In the latter half of the 19th century, the industrial powers of western Europe swiftly extended their control over vast areas of Africa and Asia. This new imperialism was rationalized by theories of racial and cultural superiority; it was made possible by new technologies of warfare. The U.S. and Japan, and to a lesser extent Russia, were late arrivals on the imperial stage but soon established themselves as well. Modern imperialism is characterized by the following:

- **Mixed motives.** Imperial powers claimed economic necessity, strategic imperatives, and a high-minded “civilizing mission.” Frequently motives were confused, so it became “the White Man’s Burden” to convert Africans to Christianity while at the same time enslaving them.

- **Competition Between Imperial Powers.** The “Scramble for Africa” and later for the Pacific islands illustrates the intense competition between imperial nations. The U.S. took over the Philippines in order to be on an equal footing with other powers already in China. Japan seized Korea and Taiwan for the same reason.

- **Different Models of Colonial Rule.** In practice, the new imperialism varied considerably; including settler colonies such as Australia, indirect rule as in British Africa, direct rule as in French Indochina, and even the private fiefdom of Leopold II in the Belgian Congo. In all cases, ultimate authority rested with the imperial state, and local rulers had little real power.

- **Economic Colonialism.** The purpose of the colony was to supply cheap raw commodities to the imperialist state and to be a market for manufactured goods. All resources, natural and human, were directed to this effort. Forests were transformed into plantations, and workers impressed into service. There was no effort to develop a colonial industry that might compete with the imperial state.

- **Contempt for Local Cultures.** With few exceptions, the imperial powers regarded colonial people as their inferiors and treated them as such. The French made an effort to convert and educate colonial peoples. The British also employed colonials as soldiers and minor civil servants, but made little provision for education. This disrespect contributed to a growing nationalism in India.

### 1. Foundations of Empire

**A. Motives of Imperialism**

1) Modern imperialism
   a. Refers to domination of industrialized countries over subject lands, common from late 1800s to early-mid 1900s.
   b. Domination achieved through trade, investment, and business activities

2) Two types of modern colonialism
   a. Colonies ruled and populated by migrants
   b. Colonies controlled by imperial powers w/o significant settlement

3) Economic motives
   a. European merchants and entrepreneurs made personal fortunes
   b. Overseas expansion for raw materials: rubber, tin, copper, oil
   c. Colonies were potential markets for industrial products

**What were the similarities & differences between colonialism (in earlier centuries) and imperialism? (in the late 19th century)**
4) Political motives  
   a. Strategic purpose: harbors & supply stations for industrial nations  
   b. Overseas expansion used to defuse internal tensions  
5) Cultural justifications  
   a. Christian missionaries sought converts in Africa and Asia  
   b. “Civilizing mission” or “White Man’s Burden” = justification  

B. Tools of Empire  
1) Transportation technologies supported imperialism  
   a. Steam-powered gunboats reached inland waters of Africa and Asia  
   b. Railroads organized local economies to serve imperial power  
2) Western military technologies increasingly powerful  
   a. Firearms: from muskets to rifles to machines guns  
   b. Battle of Omdurman 1898, British troops killed 11,000 Sudanese in 5 hrs  
3) Communication technologies linked imperial lands with colonies  
   a. Steamships cut travel from Britain to India from years to weeks  
   b. Telegraph invented in 1840s, global reach by 1900  

2. European Imperialism  

A. The British Empire in India  
1) Company rule under the English East India Company  
   a. EIC took advantage of Mughal decline, began conquest in 1750s  
   b. Built trading cities and forts at Calcutta, Madras, Bombay  
   c. Ruled w/ small British force & Indian troops called sepoys  
   d. Sepoy Mutiny, 1857: attacks on British civilians led to swift British reprisals  
2) British imperial rule replaced the EIC, 1858  
   a. British viceroy and high-level British civil service ruled India  
   b. British officials appointed a viceroy and formulated all domestic and foreign policy  
   c. Indians held low-level bureaucratic positions  
3) Economic restructuring of India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka)  
   a. Introduction of commercial crops: tea in Ceylon, also coffee & opium  
   b. Built RRs & telegraph lines, new canals, harbors, & irrigation methods  
4) British rule did not interfere with Indian culture or Hindu religion  
   a. Established English-style schools for Indian elites  
   b. Outlawed Indian customs considered offensive, such as sati:
B. Imperialism in Central Asia and Southeast Asia

