

# IMPERIALISM IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

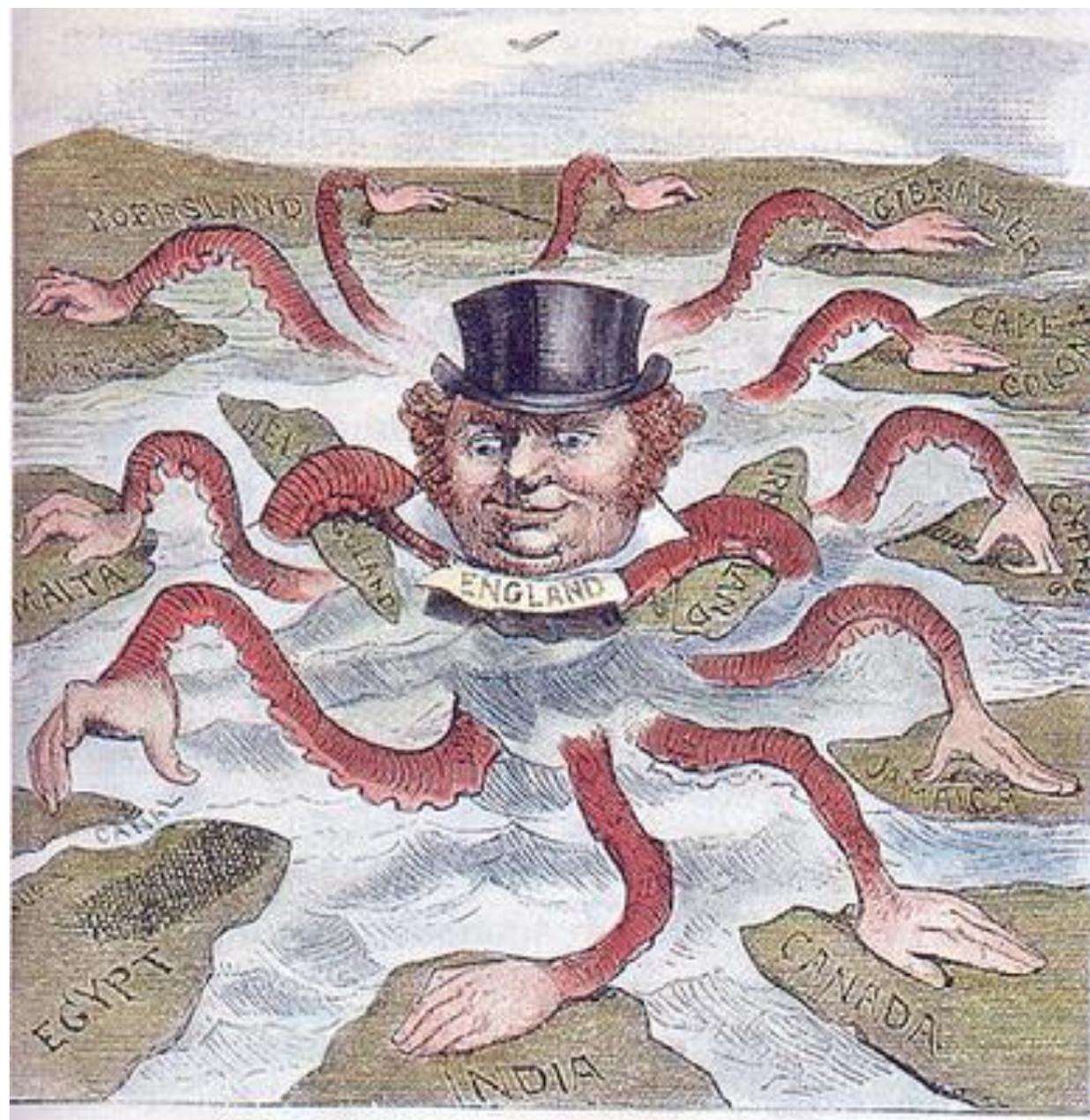
---

Every empire, however, tells itself and the world that it is unlike all other empires, that its mission is not to plunder and control but to educate and liberate.

