

Discuss the motives of European empires for imposing their imperial aims in Africa.

- A. Introduction: **Contextualization:** During the 19th century, many different European countries began to claim African territory in order to expand their power. These countries included France, Great Britain, Portugal, and many more. In a process known as imperialism, they claimed African land and established control there. **Thesis:** These countries were motivated by many factors, including economic, political, and social factors. **Argument:** Thus, these factors influenced the European powers in a “scramble for Africa.”
- B. Body 1: Economic - Boost economy
- Evidence:** Opening of new African markets
 - Analysis:** Imperialism allowed Europeans to control foreign land, and Europeans could trade with an expanding group of people. By establishing control of a part of Africa, the stimulated trade could help the European power’s economy flourish and grow.
 - Evidence:** Diamonds in South Africa.
 - Analysis:** Many of the raw materials in Africa were used by European powers. Diamonds found in South Africa stimulated the British economy and allowed for the rise of diamonds in consumer goods, for example. Similarly, these raw materials helped European colonizing powers.
- C. Body 2: Political - Colonies are a measure of power
- Evidence:** British colonial possessions in Egypt
 - Analysis:** By controlling Egypt, the British maintained their sphere of influence in that region, increasing political power. It also was important in maintaining dominance over their other colony, India and maintaining their sphere of influence in that region as well.
 - Evidence:** French colonial possessions in Morocco
 - Analysis:** The French ended up taking control of Morocco through attempts to stop pirates. Eventually, their control of Morocco allowed them to have more influence in the Mediterranean Sea and the surrounding areas, increasing political power.
- D. Body 3: Social - Superiority
- Evidence:** Kipling’s *White Man’s Burden*
 - Analysis:** There was a belief that the whites were superior to people of other races. Because they were superior, this led them to believe it was their duty to send people to industrialize foreign countries to spread the benefits.
 - Evidence:** Setting up of schools and churches in Africa
 - Analysis:** Many believed that it was their duty because of their superiority to educate the Africans about medicine, Christianity, and more. They disregarded much of the existing culture and instead saw themselves as needing to make the Africans more civilized.
- E. Conclusion: Therefore, imperialism was motivated by a desire to boost the economy, giving the European power more political power, and a feeling of social superiority. **Synthesis:** The New Imperialism during this time was similar to the Age of Exploration from the 15th and 16th centuries. Both involved government intervention to explore unknown lands in hopes of gaining resources, such as gold and diamonds, and both involved a want to spread Christianity in the places that were colonized. Many of those that went to explore the Americas spread Roman Catholicism and Protestantism, and the same was true of the exploration of Africa. However, New Imperialism had the additional belief in the feeling of superiority that motivated many people.
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