

The Scramble for Africa

Score	Discussion Notes
4.0	Student has mastered the learning goal and can fully explain and apply information from the period known as the “Scramble for Africa”
3.0	Student can summarize the goal and explain most of the information about early the period known as the “Scramble for Africa”
2.0	Student can recall some elements of the goal, but does not feel confident applying information about the period known as the “Scramble for Africa”
1.0	Student does not understand the period known as the “Scramble for Africa” fully but can identify some of its features.

The Scramble for Africa

Learning Goal

SWBAT analyze the causes and explain the effects of European powers claiming land in most of Africa in the late 1800s and early 1900s

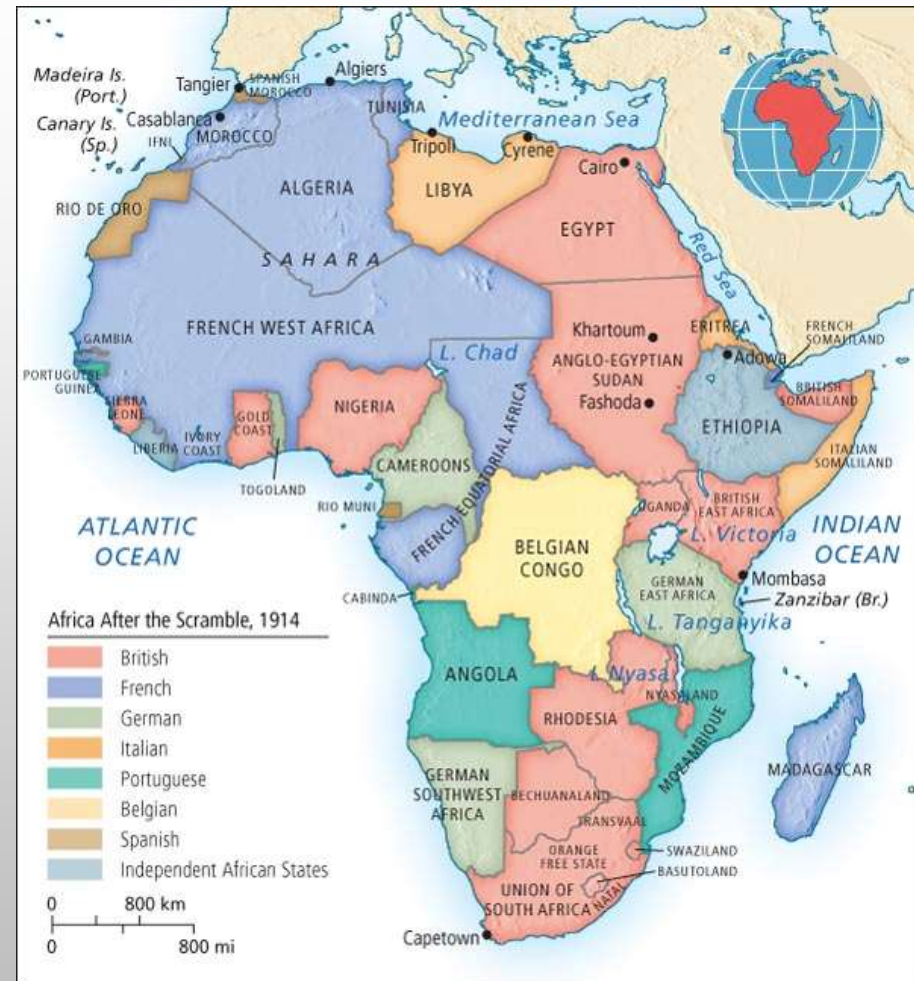
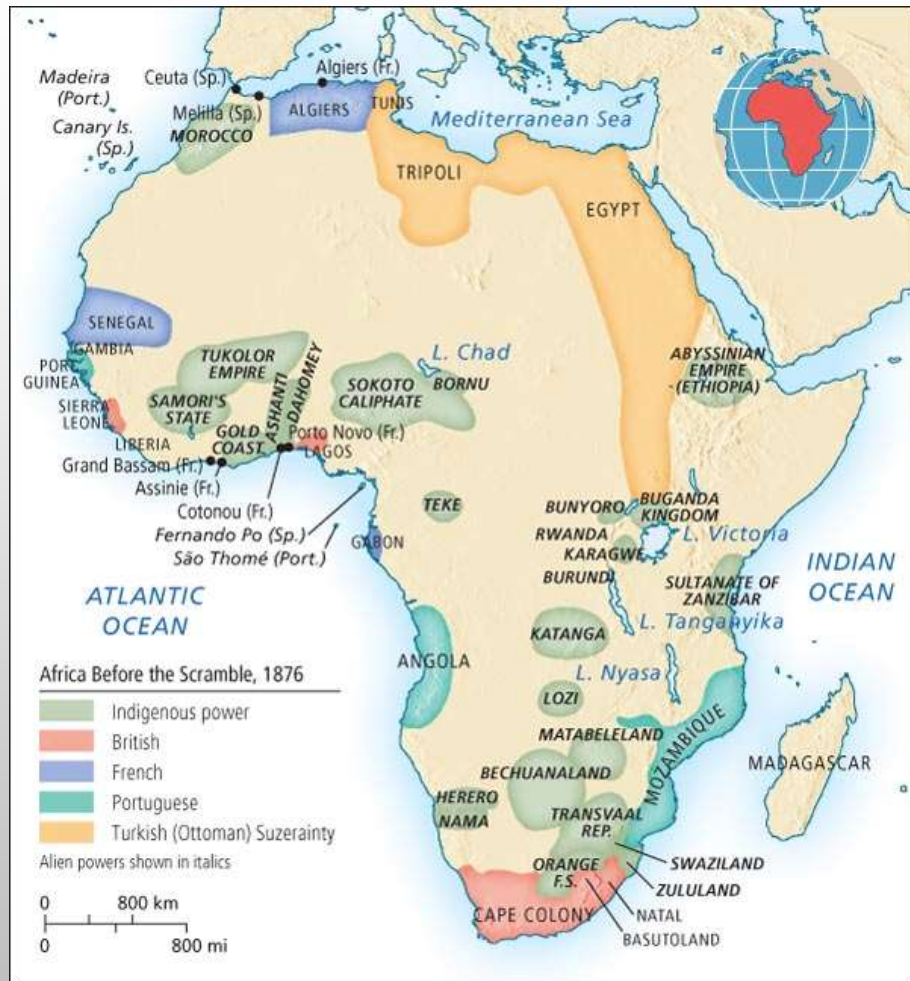
Focus Questions

