

Name _____

THE BERLIN CONFERENCE



The Berlin Conference established the ground rules for European **conquest of Africa**. Africa is a huge continent that has an unusual climate, resources, and surface features. Because of this, it also became the target for conquest by **ambitious** European empires. Africa is surrounded by water, so people from Europe, North America, and Asia could reach it by boat. **Colonies** were established up and down the African coast by the mid-nineteenth century. **The Industrial Revolution**, which started in Great Britain, further fueled the desire for cheap labor, raw materials, and new markets. This competition between the European nations resulted in conflict. Europeans

felt they needed to establish some rules for dealing with one another in their desire to take over Africa. The hope was by setting up some rules, they would avoid bloodshed and competition for African resources.

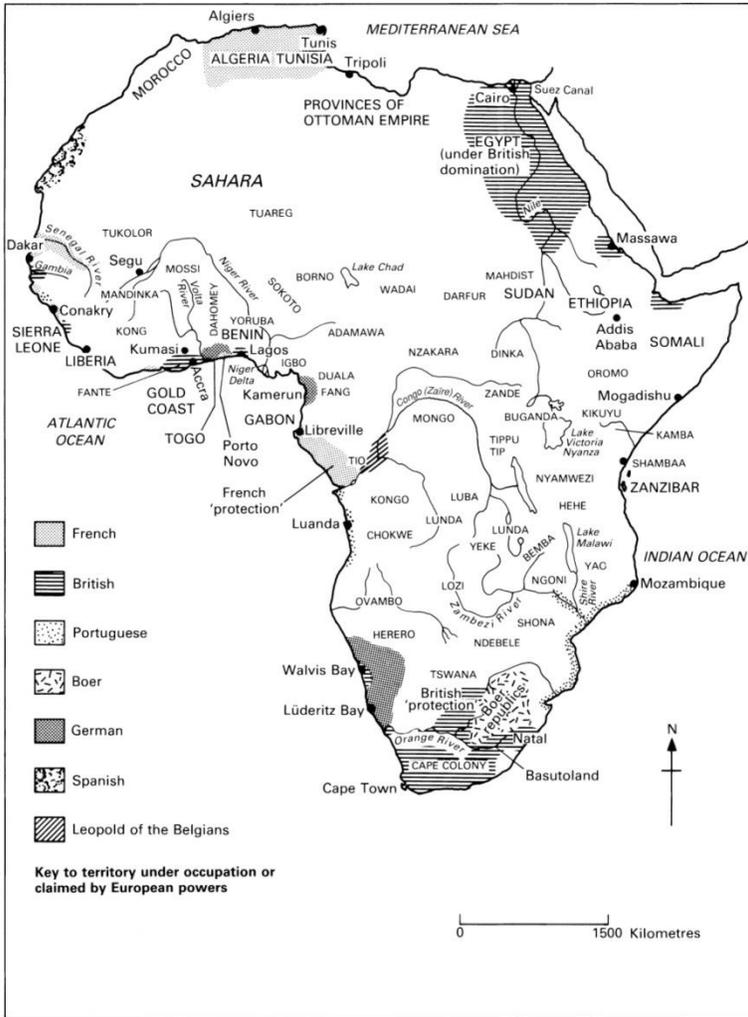
Portugal proposed the Conference, and it started on November 15, 1884 in **Berlin, Germany** led by the German Chancellor **Otto von Bismarck**. When the Conference started, 80% of Africa was still under local and traditional control. There were fourteen countries represented at the Conference: Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden-Norway (were unified at the time), Turkey, and the United States of America. The ones who had the most control of Africa at the time were France, Germany, Great Britain, and Portugal, so they had the largest input. **The Industrial Revolution**, which started in Great Britain, further fueled the desire for cheap labor, raw materials, and new markets. One major topic at the Conference was the **slave trade**. Even though some resolutions were passed to end the trade, the major result of the Conference was a way of dividing up Africa among the European nations. They had no regard for any cultural or **linguistic** (language) boundaries already established by the **indigenous** African people.

