

Unit 2

COLONIAL RULE

Introduction

Colonialism is defined as the occupation and control of one nation by another. Colonialism involves an external nation taking complete control of a territory in another area. Colonised people did not invite the colonial powers and they had no say in how they were governed. Colonialism is by definition and practice undemocratic. Colonisation of Africa occurred between 1900s and 1970s. Colonisation of Africa involved the scramble and partition of Africa.

The **scramble** for Africa refers to the rush and struggle for different parts of Africa by the European powers.

Partition of Africa refers to the dividing of Africa among the European powers that were interested in colonies in Africa. Africa was partitioned and shared among European powers in a conference known as the Berlin Conference of 1884 to 1885. There were seven European countries which colonised Africa. These European countries were Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Italy.

Activity 1

The scramble and partition of Africa

Source 1



Looking at the cartoon strip above, what message do you think it's trying to deliver about the scramble and partition of Africa?

Source 2

'In his lecture on the philosophy of History, Hegel said that Africa is a continent without movement and development and has no place in human history.' (Hegel, 1956: 99)



Pair work

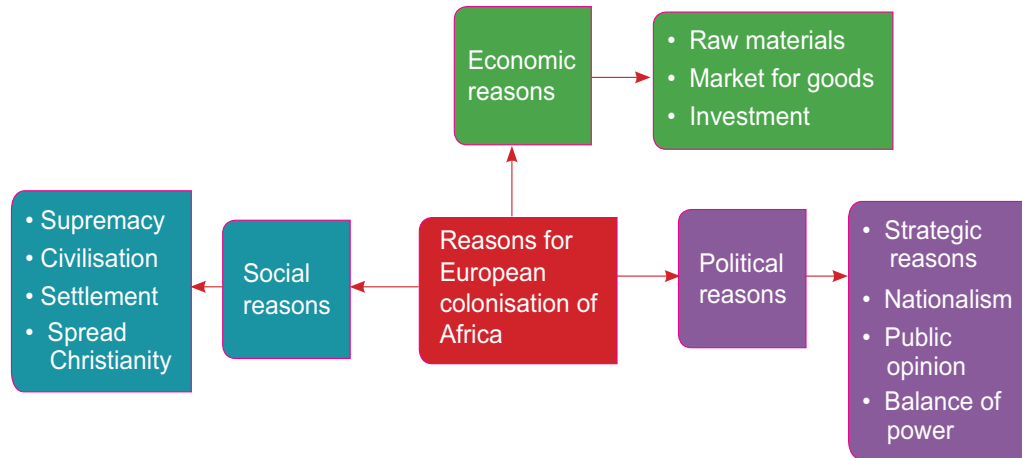
Read the source above.

- Were Hegel's remarks true as a justification for colonialism?
 - Tell your teacher why?



- With the help of your Atlas, locate the European countries that colonised Africa in the above map.

Reasons for colonisation of Africa



Source 3

Take up the White Man's burden—
Send forth the best ye breed—
Go send 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
In patience to abide
To veil the threat of terror
And check the show of pride;
By open speech and simple
An hundred times made plain
To seek another's profit
And work another's gain
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) to the light:
“Why brought ye us from bondage,
“Our loved Egyptian night?”
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!
By Rudyard Kipling 1899



Pair work

1. According to this poem, what is the white man’s burden?
2. With your friend, discuss the view point of the author.
3. What justifications are offered in the source to support the author’s view point?

Economic reasons

Economic reasons for colonisation of Africa were precipitated by the industrial revolution. Most European countries had industrialised by this period. They therefore needed goods and a market for their industrial goods.

The following were the economic reasons for the colonisation of Africa.

1. European countries were looking for cheap sources of raw materials for their industries. They were looking for resources such as palm oil, cotton and minerals.
2. They were also looking for a market for their finished products.
3. They were looking for avenues to invest their surplus capital which

they had accrued from trade and industrialisation. They believed that, investment in Africa was cheaper than in Europe because there was stiff competition in Europe.

Social reasons

1. Europeans colonised Africa because they felt that they were a superior race who needed to civilise Africans. Civilisation involved eradicating bad practices such as slave trade and human sacrifices which were rampant in the African continent. To them, colonisation was seen as a blessing to Africa.
2. They wanted to convert Africans into Christians. This was done by the Christian missionaries.
3. They colonised Africa to settle their surplus population, especially those who had been rendered unemployed by the industrial revolution and had resorted to social crimes such as prostitution, theft and riots.

Political reasons

1. Politically, nationalism and patriotism was an important factor for colonisation. Nations such as France wanted to restore their lost glory after being defeated by Germany in the Franco Prussian war of 1870.
2. Colonies were a symbol of supremacy. Powerful individuals such as writer W.T Stead encouraged the building of empires. European countries therefore colonised Africa because of public opinion. That was the idea of the moment championed by many people.
3. Some European countries such as Britain colonised some African countries for strategic reasons. They wanted to control the River Nile and the Suez Canal so that they could easily transport their goods. The Suez Canal shortened the distance between Africa and Europe by sea.