- What factors led to the new imperialism?
- How did European powers claim territory in Africa?
- How did Africans resist European imperialism?

The New Imperialism

European countries controlled only small part of Africa in 1880; but by 1914 only Ethiopia, Liberia remained independent.

- **European powers rapidly divided Africa**
- **Period known as “Scramble for Africa”**
 - Most visible example of new imperialism
 - New imperialism not based on settlement of colonies
 - European powers worked to directly govern large areas occupied by non-European peoples
 - Driven by economic interests, political competition, cultural motives



Economic Interests

Raw Materials

- Before early 1800s, several European nations profited from slave trade in Africa
- After some nations passed laws abolishing slave trade, Europeans looked to Africa as source for raw materials
- Materials like coal, metals needed to manufacture goods during Industrial Revolution
- Needs fueled Europeans' desire for land with natural resources—available in Africa

Entrepreneurial Colonization

- To gather, export natural resources, European entrepreneurs developed own mines, plantations, trade routes
- Entrepreneurs sometimes called on home countries to protect economic interests from European competitors
- In this way, drive for colonization came from ambitious individuals, not just European governments

Political Competition

- Imperialism in Africa reflected struggles for power in Europe, such as long-term rivalry between France, Britain
- France expanded control over West, Central Africa; Britain began to expand colonial empire to block French

Nationalism a Factor

- Rise of Germany, Italy as powers contributed to the new imperialism
- Both nations jumped into race for colonization to assert status
- Nationalism also contributed to rise of new imperialism
- European leaders believed controlling colonies would gain them more respect from other leaders

Cultural Motives

In addition to practical matters of economics and politics, the new imperialism was motivated by cultural attitudes.