The members at the Berlin Conference wrote a document called the **Berlin Act**. Article 34 of the Act stated that when a country took possession of an African nation, or named themselves a “protectorate” of one, they had to inform all the other nations. If they did not do this, then their claim was not recognized. The Berlin Act was a new change to how countries interacted with one another. They made rules for controlling other nations to avoid war among themselves.

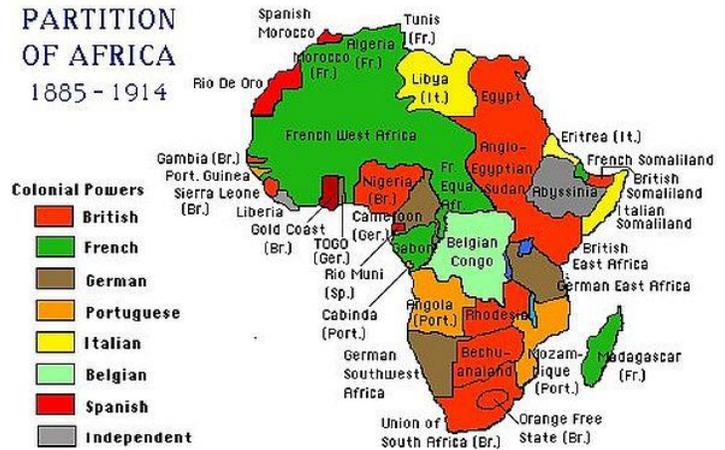
The Berlin Act had terrible consequences for the continent of Africa. Eventually African nations regained their independence, but the damage was already done. Many nations were unaware of how to run a country on their own after being controlled for such a long period. They lost their identity as their own nation. Many countries in Africa still are experiencing hardships due to these years of imperialism.

DOCUMENT BASED QUESTIONS

Figures 1 and 2: Maps before and after the Berlin Conference



PARTITION OF AFRICA
1885 - 1914



- 1) Which of the following is **NOT** an accurate observation of the two maps?
 - A. The French controlled parts of Northern Africa on both maps.
 - B. The second map shows that the Europeans controlled the majority of Africa.
 - C. The first map shows that the Europeans controlled the majority of Africa.
 - D. Egypt was controlled by the British on both maps.

- 2) Which of the following is **NOT** a country that controlled parts of Africa?
 - A. Belgium
 - B. Spain
 - C. French
 - D. Russia

- 3) The control of the southern tip of Africa changed from _____ to _____.
 - A. Belgium to Britain
 - B. Britain to Belgium
 - C. Portugal to Spain
 - D. Spain to Portugal

Figure 3: Political Cartoon



4) Based on what you read in the article, who is most likely the man holding the knife?

- A. Adolf Hitler
- B. Napoleon Bonaparte
- C. Otto von Bismarck
- D. King Leopold II

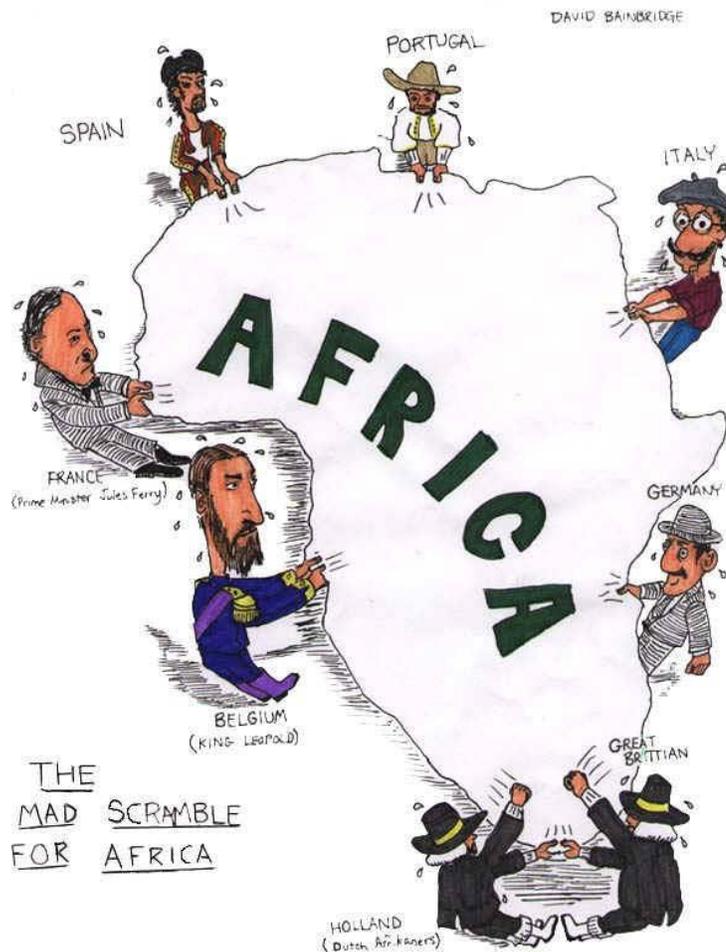
5) What is the best reason the man with the knife has an angry look on his face?