Class work

1. From the reasons given above, write an essay exploring how important you think each factor was in driving colonisation. Explain the ones you think were most important and why?

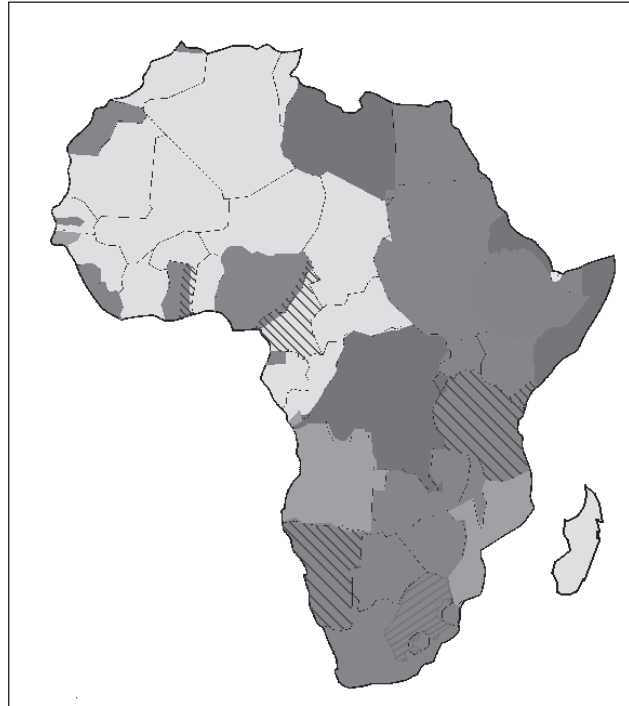
Activity 2

Colonial rule and administration



Pair work

1. Draw a table with different columns representing the European powers that colonised Africa. In each write the African country that the European power colonised.
2. From your table arrange the European powers starting with the one that had most colonies?



During the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, Africa was shared among the seven European countries of Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Italy. The Berlin Conference was convened by the German Chancellor Otto Von Bismarck. There were certain conditions set for any European power that wanted to colonise Africa. These conditions were known as the terms of the Berlin Conference. They stated:

- a) That any state laying claim to any part of Africa must inform other interested parties.
- b) That all signatories must declare their “sphere of influence” which was an area under each nation’s occupation.
- c) That interested nations must effectively occupy their spheres of influence and establish administration.
- d) Countries must undertake to stamp out slave trade in the area they occupy.

- e) That River Congo and River Niger basins are to be left free for any interested party to navigate.
- f) Countries with protectorates in Africa should have authority or establish administration to protect existing European rights and guarantee free trade.

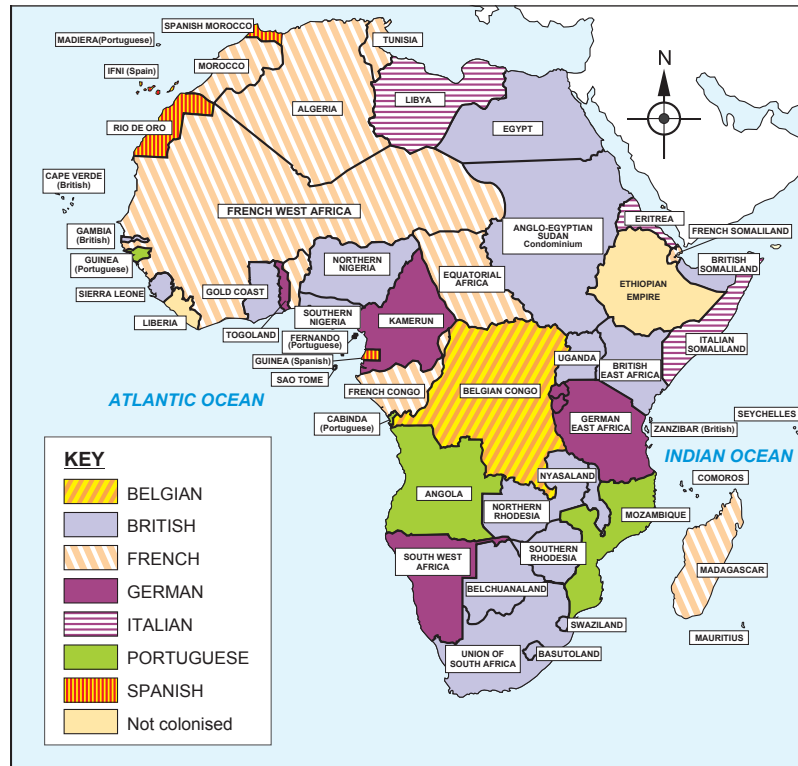


Fig. 2.1 Map of Africa showing different areas which were colonised by different European countries

