

# Complete/edit your Economic Systems Practice then update your TOC

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# Motivations of European Imperialism



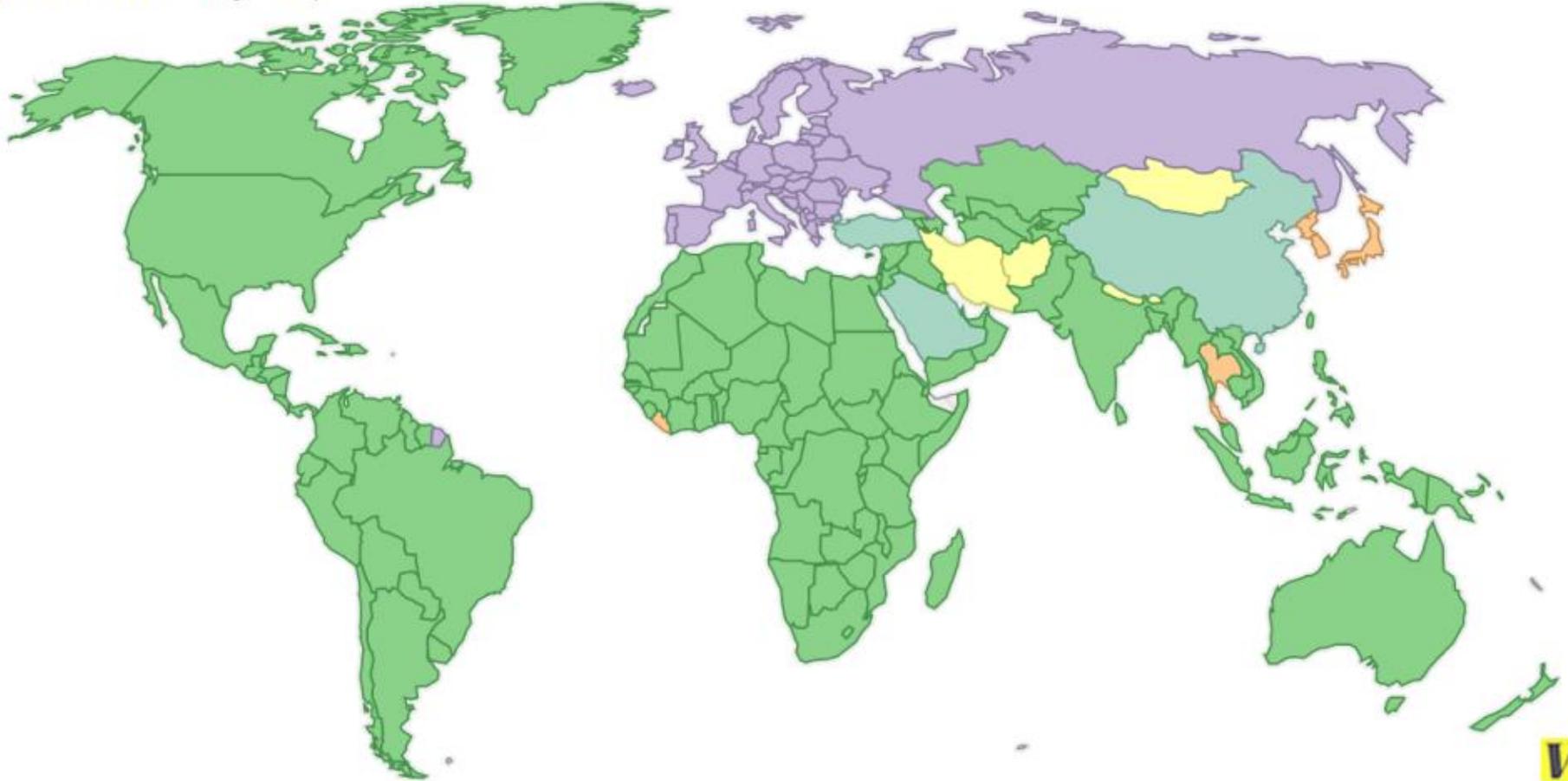
# What is imperialism?

