CHAPTER OUTLINE

I. Introduction

In the Fall of 1898 British troops invaded the Sudan. The British Camel Corps faced the 40,000-men-strong Sudanese army (the dervishes). The British were equipped with repeating rifles and Maxim guns. At the five-hour long Battle of Omdurman, the British lost 40 men and the Sudanese dervishes lost 11,000. The battle marked the beginning of the age of new imperialism in which the Western World came to dominate Africa and Asia.

A. Scientific Transformations

1. Introduction

In the last third of the nineteenth century, new scientific discoveries made people more aware of the relationship between the human body and nature and help improved people’s health. However, many scientific discoveries produced cultural anxiety as they challenged established principles of Western Culture.

2. Medicine and Microbes

The scientific discoveries in the second half of the nineteenth century changed the practice of medicine. Before the nineteenth century doctors did not know about bacteria and viruses and had assumed that disease was the result of bad blood. Therefore they relied on bloodletting as the most common cure. Beginning in the 1860s, scientists began to develop germ theory, tracking the transmission of diseases and developing ways to control their spread. The French Chemist Louis Pasteur discovered that bacteria were the source of contagion in epidemic diseases. He then developed vaccines for several diseases. He also developed pasteurization to purify milk. Robert Koch isolated the tuberculosis bacillus and the cholera bacteria. The result was a 60% drop in the number of people who died from infectious diseases. The development of antiseptic and anesthetics improved the survival rate for operations. These medical advances convinced Europeans that they could conquer nature through science.

3. The Revolution in Physics

Between 1880 and 1910 a series of discoveries in physics challenged how humans viewed the universe. The discovery of X-ray changed the assumption about the solidity of matter. Marie Curie discovered radium, which emitted subatomic particles. Max Planck theorized that heated bodies radiate energy.
Finally, Albert Einstein introduced the theory of relativity. He argued that time and space shift in relation to the position of the observer. Therefore the universe is four-dimensional: height, width, depth, and time. Einstein’s theory produced a revolution in perspective. These discoveries presented a vision of the universe, in which what you see is the product of subjective perception.

4. Social Thought: The Revolt Against Positivism

Positivists believed that applying scientific methods to the study of human affairs would guarantee progress. The scientific discoveries and the new disciplines of psychology, sociology and anthropology began to emphasize the role of non-rational forces in human behavior. Gustave LeBon studied the collective psychology of the crowd to show that individuals responded more to emotion than to rational arguments. Max Weber studied the role of bureaucracies in modern life and concluded that bureaucratization could crush human ideals and initiatives. Sigmund Freud explored the role of the subconscious in shaping the individual. Freudian psychology convinced many people that the irrational unconscious was in control.

5. The Triumph of Evolutionary Theory

Discoveries in biology led to the development of evolutionary theories that provided a basis to justify the social and economic superiority of Europeans. The key figure was Charles Darwin. He combined his observations of different species of plant and animal life on isolated islands with the theory of Thomas Malthus that species produce more offspring than can survive and concluded that life is a struggle for survival. Individual species which are better adapted to the environment survive and pass on their traits. For Darwin the universe was not ordered by God into a harmonious system, but rather a place of brutal struggle for survival. Many Christians were appalled by the implications of Darwin’s ideas.

6. Social Darwinism and Racial Hierarchies

Darwin’s scientific theories of biological relationships were applied to society by Herbert Spencer who argued that human society reflected the same trends as plant and animal life. The theory of social Darwinism applied the idea of individual competition and survival of the fittest to the social hierarchy and races. Spencer concluded that the lower classes and the non-white races had lost in the struggle for survival. The theory also placed women in a lower position to men on the evolutionary scale. Jean Baptiste Lamarck’s theory that acquired characteristics were inherited produced great distress by implying that progress was not inevitable and therefore regression was possible. This theory led some people to argue that the conditions of the urban working class were producing characteristics of physical weakness, sexual promiscuity and criminality in the lower classes that were being passed to the next generation.

B. Cultural Crisis and the Birth of Modernism

1. Introduction
The fin-de-siècle cultural crisis was characterized by a fear of evolutionary regression and a sense of degeneration and decline. At the same time the sense that the old answers were no longer sufficient produced the modernist movement, which celebrated the release from the constraints of middleclass culture.

