• **Imperialism** is the domination by one country of the political, economic, or cultural life of another country.

• **The Old Imperialism** occurred between 1500 and 1800. Europeans established colonies in African coastal regions.

• **The New Imperialism** occurred between 1870n and 1914. Nationalism had produced strong, centrally governed nation-states. The Industrial Revolution had made economies stronger as well. During this time, European industrialized nations became more aggressive into expanding into other lands. The new imperialism was focused mainly in Africa where declining empires and local wars left many states vulnerable. In Africa many states had been weakened by the slave trade.

**Causes of New Imperialism**

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<th>Economy</th>
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<td>Need for natural resources</td>
<td>Bases for trade and navy ships</td>
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<td>Need for new markets</td>
<td>Power and security for a global empire</td>
<td>Wish to share Western civilization</td>
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<td>Place for growing populations to settle</td>
<td>Spirit of nationalism</td>
<td>Belief that western culture is best</td>
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<td>Place to invest profits</td>
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• A spirit of **nationalism** was one cause of imperialism. Nationalism promotes the idea of national superiority. Imperialist felt that they had the right to take control of countries they viewed as weaker.

• **Social Darwinism** was the idea of Darwin’s survival of the fittest applied to competition between nations. Social Darwinists argued that it was natural for stronger nations to dominate weaker ones.

• **Military motives** were linked to nationalism, since military power was a way to promote a nation’s goals. Colonies were important as bases for resupply of ships. A nation with many colonies had power and security.

• Imperialists needed raw materials to supply their factories. They needed foreign markets in which to sell their finished products. They also needed places to invest their profits.

• Rudyard Kipling’s poem “**White Man's Burden**” offered justification for imperialism. Kipling expressed the idea that white imperialists had a moral duty to educate people in nations they considered less developed. Missionaries spread western ideas, customs, and religions to people in Africa.
In the 1870s, King Leopold of Belgium sent a mission to the interior of Africa to establish trade agreements with leaders of the Congo River basin. The Belgian presence in the Congo set off a scramble among other European powers to establish their presence on the continent.

In 1884, in order to avoid conflict among themselves, Europeans leaders met in Berlin, Germany to set up rules for colonizing Africa. The Berlin Conference divided Africa with little regard for those living there. In 1850, most of Africa had been free. Seventy years later, most of the continent was under European rule.

In the early 1800s in southern Africa, an African leader named Shaka organized Zulu warriors into a fighting force. He used his power against European slave traders and ivory hunters. Through conquest of other African groups, he formed the Zulu nation.
Dutch farmers, called Boers, had settled in southern Africa in the mid-1600s. They had built Cape Town as a supply station. In the 1700s, Dutch herders and ivory hunters began to move further north. They fought African groups, such as the Zulus. In the early 1800s, the British acquired the Cape Colony from the Dutch.

Large numbers of Boers, resenting British rule, migrated north during the 1830s, coming into conflict with the Zulus. Fighting between the Boers and the Zulus continued until late in the century.

The Zulus eventually came into conflict with the British as well. The Zulus experienced victory in 1879. Soon afterward, however, the superior weapons of the British crushed the Zulu resistance. Others in Africa also resisted the Europeans including Ethiopia and West Africa.

 Cecil Rhodes became prime minister of the Cape Colony in 1890. Under his leadership, Great Britain expanded its control of southern Africa.

In the late 1800s, Great Britain decided to annex the Boer Republics. The Boers resisted and the Boer War began, lasting from 1899 to 1902. After heavy losses, the British won. In 1910, the British combined the Boer republics with the Cape Colony to form the Union of South Africa. This bitter struggle left a legacy of distrust and hatred.
IMPACT OF IMPERIALISM

Effects on the Colonies

Short Term

- Large numbers of Africans came under European rule
- Local economies became dependent on industrialized
- Some nations introduced changes to meet imperialist challenges
- Individuals and groups resisted European domination
- Western culture spread to new regions
- Traditional political units were disrupted or destroyed
- Famines occurred in lands where farmers grew cash crops for export for imperialistic nations rather than food for local use.

Long Term

- Western culture continued to influence much of the world.
- Transportation, education, and medical care were improved.
- Resistance to imperial rule evolved into nationalist movements.
- Many economies became dependent on single cash crops grown for export.

Effects on Europe

- The West discovered new crops, foods, and other products.
- Westerners were introduced to new cultural influences.
- Competition for empires created and increased conflict between imperial powers. These conflicts sometimes led to war.
- The industrial nations controlled a new global economy.