

Module 9

The Age of Imperialism



Lesson 1

The Roots of Imperialism



Cecil Rhodes stands astride the whole of Africa.

The Big Idea

Ignoring the claims of African ethnic groups, kingdoms, and city-states, Europeans established colonies.

Why it Matters Now

African nations continue to feel the effects of the colonial presence more than 100 years later.

Setting the Stage

- Industrialization stirred in many European nations. They wanted more resources to fuel their industrial production. They competed for new markets for their goods. Many nations looked to Africa as a source of raw materials and as a market for industrial products. As a result, colonial powers seized vast areas of Africa during the 19th and early 20th centuries. This seizure of a country or territory by a stronger (military) country is called **imperialism**. As occurred throughout most of Africa, stronger industrialized countries dominated the political, economic, and social life of the weaker countries.

Africa Before European Domination

- Before European domination of Africa, African peoples were divided into hundreds of ethnic and linguistic groups.
- These groups spoke more than 1,000 different languages.
- Politically, they ranged from large empires that united many ethnic groups to smaller independent villages.
- Africans controlled their own trade networks and provided the trade items.
- These networks were specialized. For example, the **Chokwe** collected ivory and beeswax in the Angolan highlands.

Nations Compete for Overseas Empires



Livingstone Blazes a Trail

- The greatest known explorer and missionary was **Dr. David Livingstone**.
- He explored Africa for 30 years.
- He was more sympathetic towards Africans than most Europeans.
- He opposed the slave trade, which remained profitable for some African rulers and foreign traders.
- He felt to end slavery, Africa must open its interior to trade and Christianity.



The Congo Sparks Interest

- **King Leopold** of Belgium hired **Henry Stanley** to explore the Congo basin and arrange trade treaties with African leaders.
- Hundreds of millions of rubber Trees were “discovered.”
- Leopold's activities in the Congo set off a scramble by other nations, such as Britain, France, and Germany were pressing for claims to the same region, where **rubber** was in abundance.



King Leopold II

- King Leopold II turned his “Congo Free State” into a massive labor camp.
- He made a fortune for himself from the harvest of wild rubber.
- The Belgians brutally exploited the Congolese people by forcing them to collect sap (rubber tappers) from the Rubber trees in the Congo.
- He was responsible for the death of **10 million** innocent Congolese.