2. The Fin-de-Siècle

The sense of degeneration resulting from the increasing urban social problems was reflected in the literature of the fin-de-siècle. Emile Zola chronicled in his novels the decline of a family through alcoholism and sexual promiscuity. The novel, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, showed the primitive irrational beast lurking beneath the civilized exterior. Friedrich Nietzsche viewed people as enfeebled by social constraint, Christianity and rationalism to the point that they had been deprived of the emotional and instinctive aspects of human nature. He proclaimed to the world that God was dead and therefore there were no more restraints on human behavior. His ideas became popular in Germany and Austria in the 1890s and early 1900s.

3. Tightening Gender Boundaries

The fear of degeneration increased the efforts to define appropriate male and female behavior. Antifeminists argued that women who choose public activity produced physically and morally degenerate children. Homosexuals were singled out not just for immoral behavior, but also as abnormal and dangerous and a threat to the liberal notion of aggressive, independent, self-reliant men. As homosexual subcultures became more common in the urban cities, the legal codes made homosexual acts illegal. At the same time the new science of sexuality made important discoveries about the sexual physiology of humans including the process of human reproduction. The German scientist, Richard von Krafft-Ebing labeled homosexuality a pathology. The concern over appropriate sexual boundaries also appeared in the arts, where the female was depicted as dangerous.

4. Modernism

Several artistic, literary and intellectual trends of the early twentieth century are collectively referred to as modernism. These movements centered on the notion of rejecting established authority. Modernists rejected the notion that art should be an instrument of moral uplift, and instead argued it should be a value in itself. Modernists also emphasized the sense of discontinuity with the past in modern society. New musical styles such as ragtime and the works of Igor Stravinsky and Arnold Schoenberg used unexpected rhythms and rapid tempo changes. In art, painters such as Pablo Picasso juxtaposed different perspectives in the style they called Cubists. The Expressionist painters argued that art should express the artist’s interior vision. Wassily Kandinsky produced the first abstract paintings in Western art. Most middle-class people rejected these new forms of art.

5. Popular Religion and Secularization
Religious beliefs and practices remained a powerful force in the late nineteenth century. Sunday worship remained a central part of people’s lives. People continued to connect revolution and anarchy with unbelief. In Europe popular Catholicism emphasized devotion to the Virgin Mary and the shrines dedicated to the Virgin Mary, such as Lourdes, attracted hundreds of thousands of pilgrims. Several factors contributed to the preservation of popular religiosity. First, new immigrants looked to the local church to provide them with a sense of spiritual and social support. Second, several nationalist movements identified their national identity with Roman Catholicism. Last, Christianity was interwoven with imperialism in the Missionary activities. Christianity in late nineteenth century Europe was challenged from several sources. Among these were intellectual challenges derived from the scientific discoveries. Sociologists such as Emile Durkheim lumped Christianity with forms of primitive religion. Another challenge came from the increasingly anticlerical political currents. A more significant challenge came from the rise of spectator entertainment that competed with religion for time and served to cement community identity through elaborate rituals.

C. New Imperialism

1. Introduction

After 1870 Europe entered an era of imperialist expansion. The conquest of other peoples was justified as Social Darwinism.

2. Understanding the New Imperialism

Part of the reason for the new expansion of Europe was to protect acquisitions from the previous phase of imperial expansion in the eighteenth century. Britain for example, annexed Burma and Kashmir to protect its hold on India. A second reason for the new expansionism was economic. The technologies of the Second Industrial Revolution depended on raw materials that were available only in Asia, Africa or South America. Third, the need for new markets in the face of the Great Depression of 1873 pushed expansionism. Fourth, after the end of the Depression in the 1890s, the development of new railroad lines outside of Europe became a major investment opportunity. Fourth, political pressure in the age of mass politics also contributed to imperialist expansion. Last, the drive for colonies by the new nations of Germany and Italy led to competition among European nations to acquire new colonies.