- A. The people at the meeting have made him upset.
- B. He hates Africa.
- C. He is money-hungry.
- D. He has no regard for the African people.

6) What type of resource is this political cartoon?

- A. Primary
- B. Secondary

Figure 4: Illustration



7) What two nations fought for control of the tip of Africa?

- A. Portugal & Italy
- B. France & Great Britain
- C. Belgium & Holland
- D. Holland & Great Britain

8) Which of the following does NOT describe the leaders in the pictures?

- A. Struggling
- B. Sweating
- C. Scrambling
- D. Relaxing

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It's All About Your Perspective! Viewpoints of Imperialism in Africa

Read each viewpoint of imperialism in Africa and answer the questions that follow.

Imperialism: A German Viewpoint- Summary of a passage written by Friedrich Fabri in his book, *Does Germany Need Colonies?* Published in 1879.

Should Germany begin on the road to Imperialism? I believe we should. For one, we are an industrial nation. In order to maintain our factories and produce our goods we need access to natural resources. Resources like rubber, petroleum, manganese for steel, and palm oil for machinery is necessary and can be found in Africa and Asia.

Obtaining colonies will also benefit our economy. Obtaining colonies in faraway lands will open up new markets to trade our good, and buy items that we do not produce. Colonies will provide our bankers with new business enterprises and projects to invest money in.

Participating in Imperialism will strengthen our military and defend our nation. Our steam powered merchant ships and naval vessels require coal to operate. Colonies spread throughout Africa would provide all of our ships with a place to pick up coal and supplies.

By engaging in Imperialism we can limit the power of our competitors, Britain and France. We can prevent territory from falling into their hands, and halt further expansion. Germany would weaken their trade and keep colonial profits from going to Britain and France.

Lastly, taking part in Imperialism would increase national pride in Germany. If we successfully obtain colonies we will show the world that we are a strong nation. We will provide a place for our increasing population to live and work. By obtaining colonies, we can restore Germany's position as the most prestigious, important, and influential nation in Europe.

- 1) Does Fabri think that Germany should participate in Imperialism? A. YES B. NO
- 2) Which of the following is **NOT** a reason Fabri gives to support his opinion?
 - A. Germany is an industrial nation and will have more access to natural resources.
 - B. Colonies will provide new business enterprises and projects to invest money in.
 - C. Imperialism will weaken Germany's military, making it better for the people of Germany.
 - D. Imperialism will restore Germany's position as an influential nation.
- 3) Which of the following **BEST** supports Fabri's claim that Imperialism will strengthen their national pride?
 - A. Obtaining colonies will show the world that Germany is a strong nation.
 - B. They are an industrial nation that needs raw materials.
 - C. Obtaining colonies will benefit Germany economically.
 - D. Colonies will help strengthen Germany's military.
- 4) Which of the following is NOT a raw material that Fabri pointed out they could obtain from Africa?
 - A. rubber
 - B. petroleum
 - C. coal
 - D. palm oil
- 5) Which two nations does Fabri point out as Germany's largest competitors?
 - A. Spain & France
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Imperialism: A French Viewpoint- Paraphrased from Paul Leroy Beaulieu in the late 19th century.

