The Age of Imperialism

Chapter 12
Great Britain’s colonies

- 1850-1900, Britain believed colonies were essential to the nation’s prosperity and prestige
- British ships guarded seas so goods could be shipped safely
- By 1900 the United States and Germany were challenging Great Britain’s industrial leadership
- More nations were imposing tariffs to protect own goods
- Great Britain had to find new nations to sell goods to
- Great Britain also needed more resources imported in
European Superiority

- Had better weapons, railroads, and telegraph cables for better communication
- Better technology was proof that Europeans are better (racism)

- “I contend that we Britons are the first race in the world, and the more of the world that we inhabit, the better it is for the human race. I believe that it is my duty to God, my Queen, and my country to paint the whole map of Africa red, from the Cape of Good Hope to Cairo.”

  Cecil Rhodes- became rich from diamond mines in South Africa
Europeans Explore Africa

Imperialism had Appeal
- Little was known about the interior lands in Africa
- Stories of adventure
  - Guarding the empire against fierce enemies in distant lands
  - Sailors roaming the open seas
- 1879 Belgium claims most of the Congo River Valley
- This alarmed France, France claimed lands north of the Congo River
- Soon Britain, Germany, Italy, and Spain were also claiming land in Africa
- Fear of wars
- Berlin Conference 1885
  - European countries met in Berlin to discuss rules
  - Any country could claim land by sending troops to occupy locations that assured control of areas
Africa was a Continent of Colonies

- Europeans controlled most of Africa except for Liberia and Ethiopia
- White settlers took over large plots of lands for farming
- Displaced the local populations
- European rulers wanted African workers for mines and plantations
- At first, forced Africans to work
- Finally they made African labor pay taxes with money, not work
The British Dominated India

- British East India Company ruled India with little interference from the British or Indian government.
- Goal is to make money.

The Sepoy Rebellion 1857

- Word spread that the rifle cartridges were sealed with beef and pork fat.
- Both Hindus and Muslims were outraged by this news.
- Sepoys marched to Delhi to join Indian soldiers.
- They spread from city to city regaining Indian control.
**Sepoy Rebellion**

- It took the East India Company more than a year to regain control with the help of British soldiers.
- The Hindus and the Muslims split over who should lead India.
- Nearly all of the Indian princes remained loyal to the company.

**The Results**

- Britain took greater control of the Indian states.
- European educated Indians started nationalist movements of Indian Independence (not until 1947).
Imperialism in China

- China had a farming system but was not industrialized.
- China was self-sufficient and had little interest in trading.
- China had a huge population and plenty of resources.
- China refused to open ports to foreigners.
- European governments wanted a product the Chinese would buy.

- Opium was smuggled in and the Chinese govt. couldn’t control it.
- The Chinese govt. upset appeal to Queen Victoria.
1839 The Opium War

- By 1842 British Navy easily overwhelmed the Chinese

**Treaty of Nanjing**

- British control Hong Kong
- British won right to trade at four more sea ports
- British didn’t have to obey Chinese law
- Pay damages to opium supplies destroyed
- Opium trade continues
Chinese Resistance

- Disapprove of ideas of western missionaries
- Saw western technology as dangerous
- Contradicted Confucian ways

Boxer Rebellion

- 1900 Boxers attacked all foreign influences “Drive out foreign devils”
- Multi-national force quickly crushed the Boxers

Results

- Chinese forced to follow western ideas
- Chinese nationalism spreads
- Sun Yat-sen creates reforms promoting democratic governments
Japan builds a modern nation

- Japan had no contact with the outside world
- 1853 United States Commodore Mathew Perry steamed into Tokyo Harbor to open Japan up to trade
- Japanese were impressed by the modern steam ship, rifles and cannon
- Japanese felt they had no other choice but to sign a trade treaty
Industrialization Transformed Japan

- Learn from western ideas
- Sign a constitution
- Begin building railroads
- Mined more coal
- Modernized army and built a navy
- As Japan became stronger, it became more imperialistic
- Japan claimed Korea and into Manchuria (rich in iron ore and coal)
- Japan achieved great power and was the only eastern country that could stand up to the west
Japan Establishes a govt. with a strong emperor

- Begins to expand into Korea and China like western nations
- Russo-Japanese war 1904
- Over territory in Manchuria,
- Most Europeans expect Russia to win easily
- Japan wins, seen as a new world power