Sudan was administered by Britain and Egypt and was referred to as Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Up to 1914, Egypt was part of the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) and expanded its control to Sudan in the 19th Century. The Turko-Egyptian masters were interested in slaves, ivory, gold and timber found in South Sudan. In 1881, the Mahdist revolt broke out and in 1882, Britain invaded Egypt. In 1899, they formally established a joint protectorate over Sudan; Egypt on the basis of its previous claims and Britain by right of conquest. Between 1914 and 1922, Egypt and Sudan was part of the British protectorate. With the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, Egypt and Sudan's economic and strategic importance increased. In 1882, Britain occupied

Egypt and Sudan.

After the Mahdist revolt which was a rebellion against the British led by a Sudanese religious leader Muhammad Bin Abdalla, the self-proclaimed “Mahdi” (Guided one), the British pursued a divide and rule policy. From 1924, the British essentially divided Sudan into two separate territories, the predominantly Christian south where the use of English was encouraged by the missionaries and the Arabic North who were mainly Muslims.



Class work

1. (a) From the map that you drew during your pair work, are there some countries which were not colonised?
- (b) Write their names on a flash card or on the board.

Reasons why some countries in Africa were not colonised

There were only two African countries that were not overtaken and colonised by the Europeans. These are Liberia and Ethiopia.

The reasons why these countries were never colonised include:

1. Liberia has never been colonised because it was created artificially. It was a state formed in 1839 by Americans to resettle the liberated slaves. It therefore was under the United States of America where it was ruled by the white minority until 1847. Liberia's connections to the United States made it unattractive as a target.
2. Ethiopia on the other hand successfully resisted Italian occupation under its leader Menelik II. He led the Ethiopians to a decisive defeat of the Italians in the battle of Adowa and secured Ethiopian sovereignty.

Types of colonial administration systems in Africa

After claims were made and borders drawn for African territories, European nations had to come up with a plan on how to govern their newly acquired colonies. There are several broad categories or divisions in which European nations ruled African colonies. The commonly used systems were direct rule, indirect rule and assimilation policy.

During the initial stages of colonisation, most European nations used economic companies to rule the region. The European governments provided

these companies with charters who were responsible for all expenses of establishing and administering the colonies. This method was mainly used by the British and the Germans. The British East African Company established in 1888 colonised Kenya on behalf of the British and governed it until 1893. The British South African Company was formed in 1887 under Cecil Rhodes and it colonised Malawi (Nyasaland), Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). It governed these colonies until 1923. The German East African Company governed Tanganyika on behalf of the Germans. By around 1945, there were no company ruled colonies remaining in Africa.

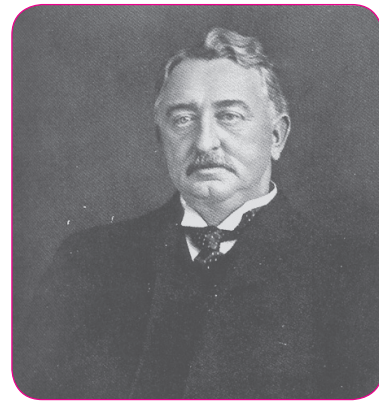
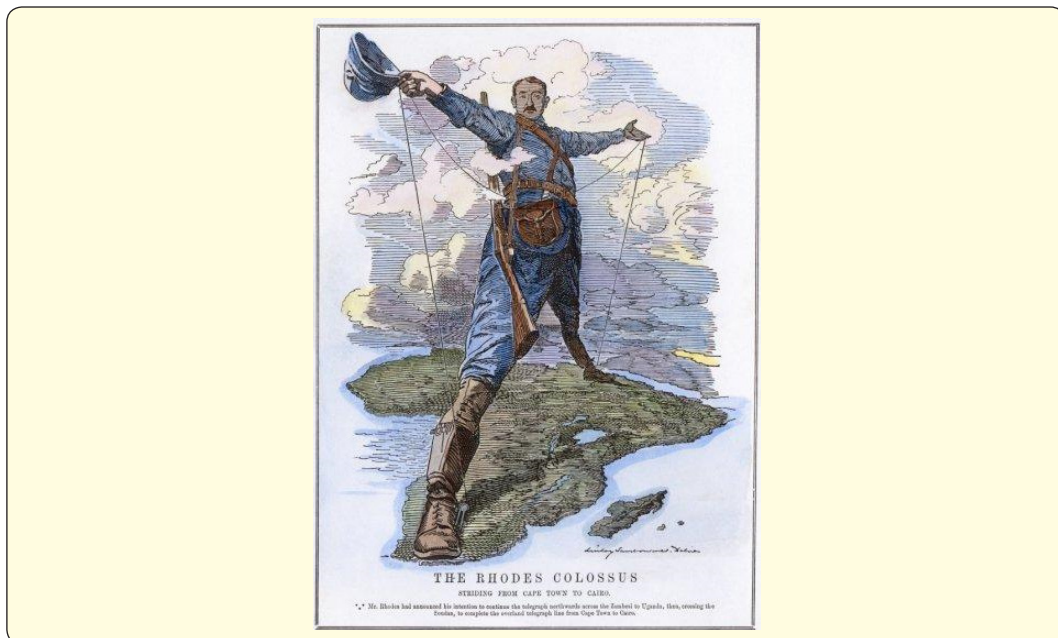


