

# CHAPTER 5 INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA

## Objectives

After studying this chapter, students should be able to:

- discuss the impact of Industrialization on Europe;
- explain the meaning of New Imperialism;
- examine reasons for scramble of Africa by European powers;
- identify the background leading to the Berlin conference;
- discuss the impact of the Berlin conference;
- examine the features and nature of the partition.

## Introduction

The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were marked by growth of industries in Europe which led to production of large quantity of goods and accumulation of capital. This was followed by extension of European control over other parts of the world in order to acquire raw materials for their growing industries and markets for their finished goods.

### 5.1 Meaning of Industrialization

Industrialization is the rise and growth of industries in Europe which led to the production of goods in large quantities for internal and international markets. It is also associated with capital accumulation.

Industrialization started in Britain in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, then spread to France, Germany and other countries. Industrialization was characterized by driving away labour force from the farm to the industry, and machines came to replace human labour.

### 5.2 Industrialization Had Impacts on Europe and Other Parts of The World

- (i) **Economic Impact:** It led to the production of goods in large quantities and accumulation of capital. The goods produced were traded in the internal and international markets which led to the generation of more capital. People were employed in the industries which reduced poverty and unemployment in Europe. The industrialization led to the search for new outlets for raw materials and markets for their finished goods.
- (ii) **Political Impact:** Industrialization made European countries to acquire capital and power through which they became powerful. They established sophisticated military weapons and ammunitions with which they used to conquer Africa. It was the military strength of Europe that made it easier for them to conquer Africa.

- (iii) **Social Impact:** The industrialization led to rise in standard of living of the people. There were also increase in birth rate and decrease in death rate as a result of provision of health and medical facilities. The industrialization also led to rural-urban migration in Europe.
- (iv) **Military Impact:** The industrialization led to the development of military technology. Thus, weapon, ammunitions were invented which made the European countries to conquer other parts of the world.

### 5.3 Meaning of New Imperialism

The period of new imperialism was when European countries such as Britain, France, Germany and Belgium decided to extend their control to other parts of the world backed up with force. They wanted to control other areas in order to turn them into source of raw materials for their emerging industries and markets for their finished good in order to promote capitalism.

### 5.4 Reasons for Scramble of Africa by the European Powers

Africa was scrambled for by the European powers for the following reasons:

- (i) **Political Reason:** Africa was scrambled for by European countries in order to acquire colonies in Africa which would raise their prestige at home. That was why Britain, France and Germany came into the struggle for colonies, because the more colonies a country have, the more prestige it gets.
- (ii) **Economic Factor:** Africa was partitioned among European powers because they wanted to get areas where they would turn as sources of raw materials. Some of the raw materials include; cotton, palm oil, groundnut, hides and skin, etc., for their industries and at the same time the colonies as markets for their finished goods. This was important because the Europeans wanted to expand their industries to the neglect of Africa.
- (iii) **Social Factor:** The Europeans wanted to send missionaries to their colonies in order to convert people to Christianity and also introduce European way of life such as eating, dressing and education which are believed then, to be superior to that of Africa.

### 5.5 Berlin Conference and Scramble for Africa

The Berlin conference took place in 1884 and was a meeting of European countries such as Britain, France, Germany and Belgium. The conference was chaired by Bismarck of Germany in order to resolve the problems of claims to certain territories in Africa by the Europeans. What actually led to the conference was the claim of Belgium over Congo. Thus, Bismarck thought it wise to discuss the issue before it leads to war.

The Berlin conference had some impacts as listed below:

- (i) The Berlin conference resolved the problem of European struggle on Africa.
- (ii) It led to the introduction of administration in the areas carved out by colonial power.
- (iii) The conference gave a legal back up to missionaries and other bodies to go into the interior of Africa.
- (iv) The Berlin conference made it legal for Europeans to occupy Africa.

### Summary

- Industrialization is the rise and growth of industries in Europe characterized by producing goods in large quantities.
- Impact of industrialization include: production of large quantities of goods, rise of military power, rise in standard of living and desire to conquer other parts of the world.
- Reasons for scramble of Africa include: desire to obtain colonies, search of centres for raw material production and markets for finished goods.
- New imperialism is the extension of European control to other parts of the world.
- Berlin conference took place in 1884 in order to discuss how Africa will be shared among European powers.
- Berlin conference made Europeans to establish effective administration in the nations of Africa, and resolved crisis between European powers.

### Revision Questions

1. \_\_\_\_\_ means the rise and growth of industries which produced goods in large quantities in Europe.
  - A. Industrialization
  - B. Mechanization
  - C. Politicization
  - D. Economic policy
2. Industrialization took place in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Africa
  - B. Asia
  - C. Europe
  - D. Latin America
3. During industrialization goods were produced for internal and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. international
  - B. national
  - C. local
  - D. state
4. Berlin conference took place in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. 1914
  - B. 1960
  - C. 1884
  - D. 1850
5. Industrialization started in which part of Europe?
  - A. Britain
  - B. Germany

- C. France  
D. Italy
6. The following are characteristics of industrialization except
- use of manual labour in production
  - use of machines in production
  - production of large quantity of goods
  - production to meet the demands of internal and international market
7. New imperialism is the extension of European control to \_\_\_\_\_
- Nigeria
  - Ghana
  - Mali
  - Africa
8. Berlin conference led to the establishment of effective administration in \_\_\_\_\_
- China
  - India
  - Africa
  - Malaysia
9. Berlin conference took place in \_\_\_\_\_
- Britain
  - France
  - Germany
  - Belgium
10. \_\_\_\_\_ resolved the rivalry between European powers.
- Industrialization
  - French conference
  - Berlin conference
  - Belgium conference

### **Essay Questions**

- What is the meaning of New Imperialism?
- What is the meaning of industrialization?
- Discuss the impact of industrialization.
- Examine the impact of Berlin conference on Africa.
- Discuss three reasons for European scramble for Africa.