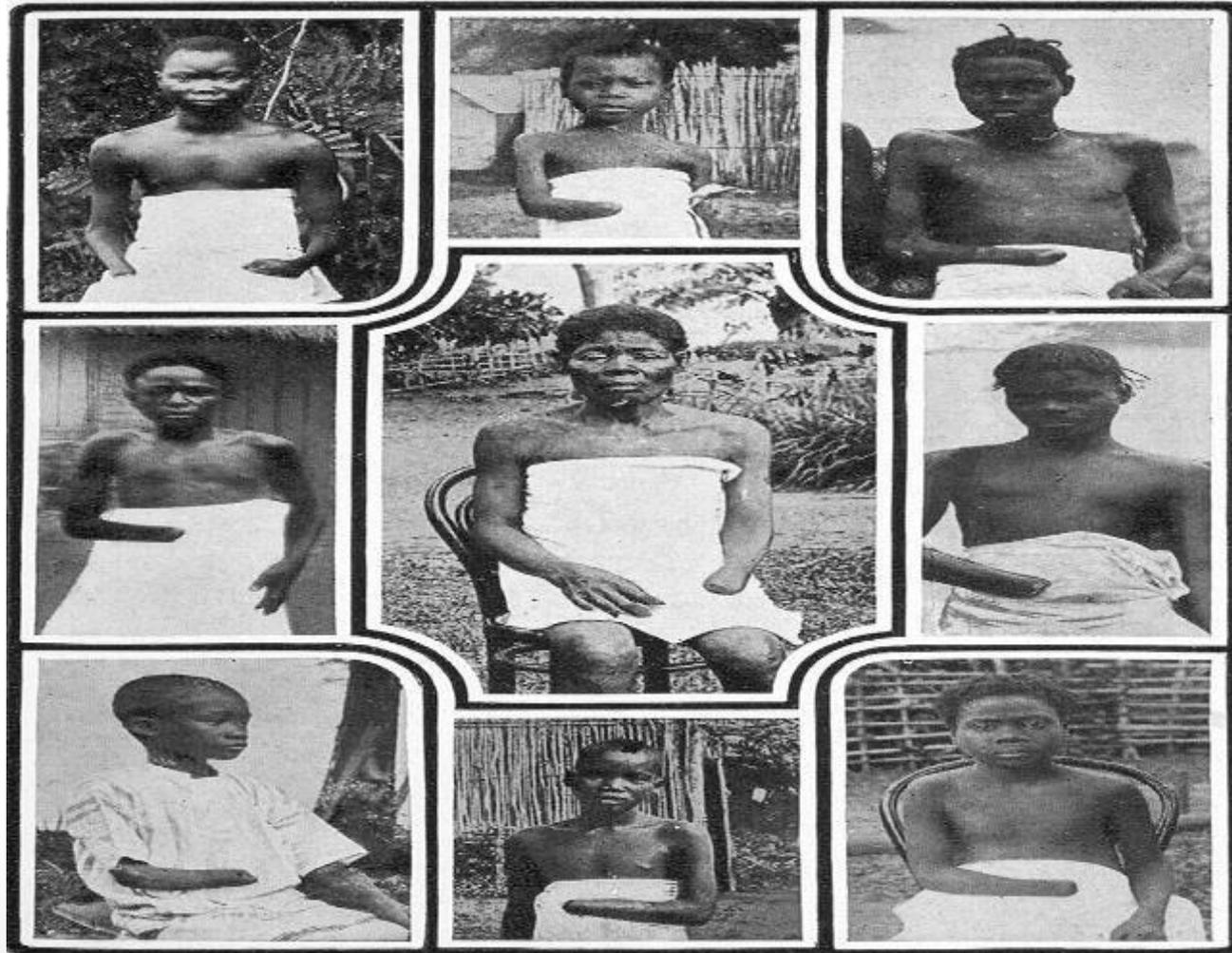
Congolese Victims

- Men who failed to bring in enough rubber to agents were killed.
- Even children were killed, tortured, and mutilated.



Video: The History of Mankind

- Missionary Alice Harris uses photography to illustrate the horrors of the Congolese Genocide.
- Start video at: 24:28 ***"SPEED"***



Forces Driving Imperialism

- The Belgian government's seizure of the Congo set off a mad scramble to colonize Africa by other European nations.
- France, Britain, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Spain began to claim parts of Africa.
- The Industrial Revolution provided Europeans with a reason to add lands to their control. They searched for new markets and raw materials to boost their individual economies.
- Europeans viewed having an empire as a measure for national greatness (nationalism).
- As the competition for colonies intensified, each country was determined to plant its flag on as much of the world as possible.