1) “The Great Game” = competition btwn Britain-Russia in Central Asia
   a. By 1860s Russian expansion reached N frontiers of British India
   b. Afghanistan: Russian & British explorers mapped & scouted, but
      never colonized (Britain tried & failed 4 times in 1800s)
   c. Russian dominance of central Asia lasted until 1991

2) Dutch East India Company (VOC) held tight control of Indonesia
   (Dutch East Indies)

3) British colonies in SE Asia
   a. Established colonial authority in Burma, 1880s
   b. Singapore founded 1824; base for conquest of Malaya, 1870s

4) French Indochina created, 1859-1893
   a. Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos—all former tribute states of Qing
   b. French encouraged conversion to Christianity, established western-style
      schools

5) Kingdom of Siam (Thailand) left as buffer btwn Burma & Indochina

C. The Scramble for Africa

1) Between 1875-1900, European powers seized almost entire continent
   a. Early explorers charted waters, gathered information on resources
   b. Missionaries like David Livingstone set up mission posts
   c. Henry Stanley sent by Leopold II of Belgium to create colony in
      Congo, 1870s
   d. Britain occupied Egypt, 1882 to protect investments & Suez Canal,

2) South Africa settled 1st by Dutch farmers (Afrikaners) ~1600 C.E.
   a. By 1800, European settler colony w/ enslaved black African pop
   b. British seized Cape Colony in early 1800s, abolished slavery, 1833
   c. British-Dutch tensions in Cape of led to Great Trek of Afrikaners
      inland to claim new lands
   d. Mid-19th century, they established Orange Free State in 1854,
      Transvaal in 1860
   e. Discovery of gold & diamonds in Afrikaner lands; influx of British
      settlers after 1867 (including Cecil Rhodes)
   f. Boer War, 1899-1902: British defeated Afrikaners, established the
      Union of South Africa

3) The Berlin Conference, 1884-1885
   a. European powers set rules for carving Africa into colonies
   b. Occupation, supported by Euro armies, established colonial rule
   c. By 1900 all Africa controlled by Europeans, except Ethiopia &
      Liberia

What methods and tactics did industrialized states use to establish and expand their empires?
4) Colonial rule challenging and expensive  
   a. “Concessionary companies”: granted considerable authority to private companies  
      (1) empowered to build plantations, mines, railroads  
      (2) made use of forced labor and taxation, as in Belgian Congo  
      (3) unprofitable, often replaced by more direct rule  
   b. Direct rule: replacing local rulers with Europeans—French model  
      (1) justified by “civilizing mission”  
      (2) hard to find enough European personnel  
   c. Indirect rule: control over subjects through local institutions—British model  
      (1) worked best in African societies that were highly organized  
      (2) assumed firm tribal boundaries where often none existed

What were the effects of nationalism on various peoples and regions?

D. European Imperialism in the Pacific  
1) Settler colonies in the Pacific  
   a. 1770s, Captain James Cook reached Australia, reported it suitable for settlement  
   b. 1788, 1,000 settlers established colony of New South Wales  
   c. 1851, gold discovered; surge of European migration to Australia  
   d. Fertile soil and timber of New Zealand attracted European settlers  
   e. Europeans diseases dramatically reduced aboriginal populations  
   f. Large settler societies forced indigenous peoples onto marginal lands  
2) Imperialists in paradise: delayed colonization of Pacific Islands until late 19th century  
   a. Early visitors to the Pacific were mostly whalers, merchants, some missionaries  
   b. Late 19th century, Europeans sought coaling stations/ naval ports  
   c. By 1900, all islands but Tonga claimed by France, Britain, Germany and U.S.  
   d. Island plantations produced sugarcane, copra, guano

