

## Summer Assignment      AS Level International History      Summer, 2016 - Mars

### 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”, “Failure of Peace Agreements following World War I”, and the “Rise of Extremism, Totalitarianism and Militarism”. The course also includes a study of developments in China and Japan from the 1870’s to the Second World War. Finally, we’ll explore the successes and failures of the League of Nations and creation of the United Nations in the “The search for International Peace and Stability, 1919 – 1945”. Student will complete the course by taking two (2) AS Level History Papers, provided by CIE - Cambridge International Examinations, in May, 2017.

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 two (2) Part research based project. Some information is provided here for the Imperialism portion of the assignment. All other, necessary information is available on line, however, students are warned to avoid (DO NOT USE) “wiki” - anything! Encyclopedia-like sites can provide all of the information you need to complete this assignment. Remember, this is only an INTRODUCTION to the subjects and you are only asked to create two charts to share with the class.

Each must be typed - size 14 or 16 and using a **standard** (not fancy and *hard to read*) font style.

### PART 1 – “International Relations in an Age of Imperialism”

#### Background Information:

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, the Age of Imperialism, followed more than fifty years of upheaval in Europe, from the French Revolution and Napoleonic Era (1789-1815) to widespread Revolutions in 1848, and culminating in the creation of two new nations: Italy and Germany by 1871. 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: these applied the ideas of Charles Darwin (Evolution, Natural Selection and the Survival of the Fittest) to societies;

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

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 an intensified scramble to claim concessions and territories
- commercial competitors and domestic pressures

4. STRATEGIC MOTIVES – protecting the “Empire”

- 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Industrial Revolution)

### **The Assignment:**

For this introduction to Imperialistic Nations, each students must select three (3) nations from the following list of six (6) and create an “IMPERIALISM CHART” to share (and turn in for credit), the first week of class (probably the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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); and the names of three to five (3 – 5) Major Colonies, as of 1880. Finally, include a “Reason for Colony” column and fill it in for the Major Colonies you selected. What if you don’t know or can’t find a reason? That might happen – so make *your Best Guess*!

Below is an example of the format and type of information needed on your chart, using the USA as an example.

<b>Nation</b>	<b>Type of Government</b>	<b>Colonies as of 1880</b>	<b>Reason for Colony</b>
USA	Republic/Democracy (2 house legislature, elected President)	Cuba, Guam Puerto Rico Philippines	acquired following war with Spain

Select three (3) of the following nations for your Imperialism Chart:

**Great Britain; France; Belgium; Germany; Japan; Italy**

## **PART 2 – Wars and Conflicts during the Age of Imperialism**

### **The Assignment:**

Select two (2) of the following wars that occurred during the time period 1870 – 1910, during the “Age of Imperialism”. Complete a chart, similar to the one you created for your three (3) Imperialistic Countries (similar rules apply re: type/fonts). The chart must list the name of the war, dates it was fought, the nations involved; major causes of the war; and the results of the war: who won and the name/year of any Peace Treaty.

Suggestion: For both Charts, turn the paper “sideways” --- use the “landscape” mode😊.

Example using American Revolutionary War:

<b>Name of War</b>	<b>Dates Fought</b>	<b>Nations Involved</b>	<b>Major Causes of the War</b>	<b>Results of War: Winner/Peace Treaty</b>
American Revolution	1776-1783	Am. colonies + France vs. Great Britain	Self-Rule; Independence	USA (+ France)/ Treaty of Paris, 1783

Select two (2) of the following Wars for your research and chart:

**The (2<sup>nd</sup>) Boer War**

**The Spanish American War**

**The (1<sup>st</sup>) Sino-Japanese War**

**The Russo-Japanese War**

Be prepared to share your findings – and your chart on Wars during the Age of Imperialism during the first week of school and after, when we cover the conflicts while studying Unit 1.

### **Due Dates; Rules about the Assignment:**

Both Parts of this summer project are due the FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL – no later than the first Friday. This due date applies equally to ALL students, regardless of when you received this assignment or entered the class. If your first attendance day occurs anytime during the first week of school, this assignment is required and due no later than 2 days after you attend for the first time.

**Note** – if the school provides an opportunity to pick up textbooks BEFORE the first day of school, be sure to come in and check out the International History textbook. The project can be complete with on-line information, however, the textbook would be ideal for completing it quickly and efficiently. (Class Orientations and Book Distribution were done in the past, but the event was cancelled last year – August, 2015 – due to the short summer and early start date)