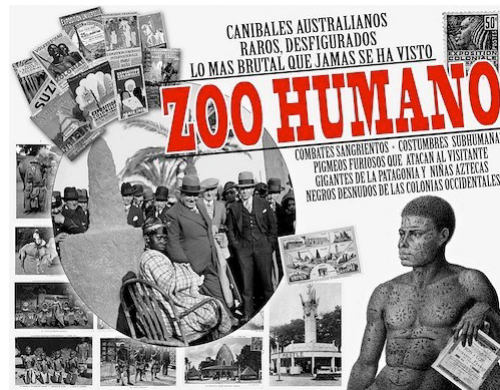


# THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM

*Human Zoo in Madrid (CC BY-SA)*



Read the information you will find at [Wikipedia](#) What do you see in this poster?

Would it be possible nowadays? Why?

## 1 What are Imperialism and Colonialism?

Imperialism. A political doctrine that defends the right of some countries or peoples to rule over others based on cultural, racial and economic superiority of the former over the latter.

Colonialism. This is imperialism took into practice by establishing colonies in far or nearby territories to exploit them economically.

Metropolis. The conquering country.

Colony. Conquered territories.

Imperialism and colonialism appear for the first time in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and are the direct result of industrialization and nationalism. They are not related to the Spanish and Portuguese empires of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

New empires appeared in the 19th century: the British Empire, the French Empire, the German Empire, the Russian Empire, the Belgian Empire, the Portuguese Empire and the Italian Empire. Curiously Spain will lose its colonies during this period.

In the 20th century Japan and the United States built their own empires.

## 2 Causes of Imperialism

### **Political and strategic.**

The power and prestige of a country was measured by the number of colonies which they controlled. In addition, some of these countries also wanted to control strategic points for commercial routes, such as Great Britain.

### **Demographic.**

Europe's population had grown greatly during the 19th century (from 300 in 1870 to 400 in 1914). Hence, the colonies were conceived as an extension of the metropolises so that the population moved there.

Migration reduced unemployment and social conflicts in the countries of origin.

### **Economic.**

New markets were sought for the industrial products.

Many raw materials were needed for the growing industrial sector. Capitalism stimulated investment in other territories.

### **Geographic and technical.**

There were many explorers who created societies in order to explore new unknown areas, such as Africa.

New means of transportation, such as the steamboat, allowed for better exploration of the world.

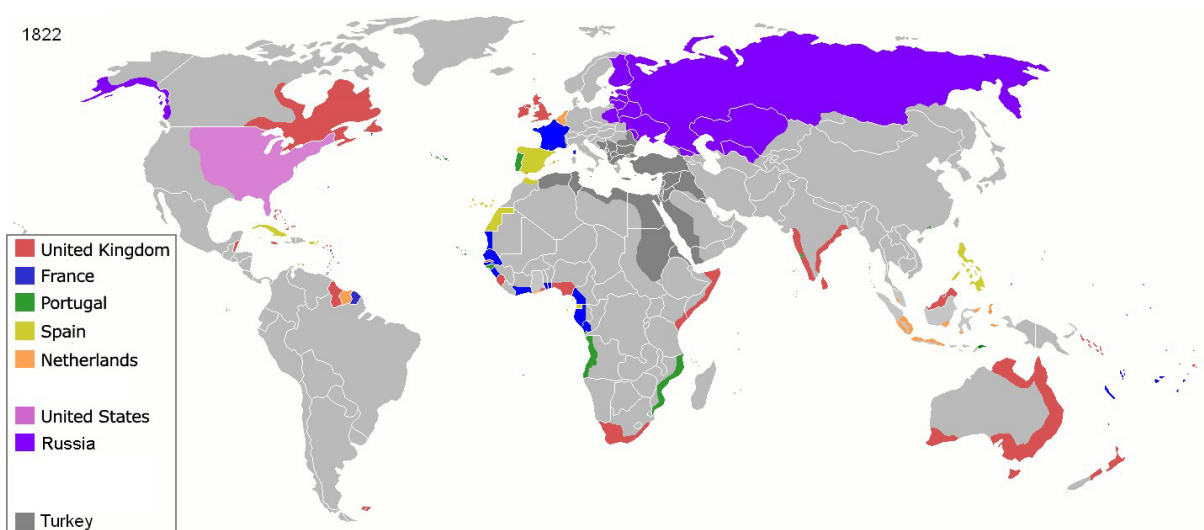
The opening of new commercial routes, such as the Suez Canal (1869), was essential in fulfilling the desire of exploration

### **Cultural and ideological.**

The white man had the duty of controlling the world and evangelising it based on pseudo-Darwinist ideas.