Cultural Motives

- European imperialists felt superior to non-European peoples
- Some began to argue humanity divided into distinct peoples, races
- Claimed biological differences existed between races
- Racist view—people of European descent superior to people of African, Asian descent

Rule Justified

- As result, some Europeans believed rule in Africa justified
- Teaching Africans good government
- Some imperialists believed actions noble, their duty to educate those considered inferior
- Referred to their influence in Africa as “the white man’s burden,” after poem by Rudyard Kipling



THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.—*The Journal, Detroit.*
From *The Detroit Journal*, February 18, 1899



"THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN (Apologies to Kipling)."²
Judge. Judge Publishing Company, New York, 1899 [artist: Victor Gillam]

Moral Justification

Darwin

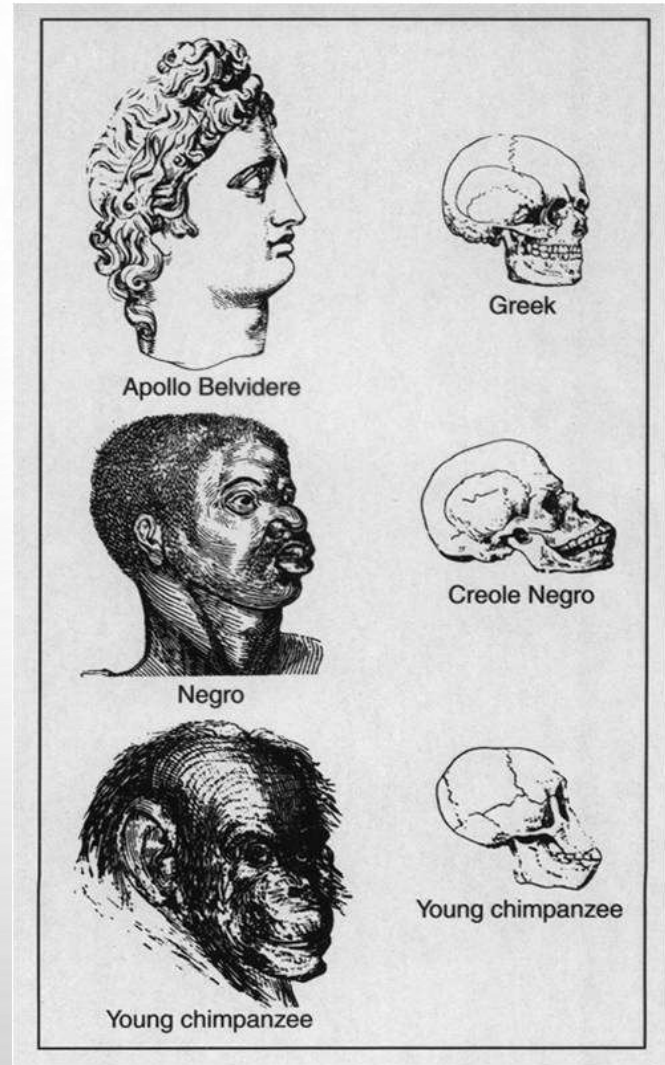
- Defenders of imperialism often applied Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection to struggle between nations, races
- Darwin argued species more fit for environment will survive, reproduce

Social Darwinism

- **Social Darwinism** notion stated certain nations, races more fit than others
- Social Darwinists believed "fit" nations came to rule over "less fit" nations, often showed discrimination against citizens of ruled nations

Cecil Rhodes

- Social Darwinism advocate **Cecil Rhodes**, *"I contend that we are the finest race in the world and that the more of the world we inhabit the better..."*
- Believed British-built railway would bring benefits of civilization to all Africans



European Claims in Africa

In the 1880s, driven by economic, political and cultural motives, Europeans began to compete for additional territory in Africa.

Scientific Advances

- Africa, huge continent, rugged terrain; travel, control difficult
- 1800s, scientific advances made travel, control in Africa easier

Protection

- Discovery of drug quinine helped Europeans protect selves against malaria
- Automatic machine gun created strong military advantage

New Developments

- Development of telegraphs, railroads, steamships helped Europeans overcome problems of communication, travel

Suez Canal

- 1869, **Suez Canal** influenced Britain's interest in Egypt
- Canal linked Mediterranean with Red Sea, shortened trip from Europe to Indian Ocean; no need to sail around southern tip of Africa
- 1882, Egyptian government appeared unstable; British occupied Egypt to protect British interests in Suez Canal; later established partial control as protectorate to ensure British access to canal

Division in Africa

- European nations competed aggressively for other territories
- 1884–1885, European leaders met in Berlin to divide African territory
- Tried to prevent conflict between European nations

No Regard for Tradition

- **Berlin Conference**—for European nation to claim new African territory, it had to prove it could control territory
- No attention paid to ethnic boundaries in dividing Africa

The Boer War

Dutch Settlers

- British met opposition to land claims in southern Africa
- Dutch settlers, Boers, had lived in region since 1600s

