

Evaluating Imperialism: Did imperialism have a positive or negative impact?

Read and annotate Documents 1 and 2 using the annotation guide below.

+	Positive descriptions of imperialism	-	Negative descriptions of imperialism	?	Questions
----------	--------------------------------------	----------	--------------------------------------	----------	-----------

Document 1: *Lord Lugard was a British soldier and explorer of Africa and colonial administrator, who was Governor of Hong Kong (China) and Governor-General of Nigeria (West Africa). In 1922, Lugard published *The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa* which discusses British rule in colonial Africa. In this work, he describes the reasons and methods for the colonisation of Africa by Britain. Source: Lord [Frederick D.] Lugard, *The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa*, Archon Books, 1922*

Let it be admitted at the outset [beginning] that European brains, capital, and energy have not been, and never will be, expended [spent] in developing the resources of Africa from motives of pure philanthropy [goodwill]; that Europe is in Africa for the mutual benefit of her own industrial classes, and of the native races in their progress to a higher plane; that the benefit can be made reciprocal [equivalent], and that it is the aim and desire of civilised administration to fulfil this dual mandate. By railways and roads, by reclamation [recovery] of swamps and irrigation of deserts, and by a system of fair trade and competition, we have added to the prosperity and wealth of these lands, and [have] checked famine and disease. We have put an end to the awful misery of the slavetrade and inter-tribal war, to human sacrifice and the ordeals of the witch-doctor. Where these things survive they are severely suppressed. We are endeavouring [trying] to teach the native races to conduct their own affairs with justice and humanity, and to educate them alike in letters and in industry. . . .

Document 2: *Kwame Nkrumah led Ghana to independence from Britain in 1957 and served as its first prime minister and president. In 1963, he wrote a book called *Africa Must Unite* which called on total liberation of all African nations from European colonialism and unification of all African nations. Source: Kwame Nkrumah, *Africa Must Unite*, International Publishers, 1970*

When the great scramble for Africa began in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, colonies had become a necessary appendage [extension] for European capitalism [...] They were all rapacious [greedy]; they all subserved the needs of the subject lands to their own demands; they all circumscribed [limited] human rights and liberties; they all repressed and despoiled [violated], degraded and oppressed. They took our lands, our lives, our resources, and our dignity. Without exception, they left us nothing but our resentment, and later, our determination to be free and rise once more to the level of men and women who walk with their heads held high. . . .

Which groups of people are more likely to have a negative view of imperialism? Why?

Which groups of people are more likely to have a positive view of imperialism? Why?

RECALL ACTIVITY: As a class we read Rudyard Kipling’s poem “White Man’s Burden.” Explain the main idea of the poem below:

Edmund Morel's *Black Man's Burden* – An Alternative Perspective to Imperialism

Introduction: Edmund Morel was a French-born British journalist. He drew attention to imperial abuses and led a campaign against slavery in the Belgian Congo. In 1891, he began to work for a Liverpool shipping firm in Brussels. Morel noticed that the ships leaving Belgium for the Congo carried only guns, chains, and ammunition, but no commercial goods. He also noticed and that ships arriving from the colony came back full of valuable products such as rubber and ivory. Morel began to suspect that Africans were being forced into slave labor. In 1900, Morel decided to devote time to the campaign against the slave conditions in the Belgian Congo with a series of articles in the weekly magazine *Speaker*. In 1903, he founded his own magazine call the *West African Mail* to address increased imperialism in West and Central Africa. He published a weekly journal as well as pamphlets and a book. In 1904, the British House of Commons sent consul to Congo to investigate the conditions there. The 1904 report confirmed Morel's accusations of slavery and mistreatment. Morel founded the Congo Reform Association which got the support of well known writers like Joseph Conrad and Mark Twain. Morel also relied on Christian missionaries whose eyewitness accounts, and photographs of the atrocities helped to spread the word about the atrocities happening in the Congo. Believing that Rudyard Kipling's poem *White Man's Burden* showed only one perspective of imperialism, in 1920, Morel wrote *Black Man's Burden* as a response to *White Man's Burden*.