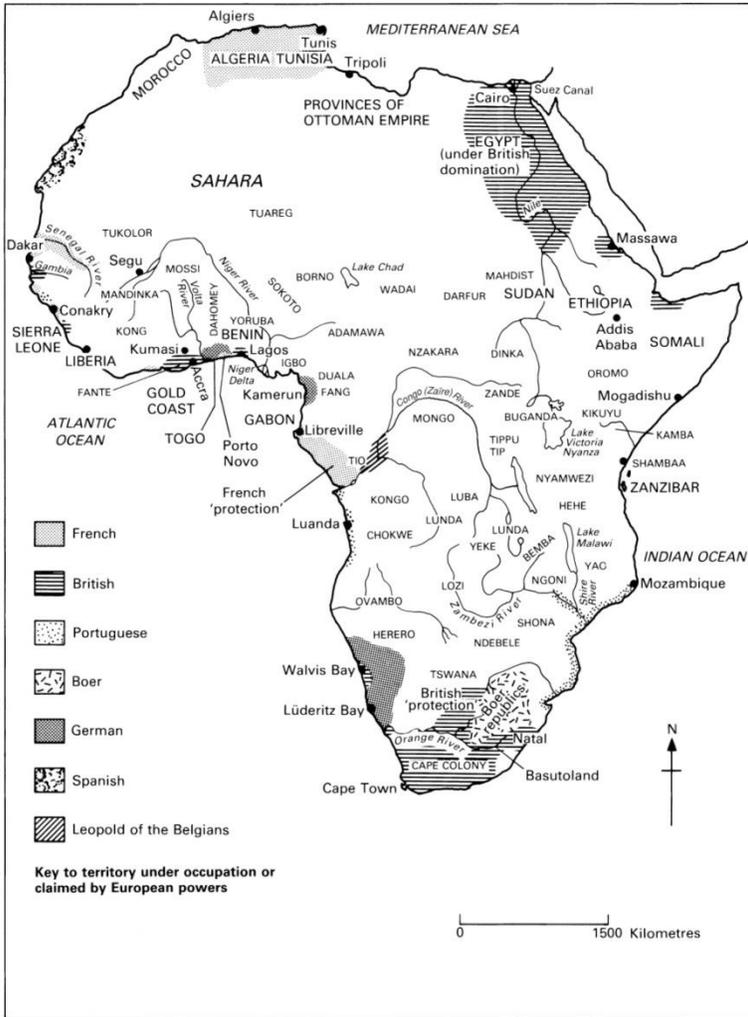
The great part of the world is inhabited by barbarian tribes or savages who participate in wars without end and brutal customs. They know very little about the arts and sciences. They do not know how to work, invent, or exploit their land and its natural resources. They live in little groups in poverty spread throughout large territory which if used correctly, could provide much food and riches.

This area of the world needs civilized people to intervene. It is not natural for the civilized people of the west to gather the marvels of science, art, and civilization and not share the opportunities with the savages in need. We have a duty to spread knowledge of medicine, law, and Christian religion. Such a transformation of a barbarian country cannot be accomplished by business or economic relations alone.