Edward Said

# DEFINING IMPERIALISM

---



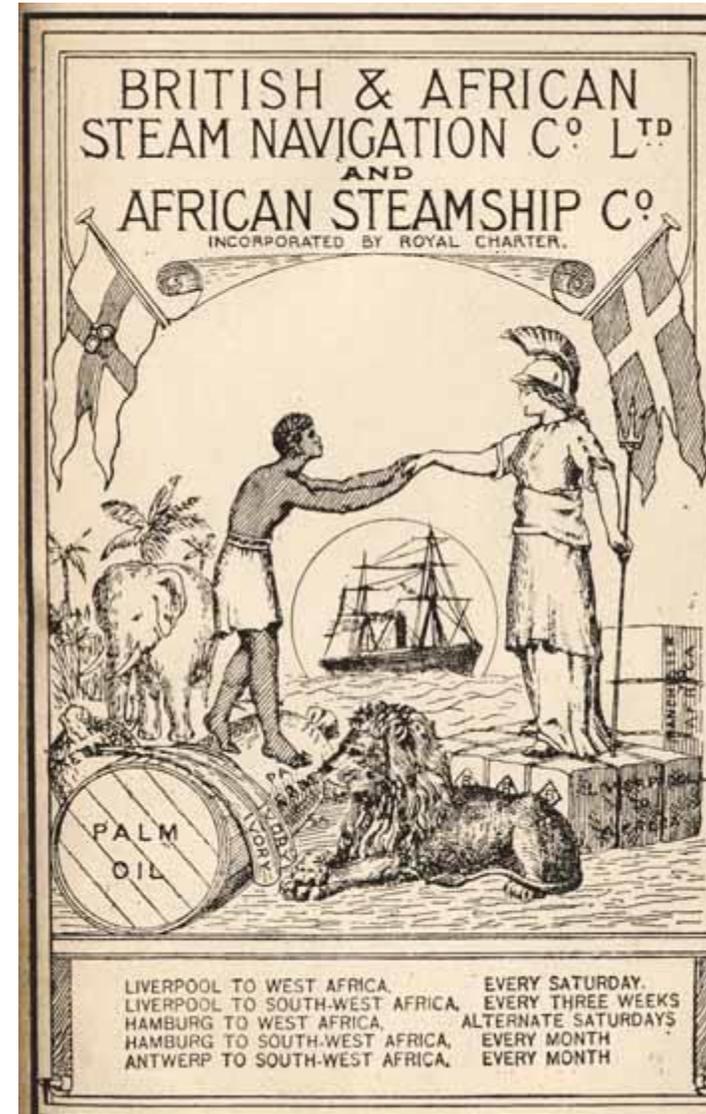
# Defining Imperialism: Industrial Revolution

**Imperialism:** The policy by which a stronger nation attempts to create an empire by dominating weaker nations economically, politically, culturally, or militarily.

- European imperialism during the 19<sup>th</sup> century has its origins in the **Industrial Revolution**. As they industrialized, European nations sought:
  - Raw materials
  - Natural resources
  - Cheap labor
  - New markets for manufactured goods

# Defining Imperialism: Industrial Revolution

- The **technological innovations** of the Industrial Revolution also fueled imperialism through:
  - Better transportation
  - Increased exploration
  - Improved communications
  - Military technology



# Defining Imperialism: Ideology

- European imperialism was also fueled by a number of **ideological motives**, among them:
  - A belief in **European cultural superiority** and a desire to “civilize” non-Europeans. (The “**white man’s burden.**”)
  - A belief in the moral impetus to “save souls” through **conversion to Christianity.**
  - **Social Darwinism.**



# Defining Imperialism: Ideology

## Darwinism

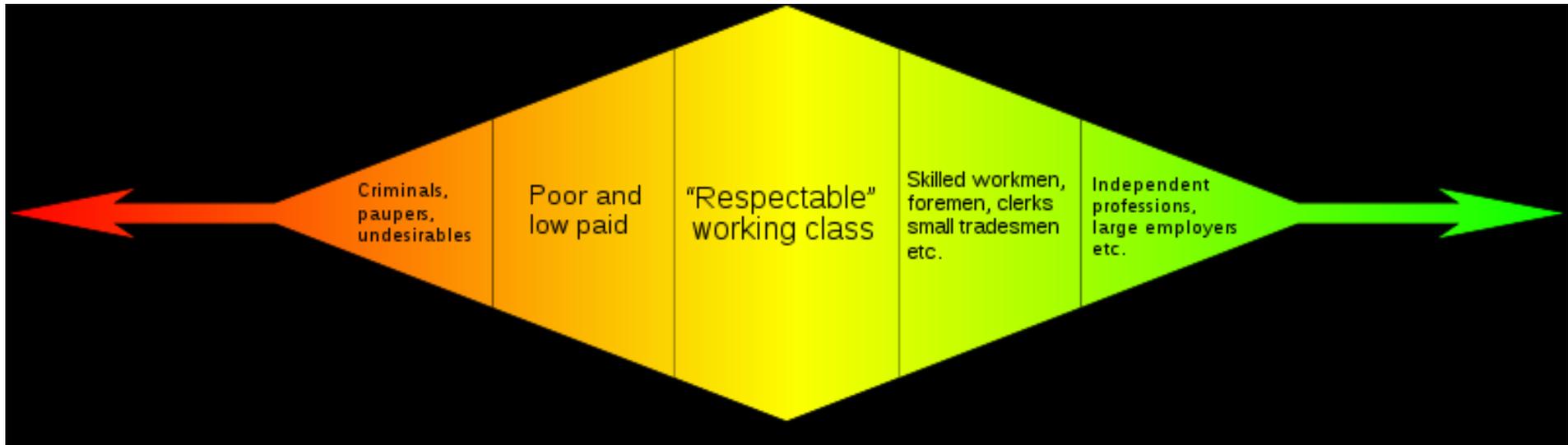
- A set of movements and concepts related to **evolution of species**, connected to the work of Charles Darwin.
- Darwin's most influential work, ***On the Origin of Species***, was published in 1859, and argued that **natural selection** led to new species over the course of time.

