

World History Class 08
23rd March, 2024 at 1:00 PM

US IMPERIALISM (01:08 PM)

- Due to its location i.e. Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in the west and east, there was a natural tendency of isolation from world affairs.
 - The US had a vast internal geography therefore it had huge raw materials. To get workers and to create a big domestic market, the US allowed immigration.
 - The US isolated itself from world political conflicts and was busy with territorial expansion in North America
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- **US Civil War (1861-65)**
 - As the cost of imperialism was high due to geographic isolation therefore in 1823 the US adopted the policy of Isolation under the Monroe Doctrine.
 - The US wanted isolation from political/ military conflicts but not economic isolation. E.g. It traded with China, Japan, Europe etc i.e. it wanted only benefits from its interaction with the world.
 - The US wanted to be the sole power in itself in the backyard i.e. North, South and Central America
 - As the US economy grew, the US saturated its domestic market and its desire for foreign markets grew.
 - The US built a strong military and by the 1880s it began claiming the Pacific as its backyard. E.g. It claimed Hawaii Island in the Pacific Ocean.
 - 1898- In the war with Spain, the US took over Hawaii, the Philipines, and Puerto Rico and made Cuba its protectorate and thus it removed Spain from its backyard
 - The US interfered in the domestic polity in the Americas to have a pro-US regime
 - 1904 (Monoroese doctrine)- The US has the right to intervene in the domestic affairs of the Americas

- 1914 Panama Canal - The most important economic development for the US as now the US economy was better connected internally and also with Central and South America as the Canal connected the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and thus boosted the US economy and economic domination of the US in North, South, and Central America
- Columbia wanted an economically more favourable treaty for the Use of the Canal by the US
- The US manufactured a military revolt and created a new country, Panama City and signed a treaty favourable to the US.
- The US annexed islands in the Pacific. E.g. in 1898, Hawaii, the Philipines, and Guam (today UA has a Guam military base- extremely critical for its policy of Asia Pivot to contain China)

COLONIALISM IN AFRICA (02:10 PM)

- In Africa, Colonialism occurred broadly in three phases.
- **Pre-Industrial Revolution Era (i.e. Pre 1870)-**
- The human resource of Africa was exploited via the Slave trade. It was the Triangular slave trade or Trans Atlantic Slave trade. Millions of Africans from coastal west Africa were sold as slaves for labour on plantation systems in America.
- Initially, they were slave traders and later companies.
- In 1833, Britain ended slavery and the US in 1865 via the 13th Amendment.
- European Powers also established some colonies in coastal Africa. E.g. Dutch settlers set up the Cape colony in South Africa (1652)
- British replaced the Dutch and then created the Union of South Africa in 1911
- Portugal began colonising Angola in 1575 and in 1830 Algeria was taken over by France
- However internal parts of Africa could not be colonised as were called the '**dark continents**' due to a lack of knowledge of its geography among Europeans as it was not explored due to tough geographical conditions.

- **Post 1870- New Imperialism**

- Now a race for colonies began as only Africa was available for colonialism.
- This came to be known as the scramble for Africa as non-British European powers wanted to industrialize ASAP to catch up with Britain.
- By 1870, Scramble for Africa began and was completed by 1914.
- Conflicts during the scramble for colonies led to WW1 (1914-18)

- **Note- Neo-Colonialism:** When exploitation and domination continued even after achieving political independence, post WW2, it came to be known as Neo-colonialism
- It happened because independent African countries were underdeveloped and tribal rivalries led to political instabilities. The ex-colonial powers, IMF and World Bank gave aid and loans and in return dominated policies also ex-colonial militarily intervened to restore law and order therefore gaining influence over ex-colony
- In 1870 explorers published details on the wealth of internal Africa and demonstrated the navigability of rivers - Congo and Niger which attracted European powers to Africa. In 1876 King Leopold 2 of Belgium was first to establish a colony in internal Africa in Congo. It was a private colony. This inspired European powers and now race/ scramble began.

