

## ACTIVITY CARD

During the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (1800s-1900s) European nations used their overwhelming technological superiority to create massive colonial empires. These empires included parts of Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the islands of the Pacific. Some were so large it was said that the sun never set upon them, meaning that there was always at least one part of their territory in daylight. The creation of empires through the seizure of a country or territory by a stronger country is called **imperialism**.

What factors drove the Europeans to create these empires?

What factors drove Imperialism?

**DOCUMENT 1 OF 6**  
**Economic Factors**

SOURCE: *Economic factors were among the most important motivations for powerful countries to create empires. The following is an excerpt from an appeal from Jules Ferry (a French statesman) to the French monarchy to build a second colonial empire in 1890.*

“Colonial (*Imperialist*) policy is the child of the industrial revolution. It is necessary for wealthy countries where capital (*money*) is plentiful and accumulates (*grows*) fast, where industry is expanding steadily, where even agriculture must become mechanized in order to survive. Exports (*goods sold to other countries*) are essential for public prosperity (*wealth*). Both demand for labor and the opportunity for capital investment (*starting new businesses*) depend on the foreign market.

All over the world, beyond the Vosges (*a French mountain range*) and across the Atlantic, the industrial revolution has resulted in an increasing volume of manufactured goods, the disappearance of traditional markets, and the appearance of fierce competition.

The European consumer-goods market is saturated (*full*); unless we declare modern society bankrupt and prepare for its destruction by revolution, new consumer markets will have to be created in other parts of the world. Colonial policy is an international manifestation (*representation*) of the laws of competition.”

**ANSWER** the following questions:

1. Why does France need to find new consumer markets for their exports?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How is Imperialism tied to the industrial revolution?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Based on this document, how did economic factors drive Imperialism?

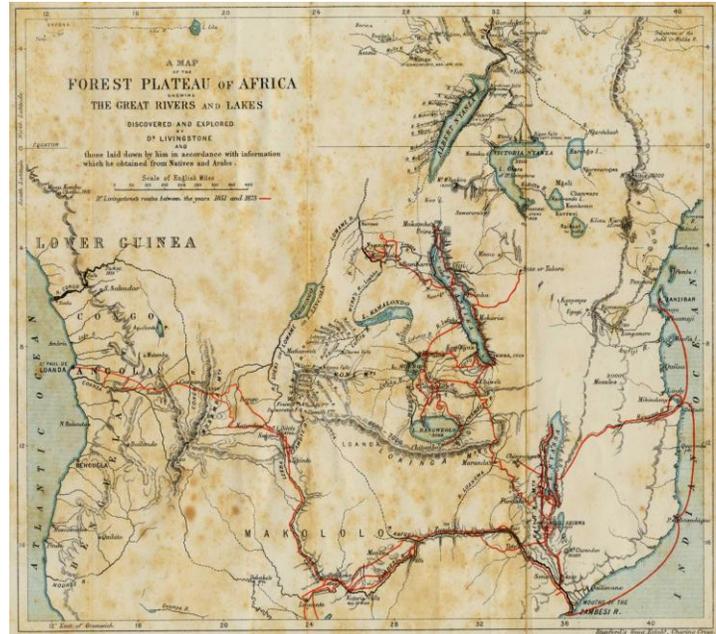
**What factors drove Imperialism?**

## DOCUMENT 2 OF 6

### Exploratory Factors

*SOURCE: Imperialism brought European explorers into contact with new lands full of exotic plants and animals they had never before seen, many of which served medicinal or scientific purposes. The British explorer David Livingstone was the first European to travel through Africa. Below is an image of the map he created during his travels, as well as his account of the uses of native plant life dating from 1857.*

“There are numbers of other medicines in use among the natives, but I have never been able to find out which were useful and which were of no value. We find a medicine in use by a tribe in one part of the country, and the same plant used by a tribe a thousand miles away for the same medicine. This surely must be a result of some natural virtue in the plant. As we still have no cure for cholera and some other diseases, it might be worth the investigation of those who visit Africa to try and find other remedies.” –David Livingstone



### ANSWER the following questions:

1. Who is David Livingstone? What country is he from? Where he go?
2. What discoveries does Livingstone describe? Why might these discoveries be important?
3. Based on this document, how did exploratory factors drive Imperialism?

**What factors drove Imperialism?**

## DOCUMENT 3 OF 6

### Ideological Factors

***SOURCE:** Many Europeans held the racist ideology, or belief, that they were better than other peoples. They believed it was their right and duty to bring “progress” and “civilization” to “primitive” countries. Below is a political cartoon titled “the White Man’s Burden” published in *Judge Magazine* in 1899. It shows personifications of Great Britain and the United States carrying baskets of Chinese, Africans, Arabs, Filipinos, and other native peoples up a mountain towards “civilization.”*



**ANSWER** the following questions:

1. Explain the cartoon. Who are the two men carrying the baskets? Who are in the baskets? What are they moving towards? How are the people in the baskets portrayed?
2. Based on the cartoon and the source information, what is the “white man’s burden”? How do you think the native peoples viewed this idea?
3. Based on this document, how did ideological factors drive Imperialism?