Fig. 2.2 Cecil Rhodes

Source 4



Pair work

1. Who do you think is the man in this cartoon strip? What is being depicted in the cartoon strip above?

Reasons why the Europeans first used companies to rule

Source 5

“No man if he understood would sign it and to say that a savage chief has been told that he cedes all rights to the company in exchange for nothing is an obvious untruth. If he has been told that the company will protect him against his enemies and share in his wars as an ally, he has been told a lie, for the company have no idea of doing any such thing and no force to do it with if they wished.” — (*British Captain F.D. Lugard, discussing treaties negotiated between the Imperial British East Africa Company and the Mwanga in present-day.*)



Pair work

1. What message is the author conveying?
 2. Do you think that African chief's were cheated by the companies that they signed treaties with? Drawing your arguments from the source above, give reasons for your answer.
-
1. Company rule was used by European powers to minimise the costs of occupation and put in place effective administration of the colonies as per the clauses of the Berlin Conference.
 2. European countries that used companies wanted the companies to exploit resources in their colonies so as to be able to meet the costs of administration.
 3. They wanted the colonies to be self-sustaining and not to become a burden to European tax payers.
 4. The companies were expected to develop infrastructure in the areas and also end the African resistance.
 5. Company rule was used because the companies' officials were already working in Africa as traders.

Effects of company rule

1. The companies were instrumental in ending local aggression in their areas of operation. The chartered companies laid basis for colonial administration by establishing administrative posts and centres.

2. Chartered companies signed treaties with local leaders making it easier for the European powers to acquire raw materials or minerals from the colonies. For example, Lewanika of the Lozi signed the Lochner treaty with the British South African Company in 1890 giving the company mining rights in his kingdom.
3. The companies developed infrastructure such as roads and bridges in their areas of operation.
4. The companies established industries for example; the British East African Company established a rubber industry along the coast of East Africa.

1. Direct rule

Direct rule was a form of colonial administration. This was a system of administration where indigenous political and administrative institutions and leaders were replaced with a European system. The British, French, Belgians, Germans and Portuguese used this model. The European powers established centralised administrations usually in urban centres and they did not involve indigenous African rulers and governments. Direct rule used the strategy of “divide and rule” by implementing policies that intentionally weakened indigenous power networks and institutions.

This system worked well in places which already had large populations of Europeans for example, Zimbabwe. The Europeans also preferred using this system in places that were viable in terms of minerals and raw materials. African chiefs and headmen were stripped off their powers and their work reduced to recruiting their subjects to forced labour and maintaining law and order at local levels.

Reasons why Europeans used the direct rule

1. Direct rule was used so that the European powers would acquire full control of the economy and exploit resources such as minerals and farmlands.
2. This system was also used in places which lacked efficient traditional systems of political administration or those whose systems had been destroyed during wars of resistance.
3. This system was used where there were large populations of white settlement for example in Zimbabwe. It was hoped that the system would stop African resistance as Europeans were firmly in control.

Effects of direct rule

1. It solved the shortage of employment among the European population as they worked in the colonies.
2. It undermined the pre-existing African traditional chiefs who were replaced by colonial appointees. In Tanganyika for example, Germans used Arabs, Akidas and Liwalis from the coastal areas as chiefs and headmen instead of the local people.
3. It managed to end African resistance especially in colonies that had enough white military forces.
4. It led to massive exploitation of Africans through oppressive colonial policies leading to land alienation, forced labour and taxation among.

2. Indirect rule

This method of ruling was mainly used by the British. Indirect rule involved the use of indigenous African rulers within colonial administration although they maintained an inferior role. They worked under the supervision of European officials and received orders from them. Lord Fredrick Lugard, a British colonial administrator, used this system of government in Nigeria and in East Africa. This system was used in places where Africans had efficient or organised political institutions.

