

Name _____ Date _____

Imperialism

“The Sun Never Sets”

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. After the Industrial Revolution, industrialized countries had more people and more factories. Factory owners needed raw materials like oil, tin and rubber to continue making modern goods. But in Europe, these materials were not easy to come by. They needed to go elsewhere to find materials.

Europeans decided to claim land in Africa, Asia and Latin America as their own. Like the conquistadors of the sixteenth century, the Europeans just took the land through force. This new era of conquest in the late 1800s was called imperialism.

The Europeans did not consider the indigenous, or native, peoples to be civilized, or in some cases fully human. European imperialists justified their conquests by calling them civilizing missions. Many believed that they were doing the natives a favor by teaching them about Western society and that it was their mission to civilize the “uncivilized.”

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2. Another cause of imperialism was social Darwinism. Charles Darwin had created the theory of evolution in 1859, which was the idea that all species have descended from a common source. In his theory, he described the idea of natural selection. Natural selection holds that those animals that are fit to survive will continue to live, while those that are not fit for survival will die.

Social Darwinism applied this scientific theory to society and distorted it. Europeans saw themselves and their cultures as more “fit for survival” than the people and cultures in Africa, Asia and South America. So they had no issue taking over native groups that they found to be less fit. The imperialists believed that they had the duty to colonize other lands.

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3. The British had a strong influence on the people of India. They built railroads and created schools, though the schools served only the wealthier upper class. The British were also harmful and disrespectful, telling people to grow cotton rather than food, so people began to starve. They had little respect for the Indians' culture, holding parties at the Taj Mahal, a sacred tomb.

British cultural insensitivity led to a rebellion called the Sepoy Mutiny. Until the 1850s, the British government indirectly influenced India through the British East India Company. They paid Indian soldiers, called sepoys, to protect British interests. In 1857, the sepoys heard a rumor that the British were greasing bullet cartridges with a mixture of cow and pig fat. Bullet cartridges needed to be bitten open. Being forced to bite into cow and pig fat was an extreme insult to the sepoys because Hindus don't eat cows, and Muslims don't eat pigs. The rumor added fuel to the growing anger at the British. The sepoys mutinied, or turned against their commanders, leading to a terrible battle in which many people were killed. Eventually, the British won and the British government, instead of the East India Company, was in charge of India.

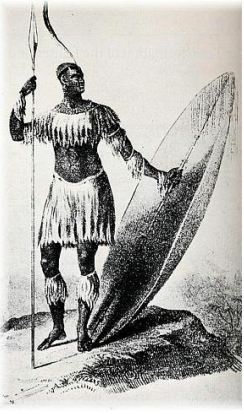
4. People in the Americas and Europe had interacted with Africans in the triangular trade during the 1700s. In 1808, Britain and the United States declared the slave trade illegal and by the 1890s, most major countries had also made it illegal. However, Europe was not done with Africa. Europeans realized that Africa was one of the few places in the world that had not been fully colonized. They wanted to have as much land as possible, so they set off on the scramble for Africa.

Before this time, there were several reasons European countries didn't venture off the coast. First, they didn't have any way to fight off jungle diseases such as malaria, which is spread by mosquitoes. The drug quinine allowed Europeans to fight off malaria and move into the central areas of Africa. New railroads and steamships also made travel easier.

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Shaka Zulu

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Imperialism in South Africa held some of the greatest colonization difficulties. When the scramble for Africa began, there were already about 200,000 Europeans living in South Africa, called Boers or Afrikaners. The Boers were white and had descended from the original Dutch settlers in South

Africa. They thought that people with white skin were superior to those with dark skin, so they forced the indigenous Africans onto reservations.

The African Zulu tribe fought back under Shaka Zulu's powerful and disciplined leadership. It seemed that the Zulus might be able to overcome the colonizers. But when Shaka died, the Zulus lost much of their prowess, and the Boers took power again.

In 1899, the British fought the Boers for control of South Africa in the Boer War. After forcing 150,000 Boer women and children into camps, the British won. In 1910, Britain formed the Union of South Africa. To appease the Boers, only white people in South Africa could vote. These racist laws would set the stage for intense racial conflict in the later twentieth century that included a policy of apartheid.

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