Hence, the western world had to civilise the rest of the planet.

## Colonial expansion



[Andrei nacu](#) . [Colonisation 1822](#) (Dominio público)

### The British Empire.

The British began to build their Empire by the end of the 18th century. They established some colonies in current day Australia after James Cook's travels to the Pacific and won some commercial concessions from Portugal in India and China.

During the Napoleonic Wars British won control over Egypt and ensured their dominion over the seas after their victory at Trafalgar.

The main and definitive impulse took place under the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) when the British colonized:

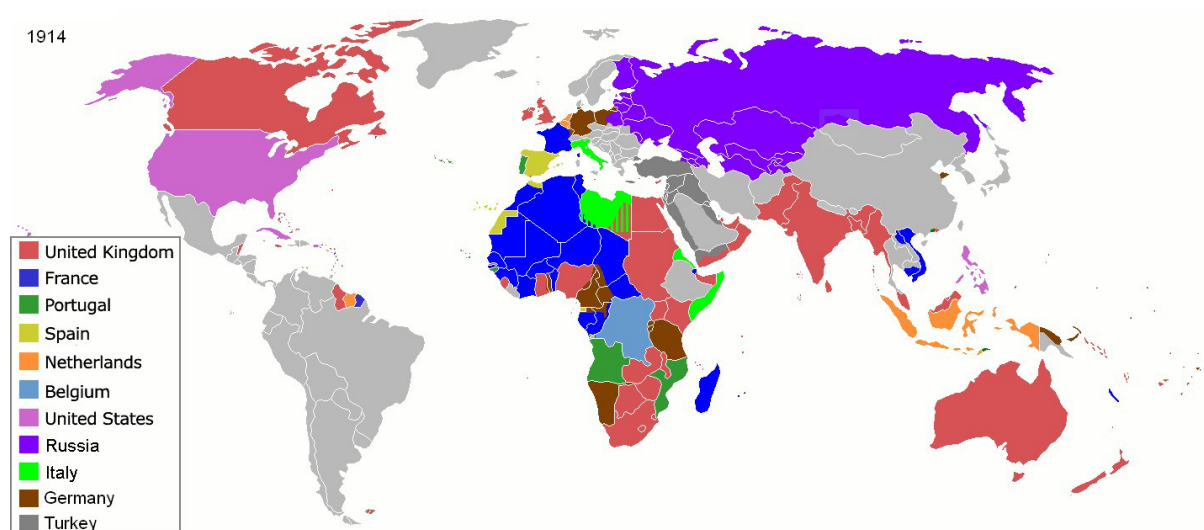
- Most of Africa (Egypt and Sudan in the North and Cape Hope colony in the south.)
- India and Burma in Asia.
- Commercial concessions over China and the colony of Hong- Kong. (Opium War)
- Australia, New Zealand in the Pacific.
- Canada and some Caribbean Islands in America.

After the War World First they gained control over the Turkish possessions in the Middle East (Palestina, Jordania and Irak) and the German colonies in Africa (Tanganika)

## The French Empire

The French started to construct their empire later than the British. Their revolutionary process and Napoleonic Wars had kept them very busy.

- In 1830 the French took Algiers from the Ottoman Turks, thereby starting their empire in North Africa. In the 1880s they established colonies in Vietnam and Laos.
- They also kept concessions over some Indian ports (Pondichery) and China (Shanghai) After the World War First France gained Syrian and Lebanon from the Ottomans



[Andrei nacu. Colonisation 1914](#) (Dominio público)

**The Russian Empire.** From the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Russians started their expansion to the east, in doing so conquering Alaska, which they later sell to the Americans. In 1905 they clashed with the Japanese, who stopped them in Manchuria

**Japan.** In the 20<sup>th</sup> century Japan conquered Korea and established a protectorate over Manchuria. In 1930s they extended their power over the coast of China.

**USA.** In the 19<sup>th</sup> century they conquered the west of North America, fighting against Mexican and native peoples. In 1898 they took Philippines and Puerto Rico from Spain. In 1941 the USA's Empire clashed with the Japanese at Pearl Harbor.