3. The Emergence of New Imperial Powers  
   A. U.S. Imperialism in Latin America and the Pacific  
      1) The Monroe Doctrine, 1823: proclamation by U.S. president James Monroe  
      b. U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867  
      c. Hawaii became a protectorate in 1875, formally annexed in 1898  
      2) The Spanish-American War (1898-99)  
      a. U.S. took over Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippines  
      b. U.S. backed Filipino revolt vs Spain, purchased/taken over colony  
      c. 1902-04, bitter civil war killed 200K Filipinos, U.S. victorious
3) The Panama Canal, 1903-1914
   a. Colombian gov’t refused U.S. request to build canal
   b. U.S. helped rebels establish Panama (for the right to build a canal)
   c. Completed in 1914; gave U.S. access between Atlantic and Pacific

4) Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine 1904.
   a. Asserted U.S. right to intervene in W hemisphere nations if unable to “maintain security” (of U.S. investments)

B. Imperial Japan
1) resented unequal treaties of 1860s, resolved to become imperial power
2) Early Japanese expansion in nearby islands, 1870s
3) Meiji government bought British warships, built up navy, established military academies
   a. 1876, imposed unequal treaties on Korea at gunpoint
   b. Made plans to invade China
4) The Sino-Japanese War (1894-95)
   a. Rebellion in Korea: Chinese army sent to restore order, reassert authority
   b. Meiji leaders declared war on China, demolished Chinese fleet
   c. China forced to cede Korea, Taiwan, Liaodong peninsula

5) The Russo-Japanese War (1904-05)
   a. Russia also had territorial ambitions in Liaodong peninsula, Korea, Manchuria
   b. Japanese navy destroyed local Russian forces; Baltic fleet sent as reinforcements, Japan sank/damaged 38 of 40 Russian ships!
   c. Japan now a major imperial power

4. Legacies of Imperialism

A. Empire and Economy: Two Patterns of Changes
1) Colonial rule transformed traditional production of crops and commodities
   a. Indian cotton grown to serve British textile industry
   b. Inexpensive imported textiles undermined Indian production
2) New crops transformed landscape and society
   a. Rain forests of Ceylon converted to tea plantations
   b. Ceylonese women recruited to harvest tea
   c. Rubber plantations transformed Malaya and Sumatra

B. Labor Migrations
1) European migration
   a. 50 million Europeans emigrated 1800-1914, >50% to U.S.
   b. Other settler colonies in Canada, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa
   c. Most European migrants became cultivators, herders, or skilled laborers

How did the Industrial Revolution affect migration patterns during this period?

What were the economic motives behind migration?
2) Indentured labor migration more typical from Asia, Africa, Pacific islands
   a. About 2.5 million indentured laborers globally during 1820-1914
   b. Indentured migrants tended to work on tropical and subtropical plantations
   c. Example: Indian laborers to Pacific island and Caribbean plantations
   d. Japanese laborers to Hawaiian sugar plantations
3) Large-scale migrations reflected global influence of imperialism

C. Empire and Society
1) Colonial conflict not uncommon in 19th century
   a. In India, numerous insurrections, (Sepoy Rebellion of 1857)
   b. 1905, Maji Maji rebellion in E Africa thought traditional magic would defeat the Germans
   c. Resistance incl boycotts, political parties, anticolonial publications
   d. Conflict among different groups united under colonial rule, for example, Hawaii
2) “Scientific racism” popular in 19th century
   a. Race became the measure of humans; Europeans considered themselves superior
   b. Gobineau divided humanity into four main racial groups, each with peculiar traits
   c. Social Darwinism: “survival of fittest” used to justify European domination
3) Colonial experience only reinforced popular racism
   a. Assumed moral superiority of Europeans
   b. Racist views in U.S. treatment of Filipinos, Japanese treatment of Koreans

D. Nationalism and Anticolonial Movements
1) Ram Mohan Roy (1772-1833), “father of modern India”
   a. Sought an Indian society based on European science and traditional Hinduism
   b. Used press to mobilize educated Hindus and advance reform
2) The Indian National Congress, founded 1885
   a. Educated Indians met, w/ British approval, to discuss public affairs
   b. Congress aired grievances re: colonial rule, sought Indian self-rule
3) 1906, All-India Muslim League formed for Indian Muslims
4) Limited reform, 1909; wealthy Indians could elect representatives to local councils
   a. Indian nat’lism a powerful movement, achieved independence in 1947 (more on this in Ch 36 & 39)
   b. India served as model for anticolonial campaigns in other lands