

Imperialism and colonialism

Imperialism vs Colonialism

Imperialism	Colonialism
Comes from the latin word "imperium", which means to command	Comes from the word "colonus", which means farmers
Involves political & economic control	People are sent from countries of colonial powers to colonise countries and to rule over the natives
-	Also involves political & economic control

Do note that these terms are not out of date; for example, cultural imperialism.

British mindset

- They viewed those under them as slaves/inferior.
- They thought that the heavens gave them power to rule over land.
- The British saw itself at the top of global hierarchy.

The british imperial mind

- Colonial subjects were simply behind in civilisational advancement, due to
 - Racism
 - Lack of understanding

British tree of power

1. Civilised
 - Racial colour: White
 - Britain in the premier league
2. Barbaric
 - Racial colour: Yellow
3. Savage
 - Racial colour: Black

The westerners were not the only ones being racist.

Fun fact: China's chinese name translates literally to "Land of the Middle Kingdom" or something. I didn't hear correctly, maybe.

Also, China was racist too.

The civilising mission

- Idea of the "White Man's Burden"
 - It was to justify imperialism by saying that by imperialising countries, they are helping them by saying that they are helping these backward people move forward

RUYARD KUPLING, 1899 (SOURCE C)

*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.***

By saying half-devil and half-child, it says that the imperialised countries are both terrible and innocent.

EPIC acronym

E: Event

- What event/activity is shown

P: People

- Who can you identify in the source? How are they portrayed?

I: Items

- What are some objects that are significant in the source?

C: Caption

- How do the words provided add to your understanding?

Question for Source C

If you were a British government official in the 19th century, how would this poem make you feel about your actions of colonising other people and territories around the world?

- It is more likely that you would feel more happy than guilty.

Source A



LIST ALL DETAILS

- On left: White people wearing red uniforms, wielding modern technology
- On right: Barbarians wearing loincloths, wielding primitive technology

QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the characters are portrayed the way they are in the image?

I think the characters are portrayed the way they are because the cartoonist is trying to convey the message that progress in the form of Western civilisation will eventually and necessarily triumph over the backwardness of the indigenous peoples in Africa.

This is shown in how the female warrior Britannia, brandishing the flag of 'Civilization' and leading a group of white men, is leading a fight against 'barbarism', represented by the dark skin African natives. In addition, while Britannia looks pure and stately and has men fighting with rifles, the Africans are portrayed as having dishevelled appearances who fight with mere spears and shields.

Altogether, the cartoonist is suggesting that the Africans are the more "backward" of the two, whether it is in terms of culture or fighting equipment. Hence, regardless of the costs, the West would bring the light of 'civilisation' and 'progress' to Africa with the winning of the war.

Source B



- The people on the right seem to be wearing primitive clothes and tools.
 - they also seem to be trying to break the red string on the back
- 2. How are the Western colonialists and colonised peoples portrayed? Why are they portrayed that way?
 - students' answer:
 - The western colonialists are portrayed as founding fathers and the people who have brought the world up to the "peaceful" place we are at today.

- They are portrayed as saviours to the non-whites who are *underappreciated* and under fire trying to help them. They are portrayed in this manner to force the rhetoric that they are heaven's saviours and are those sent by God to help the non-whites.
 - No evidence for *underappreciated*. It is true, but all statements must be based on the source.
- Correct answer.
 - The western colonialists are portrayed as **benevolent and selfless**. This is because they seem to be taking it all upon themselves to bring about greater progress and enlightenment to their colonised peoples, even if the task is an arduous one.

On the other hand, the colonised peoples are portrayed in a **highly racist manner**, with certain stereotypical features. For those on Uncle Sam's back in particular, **they appear savage, unruly and rebellious**.

I think the Western colonialists and colonised peoples are portrayed in the above manner because the poet/Westeners wanted to **justify their invasions and corresponding expansions of territories overseas**. By creating the impression that the Westeners are **doing an altruistic service to humankind**, it is probably hoped that colonialism would invite **fewer backlash from the international community** and perhaps **more support from citizens of the western nations as well**.