Structure of the indirect rule

This system involved having Europeans occupy all senior positions. The African chiefs retained their positions but their work was outlined and curtailed. Their duties included settling disputes at local level, recruiting Africans to forced labour and eliminating practices that the British could not condone. In South Sudan, the British ruled through tribal leaders whom they gave “powers.” This use of “indirect rule” divided South Sudan into hundreds of informal chiefdoms. The British used “divide and rule” policy to separate Southern Sudanese provinces from the rest of the country slowing down their economic and social development. The British claimed that the South was not “ready to open up” to the modern world. They therefore, invested much in the Arab North. This created tensions and mistrust between North and South Sudan culminating into armed conflict in the 1950s.

Reasons for indirect rule

1. The European powers that used this system lacked enough manpower to handle administrative responsibilities in the colonies.

2. This system was used to minimise the costs of administering the colonies as traditional political systems were used.
3. Indirect rule was used to curb African resistance. This is because the traditional chiefs and leaders were used. However, most of them operated as mere puppet chiefs.



Group work

1. Conduct a research and find out the African countries which were colonised through the indirect rule.
With your friend, discuss the specific reasons which led to the use of this rule in specific countries you have identified.
 - (a) From the reasons which favoured the use of direct rule, discuss with your friend what could have made the Europeans use the indirect rule.
 - (b) Write the reasons in your notebooks.

Effects of indirect rule

1. It created tribalism. Chiefs who were given the power regarded themselves as superior to the others creating disunity. For example, in Uganda, Kabaka Edward Mutesa wanted independence for the Buganda kingdom only.
2. It led to unbalanced development in the colonies as areas where the chiefs came from developed in terms of social services like schools, hospitals and road networks. This has been a cause of conflict between people especially after independence.
3. Indirect rule turned chiefs to be puppets as they were used by the British and no longer worked for the interests of their fellow Africans.
4. It created social divisions whereby, some tribes became the ruling class while the others became suppliers of cheap labour.
5. It led to the extensive exploitation of Africans in terms of human labour, natural resources among others.

3. Assimilation policy

Assimilation means to make similar to. Assimilation policy was a system of administration mainly used by the French. It stated that French laws apply to all colonies outside France regardless of the distance from France, the size of the colony, the organisation of the society, the economic development, race or religious beliefs. It was the expansion of the French culture outside Europe. Assimilation was mainly practiced in Senegal and in the four provinces or communes of Dakar, Goree, Saint Louis and Rufisque. The Africans in these four communes of Senegal were easily assimilated because most of them were literate, knew the French language, were Christians and had long interactions with European traders. The colonies where this policy was used were regarded as other sea provinces of the French.

Assimilated Africans enjoyed privileges and rights that were given to any French citizen in France. They could be elected as representatives in the French lower House of Parliament. There was close economic relationship between France and the colonies as both used the French currency.

Before Africans could be assimilated they had to:

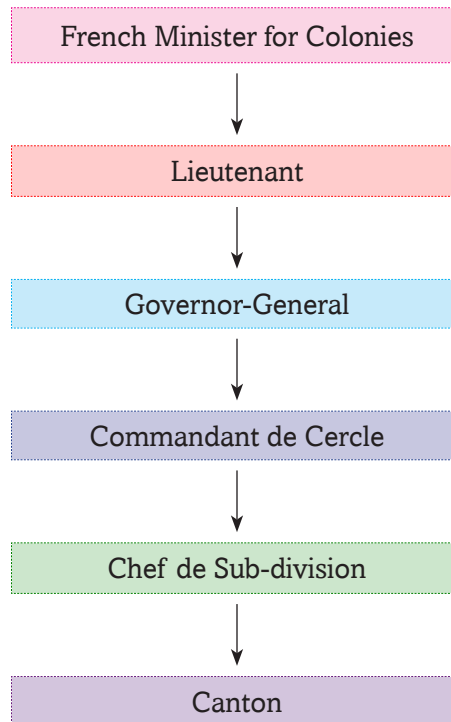
1. Learn the French language.
2. Follow French laws.
3. Apply French civil and political systems.
4. Convert to Christianity.
5. Practice monogamy.

Reasons for assimilation

Assimilation was used in French colonies due to a number of reasons. These reasons included:

1. The existence of a large percentage of children of mixed parentage; the “Mulatto” population who were easy to assimilate. This came about due to long interactions and intermarriages between the local people and European traders in these regions.
2. The Africans in the four communes of Senegal where assimilation was used were familiar with European colonial administrators and missionaries.
3. Most of the Africans in this region had already been converted into Christianity which was one of the requirements for assimilation.

The features of French administration



Effects of assimilation

1. This policy greatly undermined African culture as people were forced to embrace the French culture.
2. It eroded the authority of the traditional African leaders who were replaced by assimilated people.
3. Africans were allowed to enjoy the rights of the French citizens such as participating in political matters. A Senegalese, Blaise Diagne was elected to the French lower house in 1914.
4. The system created a great rift between the assimilated Africans who were considered French citizens and the rest. This is because those assimilated were exempted from taxation and forced labour.