Pre-Reading Questions: Contextualization

Who wrote <i>Black Man's Burden</i> ?	
When was <i>Black Man's Burden</i> written?	
Where was <i>Black Man's Burden</i> written?	
Who was the audience for <i>Black Man's Burden</i> ?	
What was the perspective of the author? (Hint: What is the main interest or goal of the author?)	

Why was *Black Man's Burden* written?

Why might the *Black Man's Burden* be an important historical document? (How might this document help historians better understand this time period?)

Credibility: Is Edmund Morel's *Black Man's Burden* a credible historical source? Why or why not?

Black Man's Burden, Edmund Morel (1920)

P1: It is [the Africans] who carry the “Black Man's Burden.” [...] the white man has massacred the African in heaps. [...] The white man has carved broad and bloody avenues from one end of Africa to the other.[...] For three centuries the white man seized and enslaved millions of Africans and transported them, with every circumstance of ferocious cruelty, across the seas. Still the African survived and, in his land of exile, multiplied exceedingly.

P2: What the Maxim [machine gun] and the rifle, the slave gang, labor in the bowels of the earth and the lash, have failed to do; what imported measles, smallpox and syphilis have failed to do; what even the oversea slave trade failed to do, the power of modern capitalistic exploitation, assisted by modern engines of destruction, may yet succeed in accomplishing.

P3: There is no escape for the African. Its [Imperialism's] destructive effects [...] are permanent. In its permanence resides its fatal consequences. It kills not the body merely, but the soul. It breaks the spirit. It attacks the African at every turn, from every point of vantage. It wrecks his polity [government], uproots him from the land, invades his family life, destroys his natural pursuits and occupations, claims his whole time, enslaves him in his own home...

P4: He cannot accommodate himself to the European system of monotonous, uninterrupted labor, with its long and regular hours, involving, moreover, as it frequently does, severance from natural surroundings and nostalgia, the condition of melancholy resulting from separation from home, a malady to which the African is especially prone. [...] When the system is forced upon him, the tropical African droops and dies.

P5: Nor is violent physical opposition to abuse and injustice henceforth possible for the African in any part of Africa. His chances of effective resistance have been steadily dwindling with the increasing perfectibility in the killing power of modern armament [military weapons] ...

P6: Thus the African is really helpless against the material gods of the white man [...], the African will go the way of the... Amerindian [indigenous people in the Americas], ...the aboriginal Australian, and many more. And this would be at once a crime of enormous magnitude, and a world disaster...

P7: That purpose is clear. It is to make of Africans all over Africa a servile race; to exploit African labor, and through African labor, the soil of Africa for their own exclusive benefit...

P8: Why cannot the white imperial peoples, acknowledging in some measure the injuries they have inflicted upon the African, turn a new leaf in their treatment of him? For nearly two thousand years they have professed to be governed by the teachings of Christ. Can they not begin in the closing century of that era, to practice what they profess – and what their missionaries of religion teach the African? Can they not cease to regard the African as a producer of dividends [profits] for a selected few among their number, and begin to regard him as a human being with human rights?

Directions: Read and annotate the document above. Answer each of the questions below using specific evidence from the document above and underline the evidence in the reading.

1. How does Morel describe the impact of imperialism on Africa?

2. According to Morel, how does imperialism and labor expectations impact Africans?

Name: _____

3. According to Morel, how have Africans responded to European imperialism? How have the colonists responded?

4. What does Morel argue is the purpose of imperialism?

5. Who does Morel ask “white imperial peoples” to be more like? Why does he ask them to be more like this?

Image Analysis: Analyze each image displayed. Does it reflect a positive (+) or negative (-) perspective of imperialism? Which author’s ideas does the document most closely corroborate, Kipling or Morel?

Image 1	Image 1
Image 3	Image 4
Image 5	Image 6