## Social Darwinism

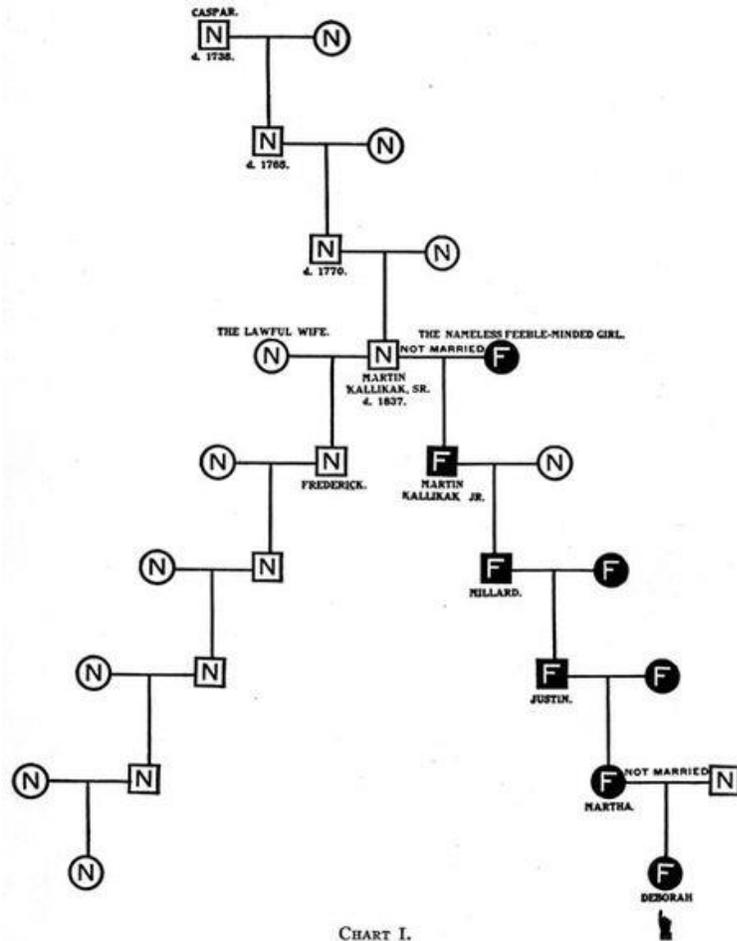
- A **sociological theory** which asserts that “there are underlying, and largely irresistible, forces acting in societies which are like the natural forces in... the wild. **The best-adapted and most successful groups survive... raising the evolutionary level of society generally.**”
- This theory is largely connected to the idea of **eugenics** and **scientific racism**.

# Defining Imperialism: Ideology

- Social Darwinism was used to explain the evident **disparities in wealth, class, education, and even health** which became pronounced in British society during the Industrial Revolution.
- According to Social Darwinism, **the poor were simply “less fit” than other members of society**, thus lessening the impetus to reform working conditions.



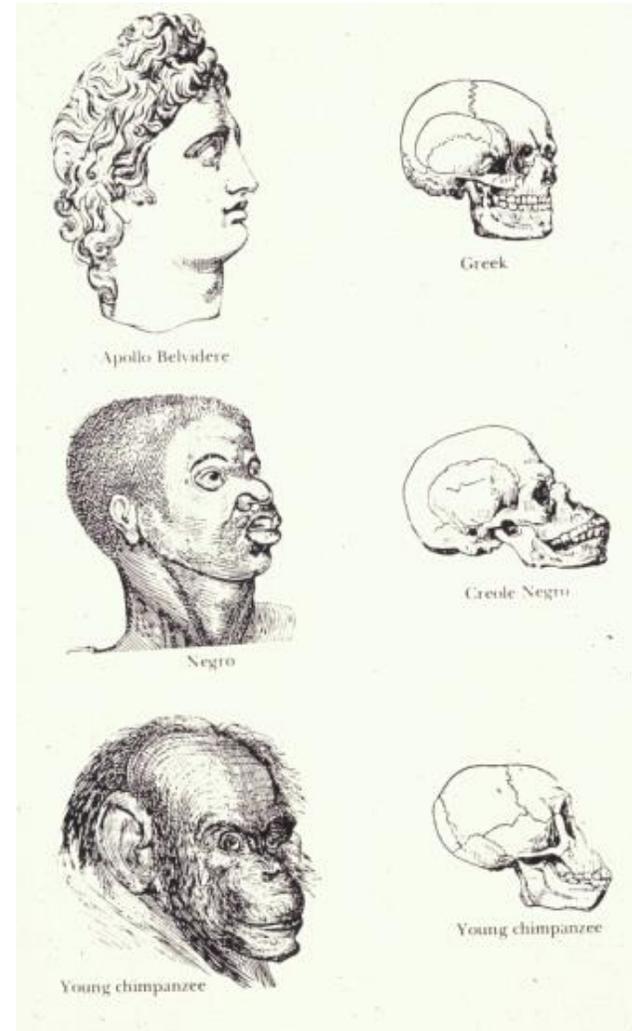
# Defining Imperialism: Ideology



- Social Darwinism encouraged the belief that characteristics such as **class, intelligence, and mental illness** were irrevocably tied to **heredity**.
- Therefore, the “less fit” of society should be prevented from reproducing. This “deliberate modification” of human society through genetic programs is called **eugenics**.

# Defining Imperialism: Ideology

- Social Darwinism and theories of eugenics were merged together into theories of **scientific racism**.
- These theories looked for biological and “scientific” justifications for prevalent European beliefs about white **racial superiority**.