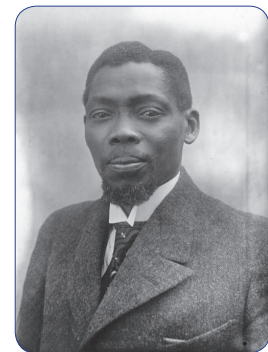


Fig. 2.3 Blaise Diagne

Association policy

This policy prevailed in the French colonies after assimilation failed. Association was a policy that respected African culture. It allowed Africans to develop independently and not force them to adopt the French culture. Its

purpose was to create mutual economic development for both Africans and the French. Africans had the right of maintaining their own culture.



Group work

1. Carry out a research on factors that led to the decline of the assimilation policy.
2. Write the factors in your notebooks.

Effects of association

- (a) It did not interfere with African cultural practices such as religion, custom and traditions.
- (b) Association policy did not consider the assimilated Africans as French citizens.
- (c) French civil and criminal laws were not used on Africans in the colonies. The policy of assimilation and association in French colonies, still subjected Africans into oppressive laws and economic exploitation such as land alienation, taxation and forced labour.

Effects of colonial rule in Africa

Source 6

Pile on the Black Man's Burden.
'Tis nearest at your door;
Why heed long bleeding Cuba,
or dark Hawaii's shore?
Hail ye your fearless armies,
Which menace feeble folks
Who fight with clubs and arrows
and brook your rifle's smoke.
Pile on the Black Man's Burden
His wail with laughter drown
You've sealed the Red Man's problem,
And will take up the Brown,
In vain ye seek to end it,
With bullets, blood or death

Better by far defend it
With honor's holy breath.

Source: H.T. Johnson, "The Black Man's Burden," Voice of Missions, VII (Atlanta: April 1899), 1. Reprinted in Willard B. Gatewood, Jr., Black Americans and the White Man's Burden, 1898–1903 (Urbana: University of Illinois Press), 1975, 183–184.



Group work

1. Analyse the key issues being addressed in this poem
2. This poem was written to respond to the poem of Rudyard Kipling "the white man's burden" what do you think was the attitude of the author of the poem?
3. Write your own poem to respond to the poem of Rudyard Kipling.

Positive effects

1. New breeds of animals and crops that could do well under the African climate were introduced. Cash crops such as coffee, cocoa, tea and sisal were introduced.
2. Colonisation introduced a common currency which had not existed in the past.
3. Colonialism introduced new legal systems in Africa.
4. It brought manufactured goods into the continent.



Fig 2.4 A court setting

5. It introduced new machines which are now used in agriculture and industry.
6. Colonial rule brought an end to slave trade which undermined the rights of people and eroded their dignity.

7. Modern health facilities, formal education and other social services were introduced in Africa.
8. Colonial governments introduced modern methods of communication.
9. Many Africans learnt the language of their colonial masters like English, French, German so on, which has given them advantage to be able to communicate in the present globalised world without any difficulties.



2.5 Students in a classroom

Negative effects

1. The Africans lost their political independence.
2. Some traditional political institutions were destroyed and replaced with foreign ones.
3. Foreign culture was imposed on Africans without regard for their own culture. This led to loss of African culture.
4. Africans were converted into Christianity. They were made to believe that the traditional beliefs were primitive.
5. Africans lost large tracts of their land to European settlers.
6. Many Africans were forced to live in crowded areas and were never able to regain their land.
7. Africans were discriminated against and mistreated in their own countries.
8. The African continent was broken up into political units that later became independent countries.
9. The Africans were forced to trade with the colonial master much more than with fellow Africans living in neighbouring states.
10. Development within the colonies was not balanced or uniform. It tended to favour colonies occupied by white settlers.
11. Africans were viewed as slaves rather than free people. They were forced to provide free labour on European settler farms and mines.



Fig. 2.6 Africans working in European farms under supervision



Class work

Source 7

“All the Powers exercising sovereign rights or influence in the aforesaid territories bind themselves to watch over the preservation of the native tribes, and to care for the improvement of the conditions of their moral and material well-being....” — (*General Act of the Berlin Conference, Article 6, February 26, 1885* *ely in central and southern Africa, late 1850s Comparison between colonisation in Africa and America.*)



Group work

To what extent was the act fulfilled at the end of the colonial rule in Africa? Explain your answer.

Similarities

1. In both Africa and America, colonisers wanted to exploit natural resources. The resources varied from country to country ranging from minerals to agricultural products suitable for export to Europe. Profits from the exports were sent to Europe instead of promoting social and economic development in the colonies.