No Political Rights

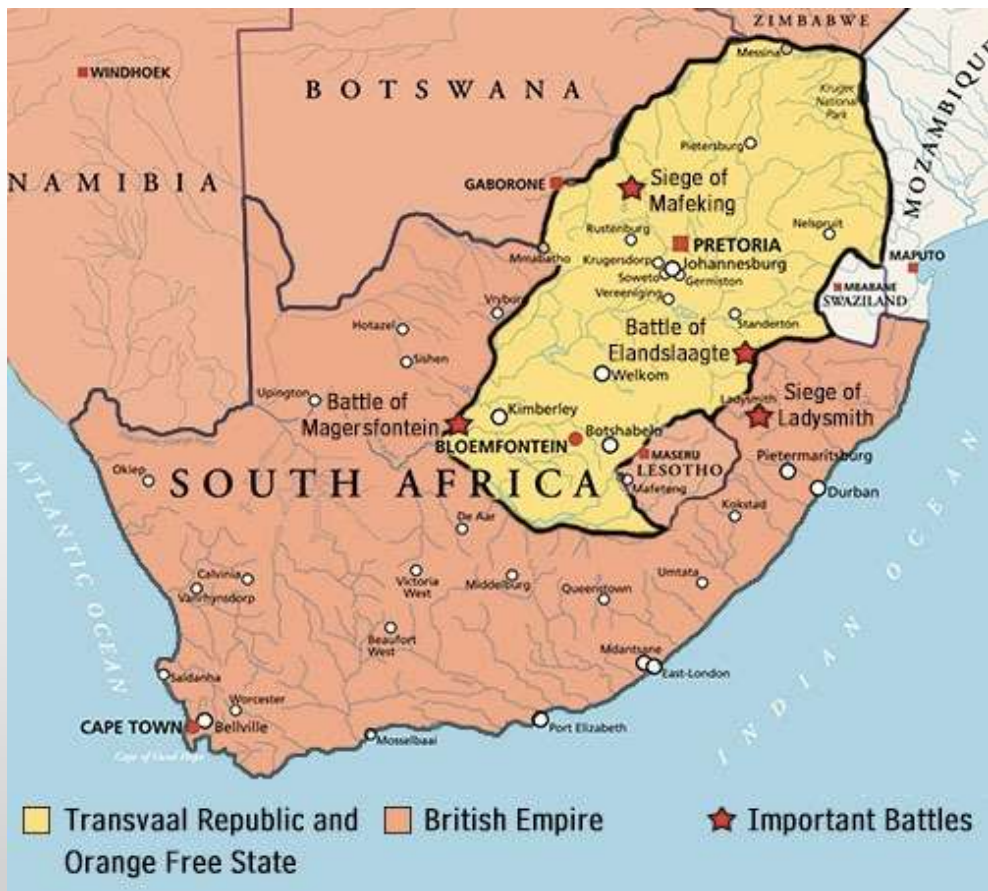
- Gold discovered late 1800s
- Boers refused to grant political rights to foreigners, including British

Heightened Tensions, War

- Britain tried to make Boer territory part of British empire
- 1899, war broke out
- Boer forces outnumbered

Union of South Africa

- British committed numerous atrocities, defeated Boers
- 1902, Boer territory became self-governing Union of South Africa under British control



Belgian Congo

Leopold

- Central Africa's Congo Free State not ruled by European country
- King of Belgium, **Leopold II**, claimed territory for himself
- Leopold created personal fortune exploiting Congo's natural resources for himself



Demand for Rubber

- 1890s, early 1900s, European, American demand for rubber increased
- To meet demand, Leopold forced Congolese subjects to extract rubber from region's rubber trees; millions died from overwork, disease
- Eventually international outcry caused Belgian government to take control of Congo, 1908

BELOW: British missionaries with men holding hands severed from victims named Bolenge and Lingomo by A.B.I.R. militiamen, 1904.



IN THE RUBBER COILS.

Source—The Congo "Free" State.



