

# Imperialism

# Places of the World, Imperialism Edition

Directions: On your map, label all of the following. Add some colors etc. to make it more useful

Belgian Congo

Cape Colony

Maritime Provinces

South China Sea

Mozambique

Uganda

Liberia

(Canada)

Suez Canal

Katanga

Algeria

Bengal

Laos

Guinea

Angola

Afghanistan

Samoa

Korea

Transvaal

Fashoda

Hawaiian Islands

Shandung Peninsula

Bosnia

India

Philippines

Orange Free State

Congo River

Japan

Hong Kong

Cuba

Punjab

Kenya

Cameroon

Kowloon

Puerto Rico

Burma

Indochina

Sea of Japan

Cambodia

Madagascar

Montenegro

Singapore

Ethiopia

Yangzi

Sri Lanka

Taiwan (Formosa)

Eritrea

Congo Free State

Herzegovina

Armenia

Namibia

Zimbabwe

Malawi

Togo

Canton

Tanzania

Zanzibar







Colonial Possessions			
	Belgian		Dutch
	British		Italian
	Danish		French
	German		Ottoman
	Russian		United States
	Portuguese		Spanish

# I. European Balance of Power 1870 to 1914

- The emergence of Italy and Germany changed the power dynamics in Europe
- Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia were the “Big 5” nations
- Renewed the military and nationalistic desires of the major powers of Europe
  - Nations looked outside Europe for ways to expand their power and prestige

# A. The Three Emperors' League

- Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia agree to remain neutral and work towards expanding their mutual interests (started in 1873)
  - Germany: Protect North Sea ports, avoid encirclement by hostile powers
  - Russia: Wants Black Sea access and warm water port
  - Austria-Hungary: Aid if its various internal ethnic groups cause more problems
- Largely the creation of Bismarck – when he was dismissed in 1890 the League fell apart
- Competing territorial desires in the Balkans also broke up the league

# B. The Ottomans

- They were the “sick man of Europe” – a falling apart empire with a diverse population they were increasingly unable to keep inside the Empire



# C. The Emergence of the Alliance System

- Russia and Germany eventual part ways over the Balkans
- France realizing its weakness (and isolation) compared to Germany strengthens ties to Russia
- By the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe divided into two military alliances:
  - The Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
  - The Triple Entente: France, Russia, and England

## II. Imperialism 2.0

- The Second Industrial Revolution expanded transportation and communication technology in Europe giving it new methods for controlling and exploiting regions of the world
- The growth of nationalism and international rivalries fed the late 19<sup>th</sup> century imperial impulses
- The new commercialism and industrialization also sought new raw materials and markets
- New military technologies (maxim gun e.g.) also allowed Europeans to impose upon people like never before

# A. New Technologies

- Iron steamships – allowed for faster transportation across the globe and also allowed for more access to interior regions by going up rivers
- Machine guns and other military technologies gave Europeans a military advantage
- The Suez canal (1869) and Panama canal (1914), the telegraph, allowed Europeans more control over their colonies than in the past
- Medical advances also made the threat of things like malaria less severe

# B. Motivations for Empire

- Economic: Expand investment opportunities, expand markets, access to raw materials
- Geopolitical: Protect trade routes from rivals, limit access to regions to rivals, expanded military expenditures boosted national economy
- Nationalism: Leaders exploited nationalism to justify colonial expansion, used “yellow” journalism to sway public opinion towards xenophobia and hatred towards other nations

