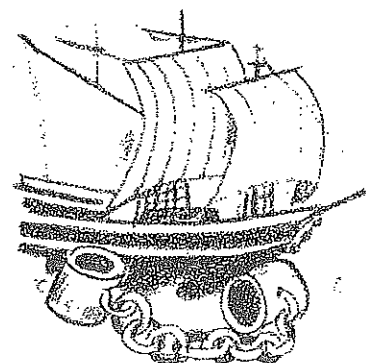


IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA

Europeans first took an interest in Africa during the 1400's. They found that slaves could be bought along the African coast from tribal rulers who had taken prisoners of war. The African rulers would sell their prisoners in return for cloth, guns, and iron. Between 1450 and 1865, European traders transported some 10 million slaves to North America and South America where they were sold to owners of sugar and cotton plantations. Companies from France, England, Portugal, Holland, and Denmark were earning tens of thousands of dollars on each voyage to America.



But attitudes toward slavery began to change during the 1800's as more and more people learned about the inhumane conditions forced upon captive Africans. Pressure for legal action resulted in Great Britain abolishing the slave trade and declaring slavery against the law in all of its possessions. Other European countries also began taking a dim view of the marketing of human beings. Missionaries urged African rulers to stop selling their prisoners of war.

This humanitarian reform movement influenced European businessmen to look for other products in which to trade. Soon, peanuts, palm oil, and other commodities needed by European industrialists were flowing out of the Dark Continent. Crops grown in the African interior were sent to the coast where local tribesmen, acting as middlemen, sold them to trading companies. European countries at this time had not yet established any real colonies in Africa. Explorers, missionaries, consuls (government representatives), and a few scattered pockets of settlers were the only foreigners on the continent. Countries had little desire to start new colonies. Past experience had shown that the establishment and administration of distant possessions was expensive and often troublesome.

But in the early 1880's, a dramatic change occurred in Europe's colonial policies. Suddenly half a dozen countries were involved in a spirited land rush that saw nearly all of Africa fall into European hands. Only Ethiopia and Liberia maintained their independence. The conquest of territory -- known as "imperialism" -- was carried out by Britain, France, Germany, Portugal, Italy, and Belgium. The Industrial Revolution had generated a need for raw materials and had created a class of wealthy businessmen who were interested in making foreign investments. Nations that were rivals in Europe became rivals in Africa. When one country claimed a piece of land, others did likewise. No one wanted to be outdone in terms of markets, prestige, and power.

During the race for colonies, imperialist nations often found themselves with conflicting claims. Conferences were held to define boundary lines and ease international tensions. In a short time, Africa was divided up on paper. Nations then set out to establish firm control over their new territories. Although they hoped to gain control peacefully, many countries were willing to use force if necessary. Some African rulers recognized Europe's technological and military superiority, and surrendered to the imperialists without incident. Other Africans fought skirmishes and all out wars of resistance. But by the 1920's, most of the continent was in the tight grasp of the European powers.

Colonial rule lasted for several decades until the post-World War II period when independence movements became widespread. European countries were forced to choose between fighting expensive wars or giving up their colonies. Most chose to grant independence peacefully.

Although foreign nations had largely ignored African interests during the "Age of Imperialism," their presence did have some positive effects. Railroads and roads were built and the level of education was generally improved. Cities grew up where Africans from different areas met for the first time to exchange ideas. And Africans came into contact with a European civilization that offered medical, scientific, and technological advantages.

The end of colonialism left Africa with many problems. Self-government at times became an overwhelming responsibility. The continent was a vast underdeveloped area plagued by political and social unrest and widespread poverty. But of greatest importance, the end of colonialism meant that Africa's future was now in African hands.

Game Rules

The class will be divided *teams of 4.* Each student will be a European country competing for colonies in Africa during the 1800's. One player will be Great Britain, one France, one Germany, and the other Portugal. Territories up for grabs are listed below.

Play begins with group members rolling a die. High roller in each group wins control of the Belgian Congo and gets 5 points. All group members then write that player's country in the space before the Belgian Congo in the list. Competition continues for Sierra Leone and the other territories until all of Africa is divided up. *In order to win you must have your name here AND on the map*

When rolling the die, follow these rules: (1) When two or more players roll a 6, they are at "war." They shake again with the highest number deciding who gets the territory in dispute. The loser or losers of the war cannot compete for the next territory in the list. (2) When two or more players tie with either a 4 or 5, they will roll again to break the tie. (3) If no one rolls a 4, 5, or 6, the territory in question remains independent, and players will write "independent" in the space. The player accumulating the most points wins the game.

_____ Belgian Congo-5 (Belgium)	_____ Liberia-1 (Independent)
_____ Sierra Leone-1 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Ethiopia-3 (Independent)
_____ Gold Coast-1 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Togoland-1 (Germany)
_____ Nigeria-3 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Kamerun-3 (Germany)
_____ Egypt-4 (Gr. Br.)	_____ German East Africa-3 (Germany)
_____ Uganda-1 (Gr. Br.)	_____ South West Africa-3 (Germany)
_____ British East Africa-2 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Libya-3 (Italy)
_____ Northern Rhodesia-2 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Eritrea-1 (Italy)
_____ Nyasaland-1 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Italian Somaliland-2 (Italy)
_____ Walvis Bay-1 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Port Guinea-1 (Portugal)
_____ Bechuanaland-2 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Cabinda-1 (Portugal)
_____ Southern Rhodesia-2 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Angola-3 (Portugal)
_____ Union of South Africa-4 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Mozambique-2 (Portugal)
_____ Swaziland-1 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Morocco-2 (France)
_____ Basutoland-1 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Algeria-5 (France)
_____ British Somaliland-1 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Tunisia-1 (France)
_____ Gambia-1 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Fr. Equatorial Afr.-4 (France)
_____ Anglo-Egyptian Sudan-5 (Gr. Br.)	_____ Fr. West Africa-5 (France)
_____ Spanish Morocco-1 (Spain)	_____ French Somaliland-1 (France)
_____ Rio de Oro-2 (Spain)	_____ Madagascar-2 (France)
_____ Spanish Guinea-1 (Spain)	