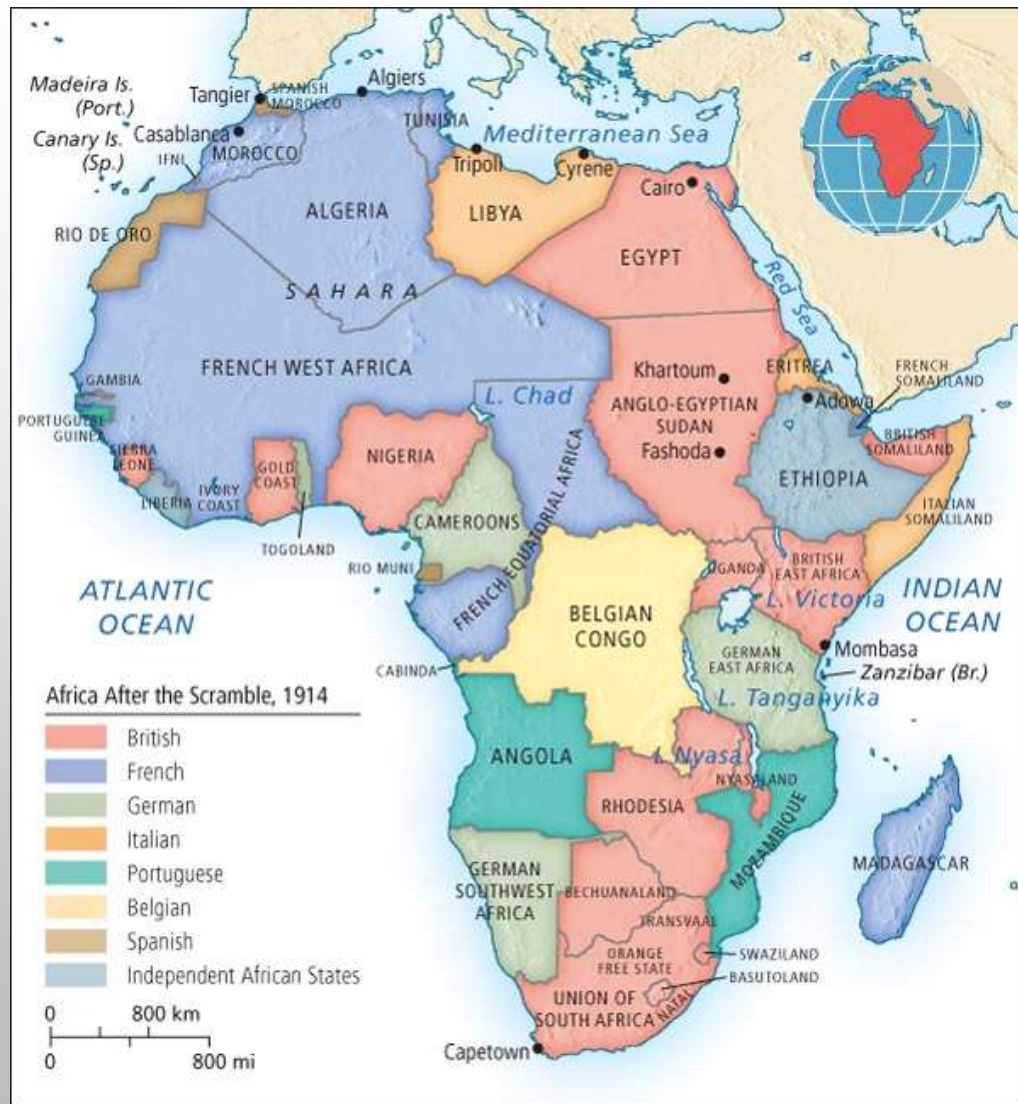
MONGALA

MOLA ERELIHI

BIASIA

NATIVES SHOT AND MUTILATED BY CONGO SOLDIERY

(For particulars, refer to Appendix)



African Resistance

Africans did not passively accept European claims to rule over them. As European troops advanced on African territory, they met stiff resistance.

The Zulu

- Zulu people resisted colonialization more than 50 years
- Zulu leader **Shaka** built strong kingdom by subduing several neighboring peoples
- 1879, British invaded Zulu territory, annexed kingdom as colony

Ethiopia

- Only nation to retain independence by matching European firepower
- 1889, emperor **Menelik II** modernized nation, army
- 1895, Italian forces invaded over treaty dispute
- Menelik's forces defeated Italians

Even without modern weapons, other Africans still fiercely resisted European powers.

French and Germans

French West Africa

- West Africa, leader of Malinke peoples, Samory Touré, formed army to fight against French rule; fought for 15 years; proclaimed self king of Guinea
- 1898, French defeated Touré, ended resistance to French rule in West Africa

German East Africa

- Africans called on gods, ancestors for spiritual guidance in resistance
- 1905, several African peoples united to rebel against Germans' order to grow cotton for export to Germany

Rebellion Put Down

- To combat Germans, spiritual leader encouraged followers to sprinkle magic water over bodies to protect selves from German bullets; did not work
- Rebellion quickly put down; Germans killed tens of thousands of Africans