**What factors drove Imperialism?**

## DOCUMENT 4 OF 6

## Political Factors

SOURCE: *The race for colonies also grew out of a strong sense of national pride. This was because of the rise of Nationalism, the extreme loyalty and pride in your nation, that grew in Europe between 1815 and 1848. Europeans came to view an empire as a measure of national greatness. Below are quotations from Cecil Rhodes, a British man, and Jules Ferry, a Frenchman, explaining their views on Imperialism.*

“I contend (*argue*) that the British are the finest race in the world, and the more of the world we inhabit, the better it is for the human race. It is our duty to seize every opportunity to acquire more territory. We should keep this idea steadily before our eyes that more territory simply means more of the Anglo-Saxon (*British*) race, more of the best, the most human, most honorable race the world possesses.

—*Cecil Rhodes*,  
*Confession of Faith, 1877*

“Nations are great in our times only by the actions that they take. It is not simply by the peaceful shining of our traditions and our institutions (*society*) that France is great at this hour. Something else is needed for France: she must be a great country wielding all of her rightful influence over the destiny of Europe. She must spread this influence throughout the world and carry everywhere that she can her language, her customs, her flag, her arms, and her genius”—*Jules Ferry*, *speech to the French National Assembly, 1883*

**ANSWER** the following questions:

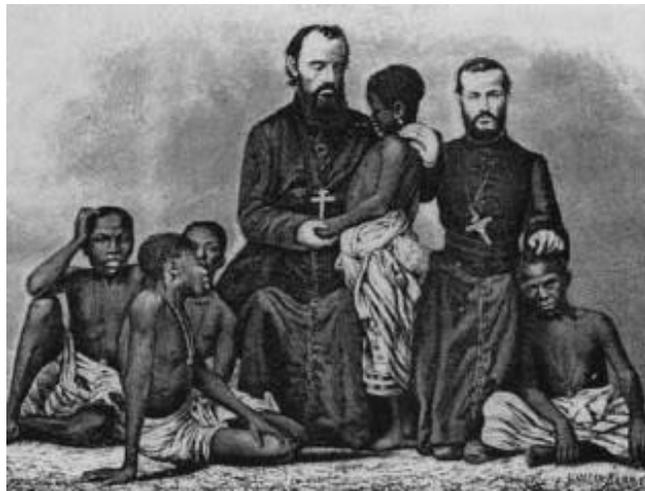
1. How does Cecil Rhodes view the British? Why does he think they should acquire more land?
2. How does Jules Ferry view the French? Why does he think they should acquire more land?
3. Based on these documents, how did political factors such as nationalism drive Imperialism?

**What factors drove Imperialism?**

**DOCUMENT 5 OF 6**  
**Religious Factors**

SOURCE: *The push for expansion also came from missionaries who worked to convert the peoples of Asia, Africa, and the Pacific Islands. Missionaries believed Christianity would end the “evil practices” of the natives, including slavery. One of the first missionaries that left Europe to promote Christianity was the explorer David Livingstone. Below, Livingstone describes his experience trying to convert a tribe of Africans to Christianity in 1857.*

“I was especially surprised that the chief was all too happy to embrace Christianity at my suggestion. During the space of two and a half years he continued to preach to his people his full conviction (*belief*) in the truth of Christianity, acting at the same time in an honest and moral manner in all relations of life. He felt the difficulties of his situation (*converting the natives*) long before I did, and often said, ‘Oh, I wish you had come to this country before we became entangled (*stuck*) in the meshes (*traps*) of our customs!’ One reason why we had no volunteer converts was the hunger from drought, which was associated in the natives’ minds with the presence of Christian instruction; and someone is not likely to convert to a creed (*new set of believes*), which seems to result in an empty stomach.”—David Livingstone



**ANSWER the following questions:**

1. According to Livingstone, what is the chief's reaction to Christianity? What is the reaction of the rest of the tribe? Overall, how would you say Livingstone views the tribe of Africans?
2. How do the missionaries in the above image seem to be treating the African children?
3. Based on these documents, how did religious factors drive Imperialism?

**What factors drove Imperialism?**

**DOCUMENT 6 OF 6**  
**Military Factors**

***SOURCE:** Colonies served both a key strategic purpose for army and navy bases, as well as sources for more troops. Pictured below is a political cartoon from 1901 in which Columbia (the female personification of America) puts on the hat of “world power.” Quoted below is a letter from Commodore Dewey to U.S. President McKinley explaining why the United States needs to take over the Philippines.*



“Mr. President,

The United States needs the Philippines. The islands in question are needed to maintain our navy, if the Pacific states and our commercial interests in the Pacific are to be protected. Only a navy will allow this nation to extend its influence, and also act as a first line of defense. The position of the United States, between the two Old Worlds (*Europe*) and the two great oceans has ended our self-imposed isolation. We must either expand to protect our western borders or pay the consequences.

—Commodore Dewey, 1898”

**ANSWER** the following questions:

1. In the political cartoon on the left, what is on Columbia’s hat? What is on her belt? What do these items symbolize?
2. In the quote on the right, why does Dewey say the U.S. needs the Philippines? Explain
3. Based on this document, how did military factors drive Imperialism?

**What factors drove Imperialism?**