# The West and the World



#### I. Industrialization and the World Economy

- A. The Rise of Global Inequality
  - 1. In 1750 the European standard of living approximated that of the rest of the world.
  - 2. Industrialization opened the gap between Europe and the rest of the world, with Britain leading.
  - 3. Third World income per person stagnated before 1945.
  - 4. Two schools of interpretation of resulting income differences:
    - a. The West used science, technology, and capitalism to create wealth.
    - b. The West used superior power to steal much of its riches from the rest of the world.

#### B. The World Market

- 1. Britain led the world in manufacturing and, after 1846, as a market for goods from other countries.
- 2. Railroads, steam vessels, and the Panama and Suez Canals helped expand trade.
- 3. From the mid-1800s France, Germany, and Britain invested massively abroad.
- 4. Most of this capital actually went to Europe itself or to the Americas.

# C. The Opening of China and Japan

- 1. The British and French forced the reluctant Qing Dynasty to open China to their trade (1839-1860).
- 2. The United States Navy forced Japan to open its ports to foreign trade (1853-1858).
- D. Western Penetration of Egypt

- 1. Muhammad Ali modernized the Egyptian army and government, hired Europeans, and made Egypt autonomous within the Ottoman Empire (first half of 1800s).
- 2. Ali's encouragement of commercial agriculture turned peasants into tenant farmers.
- 3. Ali's grandson, Ismail (r. 1863-1879) continued modernization.
  - a. Arabic replaces Turkish as official language.
  - b. French company built Suez Canal (1869).
  - c. Cairo got modern boulevards.
  - d. Large-scale export of cotton.
- 4. Inability of Egyptian government to pay off massive debts due to modernization.
- 5. The British occupied Egypt to force payment (1882).

#### II. The Great Migration

- A. The Pressure of Population
  - 1. Emigration peaked in the decade before World War I.
  - 2. About one-third of all European emigrants came from the British Isles.
  - 3. German emigration peaked later than British (1880s), and Italian even later (increasing through 1914).
  - 4. Less than one-half of European emigrants went to the U.S. Others went to Asiatic Russia, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, and New Zealand.

#### B. European Migrants

- 1. Most European migrants were young, unmarried peasant farmers or village craftsmen.
- 2. Some ethnic groups, such as Italians, had a high rate of return to their homelands.
- 3. For some emigrants, such as Jews from the Russian Empire, emigration was escape from oppression.

#### C. Asian Migrants

- 1. About three million Asians (as opposed to 60 million Europeans) moved abroad before 1920.
- 2. In the 1840s Spain recruited Chinese laborers for Cuban plantations. Peruvian landlords also brought workers from China.
- 3. European settlers objected to Asian migration for racist reasons and because they feared competition from cheap labor. From the 1880s Americans and Australians were developing "whites only" immigration policies.

### III. Western Imperialism

#### A. The Scramble for Africa

- 1. Before 1880 European penetration of Africa was limited to French control of Algiers, British and Dutch settlers in South Africa, and Portuguese coastal enclaves in western Africa.
- 2. By 1900 European powers ruled all of Africa except Ethiopia and Liberia.
- 3. The South African War (1898-1902) led to British creation and control of the Union of South Africa.

4. The Congress of Berlin (1884-1885) established that European claims on African territory had to be secured by "effective occupation." This led to a rush into the interior.

# B. Imperialism in Asia

- 1. After 1815 the Dutch expanded their control of the Indonesian archipelago.
- 2. The French took Indochina.
- 3. The Russians expanded in Central Asia and along the north Chinese frontier.
- 4. U.S. took the Philippines in the Spanish-American War of 1898.

# C. Causes of the New Imperialism

- 1. Tariff barriers limiting imports to much of Europe and to the U.S. led major industrial powers to seek new markets.
- 2. In reality, most new colonies were not profitable.
- 3. Colonies were seen however, as important for military bases and naval coaling stations.
- 4. Colonies were also important for national prestige.
- 5. Social Darwinist theory predicted death for societies that did not compete in the colonial race.
- 6. Technological superiority (machine guns, quinine, telegraph, steamships) made conquest of new colonies feasible.
- 7. Conservative political leaders fostered pride in empire as a means of damping down social tension.
- 8. Shipping companies, military men, and missionaries all advocated colonial expansion.
- 9. Europeans often discussed colonial expansions in terms of a "civilizing mission," an imperative to bring Europe's supposedly superior civilization, Christianity, and so on, to "backward" peoples.

# D. Critics of Imperialism

- 1. Some Europeans criticized imperialism.
- 2. Hobson and others argued that colonies only benefited the wealthiest elites in Europe and actually cost ordinary taxpayers money.
- 3. Other critics, such as Joseph Conrad, saw European imperialism as racist, exploitative, and contrary to the West's own liberal values.

# IV. Responses to Western Imperialism

# A. Stages of Response

- 1. The initial response, as in China, Japan, and Sudan, was to try to drive foreigners away with force.
- 2. When this failed, many Asians and Africans retreated to a defense of traditional culture.
- 3. Others, such as Ismail, the khedive of Egypt, sought to modernize and match the West.
- 4. "The masses" in Asia and Africa were not used to political participation and initially accepted European rule without too much protest.
- 5. Later, European liberalism provided resisters with an ideology of political self-determination and nationalism.

### B. Empire in India

- 1. The last attempt to drive the British from India by force was the Sepoy Rebellion (1857-1858).
- 2. After 1858 Britain ruled India directly through a small body of white civil servants.
  - a. The British offered some Indians, especially upper-caste Hindus, opportunities to serve in government.
  - b. Nonetheless, British rule rested ultimately on racism and dictatorship.
  - c. This provoked the development of Indian nationalism and the foundation of the Indian National Congress in 1885.

# C. The Example of Japan

- 1. The initial appearance of Europeans and Americans in Japan provoked violence from radical samurai who wished to expel them by force.
- 2. In 1868 a group of patriotic samurai overthrew the shogun, restored the Emperor to political power, and undertook an intensive modernization program.
  - a. They abolished the feudal state and created a strong central government.
  - b. They created a free economy.
  - c. They built a modern navy and army.
  - d. The Japanese studied the West, and Japan hired many Western specialists.
  - e. Japan itself became an imperial power in Formosa, Manchuria, and Korea.

#### D. Toward Revolution in China

- 1. In 1894-1895 defeat by Japan in the Sino-Japanese War short-circuited Qing reform efforts in China.
- 2. From 1895 to 1898 European powers rushed to carve out zones of influence in China.
- 3. Radical reformers such as Sun Yatsen aimed to overthrow the Qing and establish a republic.
- 4. Traditionalists turned toward ancient practices and sought to expel the foreigners. One aspect of this response was the Boxer Rebellion (1899-1900).
- 5. In 1912 the Qing Dynasty collapsed.