2. Colonialism in Africa and America saw the introduction of taxes to the indigenous people for the maintenance of colony.

Differences

1. Colonisation of Africa not only involved acquisition of resources but also the use of the people to provide free labour. Africans laboured in poor working conditions for long hours with inadequate pay. In the end, the Europeans left the African continent underdeveloped. Colonisation in America on the other hand involved Europeans relocating there with their families, developing the area and influencing America with their language and culture.
2. In Latin America, colonialism did not have much of an impact as the original natives (the Mayas, Incans, and Aztecs) mostly died of war and diseases or retreated into remote areas. It is the European population or mixed European-Indian ancestry that remained. This hastened development of the area, unlike in Africa which was left undeveloped yet exploited. The effects of this are still felt many years later as Africa lags behind in global development.
3. Colonisation period in America (Latin America) and Asia ended earlier than that of Africa.
4. In America and Asia, colonial powers created territories based on economic considerations. There were large nations of diverse populations such as India, Indonesia and Malaysia making it possible for groups like Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs to co-exist in spite of bitter experiences. In Africa however, colonial powers drew boundaries based on tribal divisions and pulled off one tribe against another. In Rwanda for example, the Belgian colonial powers favoured the Tutsi over the Hutu. In Sudan, the British turned the Northern region against the Southern region.
5. The perception of the native people by the European colonisers also varied. While Asia was seen as a backward nation, the Asians were generally seen as intelligent and cultured people who could be civilised. Africans on the other hand were viewed as barbaric, uncivilised people who needed to be dealt with ruthlessly. The British for example, introduced railways, parliamentary system of governance in India but they did not do much of the same in Africa. When the Europeans left, unlike other places such as Latin America and Asia, Africans did not have institutions to build on.

Activity 3

African response to colonial rule

African communities responded in different ways to European occupation. The main responses were **resistance** and **collaboration**.

Source 8

‘I have listened to your words but can find no reason why I should obey you—I would rather die first.... If it should be friendship that you desire, then I am ready for it...but to be your subject that I cannot be.... I do not fall at your feet, for you are God’s creature just as I am.... I am Sultan here in my land. You are Sultan there in yours. Yet listen, I do not say to you that you should obey me; for I know that you are a free man.’ — (*King Machelima of the Yao in East Africa to German commander Hermann von Wissmann, 1890.*)



Pair work

What does this source suggest about the attitude of African nations to colonial rule?

Resistance refers to the struggle conducted by the Africans against imposition of colonial rule during their attempt to occupy the African land from 1880 to 1914.

Collaboration refers to cooperation of some African communities to European colonisers mainly through signing of treaties.

There are those African societies or leaders who decided to fight Europeans right from the start. They are known as **Primary resisters** for example, Samore Toure of the Mandika, Menelik II of Ethiopia, Nandi of Kenya and Kabarega of Bunyoro. There are other groups and leaders who welcomed Europeans and only decided to fight after realising that Europeans had taken their land and independence. These are called **Secondary resisters**. For example, Kabaka Mwanga of Buganda and Lebengula of the Ndebele. Some communities collaborated and cooperated with the Europeans for example, the Buganda, Ankole and the Maasai.

Reasons for African collaboration

1. Africans collaborated because they thought that this would protect their independence. Africans valued self-rule. They trusted the Europeans and did not expect the Europeans to betray them. Most of the African leaders were illiterate and the treaties that they signed were interpreted for them by the missionaries. They thought that the colonialists wanted to promote trade between their countries and Europe.
2. Other African leaders collaborated because they wanted to get weapons and other forms of military support against their enemies. In Senegal for example, African societies collaborated with the French because of the threat from Samouri Toure of the Mandika Empire who wanted to conquer their areas to expand his kingdom.
3. Some African leaders collaborated because of military weakness. Europeans had superior weapons and well trained armies. They saw it as futile fighting the Europeans and so they just gave in. In Kenya, among the Maasai for example, a Scottish trader called Andrew Dick opened fire killing 100 Maasai in what was called the 'Kendong' massacre.' This incident scared the Maasai who realised that resisting the British would be devastating. They saw that it was safer to welcome the intruders.
4. Natural calamities forced some Africans to collaborate. These communities had been weakened by both human and animal diseases and epidemics leaving them too weak to resist the intruders. The Banyankore (Uganda) for example were affected by jiggers and rinderpest. The Maasai of Kenya were weakened by small pox, rinderpest and internal conflicts. These African communities chose to collaborate to solve their problems.
5. African leaders collaborated to acquire wealth. They wanted clothes, beads, guns, mirrors and wine. They wanted to get European goods which they considered superior.
6. Some African leaders collaborated due to missionary influence. Missionaries invited their countries to take over areas where they worked. They convinced Africans to accept colonial rule through Biblical Scriptures such as all authority comes from God. They convinced them to sign treaties. For example, Francois Coillard, a missionary wrote a letter on behalf of King Lewanika of the Lozi in Zambia for British protection.