# Defining Imperialism: “White Man’s Burden”

Rudyard Kipling, 1899

Take up the White Man's burden--  
Send forth the best ye breed--  
Go bind your sons to exile  
To serve your captives' need;  
To wait in heavy harness,  
On fluttered folk and wild--  
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,  
Half-devil and half-child...

Take up the White Man's burden--  
And reap his old reward:  
The blame of those ye better,  
The hate of those ye guard--  
The cry of hosts ye humour  
(Ah, slowly!) toward the light:--  
"Why brought he us from bondage,  
Our loved Egyptian night?"

Take up the White Man's burden--  
Ye dare not stoop to less--  
Nor call too loud on Freedom  
To cloke your weariness;  
By all ye cry or whisper,  
By all ye leave or do,  
The silent, sullen peoples  
Shall weigh your gods and you.

Take up the White Man's burden--  
Have done with childish days--  
The lightly proffered laurel,  
The easy, ungrudged praise.  
Comes now, to search your manhood  
Through all the thankless years  
Cold, edged with dear-bought wisdom,  
The judgment of your peers!



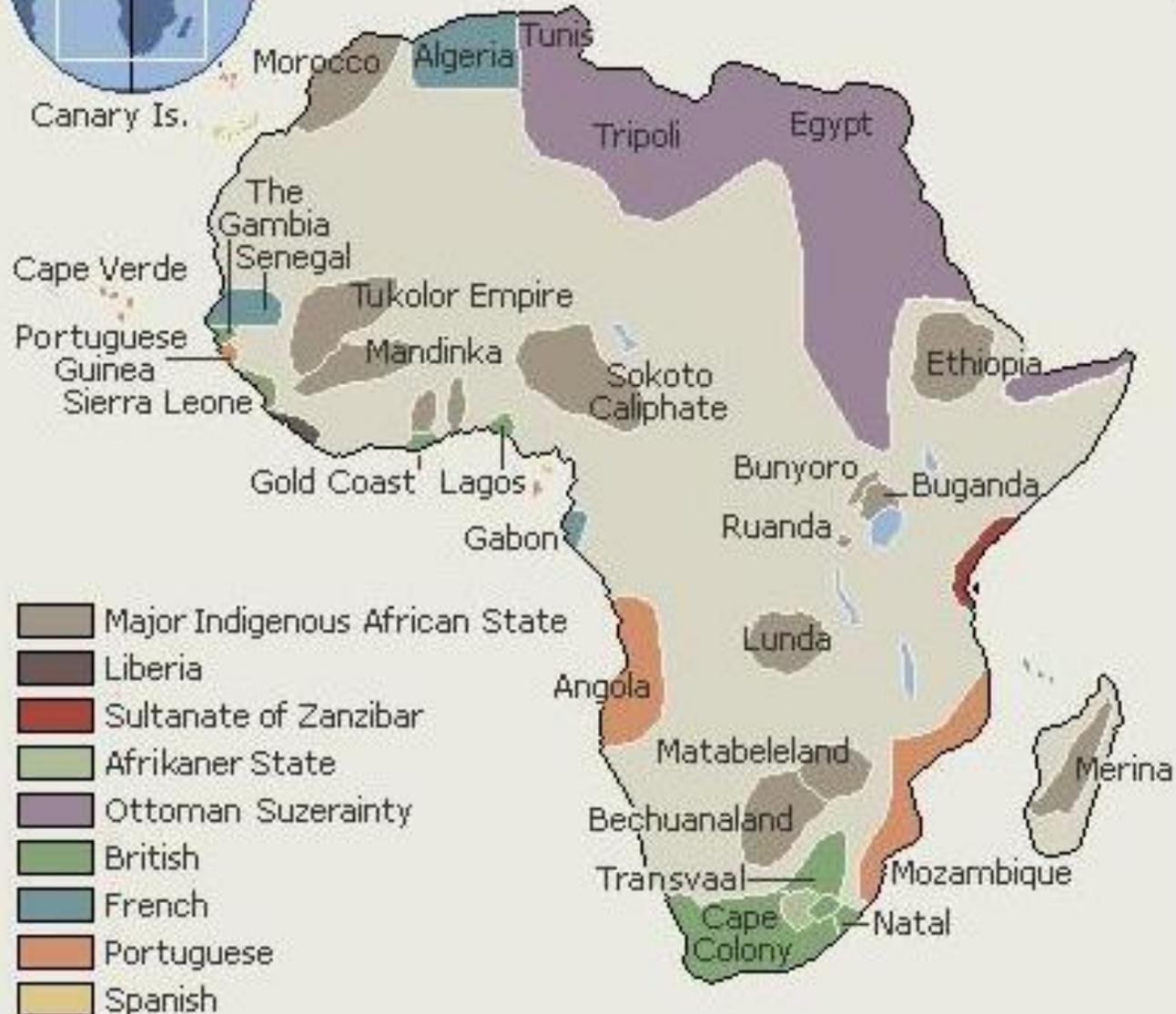
# IMPERIALISM

# THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA

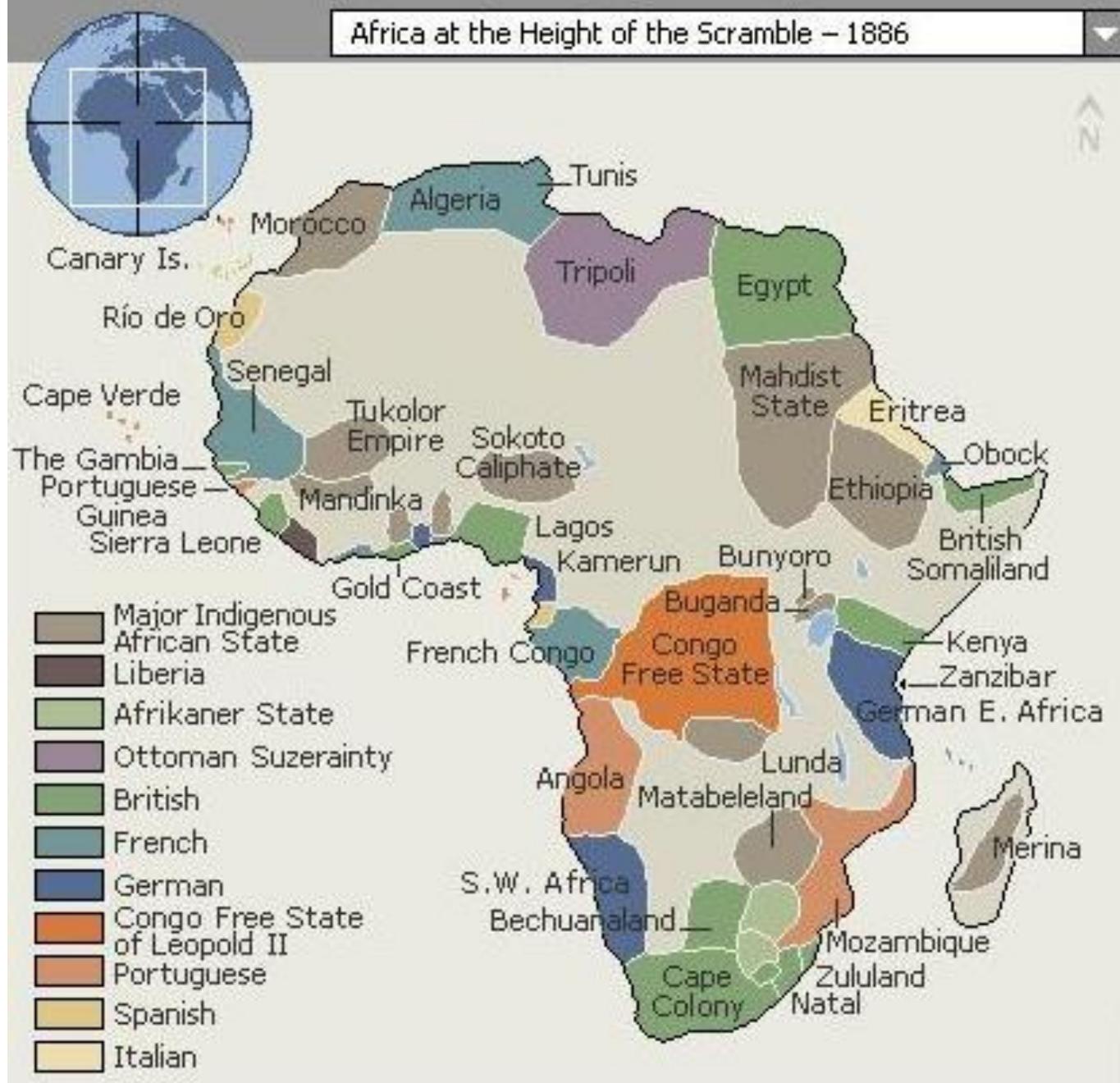
---

Dr. Livingstone, I presume?