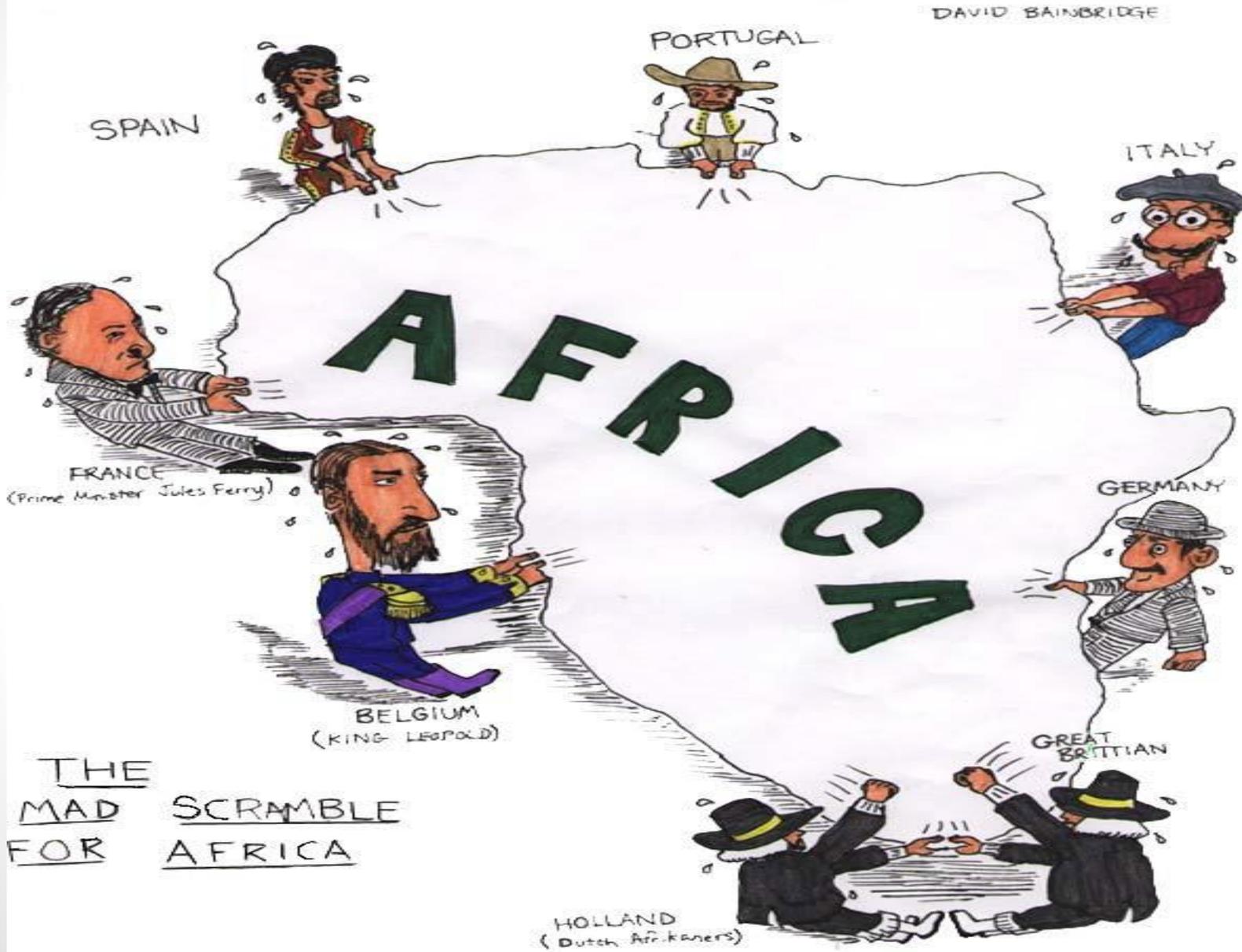
Belief in European Superiority

- Many Europeans believed that they were better than other peoples.
- The belief that one race is superior to another is called **racism**.
- The attitude was a reflection of **Social Darwinism**, a social theory of the time (NOT science).
- In this theory, Charles Darwin's ideas about evolution and natural selection were applied to human society.
- Those who were the fittest for survival enjoyed wealth and success and were considered superior to others.
- According to this **racist theory**, non-Europeans were considered to be on a lower scale of cultural and physical development because they had not made the scientific and technological progress that Europeans had.
- Europeans believed it was their duty to bring (conquer) the results of their progress to other nations.
- Read ***Cecil Rhodes Document-Based Investigation*** pg. 341

- Missionaries convert peoples to Christianity and “westernize” them.
- Many missionaries took a **paternalistic** view of African people.

