Objectives
As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them answer the Section Focus Question and master core content.
- Analyze the causes of the “new imperialism.”
- Explain why Western imperialism spread so rapidly.
- Describe how imperial governments ruled their empires.

Prepare to Read
Build Background Knowledge
Write the words empire and imperialism on the board. Ask How are these words related? (Empire means a group of states under one ruler; imperialism is the process of forming an empire by creating colonies.) Ask students to recall earlier empires they have studied. Then have them predict the benefits and disadvantages of empire building in the 1800s.

Set a Purpose
- **WITNESS HISTORY** Read the selection aloud or play the audio.
- **Terms, People, and Places** Have students preview the Terms, People, and Places.
- **Focus** Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (Answer appears with Section 1 Assessment answers.)

Reading Skill
- **Identify Main Idea and Details** Have students identify the main idea of the selection and details that support the main idea.
- **Identify the Point of View** Have students identify the point of view of the selection.

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Motives Driving the New Imperialism
European imperialism did not begin in the 1800s. Imperialism is the domination by one country of the political, economic or cultural life of another country or region. As you have learned, European states won empires in the Americas after 1492, established colonies in South Asia, and gained toeholds on the coasts of Africa and China. Despite these gains, between 1500 and 1800, Europe had little influence on the lives of the peoples of China, India, or Africa.

By the 1800s, however, Europe had gained considerable power. Strong, centrally governed nation-states had emerged, and the Industrial Revolution had greatly enriched European economies. Encouraged by their new economic and military strength, Europeans embarked on a path of aggressive expansion that today’s historians call the “new imperialism.” In just a few decades, beginning in the 1870s, Europeans brought much of the world under their influence and control. Like other key developments in world history, the new imperialism exploded out of a combination of causes.

Vocabulary Builder
Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High-Use Word</th>
<th>Definition and Sample Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prestige, p. 731</td>
<td>A the power to impress or influence because of success or wealth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even though Christine wasn’t the most popular candidate for class president, her prestige still won her many votes.
Economic Interests Spur Expansion The Industrial Revolution created needs and desires that spurred overseas expansion. Manufacturers wanted access to natural resources such as rubber, petroleum, manganese for steel, and palm oil for machinery. They also hoped for new markets of consumers to whom they could sell their factory goods. Bankers sought ventures to invest their profits. In addition, colonies offered a valuable outlet for Europe’s growing population.

Political and Military Motives Political and military issues were closely linked to economic motives. Steam-powered merchant ships and naval vessels needed bases around the world to take on coal and supplies. Industrial powers scoured islands or harbors to satisfy these needs. Nationalism played an important role, too. When France, for example, moved into West Africa, royal nativists like Britain and Germany seized lands nearby to halt further French expansion. Western leaders claimed that colonies were needed for national security. They also felt that ruling a global empire increased a nation’s standing around the world.

Humanitarian and Religious Goals Many Westerners felt a genuine concern for their “little brothers” beyond the seas. Missionaries, doctors, and colonial officials believed they had a duty to spread what they saw as the blessings of Western civilization, including its medicine, law, and Christian religion.

Applying Social Darwinism Behind the idea of the West’s civilizing mission was a growing sense of racial superiority. Many Westerners had embraced the ideas of Social Darwinism. They applied Darwin’s ideas about natural selection and survival of the fittest to human societies. Westerners felt that ruling over weaker races was simply nature’s way of improving the human species. As a result, millions of non-Westerners were robbed of their cultural heritage.

Checkpoint What factors contributed to European imperialism in the 1800s?
Comparing Viewpoints

European Conquest of Africa

The excerpt below presents two different views on the partition of Africa by European nations in the 1800s. Critical Thinking: What is Cecil Rhodes’s argument for imperialism? What is Chief Kabongo’s argument against it?

Favoring Imperialism

A man stood in front of one of his Councils … and he told us of the King of the Pink Cheek who … ruled in a land over the seas. ‘This great king is one year your king,’ he said. ‘This was strange news. For this land was ours, … We had no king, we elected our Councils and they made our laws. With patience, our leading Elders tried to tell this to the Pink Cheek … But at the end he said, ‘This we know, but in spite of this what I have told you is a fact. You have now a king … and his laws are your laws …’

—Chief Kabongo of the Kikuyu in Kenya

Opposing Imperialism

I contend that we are the first race in the world and that the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race. I contend that every acre added to our territory provides for the birth of more of the English race, who otherwise would not be brought into existence … I believe it to be my duty to God, my Queen and my country to paint the whole map of Africa red, red from the Cape to Cairo. That is my creed, my dream and my mission.”