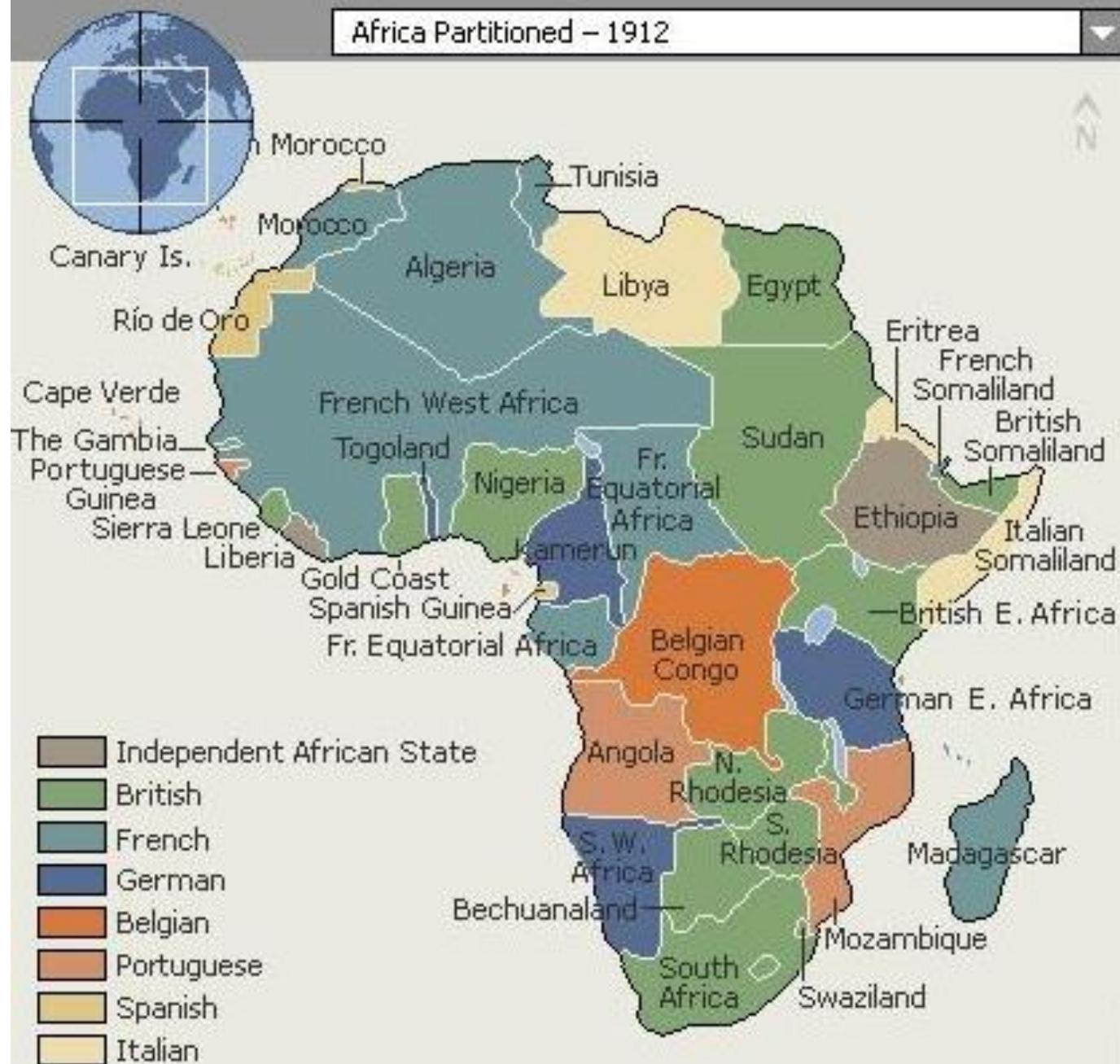
Africa Before the Scramble – 1877



Africa at the Height of the Scramble – 1886



Africa Partitioned – 1912



# CENTRAL AFRICA

---

Into the *Heart of Darkness* with Leopold's ghosts.



# Imperialism: Central Africa

## I. Central Africa – the Story of the Belgian Congo

A. In 1877, the famous American journalist/explorer Henry M. Stanley explored the area around the Congo River in central Africa

B. Based on Stanley's reports and urging, King Leopold II of Belgium personally funded another expedition (led by Stanley) into the Congo region (1879-1884)

\*. Stanley had set-up several trading posts along the Congo River during this expedition

C. In 1884-5, at the Berlin Conference, Leopold was granted a very large portion of Central Africa, surrounding the Congo River

1. This area becomes known as "Congo Free State"
2. It actually serves as his own private plantation (mostly in the extraction of latex/rubber and ivory, too)

# Imperialism: Central Africa

D. Between 1885 and 1908, under Leopold's authority, the rubber companies brutally force the native inhabitants of the Congo River area to extract rubber and other products from the forests

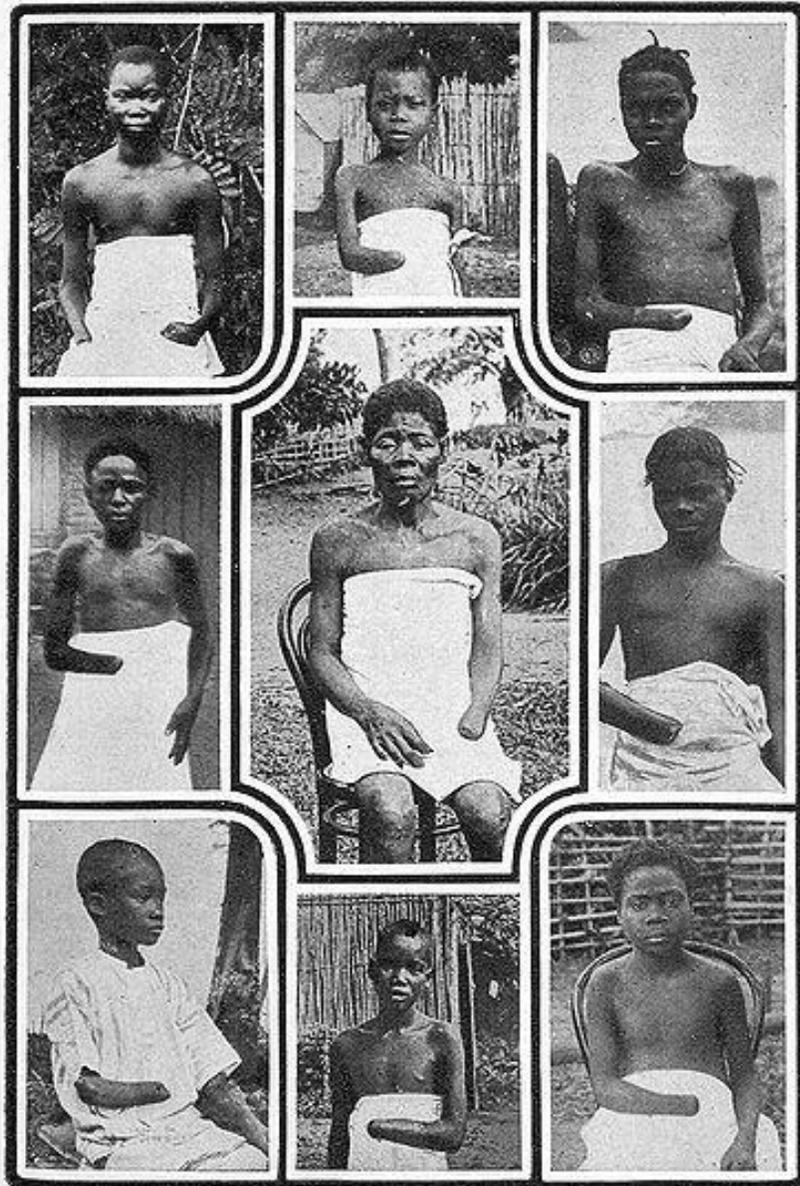
1. Many native peoples, literally at the point of a gun are forced to gather goods from the forests and carry them to the nearest railroad depot or river port
2. Many people are killed or mutilated alive if they do not extract enough goods
3. Beginning in 1906, the British press began to run exposé articles on these atrocities

