

## Introduction to imperialism

### Directions:

1. Please read the expository (informational) text below which introduces the idea of imperialism.
2. As you read, please code the text by using the following symbols shown to you on the back white board. Please write a one sentence reaction in the margin to each code that you label. An example has been done for you.
3. **Note:** You should have at least one code and reaction per paragraph!
4. When done, please turn over your paper and respond to the critical thinking questions on the back side.

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (approximately 1880-1914)), there was a big scramble for land occurring. It involved European nations and they had their eyes set upon the continent of Africa. Africa was largely unknown and not understood by Europeans. There were various reasons why nations such as Britain, France, Germany, and Belgium began to compete to see who could control which areas of Africa. Their control can be seen as imperialism.

Imperialism is the idea that one nation seeks to control or extend power over another nation (s) in various ways. There are three main types of imperialism: political, economic, and cultural imperialism. Political imperialism is when one country seeks to exert power and control over the government of another country. They may directly rule them or they may set up a native leader who will be their “puppet.” (follow their orders and do as they say).

Economic imperialism is when one country seeks to gain control of another country’s natural resources or its workers for financial gain. They also may seek to set up the conquered country as their own colony where the colony produces goods that benefit the mother country or they want to make more money by selling more of their products to that country they have power over.

Cultural imperialism is one country seeking to force its culture or religion upon another nation. The conquering country may see the other country as “backward” and uncivilized and they may forcibly impose their way of life, including religion, upon another country. It could appear in different forms, but the idea is that the stronger country sees their way of life as superior to the nation they have conquered.

All three of these forms of imperialism did occur in Africa. European nations began to see Africa as a place where they could extend their dominance over other European nations. They saw all the natural resources that Africa had (gold, rubber, diamonds, etc) and wanted to exploit that (use it for their own advantage). They also saw Africa as a place where they could sell their products and make more money. Finally, many Europeans unfortunately perceived [thought] of Africans as uncivilized and saw European culture as superior to that of Africa.

**(turn over)**

### Critical thinking questions on imperialism

1. Why do you think that European nations in the late 1800's did not know much about Africa?
2. Which type of imperialism (of the three mentioned) do you think motivated European countries the most to exert power over Africa: political, economic, or cultural? Why? (2 sentences)
3. Would there ever be circumstances where it would be okay for one country to have power over another country for a certain period of time? If so, why? If not, why not? (2 sentences)
4. Pretend that you were an African at the time of European domination of the continent. Write 3-4 sentences expressing your reaction to what is occurring.
5. What lessons can we in the U.S. learn today about what happened in Africa back during this time with European countries? Name 2-3 lessons below.
6. Create a 4-5 frame comic strip below which would show political OR economic imperialism occurring in the world today from one country to another. Put speech bubbles in your comic strip to explain it. Show the motivations for imperialism, the imperialism occurring, and the results of it (how the conquered country is affected)