## **Colony types**

Colony. Completely submitted to the metropolis. It was ruled by a governor. Native inhabitants were treated as second class people.

Protectorate. The territory retains a certain degree of independence, at least in theory, but the metropolis has power and jurisdiction. Protectorate were established over territories with a strong ruling class, such as kingdoms.

Concessions. A concession was part of a territory administrated by a colonial power.

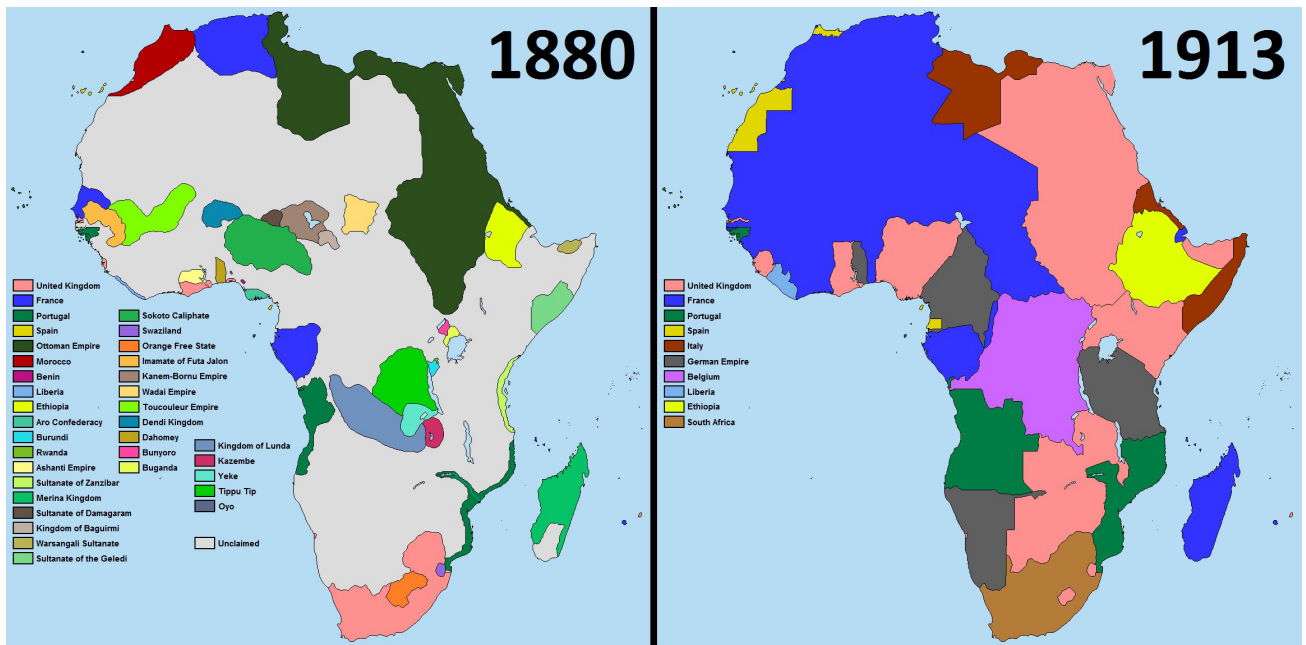
## **The scramble for Africa**

Africa was almost unknown to the Europeans at the beginning of the 19th century. By 1830 only the coasts were known by the Europeans, who founded ports to trade with the local tribes. France and Great Britain wanted to occupy as much of Africa as they could in order to create large empires.

- France meant to occupy the area stretching from Senegal up to Somalia.
- Great Britain wanted to control the area stretching from Egypt to Cape Town.
- Other countries also wanted to colonise some areas. Hence there were some international conflicts due to the colonial aspirations.

