Chapter 32

The Building of Global Empires
The Idea of Imperialism

- Term dates from nineteenth century
- In popular discourse by 1880s
- Military imperialism
  - Later, economic and cultural varieties
  - U.S. imperialism
Motivations for Imperialism

- Military
- Political
- Economic
  - European capitalism
- Religious
- Demographic
  - Criminal populations
  - Dissident populations
Manifest Destiny

- Discovery of natural resources
- Exploitation of cheap labor
- Expansion of markets
  - Limited
Geopolitical Considerations

- Strategic footholds
  - Waterways
  - Supply stations
  - Imperial rivalries
The “White Man’s Burden”

- Rudyard Kipling (1864-1936)
  - Duty to bring order and enlightenment to distant lands
- French: *mission civilisatrice*
Domestic Political Considerations

- Crises of industrialism
- Pressure from nascent socialism
- Imperial policies distract proletariat from domestic politics
  - Cecil Rhodes: imperialism alternative to civil war
Technology and Imperialism

- Transportation
  - Steamships
  - Railroads

- Infrastructure
  - Suez Canal (1859-1869)
  - Panama Canal (1904-1914)
Weaponry

- Muzzle-loading muskets
- Mid-century: breech-loading rifles
  - Reduce reloading time
- 1880s: Maxim gun, 11 rounds per second
The Military Advantage

- Battle of Omdurman (near Khartoum on Nile), 1898
  - Five hours of fighting
- British: six gunboats, twenty machine guns
- British force lost a few hundred men; thousands of Sudanese killed
Communications

- Correspondence
  - 1830 Britain-India: 2 years
  - After Suez Canal, 2 weeks

- Telegraph
  - 1870s, development of submarine cables
  - Britain-India: 5 hours
British Empire in India

- East India Company
- Monopoly on India trade
- Original permission from Mughal emperors
- Mughal empire declines after death of Aurangzeb, 1707
Home of a Wealthy Family in Calcutta
British Conquest

- Protection of economic interests through political conquest
- “Doctrine of lapse”
- British and Indian troops (sepoys)
British Colonial Soldiers
Sepoy Revolt, 1857

- Newly issued rifles had cartridges in wax paper greased with animal fat
  - Problem for Hindus: beef
  - Problem for Muslims: pork
- Small-scale rebellion ignites general anti-British revolution
- British gained upper hand in late 1857
British Imperial Rule

In response to the rebellion, Britain:

- Abolishes Mughal empire
- Exiles emperor to Burma
- Abolishes East India Company
- Establishes direct rule of India by British government
British Rule in India

- Organization of agriculture
  - Crops: tea, coffee, opium
- Stamp of British culture on Indian environment
Imperialism in Central Asia

- British, French, Russians compete for central Asia
  - France drops out after Napoleon
  - Russia active after 1860s in Tashkent, Bokhara, Samarkand; and approached India

- The “Great Game”: Russian vs. British intrigue in Afghanistan
  - Preparation for imperialist war
  - Russian revolution of 1917 forestalled war
Imperialism in Southeast Asia

Spanish: Philippines

Dutch: Indonesia (Dutch East Indies)

British established (Dutch East Indies)

Conflict with kings of Burma (Myanmar) 1820s,

Base of British colonization in Malaysia, 1870s-1880s

Encouraged conversion to Christianity
Imperialism in Africa, ca. 1914
The Scramble for Africa (1875-1900)

- French, Portuguese, Belgians, and English competing for “the dark continent”
- Britain establishes strong presence in Egypt, Rhodesia
  - Suez Canal
  - Rhodesian gold, diamonds
Rewriting African History

Ancient Africa

- Implications for justification of imperialist rule
- European exploration of rivers (Nile, Niger, Congo, Zambesi)
  - Information on interior of Africa
  - King Leopold II of Belgium starts Congo Free State, commercial ventures
  - Takes control of colony in 1908, renamed Belgian
South African (Boer) War 1899-1902

- Farmers (Boers) follow to settle territory, later called Afrikaners
- Competition and conflict with indigenous Khoikhoi and Xhosa peoples

(continued)
South African (Boer) War 1899-1902

Conflict:
British takeover in 1806, slavery a major issue of
overpower Ndebele and Zulu resistance with superior firepower

- Establish independent republics
- British tolerate this until gold is discovered
- White-white conflict, black soldiers and laborers
Afrikaners concede in 1902; 1910, integrated into Union of South Africa
Village around a Kraal
The Berlin West Africa Conference (1884-1885)

- Fourteen European states, United States
- No African states present

Rules of colonization: any European state can take “unoccupied” territory after informing other European powers.