The new imperialism was not just a policy of the elite, it also had great support among the lower classes. The key to this culture of imperialism was the sense of superiority of white Europeans. For some people, this sense of superiority was tied to the Christian religion, and they saw Christianizing the conquered peoples as key to their imperial mission. Others saw their imperial ideas in more secular terms. Following Social Darwinian thinking, some Europeans spoke of their biologically ordained imperial destiny. They saw their imperial mission as a duty to bring the benefits of civilization to the natives. Others such as Rudyard Kipling saw it as a “white man’s burden.”
Some Europeans rejected the imperialist mission. For example, J. A. Hobson argued that imperialism benefited only the rich capitalists and distracted people from problems at home.

3. The Scramble for Africa

The first wave of new imperialism was known as the “Scramble for Africa.” In 1875 Europeans held 11% of Africa; by 1905 they held 90% of Africa. For centuries Europeans had traded with Africa for gold and slaves, but had not attempted to conquer it. Until the late nineteenth century, Africa was known as “the white men’s grave” because of European lack of resistance to such diseases as malaria and sleeping sickness. In the 1830s Europeans began to explore the interior of Africa and discovered it was abundant in agricultural and nature resources. This change in their knowledge of Africa coincided with several changes that made Africa vulnerable to conquest. First, the suppression of the slave trade severely weakened West African states. Second, the development of the steamship made it possible for Europeans to navigate the shallow rivers of Africa. Third, in the 1850s Europeans discovered that quinine helped fight malaria. Last, new weapons such as the repeating rifle gave them technological superiority over the Africans.

After 1870 Europeans began to carve up Africa in the belief that these colonies would ensure economic prosperity. The claims of King Leopold of Belgium to the Congo raised controversy in Europe. The Berlin Conference in 1884 agreed to Leopold’s claims and established the terms for others to make their claims based on the principle of effective occupation. Leopold ruled the Congo Free State as his own private plantation. Leopold deprived villages of grazing and hunting grounds and forced the men to deliver large quotas of rubber. To ensure delivery, their families and failure was punished by severe mutilation. In 1910 international outcry against the abuses forced the Belgium government to take control of the Congo. Another example of abuses was German Southwest Africa. When the Herero tribe rebelled, every member was forced into the desert to die of thirst.

Africans frequently resisted European encroachment. But, only Ethiopia was successful with their defeat of the Italians at the Battle of Adowa in 1896. While African leaders were able to obtain modern weaponry, they did not adopt new tactics to take advantage of their new technology. Even leaders like Samori Ture of West Africa who had acquired modern weapons and adopted new tactics were eventually overwhelmed by the weight of French imperialism.

4. Asian Encounters

Unlike Africa, many Asian states were already part of the European economic network by 1870. The Dutch controlled most of the Indonesian archipelago, while the British controlled India. Several facts accelerated the pace of imperialism in Asia. The need for coal stations for the merchant and naval fleets made the Pacific islands of strategic importance to the U.S. and European powers. The decline of China produced a scramble effect as each
power attempted to protect trade routes to China. This led the French to acquire Indochina.

The U.S. by the middle of the nineteenth century was also fully engaged in imperial expansion. In 1846 it took northern Mexico and from the 1860s-1890s it deprived the Native Americans of their lands. In 1853, the U.S. became an imperial power in Asia when Commodore Perry forced the Japanese to open their ports to American ships. Afterward the U.S. was involved in imperialist ventures in China. In 1898, the U.S. defeated Spain and acquired the Philippines, Guam, Cuba and Puerto Rico. It also annexed Hawaii.

The Russians had since the seventeenth century been expanding eastward across Siberia. The Russians treated the Siberian peoples brutally, trading them as slave. Russian immigrants introduced European diseases that decimated the local populations and Russian demands for furs depleted the animal herds. By the 1860s, Russia was pushing against the Chinese border and into Central Asia.

Japan had remained closed to the west until 1853. This isolation angered Americans who wanted to use its ports to supply their ships. The opening of Japan undermined the military government of the Shogun. After a civil war, the emperor was restored to power. Japan began modernizing along western lines. It developed a modern political system and began industrializing. It entered the imperial race by defeating China in 1895 and Russia in 1905. In the process it acquired Korea and Taiwan. Japan was just as brutal as any western power in dealing with conquered peoples.