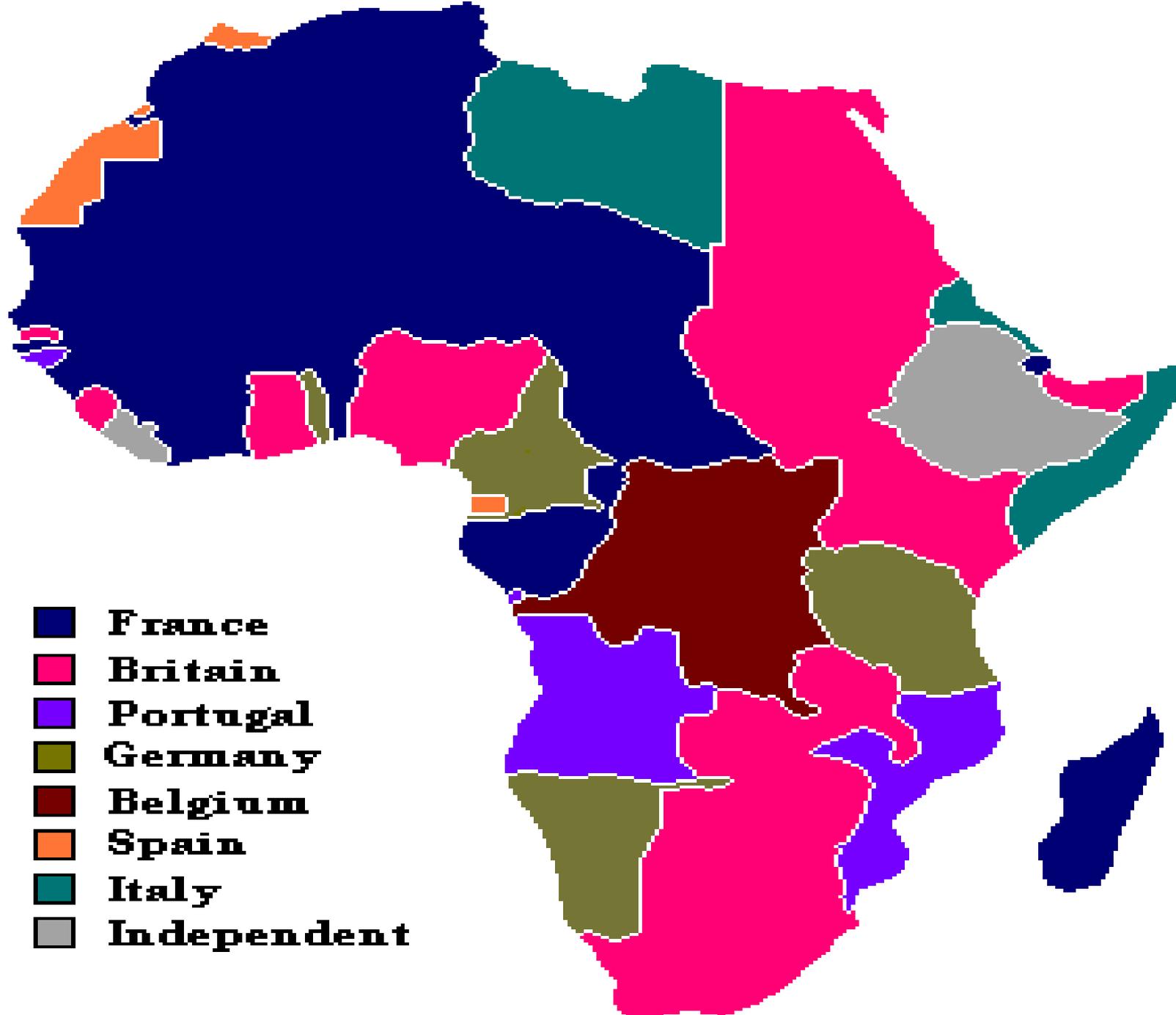


The Division of Africa



Berlin Conference Divides Africa

- To avoid European nations fighting in a war over African territories, 14 European powers met in a conference in Berlin, Germany (1884).
- No Africans were invited to the conference.
- They agreed that a European power could not claim any part of Africa unless it had set up a government office there.
- This caused a massive rush to colonize all of Africa.
- In 20 years, after the Berlin Conference, European powers partitioned almost all of Africa.
- By 1914, only **Liberia** and **Ethiopia** remained free from European control.



- France**
- Britain**
- Portugal**
- Germany**
- Belgium**
- Spain**
- Italy**
- Independent**

Zulus Fight the British

- From the 1700s to the late 1800s, a series of local wars shook southern Africa.
- Around 1816, a **Zulu** chief, **Shaka**, used highly disciplined warriors and good military organization to create a large centralized state in southern Africa (Zulu Nation).
- Shaka's successors were unable to keep the kingdom together against the superior arms (**Martini-Henry Rifle**) of the British invaders.
- In 1879, the British invaded after Zulu king, **Cetshwayo** refused to surrender.
- Using only spears and shields against British guns, they nearly defeated the British.
- In 1887, the Zulu nation fell to British control in 1887.
- Today there are more than 12 million ethnic Zulus in South Africa as their culture remains strong.

Zulu Warrior of the Zulu Nation



#1 Pg. 338 - 345

- **The Forces of Imperialism**

1. What were three motives behind the European race for colonies.
2. What were two technological advantages Europeans had over Africans?
3. What two factors within Africa that made it vulnerable to European conquest?

- **The Division of Africa**

4. What were two outcomes of the Berlin Conference in 1884 and 1885?
5. Which three groups clashed over territory and resources in South Africa?
6. What were two reasons the **Boers** (Dutch settlers) and the British fought in South Africa.
7. What was the major outcome of the Boer War?

Video: Warriors Zulu Siege

