

CHAPTER
11

The Age of Imperialism, 1850–1914

Connect History *and* Geography

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, colonial powers seized vast areas of Africa and Asia. Few territories managed to escape foreign control. As the map at the right shows, the colonizers were particularly active in carving up Africa. Use the map to answer the following questions.

1. How many colonial powers colonized Africa? Which European power did not?
2. Which country controlled India? the Philippines?
3. How would you describe the arrangement of African colonies?
4. Why do you think Africa was so heavily colonized?

For more information about imperialism . . .



This sculptured brass weight was used by the Asante people of Africa. The elaborate nature of the weight may indicate that trade was especially important to the Asante. The British traded with the Asante on the west coast of Africa, also known as the Gold Coast.



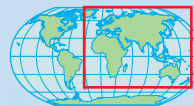
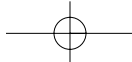
Ethiopian ruler Menelik II defeated the Italians at the Battle of Adowa in 1896.

1850 European trading with Africa well-established.

1858 Britain establishes direct rule over India.

1869 Suez Canal completed.

1850



Colonial Claims, 1900



1884-85
Berlin Conference sets rules for African colonization.

1898
United States acquires Philippines, annexes Hawaii.

1899
Boer War begins in South Africa.

1914



Interact *with* History

The 19th-century Europeans have access to steam engines and medical advances. They have the technical know-how to develop the resources of the land they control. They want to develop these resources to make themselves great profits. Many believe that they also have both the right and the responsibility to develop the lands and cultures of less advanced areas of the world.

You wonder about the Europeans' thinking. What rights and responsibilities do they really have? How much should they try to change other peoples and other cultures?

Railroads will bring the products grown or mined to market and carry people to different parts of the conquered country.

What impact might these Europeans have on the land and people they conquer?



Wireless radio will allow communication to wide areas of the country.



Mining gold and diamonds will destroy the land that has been taken away from the local inhabitants.



Local rule might be eliminated or replaced with rule by European monarchs and their representatives.

EXAMINING *the* ISSUES

- Does a technologically advanced nation have a responsibility to share its advances with less developed areas?
- Is it acceptable to impose your culture on another culture group?
- Who should benefit from the resources of a place?
- Is there such a thing as having too much power over others?

Discuss these questions with your classmates. In your discussion, remember what you have already learned about conquests and cultural changes.

As you read about imperialists in this chapter, look for their effects on both the colonizers and the colonized.