- **Following conflicts arose**

- British vs France over Egypt and Sudan and over Niger River Valley
- France vs Spain over Morocco
- France vs Italy over Tunis and Libya
- Portugal vs Belgium over some territory in the Congo River valley
- Germany vs France over Morocco.

BERLIN CONFERENCE 1884-85 (03:05 PM)

- In this conference, many disputes regarding colonies in Africa were resolved and many modern borders of African countries are a product of decisions in this conference.
 - **Decision taken:**
 - Niger Valley- upper to France and lower Niger Valley to Britain and Freedom of Navigation to all in Niger River
 - Freedom to navigation to all in the Congo River. Congo was recognised as a private colony of King Leopold II and in return, he agreed to freedom of trade and investment for all in Congo. France to have special rights over tourists
 - Western Sahara - Special rights of Spain
 - Germany and other powers got recognition for their colonies.
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- **France vs Germany Rivalry**
 - Germany rose as the second power in Europe post-1870 and desired the second-largest colonial empire while France was a distant third power but had the second-largest colonial empire. In the Franco- Prussian war of 1870, Germany took over Alsace Lorraine of France
 - Britain was anxious about the rise of Germany as a naval power and feared for its colonial empire therefore Britain-German rivalry developed.
 - Morocco was strategically located at the mouth of the Mediterranean Sea and also faced the Atlantic therefore it was important for European trade
 - In 1830, France captured Algeria
 - In 1844, France defeated Morocco because Morocco supported Algeria since 1803
 - In 1860, Spain invaded Morocco

- **1880 Madrid conference**
- Germany got the right to be consulted before any change in Morocco and the Territorial neutrality of Morocco was agreed upon. Also, an open door policy was adopted i.e. freedom to trade and invest to all in Morocco
- France began isolating Germany -
- 1900 France agreed to special rights of Italy over Libya and Italy agreed to special rights of France in Morocco
- 1904- France and Spain demarcated Morocco into Spanish and French Morocco
- 1904- Entente Cordial led to friendly relations and the end of colonial disputes between Britain and France
- France Agreed to Egypt and Sudan being spheres of influence of Britain while Britain supported France in Morocco

- **1906- Moroccan Crisis**
- Germany was anxious because of French actions (1900-1904) but it was isolated and had to agree to control of Moroccan banks and police by France
- Germany felt humiliated and Germany- France tensions increased
- France stationed its Army in Morocco and then the German navy captured the island of Agadir in Morocco
- British became anxious as now Germany could threaten British trade by dominating the straits of Gibraltar
- A conference was called where most powers sided with France and Germany again got isolated and was forced to agree to French control
- Germany was given a small strip of land in the French Congo and thus Germany was humiliated
- 1912, France converted French Morocco into its protectorate
- Also, Germany felt encircled by Britain France and Russia.

IMPACT OF AFRICAN COLONIALISM (04:04 PM)

- By 1914, the whole of Africa was colonised except Abyssinia and Liberia
- Liberia was a colony set up by the US for the voluntary relocation of blacks from the US to Africa. White settlers settled, took over the lands of Blacks and established their domination over the economy and Polity as agents of colonial power in Europe.
- Lands, Factories and Trade were owned by Whites while blacks were labourers and poor workers
- Cultural Colonialism- Black culture, language, and religion were suppressed and Western culture was imposed
- Racism and separateness increased
- Inferior education, health and public services for Blacks so they are forced to remain in Poverty
- Black Nationalism was repressed with the military help of colonial power
- There existed a nexus between colonial power and white settlers
- Slavery for 300 years
- Absentee Colonialism - where Colonial powers did not establish any system of administration, there were huge negative impacts and total neglect of social and physical infrastructure
- Post-independence these countries continued to suffer with under development and became a victim of neo-colonialism. E.g. In Angola in 1975 had no graduates
- Arbitrary borders were drawn

TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS- DICTATION OF IMPACT OF AFRICAN COLONIALISM (TO CONTINUE), WW1