Reasons for African resistance



Pair work

It is believed that many colonies brought development in Africa.

Why do you think some resisted?

Reasons for African resistance varied from community to community due to the fact that African experiences under the colonialists were not the same. These reasons were:

1. African communities resisted because they did not want to lose their independence as some colonialists interfered with their traditional political set ups.
2. Africans were against the loss of their land which was alienated to make way for European settlement.
3. Forced labour was a major grievance for the Africans. They detested being forced to work on European farms and government projects. Africans resisted due to the imposition of high taxes on them. Besides, the taxes were collected in a ruthless and demeaning way.
4. Africans resisted because of the harsh and ruthless way they were treated by the colonialists. They were viewed as slaves, tortured and even flogged in public for offences like drinking local liquor which was a common African traditional practice.
5. Some African communities resisted because they were militarily superior at the time of colonisation. For example, the French came at a time when Samouri Toure's empire was its the peak, enjoying military supremacy and economic prosperity.
6. African leaders inspired their people to resist for example; Kinjikitile Ngwale of Tanganyika promised his people immunity against European bullets by using the magic water which was a mixture of water, millet and maize flour.

Source 9

“The European merchant is my shepherd, And I am in want, He maketh me lie down in cocoa farms; He leadeth me beside the waters of great need; He restoreth my doubt in the pool parts. Yea, though I walk in the valleys of starvation, I do not fear evil: For thou art against me. The general managers and profiteers frighten me. Thou preparest a reduction in my salary In the presence of my creditors. Thou anointest my income with taxes; My expense runs over my income. Surely unemployment and poverty will follow me All the days of my poor existence, And I will dwell in a rented house for ever!”
— (“A Psalm 23, by an African Laborer,” The African Morning Post, Accra, Ghana, September 2, 1944.)



Pair work

What do you think the author is mainly complaining about from the secure above?

Reasons why African resistance failed

1. Africans had inferior weapons such as spears, bows and arrows while Europeans had superior and sophisticated weapons like guns.
2. Poor communication systems in Africa made them unable to coordinate their resistance activities. Europeans had disciplined and well trained armies in terms of tactics, strategies, weapons and information systems.
3. Africans had poor armies, tactics and strategies.
4. Inability to control natural calamities such as drought, famine among others weakened the African fighters making them unable to wage stiff resistance against the Europeans.
5. There was disunity among African communities. Communities did not come together to fight against a common enemy. In fact some communities aided the Europeans against their fellow Africans by fighting for them as mercenaries (paid soldiers). For example, during the Maji Maji uprising of 1905 to 1907 against the Germans in Tanganyika, the Maasai, Baganda and Somali communities fought for the Germans against their fellow Africans.
6. Unpopularity of some African leaders contributed to failure of African resistance. Some African leaders such as Shaka of the Zulu

had autocratic behaviour and brutal systems towards their followers. Africans therefore hated their leaders and did not participate in the wars against imposition of colonial rule.

7. Africans had weak economic base making them unable to sustain resistance for long due to lack of food. This was also coupled by the use of the scorch earth policy by the colonialists which also destroyed crops and livestock leading to starvation.
8. Some African communities relied so much on their beliefs, some which were false. For example, during the Maji Maji uprising in Tanganyika, Africans believed that the magic water made by their leader Kinjekitile Ngwale would make them immune to European bullets. This made them bold and courageous to attack the Europeans without arms and as a result, a large number were killed.

African resistance though played a vital role in general and aimed at retaining independence from external domination. Even though most African resistance failed, Africans continued with their anti-colonial efforts by using other methods. These efforts liberated African countries from colonial rule.

Keywords	
Pre-colonial	The period before the coming of the colonialists.
Written sources	These are recorded sources of information like books.
Archeology:	This is the scientific study of people's culture.
Linguistics:	The scientific study of languages.
Genetic:	This is the study of hereditary variations.
Anthropology:	The study of human societies and cultures.
Oral lore:	This is the transmission of information from one generation to the next through the word of mouth.
Trade:	This is the exchange of goods and services.
Barter trade:	This is the exchange of goods for other goods or services and vice versa.
Currency trade:	This is a form of trade that involves the use of money as the medium of exchange.
Local trade:	Trade carried out in a small demographic area.
Regional trade:	This trade covers a large demographic area.
International trade:	This trade is carried out across countries and continents.

End of Unit Exercise

1. “Among all the three colonial administrative systems used by the Europeans, assimilation was the best system.”
 - a) How far do you agree with this statement?
 - b) Explain your answer.
2. Africans responded differently to colonial rule. What do you think influenced African response to colonial rule?