

Chapter 21, Section 2 (Pages 692–699)

Empire Building in Africa

Big Idea

Almost all of Africa was under European rule by 1900. As you read, make a chart like the one below showing which countries controlled what parts of Africa.

Western Power	Area of Africa
Belgium	
Britain	
France	
Germany	



Read to Learn

West Africa and North Africa (page 692)

Making Inferences

Italy was the only European state to lose a battle to an African state. What can one infer from this about Italy's motives for taking Tripoli as a colony?

Between 1880 and 1900, almost all of Africa came under European rule. Such products as peanuts, timber, and palm oil drew Europeans to West Africa. The British started settlements along the coast to protect their trade interests. Britain **annexed**—incorporated another country within an existing state—part of the Gold Coast in 1874 and established a protectorate over Nigeria. France added much of West Africa to its empire by 1900. Germany controlled Togo, Cameroon, German Southwest Africa, and German East Africa.

In Egypt, an army officer named Muhammad Ali seized power from the Ottomans in 1805 and established a separate Egyptian state. He introduced modern reforms including public schools. In 1869 the French entrepreneur Ferdinand de Lesseps completed the Suez Canal, connecting the Mediterranean and Red Seas. The British bought Egypt's share in the canal in 1875. In 1914 Egypt became a British protectorate. The British also wanted to control the Sudan, south of Egypt. A Muslim cleric known as the Mahdi started a revolt in 1881. Britain did not secure control of the Sudan until 1898.

France started colonies in Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. Italy tried to take over Ethiopia but lost to Ethiopian forces in 1896. Later Italy seized Turkish Tripoli and renamed it Libya.

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Read to Learn

Central and East Africa (page 695)

Problems and Solutions

Bismarck acquired colonies in East Africa as a solution to which problem?

European explorers aroused popular interest in the jungles of Central Africa. David Livingstone and Henry Stanley explored Africa for decades. When the British did not accept Stanley's suggestion to send settlers to the Congo River, Stanley approached King Leopold II of Belgium. Leopold rushed in with enthusiasm to settle lands along the Congo River. France then occupied parts of Central Africa farther north.

Under popular pressure to build an empire, the German chancellor Otto von Bismarck said, "All this colonial business is a sham, but we need it for the elections." The Berlin conference met in 1884 and 1885 to settle conflicting claims in East Africa. The conference awarded colonies to both Britain and Germany. Portugal received a clear claim on Mozambique.

South Africa (page 696)

Synthesizing Information

The United States and the Union of South Africa were similar in being self-governing states run by the descendants of settlers from

Europeans had a strong and fast-growing presence in South Africa. Cecil Rhodes, the British founder of diamond and oil companies, dreamed of British colonies all the way from Egypt to Cape Colony, connected by a railroad. The Boers were descendants of original Dutch settlers who believed in white superiority and had placed many **indigenous** peoples, those native to the region, on reservations. When diamonds were discovered in Boer territory, the British settlers flocked there. The result was a war between the British and the Dutch Boers, starting in 1899. After the British won the Boer War in 1902, they combined Cape Colony, Orange Free State, and Transvaal into a self-governing Union of South Africa. Only whites were allowed to vote.

Effects of Imperialism (page 697)

Analyzing Information

What were the advantages and disadvantages of how Britain and France ruled in Africa?

By 1914 only two independent states remained in Africa: Ethiopia and Liberia. All the rest of the continent was divided up among Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

The British governed chiefly by indirect rule. This system did not disrupt local customs. British administrators made all the decisions, and the old elite were responsible for enforcing them.

Most other European colonial powers governed their colonies in Africa through direct rule. In the French colonies, the government of France appointed a French governor-general. The French ideal was to assimilate African subjects into French culture rather than to preserve native traditions.

Section Wrap-up

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

1. The Red Sea was connected with the Indian Ocean. Why did Great Britain particularly care about control of the Suez Canal?

2. What was the cause of the Boer War? What was the outcome?

Descriptive Writing

Pretend that you are a journalist traveling with Henry Stanley during his search for David Livingstone. Write a description of your travel through the tropic rain forest and finding Livingstone on the shore of Lake Tanganyika. Use as many of the five senses as possible to communicate your experience to newspaper readers back home.

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