—Cecil Rhodes

The Rapid Spread of Western Imperialism

From about 1970 to 1914, imperialist nations gained control over much of the world. Leading the way were soldiers, merchants, settlers, missionaries, and explorers. In Europe, imperial expansion found favor with all classes, from bankers and manufacturers to workers. Western imperialism expanded rapidly for a number of reasons.

Weakness of Non-Western States

While European nations had grown stronger in the 1800s, several older civilizations were in decline, especially the Ottoman Middle East, Mughal (MOO gul) India, and Qing (ching) China. In West Africa, wars among African peoples and the damaging effect of the slave trade had undermined established empires, kingdoms, and city-states. Newer African states were not strong enough to resist the Western onslaught.

Western Advantages

European powers had the advantages of strong economies, well-organized governments, and powerful armies and navies. Superior technology, including riverboats and the telegraph, as well as improved medical knowledge also played a role. Quinine and other new medicines helped Europeans survive deadly tropical diseases. And, of course, advances such as Maxim machine guns, repeating rifles, and steam-driven warships were very strong arguments in persuading Africans and Asians to accept Western control.

Resisting Imperialism

Africans and Asians strongly resisted Western expansion into their lands. Some people fought the invaders, even though they had no weapons to equal the Maxim gun. Ruling groups in certain areas tried to strengthen their ethnic groups against outsiders by reforming their own Muslim, Hindu, or Confucian traditions. Finally, many

The Maxim Gun

Sir Hiram Maxim with his invention, the Maxim machine-gun. Why were European armies often able to defeat African or Asian forces?
expel the imperialists from their lands.

Educated Africans and Asians organized nationalist movements to prevent conflicts among themselves.

Governors. Europeans carved out these spheres in China and elsewhere to in which an outside power claimed exclusive investment or trading privileges. A colony did, and usually did not require a large commitment of military forces. Colonial rule and to spread British civilization. Like France and other imperialists, however, Britain could still resort to military force if its control over a colony was threatened.

In a protectorate, local rulers were left in place but were expected to follow the advice of European advisors on issues such as trade or missionary activity. A protectorate cost less to run than a colony did, and usually did not require a large commitment of military force.

A third form of colonial control was the sphere of influence, an area in which an outside power claimed exclusive investment or trading privileges. Europeans carved out these spheres in China and elsewhere to prevent conflicts among themselves.

How did Western imperialism spread through Africa and Asia so quickly?

Forms of Imperial Rule

The leading imperial powers developed several kinds of colonial rule. The French practiced direct rule, sending officials and soldiers from France to administer their colonies. Their goal was to impose French culture on their colonies and turn them into French provinces.

The British, by contrast, relied on a system of indirect rule. To govern their colonies, they used sultans, chiefs, or other local rulers. They then encouraged the children of the local ruling class to get an education in Britain. In that way, they groomed a new “Westernized” generation of leaders to continue indirect imperial rule and to spread British civilization. Like France and other imperialist nations, however, Britain could still resort to military force if its control over a colony was threatened.

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Checkpoint Compare and contrast how Britain and France ruled their colonies.

Terms, People, and Places

1. What do each of the key terms listed at the beginning of the section have in common? Explain.

Note Taking

2. Reading Skill: Recognize Multiple Meanings. Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question: How did Western nations come to dominate much of the world in the late 1800s?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. Explain (a) what three reasons for the rapid spread of Western imperialism? (b) How did people oppose it?

4. Recognize Bias Western colonial officials and missionaries thought that they had a duty to spread the “blessings of Western civilization” to their African and Asian “little brothers.” How was this a biased viewpoint?

Progress Monitoring Online

Quick Write: Write a Thesis Statement Suppose that you are writing a persuasive essay using the point of view of an anti-imperialist from a Western nation trying to persuade the public that imperialism is wrong. Based on what you have read in this section, write a thesis statement for your essay.

Writing About History

instance, write an essay comparing the new European empires to one of the empires studied in a previous chapter. They should compare the forms of imperial rule and the factors that led to the spread of empire.

Answers

Westerners had stronger economies, governments, and technology as well as the necessary manpower.

France practiced direct rule whereas England used indirect rule, through a local ruling class.

Section 1 Assessment

1. All three terms relate to the domination of one country by another. The leading imperial powers developed several kinds of colonial rule.

2. through advances made in science, technology, and industry during the Industrial Revolution, which helped strengthen economies, governments, and the armed forces over weaker, less industrialized nations.

3. (a) Non-Western nations were in a weak state; Western powers had strong economies, governments, and armed forces; and they had superior technology. (b) by resisting it, reforming traditional societies, organizing nationalist movements abroad or by criticizing it at home.

4. Western civilization was assumed to be superior and Westerners to be wiser and more advanced than their “little brothers.”