\*. Joseph Conrad writes his famous book, *Heart of Darkness*, based on the abuses in the Congo Free State

# Imperialism: Central Africa

E. Congo Free State became an official Belgian colony (called the Belgian Congo) in 1909, because King Leopold gave into the criticisms of the way the native peoples had been treated

1. He owed the Belgian government money (based on a prior loan)
2. turned over the Congo to the Belgian government as “payment”



FROM PHOTOGRAPHS, CONGO STATE

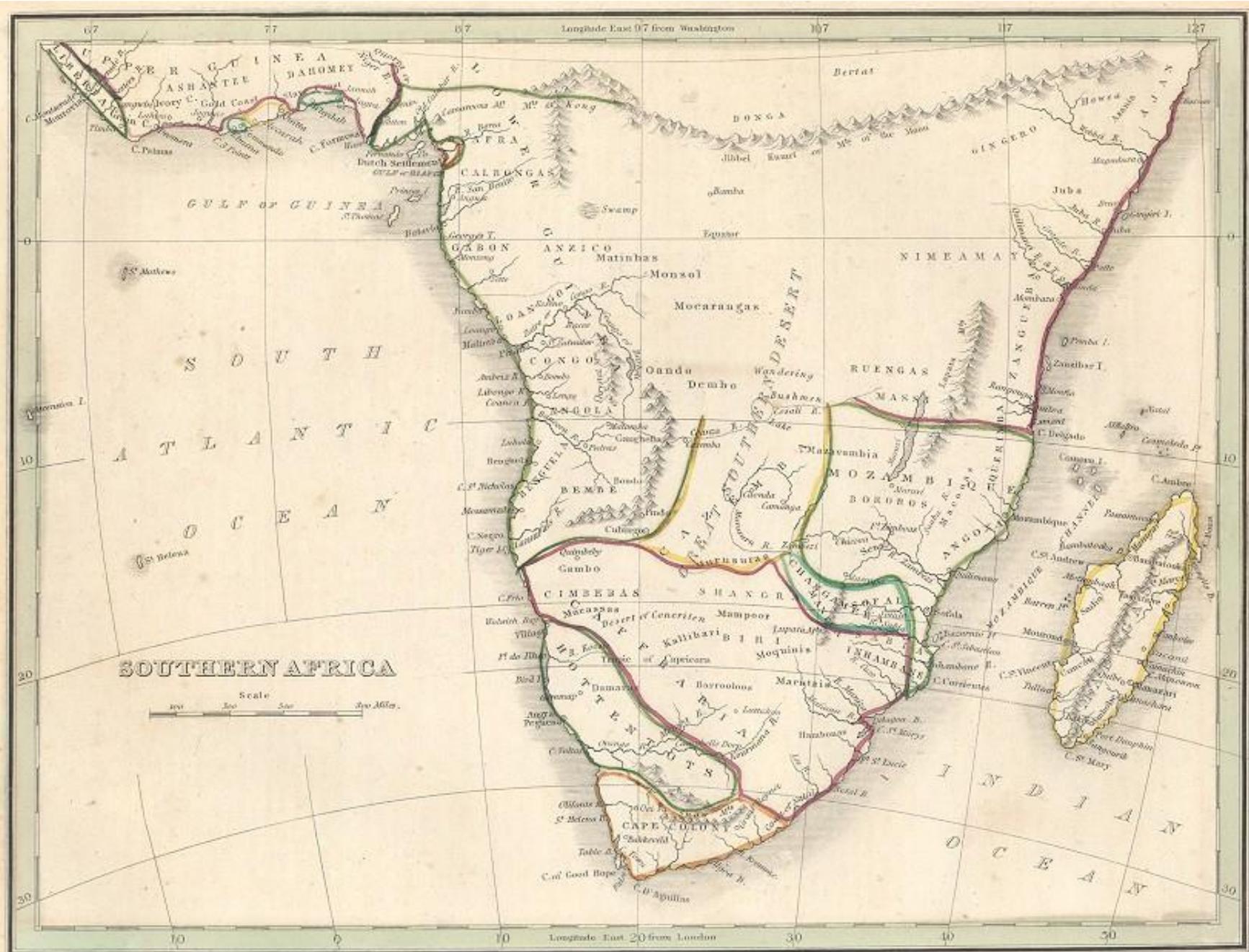
“The pictures get sneaked around everywhere.”— Page 40.