- \*Imperialism: a policy of a country in which that said country influences other countries or territories through military force, as well as other means of power
  - *Basically, using their power to control others outside of their nation*
  - How is it different from colonialism?
    - It does not necessarily involve setting up colonies



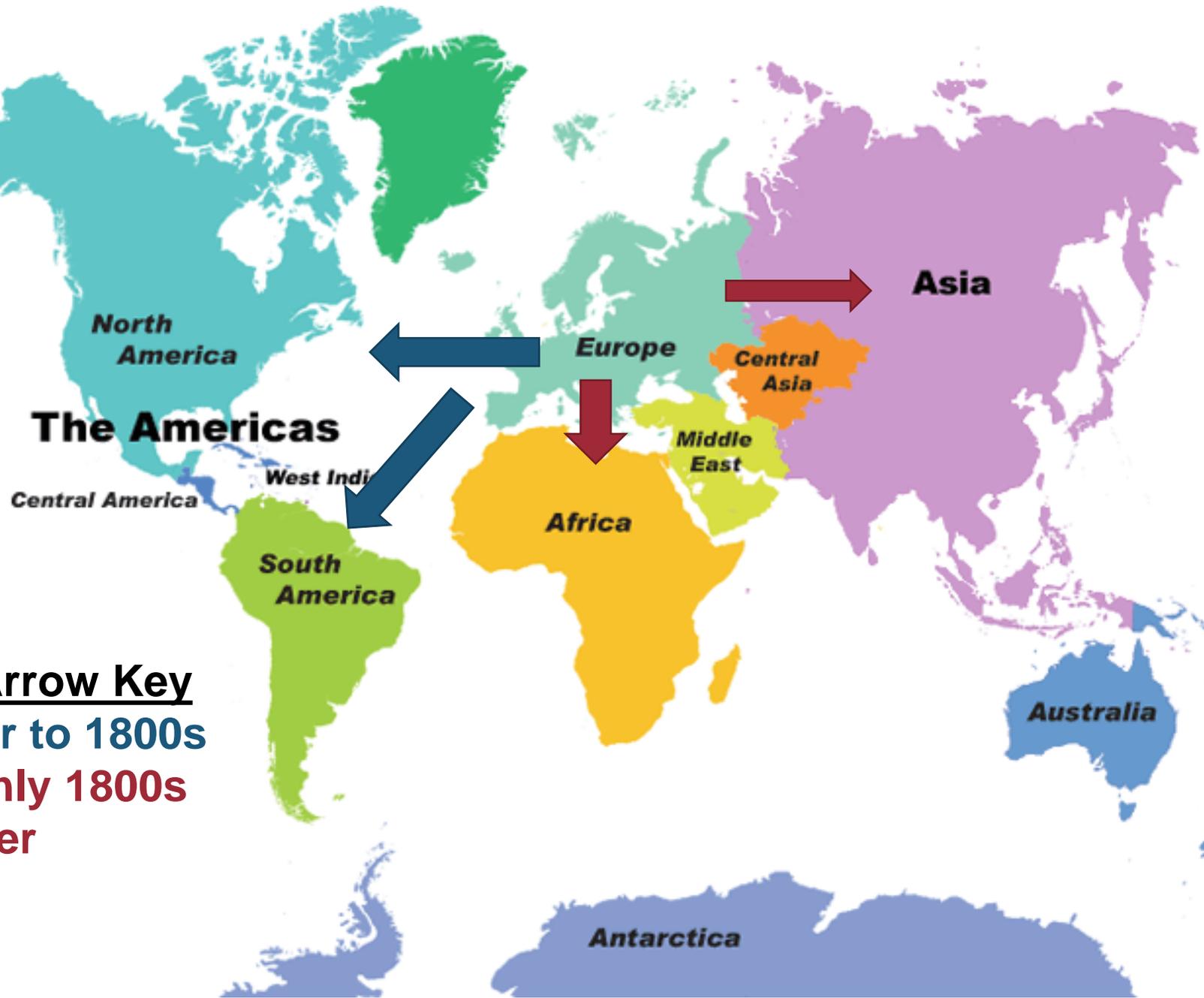
# Countries that have been under European control

- Europe
- Colonized or controlled by Europe
- Partial European control or influence
- European sphere of influence
- Never colonized by Europe



# 1800s Imperialism

- Different from earlier imperialism: goal of economic domination (\$ \$)
- Primarily focused on Asia and Africa
- In various parts of the world, European countries established:
  - Colonies
  - Protectorates
  - Spheres of influence
- Often utilized military force to exert control
- Had both direct control & indirect control, depending on level of trust in local people & economic interest in that country



**The Americas**  
North America  
Central America  
West India  
South America

Europe

Africa

Asia

Central Asia

Middle East

Australia

Antarctica

Arrow Key  
-Prior to 1800s  
-Mainly 1800s  
& later

## \*INDIRECT CONTROL

- ❖ Local government officials were used
- ❖ Limited self-rule
- ❖ **Government institutions are based on European styles but may have local rules**