**The Berlin Conference** (1884-1885) was held in order to fix the principles that would regulate future exploration, occupation, and colonisation of Africa:

- All of Africa would be shared by the European powers.
- Measures to protect trade in Africa were put in place during this conference.
- The rivers Congo, Niger, Zambezi and Nile were free for ship traffic. The Congo Free State was created and given to Leopold II of Belgium.
- the trade of slaves was prohibited.
- Christian missions would be protected in Africa.
- The principle of effective occupation was implemented in order to guarantee the complete occupation of the continent.
- It was compulsory to occupy the territory with an European population so that it was effective.
- The possession of the coast allowed for the conquering of inland areas



[davidjl123 / Somebody500 Comparison of Africa in the years 1880 and 1913.](#) (CC BY-SA)



## Asia

- The colonisation of **Asia** was more difficult since there were many more people.
- **China** gave concessions to **Great Britain**, **France**, **Portugal**, the **USA**, and **Russia** in cities on its coasts.
- **Great Britain** managed to occupy many Asian areas:
  - **India** constituted the **British Indian Empire** and was the most valuable British colony. Queen **Victoria** was actually crowned **Empress of India** in 1877.
  - **Burma**, the **Malay States**, **Borneo**, and **Brunei** became important colonies of the British Empire in East Asia.
  - **Hong Kong** was a Chinese concession to **Great Britain**.
  - In **Arabia** the **British** controlled **Yemen**, **Oman**, and the **Pirate Coast**.
- **France** created an empire in **Indochina**
- Once they had gained control of Siberia, Russia expanded eastwards. Both areas were annexed as a part of the **Russian Empire**. The conflicts with **Great Britain** to expand southwards led to the creation of a buffer state between their empires: **Afghanistan**.
- The **Netherlands** had controlled the **Dutch East Indies** since the 17th century.
- **Portugal** owned **East Timor** and **Macau**.
- The **USA** colonised the **Philippines** after defeating **Spain** in the **Spanish-American War** (1898).
- **Japan** created an empire in the east of **Asia** once they conquered **Korea**, **Manchuria**, and **Formosa**.



Philipaandrew. Asia under western powers (CC BY-SA)

## **Consequences of imperialism**

### **Economic consequences.**

- Economic dependence on the metropolis
- Underdevelopment of certain economic sectors, mainly industrial and services.
- Development of infrastructures such as roads, harbours, bridges, etc. However, some of the colonies were exploited mainly for their resources, and little attention was paid to the population's needs

### **Social consequences.**

- Population growth. This was thanks to the vaccination brought by the colonists.
- Racial segregation Deportations. Religious radicalism. Genocide

### **Political consequences**

- Rivalry between the imperial powers was one of the causes of the First World War

## Art

### Impressionism

The Impressionism was the first revolutionary movement in painting and sculpture.

- It grew in the late 19th century around some French painters who settled in Paris.
- All these artists painted outdoors to capture the impressions of light and atmosphere. They had quite quick colorful brushstrokes that did not give any importance to drawing. Most of the themes refer to landscapes or scenes of everyday life

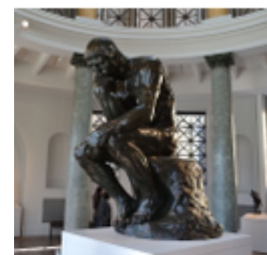
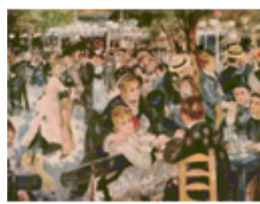
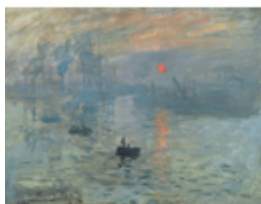
The main impressionist painters were:

Claude Monet. He was the most well-known impressionist painter whose main works are Impression: sunrise, Rouen Cathedral, St. Lazaire Station...

Pierre-Auguste Renoir. He painted joyful elements of life, such as in The Swing, or Dance at Le Moulin de la Galette.

Other impressionist painters were Edgar Degas, Camille Pissarro and Édouard Manet

The main impressionist sculptor was Auguste Rodin, who emphasized the representation of emotion, such in The Burghers of Calais or The Thinker



## Postimpressionism

Post-Impressionism grew in some other parts of Europe, although its painters were mostly French. They experimented with colors and figures.

- Paul Cézanne made geometry the essential part of objects and figures.
- Vincent Van Gogh had very anguished and dreamlike paintings, like in *The starry night* or *Bedroom in Arles*.
- Toulouse-Lautrec mostly showed life in the cabarets.
- Paul Gauguin discovered the exotic world and found primitive art part of his inspiration. His paintings are full of very vivid colors

Modernism was an artistic movement that broke away from academic traditions. Modernist architects very concerned about the aesthetics of their buildings so they use curved lines and motifs that included leaves and flowers



## Webgrafía

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