

Chapter 21, Section 1 (Pages 686–691)

Colonial Rule in Southeast Asia

Big Idea

Through the new imperialism, Westerners controlled vast territories, exploited native populations and opened markets for European products. As you read, make a chart showing which countries controlled what parts of Southeast Asia.

Spain (until 1898)	
Netherlands	
United States (after 1898)	
France	
Great Britain	



Notes

Read to Learn

The New Imperialism (page 686)

Detecting Bias

“The path of progress is strewn with the wrecks of nations . . . Yet these dead people are, in truth, the stepping stones on which mankind has arisen to the higher intellectual and deeper emotional life of today.”

This British quote may be biased because the British had been in recent wars.

In the 1880s, European states began to scramble for overseas territory. In this “new imperialism,” they wanted direct control over large areas. One reason was economic. European countries saw Asian and African societies as a source of raw materials such as oil, tin, and rubber. They also saw those societies as a market for manufactured goods.

Nationalism was another motive. Colonies were a source of national prestige. European nations competed with one another to see who could have the most colonies or the best colonies.

Imperialism was also tied to Social Darwinism and **racism**. Social Darwinists believed that in the struggle between nations, the fit are victorious over the unfit. Racists believed that race determines a person’s traits and abilities. They considered some races superior to others.

Some Europeans took a more religious and humanitarian approach to imperialism. They believed Europeans had a moral responsibility to civilize primitive people. They called this responsibility the “white man’s burden.” To some, this meant spreading Christianity. To others, it meant bringing the benefits of Western democracy and capitalism to non-Western societies.



Read to Learn

Colonial Takeover *(page 688)*

Determining Cause and Effect

What caused control of the Philippines to pass from Spain to the United States?

What caused guerillas led by Emilio Aguinaldo to fight against the United States?

Competition for overseas territories increased European involvement in Southeast Asia. By 1900 almost the whole area was under European rule. Only Thailand (then called Siam) managed to keep its independence. In 1819 the British founded the colony of Singapore. Singapore soon became a major stopping point for steamships going to or from China. Afraid the British would try to take over Vietnam, the French made that country a French **protectorate**—a political unit that depends on another government for its protection. France also extended power over nearby countries. It united the whole area as French Indochina.

After the Spanish-American War, the United States made the Philippines an American colony. Emilio Aguinaldo led an independence movement in the Philippines. After several years of war, the United States defeated the Filipino guerrillas.

Colonial Regimes *(page 690)*

Comparing and Contrasting

How were indirect rule and direct rule alike and different?

Alike:

*Different—
Indirect rule:*

Direct rule:

European countries governed their new colonial empires either by indirect rule or direct rule. In **indirect rule**, the colonial power cooperated with local political elites. Where local rulers resisted foreign conquest, the colonial powers removed them from power. In these cases, the colonial power brought people from the home country to govern the colony. This was called **direct rule**.

The colonial powers used their colonies to provide raw materials and buy European products. In many colonies, this led to plantation agriculture. Peasants on the plantations worked at poverty levels. Colonial rule did bring some progress, such as the construction of roads and railroads.

Resistance to Colonial Rule (page 691)

Formulating Questions

To understand the causes of a colonial resistance movement, one might ask:

Did _____ agriculture under colonial rule make life hard for peasants?

Many people in Southwest Asia were not happy about colonial rule. The earliest resistance came from the existing ruling class. Some resistance came in the form of peasant revolts. Under colonial rule, peasants were often driven off the land to make way for plantation agriculture.

A new kind of resistance began after 1900. It was based on the force of nationalism. The leaders were members of a new, educated, urban middle class. Colonial rule had created this new class of merchants, clerks, students, and professionals.

At first, many of the leaders of these movements did not demand national independence. They simply tried to defend their people's economic interests or religious beliefs. Not until the 1930s, however, did these resistance movements begin to demand independence as a nation.

Section Wrap-up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. What were two interpretations of the "white man's burden"?

2. Why did colonial powers establish plantations in their colonies?

Informative Writing

Tell the story of the extension of European power over the societies of Southeast Asia. Use a story plan made up of four elements: time, place, colonial power, and events. Discuss what happened, when it happened, why it happened, how it happened, and what parties were involved.