Indirect rule: colonies were given a degree of internal autonomy

Example: Nigeria



## \*DIRECT CONTROL

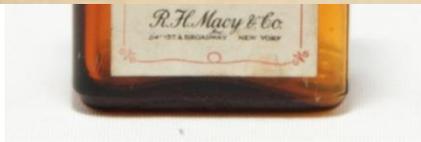
- ❖ Foreign officials brought in to rule
- ❖ No self-rule
- ❖ Goal: assimilation (the process in which a minority group adopts the customs of the prevailing culture)
- ❖ **Government institutions based only on European styles**

Direct rule: the colony was directly administered by the colonizer

Example: Senegal



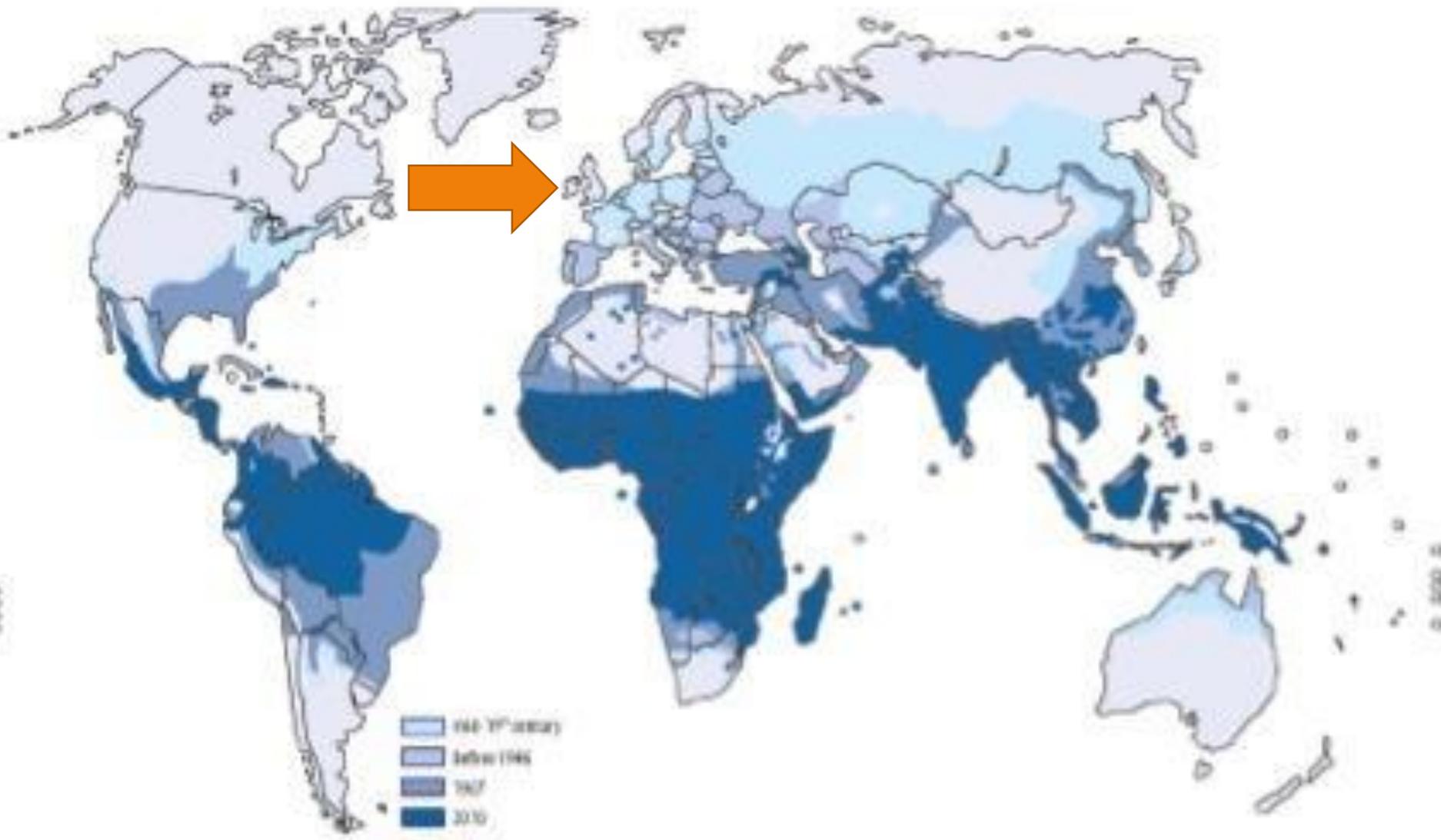
How could this happen? Why didn't the local people fight back?