# III. The European Search for Territory

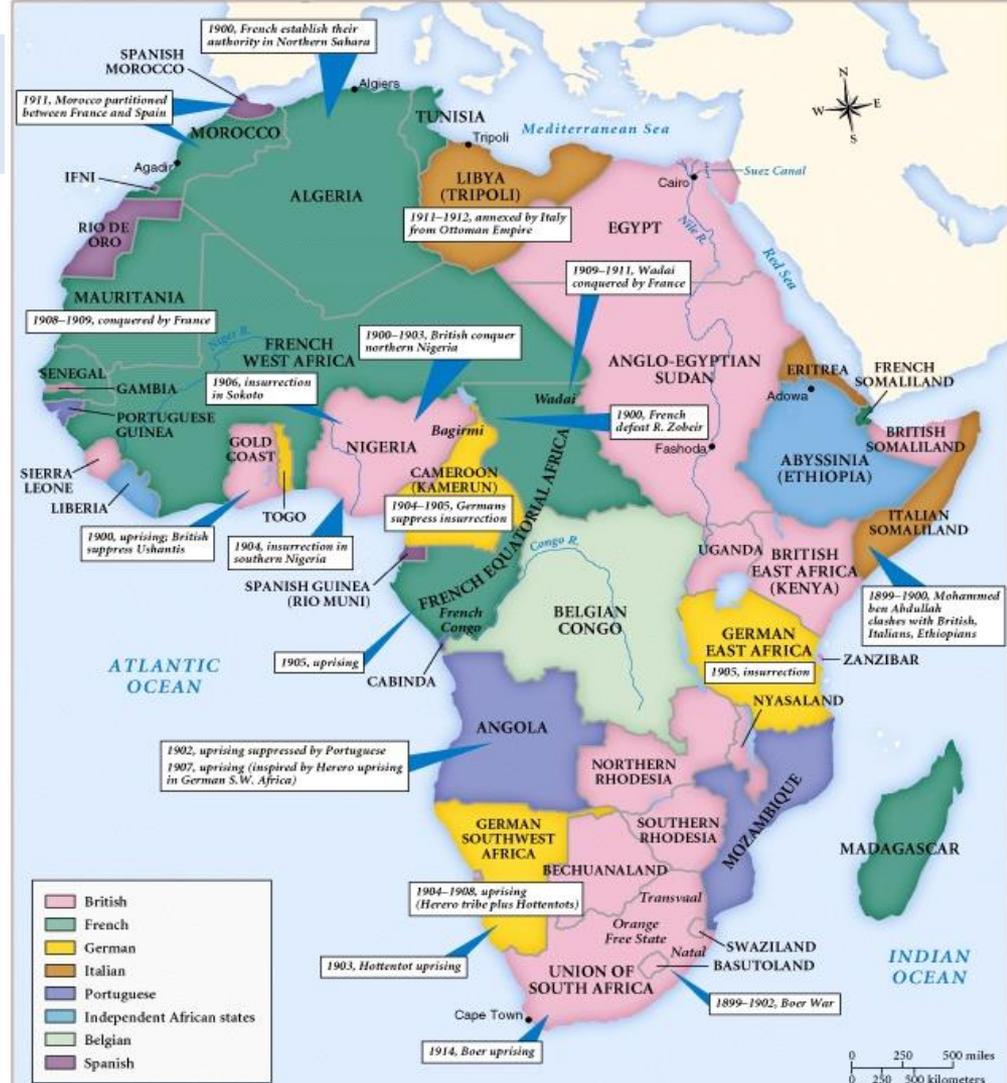
- The Impact on conquered people seldom considered by Europeans
  - Africa: Europeans created military empires without working with local leaders
  - China: Europeans created a largely informal empire
  - India: Europeans created a system that supported local leaders who were largely willing to cooperate with European powers

# A. The “Scramble for Africa”

- From 1875 to 1912 essentially all of Africa was seized by one European power or another
- A conflict over the Congo between Belgium, Portugal and France resulted in the **BERLIN CONFERENCE** in 1884
  - Gave the Congo to Belgium and established the principle that political control of a region was needed prior to annexation – brought on the “scramble”
- European rivalry intensified, conflicts among Europeans were mostly avoided, but Africans were slaughtered
- Ethiopia and Liberia remained the only truly independent regions of Africa

# Africa in 1914

- Railroads, steamships, machine guns etc. allow European powers to subjugate African interior
- Expansion by English and French led to the “Fashoda Incident” which is settled diplomatically
- English and French establish a closer relationship



# B. Gold and the Boer War

- Dutch settlement in Southern Africa dated back to 1837
- Fearing German expansion in SW Africa and the potential of Dutch Afrikaners (Boers) siding with Germans English expanded their control on the region
- Cecil Rhodes, as PM of Cape Colony, favored expanded English control in Africa (from Cairo to Capetown)
- A gold discovery in 1886 eventually led to a war between English and Boers (War 1899-1902)
- The war was brutally fought, and English actions were highly condemned, but was an English victory

# Cecil Rhodes

- Cecil Rhodes, depicted in a Punch cartoon (1892), reflects the attitude of British imperialism
- Rhodes' dream was British control from Cape Town to Cairo



