

Class 9b: Colonialism

- First wave of colonialism (Americas)
- Second wave (Africa, East Asia, etc.)
- Dismantling colonial empires
- Impacts of colonialism

Colonialism definitions

- Colony: territory tied to a sovereign state
 - No foreign policy, military
 - Sometimes internal affairs, too
- Colonialism
 - A state imposes political, economic, cultural systems on another territory
 - May encourage settlement

Motives for colonialism

- Nationalism, economic, or cultural
- “God, gold, and glory”
 - Missionaries spreading Christianity
 - Resources for European economies
 - More colonies = more powerful state

First wave: 1492 to 1825

- Why were Europeans the colonizers in the 1400s?

First wave: 1492 to 1825

- Location, location, location
 - European trading cities oriented to the sea
 - West African trading cities oriented inland
 - East Africa, China and India farther away from Americas
 - Trade winds favored Europe

Portuguese colonialism

- Earliest explorers in Africa
- Policy of trade, not settlement
 - Gold as part of mercantilism
 - Diseases harmful to Europeans
- Developed slavery system in late 1400s
 - Laborers as commodities to be used up
 - Linking status and humanity with color

Spanish colonialism

- Different historical and political context
 - Coming out of *Reconquista*
 - More interested in settlement
- Different physical context
 - *Europeans* brought diseases
 - Settlers brought plants, animals
 - Slaves imported for plantations

Spanish colonialism

- Distinctive urban landscapes
- More mixing of cultures
- Treaty of Tordesillas with Portugal (1494)
 - Portugal got Africa and East Indies
 - Spain got the Americas (minus Brazil)

French colonialism

- More gradual approach to Americas
- Settlement/trade major motivations
 - Catholic/Protestant conflicts at home
 - Traded beaver; no gold or silver
- More equal interactions with Natives
 - Fewer settlers
 - Less penetration inland

English colonialism

- Still different political situation
 - Slower rise as maritime power
 - Colonial experience gained in Ireland
- Focus on settlement
- More hostile towards natives

First wave: Impacts at home

- Portugal and Spain
 - Colonies as resource-based economies
- France
 - Battles with England shifted to colonies
 - Less settlement, less impact
- Great Britain
 - Learned from others, rose to greatest prominence

First wave: independence

- Number of colonies began to decrease in 1776
- Led to French Revolution and European unrest
- Led to wars of revolution in Latin America (from 1801 in Haiti to 1825 in Bolivia)
- Abolition of slave trade, then slavery (from 1807/1833 in Britain to 1819/1863 in U.S.)

Second wave: 1885-1900

- Europe needed new markets
- Surplus population from demographic transition
- Increased nationalism
- Geographical expeditions to Africa promised resources, markets

Second wave: Africa

- 1885 Europe began carving up Africa
- Establishing trade, obtaining resources
- "Humanitarian" mission
- Increased political prestige
- Everyone else is doing it

Second wave: Africa

- Arbitrary straight lines on the map
 - Cultural groups divided
 - Minorities preferred as collaborators
- British adjusted their governance by place
- French tried to import French culture

Second wave: Middle East

- World War I: Ottoman Empire joined Germany
- Britain captured Iraq; received local support with promise for self-rule
- Ottoman territory carved into “mandates”
- Nationalist uprisings against British, French
- Independence in 1930s; military remained

Second wave: 1885-1900

- Impact of WWII
 - Germany, Italy, Japan lost colonial blocs
 - U.S. exchanged aid for trade access
 - Start of Cold War
- From 134 colonies in 1950 to 58 in 1961

Second wave: independence

- Generally peaceful transitions
 - Britain worked with nationalist leaders
 - France more neo-colonial; fought and lost in Vietnam and Algeria
 - Belgium simply left Zaire; fierce fighting
- From 1943-1990, 98 “new” states

Second wave: independence

- Two paths to development
- State ownership or protection (India)
 - Not favored by US, Europe
- Free market
 - Prone to corruption
 - Economic colonialism

Second wave: impacts

- Impact on former home countries
 - Economic benefits without administrative costs
 - Cold War fought through proxies
 - Increasing numbers of immigrants

Impacts of colonialism: first wave

- Decimation of native population (90%)
- Forced migration of slave populations
- Diffusion of language, religion
- Distinctive city plans, architecture
- Wealth to home countries

Second wave impacts: nation-building

- Creating new national identity
- Resentment of favored minorities
- Importance of leadership
- New (or restored) iconography

Second wave impacts: state-building

- High military spending
 - Est. 1/3 of African spending
 - Better since Cold War
- Tendency toward military rule
- African commitment to state borders

Second wave impacts: economics

- Strong ties to former colonial powers
 - Main trade partner
 - Migration field
 - Source for tourism
- Dependence on a single commodity
 - Resource-based national economy

Second wave impacts: economics

- Patterns of land ownership
 - Plantations concentrated ownership
 - White settlers had best land
- Nationalization vs. privatization
- Two internal economic systems

Second wave impacts: infrastructure

- Fragmented infrastructure
- Roads and rail oriented towards ports
- Lack of connection between countries
- Communications, too

Second wave impacts: psychological

- Belief in Western superiority
- “Experts” trusted over locals
- From distrust to trust of government