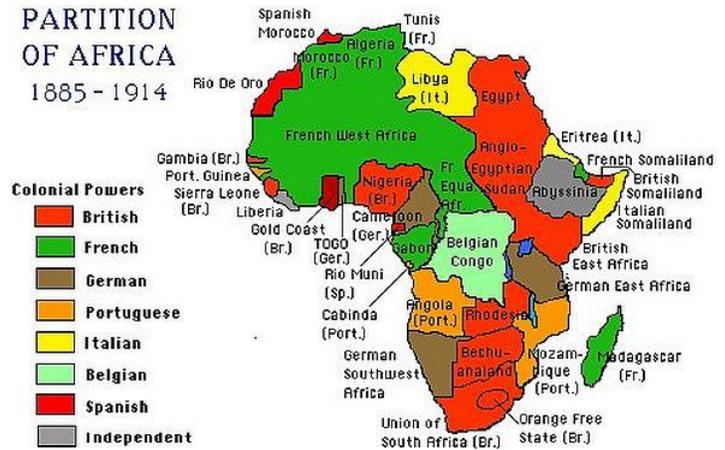
- 6) Which of the following is NOT a word used by Beaulieu to describe Africans?
A. barbarians B. savages C. brutal D. civilized
- 7) Who is the intended audience of this selection by Beaulieu?
A. the Africans B. Christians C. savages D. Tribes
- 8) Which of the following is NOT a reason Beaulieu gives that people must intervene in Africa?
A. The Africans did not know how to work. B. The Africans did not know how to invent.
C. The Africans used the natural resources. D. The Africans were barbarians.
- 9) Which sentence LEAST supports the central idea of Beaulieu's writing?
A. They know very little about the arts and sciences.
B. The great part of the world is inhabited by barbarian tribes or savages who participate in wars without end and brutal customs.
C. It is not natural for the civilized people of the west to gather the marvels of science, art, and civilization and not share the opportunities with the savages in need.
D. This area of the world needs civilized people to intervene.
- 10) How does Fabri and Beaulieu's viewpoint of Imperialism differ?
A. Fabri thinks that the natives of Africa need to be more civilized.
B. Beaulieu thinks that the natives of Africa need to be more civilized.
C. Fabri thinks that the natives of Africa are savages.
D. Beaulieu thinks that the natives of Africa are nice people.

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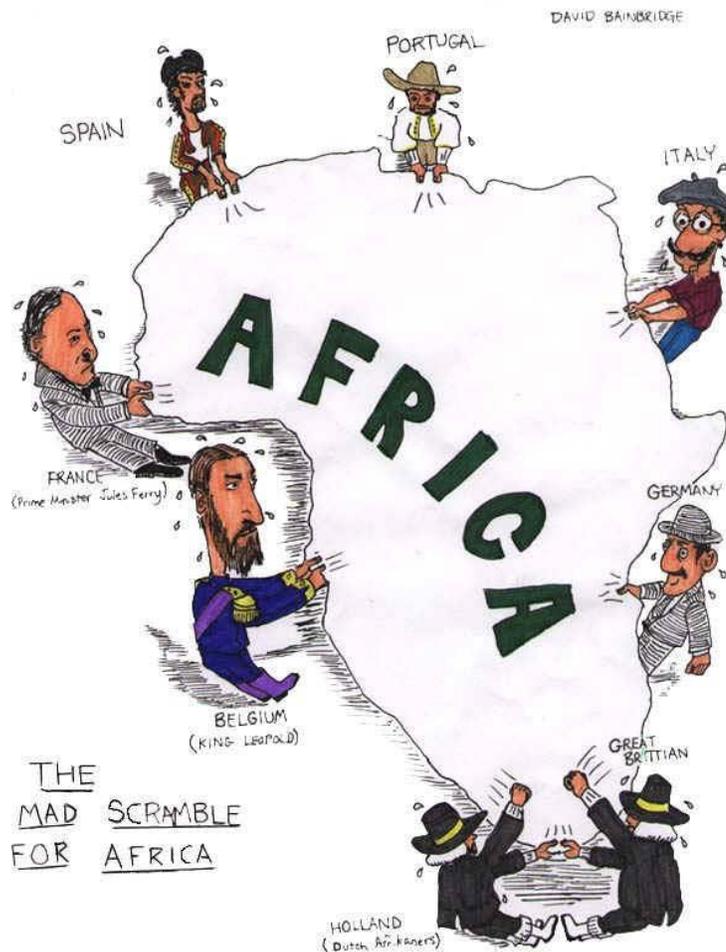
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