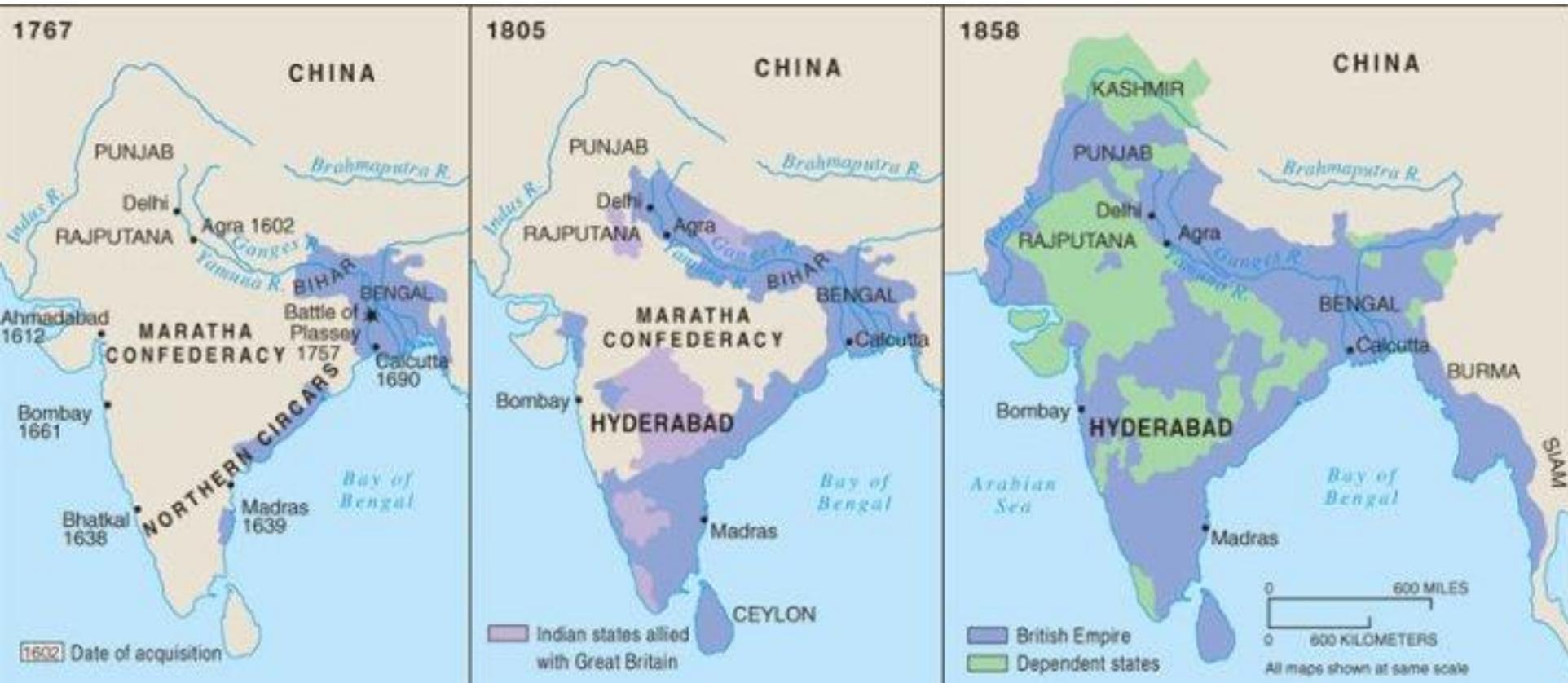


# B. Imperialism in Asia : India

- India was the main focus of England's imperial focus; formal British rule in India only started in 1861
  - English trade with the region was the #1 priority for the English government
  - The Sepoy Rebellion in 1857 led to the English crown taking over control of Indian affairs
  - Internally England maintained much of the pre-imperial social structure in India



