

AP European History: Chapter 24 – An Age of Modernity, Anxiety, and Imperialism, 1894-1914 Overview & Schedule

The European imperial outreach of the 19th century was in some ways a continuation of three centuries of colonization, but it also resulted from the economic pressures and necessities of a maturing industrial economy. The new technologies and imperatives of the second industrial revolution (1870–1914) led many European nations to view overseas territories as sources of raw materials and consumer markets. While European colonial empires in the Western hemisphere diminished in size over this period as former colonies gained independence, the region remained dependent on Europe as a source of capital and technological expertise and was a market for European-made goods. European powers also became increasingly dominant in Eastern and Southern Asia in the early 19th century, and a combination of forces created the conditions for a new wave of imperialism there and in Africa later in the century. Moreover, European national rivalries accelerated the expansion of colonialism as governments recognized that actual control of these societies offered economic and strategic advantages. Notions of global destiny and racial superiority fed the drive for empire, and innovations such as antimalarial drugs, machine guns, and gunboats made it feasible. Non-European societies without these modern advantages could not effectively resist European imperial momentum.

The “new imperialism” of the late 19th and early 20th centuries was promoted in European nations by interest groups that included politicians, military officials and soldiers, missionaries, explorers, journalists, and intellectuals. As an example of a new complex phase of imperial diplomacy, the Berlin Conference in 1884–1885 outlined the procedures that Europeans should use in the partition of the African continent. By 1914, most of Africa and Asia were under the domination of Great Britain, France, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Notwithstanding the power of colonial administrations, some groups in the colonial societies resisted European imperialism, and by 1914, anticolonial movements had taken root within the non-European world and in Europe itself. Imperialism exposed Europeans to foreign societies and introduced “exotic” influences into European art and culture. At the same time, millions of Europeans carried their culture abroad, to the Americas and elsewhere, through emigration, and helped to create a variety of mixed cultures around the world.

CONTENT TOPICS & Focus Questions

- **Toward the Modern Consciousness: Intellectual and Cultural Developments**
 - What developments in science, intellectual affairs, and the arts in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries “opened the way to a modern consciousness,” and how did this consciousness differ from earlier worldviews?
- **Politics: New Directions and New Uncertainties**
 - What gains did women make in their movement for women’s rights?
 - How did a new right-wing politics affect the Jews in different parts of Europe?
 - What political problems did Great Britain, Italy, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia face between 1894 and 1914, and how did they solve them?
- **The New Imperialism**
 - What were the causes of the new imperialism that took place after 1880, and what effects did European imperialism have on Africa and Asia?
- **International Rivalry and the Coming of War**
 - What was the Bismarckian system of alliances, and how successful was it at keeping the peace?
 - What issues lay behind the international crises that Europe faced in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?
- **Historical Skill Synthesis: Old vs. New Imperialism; Women**

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ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Thursday, February 2

- Chapter 23 review activity
- Science modernizes & philosophy becomes uncertain
- **HOMEWORK: Text 729-735**

Friday, February 3

- Chapter 23 review activity
- Modernism in the Arts & Political Challenges
- **HOMEWORK: Study for Chapter 23 Exam**

Monday, February 6

- Chapter 23 Exam
- **HOMEWORK: 735-741; Socratic Seminar #4 essay due tomorrow**

Tuesday, February 7

- Political Challenges
- **HOMEWORK: Text 742-749**

Wednesday, February 8

- Imperialism: Causes & Motives
- *White Man's Burden* & Chamberlain
- **HOMEWORK: Text 749-755**

Thursday, February 9

- Imperialism
- **HOMEWORK: J.A. Hobson vs. Lenin (SS)**

Friday, February 10

- Imperialism LEQ – in class
- **HOMEWORK: Text 755-759**

Monday, February 13

- Bismarckian System & Alliances
- *The Great War* clip
- **HOMEWORK: Text 760-765**

***** Chapter 24 Exam Thursday, February 16; study guide and terms due**