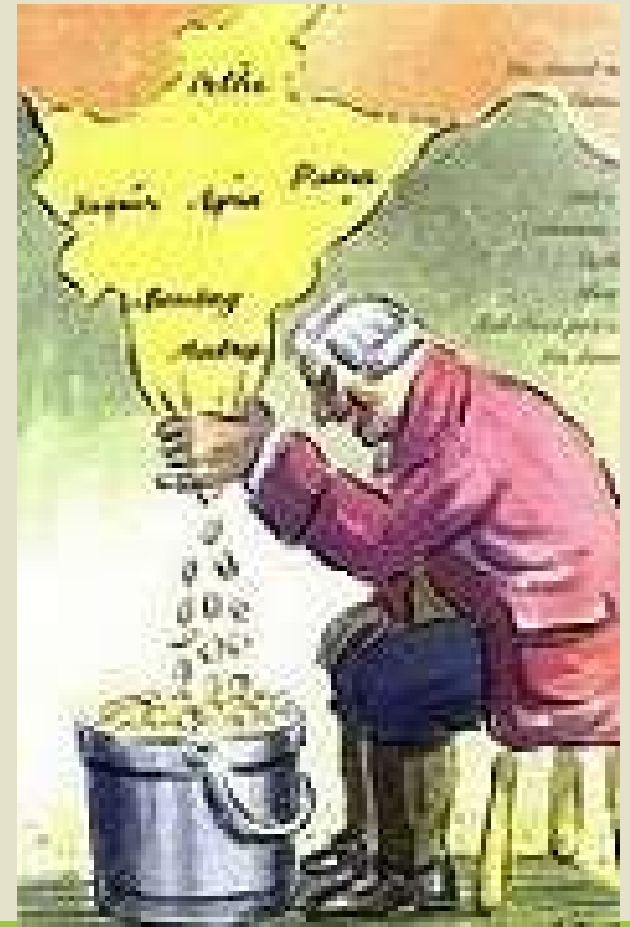
- The East India Company ruled India with little interference from the British government. The company had its own arm, led by British officers and staffed by sepoys, or Indian soldiers.



British Imperialism in India

British Expand Control over India

- The Industrial Revolution turned Britain into the world's workshop, and India was a major supplier of raw materials. The British considered India the brightest "jewel in the crown," the most valuable of all the colonies.



British Imperialism in India

British Expand Control over India

- Plantation crops included tea, indigo, coffee, cotton, jute, and opium.
- The British built railroads enabled India to develop a modern economy and brought unity to the connected regions. They also built roads, telephone lines, dams, bridges, canals, sanitation lines, schools, and colleges.



British Imperialism in India

The Sepoy Mutiny

- Many Indians believed the British were trying to convert them to Christianity. They also resented the constant racism.
- Sepoys believed the cartridges of their new Enfield rifles were greased with beef and pork fat. To load the rifle, soldiers had to bite off the end of the cartridge. Hindus consider the cow sacred; Muslims do not eat pork.



British Imperialism in India

The Sepoy Mutiny

- One group of sepoys refused to accept the cartridges and were jailed. The next day, the sepoys rebelled.
- Called the Sepoy Mutiny, the uprising spread over much of northern India.
- As a result of the mutiny, in 1858 the British government took direct command of India. This direct British rule was called the Raj. The Raj lasted until 1947.



British Imperialism in India

Nationalism Surfaces in India

- Indians hated a system that made them second class citizens. They were barred from top posts. A British railway engineer was paid 20 times as much money as an Indian engineer.
- In the early 1900's, Indian groups began calling for self-government.

