

Introduction:

Welcome to AS-Level International History. This course covers International Relations from 1871 to 1945, taking an in depth look at specific, historic developments, such as the “Age of Imperialism”, “the Failure of Peace Agreements following World War I”, and the “Rise of Extremism, (Totalitarianism/Militarism) 1919-1939”. The course also includes a study of the developments in China and Japan from the 1870’s to the Second World War. Finally, we’ll explore “The search for International Peace and Stability, 1919 – 1945”, are we prepare the two (2) AS Level Papers (Tests) you will take in May/June, 2016.

Because there are so many different topics to cover, this summer assignment is designed to provide students with a preview of the first Unit, “International relations in an Age of Imperialism, 1871 – 1918”. Students will not need the textbook to complete this short research based project. All the required information is available on line, however, students must avoid (DO NOT USE) “wiki” - anything! Encyclopedia-like sites can provide all of the information you need to complete this assignment.

Background Information: International Relations in an Age of Imperialism

DEFINITION: *Imperialism* is the policy of expanding a nation’s power by gaining economic and political control over more territory. Imperialism is sometimes referred to as colonialism.

This period of expansion (Age of Imperialism), followed more than fifty years of upheaval in Europe, from the French Revolution and Napoleonic Era (1789-1815) to Revolutions in 1848, culminating in the creation of two new nations: Italy and Germany. The Unification of Germany and Unification of Italy altered International Relations, resulting in a new Age of Imperialism.

REASONS FOR IMPERIALISM:**1. SCIENTIFIC and TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES**

- Improved transportation, communications
- medical breakthroughs
- superior weapons and military strength

2. SOCIAL DARWINIST BELIEFS: applied ideas of Darwin (survival of the fittest) to societies;

- more advanced nations had a duty to civilize and educate “natives”
- more cynical view: use superiority to your advantage

3. POLITICAL FACTORS:

- Nations used colonial expansion to increase their prestige and national pride.
- Groups, private and commercial (industrial) pressured governments to increase colonies
- new rivals for colonies caused intensified scramble to claim concessions and territories
- commercial competitors and domestic pressures

4. STRATEGIC MOTIVES

- Securing Trade Routes (for Trade and Military)
- Strategic Expansion from established or new colonies into neighboring territories (to protect newly acquired colonies)

5. ECONOMIC REASONS: new markets and raw materials

- potential new customers: needed by nations with over-production problems
- new customers needed: an alternative to markets closed due to protectionist policies
- demand for raw materials: for increasing industrial expansion (2nd Industrial Revolution)

The Assignment:

For this introduction to Imperialistic Nations, each student must select three (3) nations from the following list of eight (8) and create an "IMPERIALISM CHART" to share (and turn in for credit), *the first week of class* (probably the 2nd or 3rd day – so don't wait until the last minute!) The chart must include the names of the nations you selected, their type of government (in 1870), names of any colonies acquired before 1870 and the names of colonies acquired after 1870. You should also include a column for "Reasons for Colony", and you can select one of the five (5) major reasons provided on this assignment. However, you may leave "reasons" blank (for now). We'll fill it in, together, when we compare and review the charts in class.

Below is an example of the format and type of information needed on your chart, using the USA as an example. (note – you can turn the paper/ use 'landscape' setting for your chart)

Nation	Type of Government	Colonies before 1870	Colonies after 1870	Reasons for Colony
USA	Republic/Democracy (2 house legislature, elected President)	none	Cuba, Guam Puerto Rico Philippines	

Now, Selection three (3) of the following nations for your Imperialism Chart:

Great Britain; France; Belgium; Germany; Japan; Portugal; Italy; Spain

BONUS OPPORTUNITY!

Because most students have taken some type of Geography course, here's an opportunity to get extra credit (up to 10 points). Locate and print out a map or maps that show your "Empires". (it might require up to 3 maps – but hey! this is for some lovely *EXTRA CREDIT!*)

DUE DATE:

This summer assignment is due on Tuesday, August 11.