- European firepower dominates Africa
Systems of Colonial Rule

- natural resources
  - Companies get freedom to tax, recruit labor: horrible abuses

- Profit margin minimal
  - "Civilizing mission"
  - Direct rule: France
  - Chronic shortage of European personnel; language and cultural barriers
Indirect Rule

- Frederick D. Lugard (Britain, 1858-1945)
  - *The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa* (1922)
  - Use of Indigenous institutions
  - imposed arbitrary boundaries
Imperialism in Oceania, ca. 1914
European Imperialism in Australia and New Zealand

- English use Australia as a penal colony from 1788
- Voluntary migrants follow; gold discovered 1851
- Smallpox, measles devastate natives
- Territory called *terra nullius*: “land belonging to no one”
- New Zealand: natives forced to sign Treaty of Waitangi (1840), placing New Zealand under British “protection”
Australian Aborigine

An Aborigine of the Naomi tribe ca. 1900
European and Native Population in Australia and New Zealand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Native</th>
<th>European</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>850,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>135,000</td>
<td>4,500,000</td>
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European Imperialism in the Pacific Islands

- Commercial outposts
  - Whalers seeking port
  - Merchants seeking sandalwood, sea slugs for sale in China
  - Missionaries seeking souls

- British, French, German, American powers carve up Pacific islands
  - Tonga remains independent, but relies on Britain
U.S. Imperialism

- President James Monroe warns Europeans not to (1823)
  - The Monroe Doctrine: all Americas a U.S. Protectorate
- 1867 purchased Alaska from Russia
- 1875 established protectorate over Hawai`i
  - Locals overthrow queen in 1893, persuade U.S. to acquire islands in 1898
Spanish-Cuban-American War (1898-1899)

U.S. declares war in Spain after battleship *Maine* sunk in Havana harbor, 1898

- Takes possession of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippines
- U.S. intervenes in other Caribbean, Central American
- Honduras, Haiti

Filipinos revolt against Spanish rule, later against U.S. rule
The Panama Canal

President Theodore Roosevelt (in office 1901-1909) supports insurrection against Colombia (1903)

- Rebels win, establish state of Panama
- U.S. gains territory to build canal, Panama Canal Zone
- Roosevelt Corollary of Monroe Doctrine
  - U.S. right to intervene in domestic affairs of other nations if U.S. investments threatened
Early Japanese Expansion

- In the 1870s, colonized northern region: Hokkaido, Kurile Islands, southern Okinawa, and Ryukyu Islands as well.
- 1876, Japanese purchase warships from Britain, dominate Korea.
- Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) over Korea results in Japanese victory.
- Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) also ends in Japanese victory.
Economic Legacies of Imperialism

Colonized states encouraged to exploit natural resources rather than build manufacturing centers.

- Encouraged dependency on imperial power for manufactured goods made from native raw materials.
  - Indian cotton
  - Tea in Ceylon

Introduction of new crops.
Imperialism and Migration during the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century
Labor Migrations

- Europeans move to temperate lands
  - Work as free cultivators, industrial laborers
  - 32 million to the U.S., 1800-1914

- Africans, Asians, and Pacific islanders move to tropical/subtropical lands
  - Indentured laborers, manual laborers
  - 2.5 million between 1820 and 1914
Colonial Conflict

- Tanganyika Maji Maji rebellion against Germans (1905-1906)
  - Rebels sprinkle selves with magic water (*maji-maji*) as protection against modern weapons; 75,000 killed
- “Scientific” racism developed
  - Count Joseph Arthur de Gobineau (1816-1882)
  - Combines with theories of Charles Darwin
  - Darwinism (1809-1882)
Movements

- Ram Mohan Roy (1772-1883), Bengali called “father of modern India”
- Reformers call for self-government, adoption of selected British practices (e.g. ban on sati)
  - Influence of Enlightenment thought, often obtained in European universities
- Indian National Congress formed 1885
  - 1916, joins with All-India Muslim League