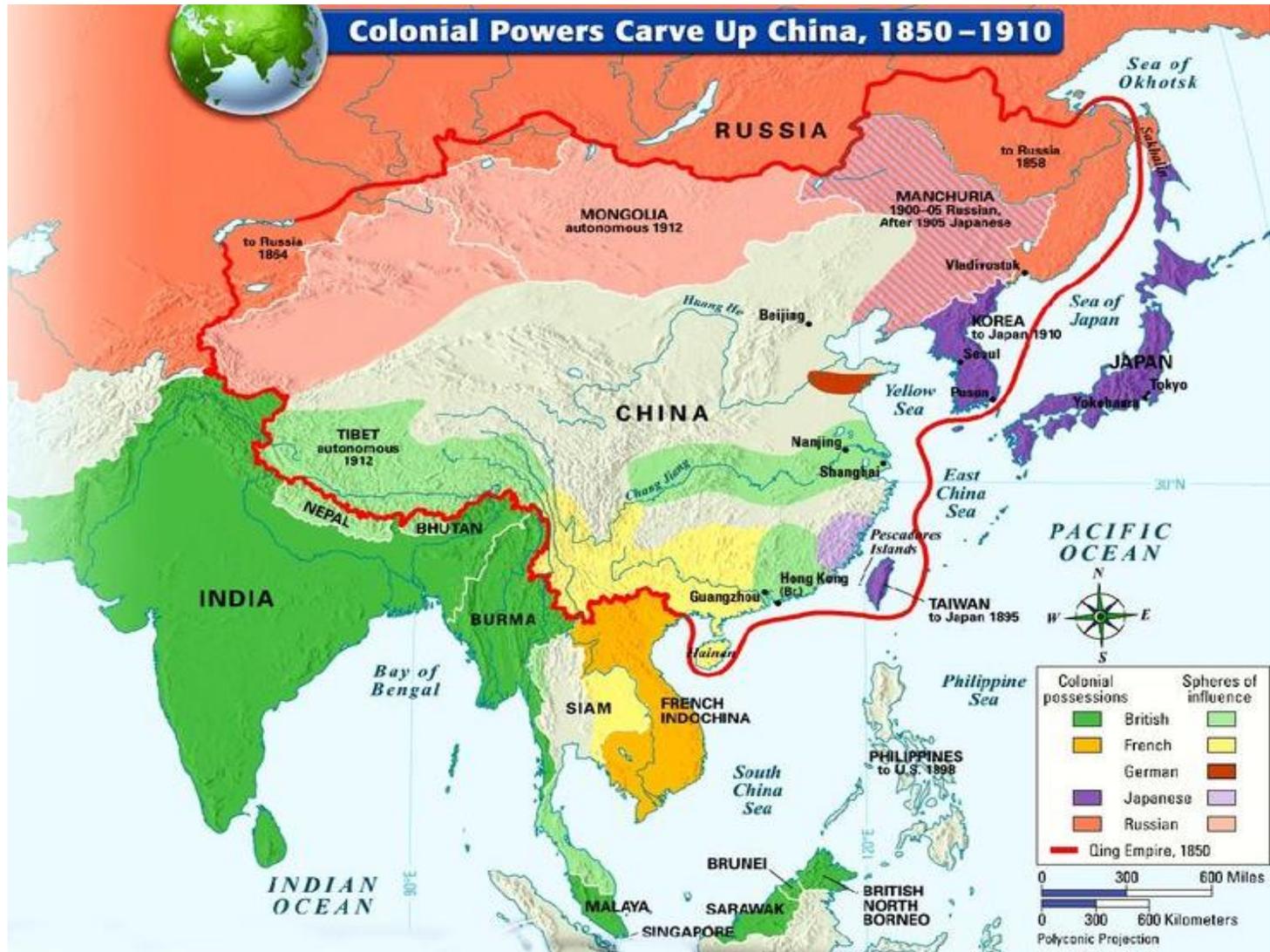
# The Progression of English Control in India



## B. Imperialism in Asia : China

- British merchants traded of Indian opium for Chinese tea; opium use in China was increasingly opposed by Chinese officials
- Led to the Opium War 1839-1842; which was the first of a series of wars that increasingly took away Chinese autonomy
- Increasingly European merchants exploited the Chinese market and stunted the growth of native Chinese industry
- The **Boxer Rebellion** (1899-1901) was a failed attempt to rid China of Western influence

# Colonial Powers Carve Up China, 1850-1910



## C. Southeast Asia and Japan

- France colonized and exploited Indochina, Laos and Cambodia (Thailand remained independent, but gave up port access)
- The U.S. seized (“liberated”) the Philippines during the Spanish-American War (1899)
- Japan remained independent and defeated China (1894-95) and Russia (1904-05) to control Korea, Manchuria and Formosa

# IV. Impacts of European Imperialism

- Helped cement a truly global economy; with communication, trade and transportation networks all linked together
- Created a global banking system with gold largely serving as the medium of exchange (London was the world's banking center)
- The colonized regions were often only exploited for their natural resources which led to limited industrial/economic development in large portions of the world
- Spread and reinforced racism; some believed it was the responsibility of the West to “civilize” (“white man's burden”) the world (Social Darwinism was used to support these views)
- Others in Europe opposed Imperialism (J.A. Hobson, Marx)
- Spread European languages and religions around the globe

# Imperialism Discussion Questions

1. Is it ethical for governments to implement policies that benefit their own people at the expense of other people?
2. Is it appropriate for governments to spend public funds to further private interests? What does Hobson argue about this?
3. To what extent should the military be used by a nation to advance and protect its economic interests around the globe?
4. Do you agree with Hobson's analysis that Imperialism only furthers the interests of the wealthy of a society at the expense of the masses?
5. Is the notion of "might makes right" a reasonable basis for international relations? If so, why? If not, what is a realistic alternative?
6. How does Orwell's "Shooting An Elephant" portray Imperialism?
7. How do Orwell's views compare with Hobson? Do you agree with both? Neither?