“...The baskets of severed hands, set down at the feet of the European post commanders, became the symbol of the Congo Free State. ... The collection of hands became an end in itself. *Force Publique* soldiers brought them to the stations in place of rubber; they even went out to harvest them instead of rubber... They became a sort of currency. They came to be used to make up for shortfalls in rubber quotas, to replace... the people who were demanded for the forced labour gangs; and the *Force Publique* soldiers were paid their bonuses on the basis of how many hands they collected.”

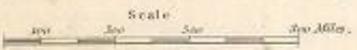
# SOUTHERN AFRICA

---

Zulus + Boers + British + Gandhi



SOUTHERN AFRICA



# Imperialism: Southern Africa

## II. Southern Africa

### A. A brief recap through the 1830s

1. First settled by the Dutch in 1652 – “Cape Colony”
  - a. Port of Cape Town established
  - b. Served as an important supply stop for Dutch ships traveling between Asia and Europe
  - c. Dutch settlers, who come to be known as Afrikaners
    1. live mostly near the coast
    2. some live in the immediate interior areas
      - a. are farmers (called “Boers”)
      - b. enslave and, in some cases, have children with some of the native peoples of the area

# Imperialism: Southern Africa

## 2. As a result of the Napoleonic Wars

a. Prince William of Orange is forced to live in Britain as his country was occupied by the French

\*. The British are granted temporary control of all Dutch colonies

b. The British maintain control of the Cape Colony after the Wars

## 3. The Boers largely resent British rule

a. The British are against further settlement in the interior – as a means not to provoke native peoples into fighting

b. The British had banned slavery in the early 1800s - - the Boers still practiced domestic slavery and vehemently believed in their superiority over the native population

# Imperialism: Southern Africa

B. In the 1830s – the Boers migrated northeastward to escape from British rule (This is called “The Great Trek”)

a. They form two independent Boer republics

1. Transvaal

2. Orange Free State

b. Problem: they have moved into the territory of a large, native African Empire – the Zulus

\*. The Boers and Zulu fight many indecisive skirmishes

C. In the meantime, British colonial influence expands in Southern Africa

1. Many British (and Indian) settlers come to Southern Africa

2. Major gold and diamond deposits were found in Southern Africa in 1868 – causing more British fortune-seekers to migrate to Southern Africa

# Imperialism: Southern Africa

\*. These lands which are very close to the two Afrikaner republics, are annexed by the Cape Colony in 1871 – further angering the Boers and causing trouble with the Zulus

3. The British fight a war against the Zulu in 1879

a. In spite of early defeats, the British finally manage to win this war and the Zulu king is sent into exile

b. The Zulu lands were taken and annexed to the Cape Colony – granted to British settlers

# Imperialism: Southern Africa

## 4. The influence of Cecil Rhodes

a. Very wealthy – Founded De Beers Consolidated (a VERY prosperous diamond mining company in the Kimberly diamond fields in the Cape Colony)

b. Very powerful

1. creates two more British colonies through takeover of Ndebele and Shona tribal lands

a. Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia)

b. Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe)

2. becomes the Prime Minister of the Cape Colony

# Imperialism: Southern Africa

## D. Heightening of problems with the Boers

1. Gold was discovered in the Transvaal in 1886

- \*. British prospectors and settlers quickly move into the Boer republics

2. Under the leadership of Rhodes, the Cape Colony attempted to annex the Transvaal and Orange Free State by force in 1896

- \*. The lack of success of this military invasion forces Rhodes to resign

3. The British, still wanting to annex these Boer republics, begin the Boer War to capture these areas

# Imperialism: Southern Africa

a. The War lasts from 1899 – 1902

1. The Boers are pretty successful, at first, using guerrilla tactics

2. The British respond by sending in between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  million troops

a. scorch Boer farms

b. set-up prisoner camps for captured Boers (including women and children)

b. The British win, but experience an international public relations nightmare for their treatment of the Boers

# Imperialism: Southern Africa

## E. Establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910

1. The settlers of European ancestry vote to establish the Union of South Africa – a British Dominion (a mostly-independent nation which still has official ties to Britain)
2. A very socio-racially regimented society is created
  - a. Three major groups of people
    1. Whites (entirely of European ancestry)
    2. “Coloreds” – including ethnic Indians and peoples of mixed African and European ancestry
    3. Native Africans

# Imperialism: Southern Africa

b. 1913 – South Africa’s Parliament passed the Native Lands Act

1. Only White South Africans had the right to vote

2. Native African peoples only allowed to live and own land on reservations

3. This begins to create the South African system of Apartheid, which lasts until the 1990s

4. In response, Mohandas K. Gandhi, a lawyer living in South Africa, urged his fellow Indians to peacefully disobey these laws

c. Black and “colored” peoples form the South African Native National Congress (the forerunner of the African National Congress) protest these racist policies