# How could this happen? Why didn't the local people fight back?

- European technological innovations
  - Modern steamships made travel simpler, safer, faster
    - *Remember the Steam Engine invented by James Watt?*
  - Modern rifles, machine guns, and long-range artillery
  - Telegraph (*remember Thomas Edison?*) and railroads kept Imperial powers connected to conquered areas
- Medical advances
  - New medicines treated tropical disease like Quinine
  - This allowed Europeans to survive in tropical places & the interior of Africa

# World distribution of malaria, from mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to 2010



# What caused European imperialism?

## Political

- Nationalism- wanted to show country's power!
- Desire to enlarge size of empire & protect conquered lands

## \*Economic

- Needed raw materials for factories back in Europe
  - Industrial Revolution required raw materials
    - Colonies: new market where Europeans could sell their manufactured goods (\$\$)
- Cheap source of labor & supplies

# King Leopold (Belgium) & The Congo



- King Leopold essentially enslaved the people
- His focus was on rubber, which comes from trees
  - Used for wheels,
- All ivory & rubber had to be paid as a tax to the Belgians
- All men HAD to harvest rubber
  - Wives & children held as hostages
  - Children's hands cut off if father didn't meet his quota
- Rebellions resulted in villages & their people being burned
- Major population decrease
  - Murder, starvation, slavery, European diseases...





IN THE RUBBER COILS.

XXXX-The Congo "Free" State.

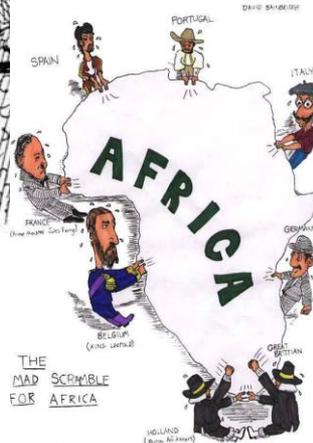
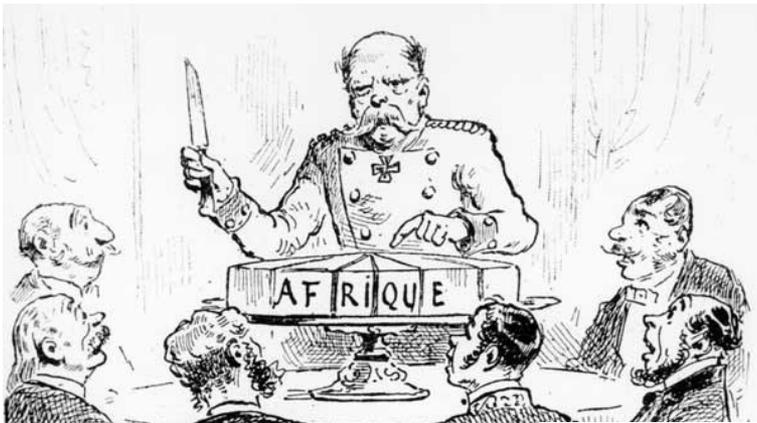
# What caused European imperialism?

## Social

- Belief in European (white man) duty to “civilize” Africa & Asia
- Interest in spreading Christianity through missionaries
- Belief that Europeans were superior (racism)
- Social Darwinism\*: the theory that Darwin’s ideas (survival of the fittest) meant that the strongest groups should rule the weakest
- *“According to this theory, non-Europeans were considered to be on a lower scale of cultural & physical development because they had not made the scientific & technological progress that Europeans had...” (textbook, p. 775)*

# \*Berlin Conference, 1884

- Meeting of European leaders
- Purpose: divide up Africa among European countries



- Europeans paid no attention to the ethnic and linguistic divisions in Africa when dividing it amongst themselves
- Took the best natural resources for themselves
- No African leaders were allowed to attend this meeting...

# AFRICA

*A Plethora of Design Identities*



Africa Today

54 Countries and 'National Identities'



Africa in Fact

Hundreds of 'TRUE' Ethnic Identities

# Queen Victoria (Great Britain) & The British Empire

- Queen of Britain from 1837 to 1901 (age 18-81).



- associated with Britain's “great” age of industrial expansion, economic progress and, especially, empire.
  - Would people in Asia or Africa at that time agree with this?
- Britain became a world-wide Empire with colonies on every continent.
- “the sun never sets on the British empire”



# Effects of Imperialism



- Spread of European cultures to Africa
- Cultural diffusion
- Many African traditions & cultures destroyed
- Roads & infrastructure built
- Some Europeans migrated to colonies
- Slavery
- Ruined environment in some colonies due to mining, etc.
- Resulted in many wars (Boer War, Opium Wars)
- Loss of native people's control of their own territory
- Many, many more...