China proved less successful than Japan in dealing with Western pressure. After its defeat in 1842, China was subjected to the treaty port system, which exempted foreign nationals from being subject to Chinese laws. The defeat in the Sino-Japanese War severely weakened the Chinese government and began a drive by the Western powers to create spheres of influence in China. In 1899 the Europeans and the U.S. agreed to follow the American “open door” policy. Opposition to Western dominance produced the Boxer Rebellion in 1900. The West sent a joint military force to crush the rebellion and China was required to pay a large indemnity.

Imperialist expansion also included the takeover of Australia. Britain had originally used Australia as a dumping ground for criminals. But the expansion of the wool industry attracted large numbers of settlers to Australia. Prior to the arrival of the English, the native peoples had followed a nomadic way of life. In the 1820s British missions were established to assimilate the Aborigines. Aboriginal children were removed from their parents and educated according to British ways, then were placed as apprentices and domestic servants at age 15. At the end of the nineteenth century the new policy of “protection” made the Aborigines wards of the state. In 1901 Australia became a self-governing commonwealth under white rule. The Aborigines were only given citizenship in 1967. The Australians also severely restricted Chinese immigration.

5. A Glimpse of Things to Come: The Boer War

At the end of the nineteenth century, the British found themselves involved in a bloody war that challenged the vision and self-confidence of the imperialists. The Boer War was the culmination of a century of conflict
between the British and the Dutch settlers in South Africa. The British in the Cape Colony became fearful that the Boers would work with the Germans in Southwest Africa to limit British expansion. When gold and diamonds were discovered in the Boer Republic of Transvaal, British investors pressed the government to put the Boer republics under British rule. When war broke out in 1899, the Boers proved to be skilled fighters. They made effective use of guerilla warfare tactics. By 1901 the war had stalemated. The British then began burning Boer farms to the ground and confining Boer women, children and servants to concentration camps. Disease decimated the Boers and Blacks in the camps. The Boers were defeated in 1902. In 1910 the British granted self-rule to South Africa, and the Boers as the dominant white group created a society based on segregation.

The military and humanitarian reputation of the British was tarnished by their actions in the Boer Wars. The opposition to the war at home showed that support for imperialism could erode quickly. The Boer War was an ominous opening for the twentieth century during which the use of concentration camps for civilians became common.
II. TIMELINE

Insert the following events into the timeline. This should help you to compare important historical events chronologically.

Italy defeated by Ethiopia
Japan opened by Commodore Perry
Darwin Publishes *The Origins of Species*
end of the Boer War
US defeats Spain and takes the Philippines
Berlin Conference establishes ground rules for colonialism

1853
1902

TERMS, PEOPLE, EVENTS

The following terms, people, and events are important to your understanding of the chapter. Define each one.

Louis Pasteur
Max Weber
Social Darwinism
modernity
Expressionism
anticlericalism
scramble for Africa
Congo Free State
J. A. Hobson
Sino-Japanese War
spheres of influence
Commodore Perry
new imperialism

Albert Einstein
Charles Darwin
Herbert Spencer
Emile Zola
Cubism
Rudyard Kipling
Battle of Omdurman
Berlin Conference of 1884
Leopold II
treaty ports
Russo-Japanese War
Tokutomi Soho

Sigmund Freud
Darwinian theory of evolution
fin-de-siècle
Friedrich Nietzsche
Igor Stravinsky
Samori Ture
repeating rifle
white man’s burden
Boer War
Battle of Adowa
Australian Aborigines
MAP EXERCISE

The following exercise is intended to clarify the geophysical environment and the spatial relationships among the important objects and places mentioned in the chapter.

1. Locate the following places on the map.

   Ethiopia   France   Japan
   China      West Africa   Belgium
   Transvaal  Guam   England
   Philippines   Australia

2. Mark the colonial possessions of the following countries:

   Great Britain, France, Germany, and Belgium
MAKING CONNECTIONS

The following questions are intended to emphasize important ideas within the chapter.

1. How did new scientific discoveries of the late nineteenth century lead to improvements in peoples’ health?

2. How did new scientific discoveries of the late nineteenth century lead to greater pessimism about human progress?

3. What were the motives for imperialism? How did Darwinism contribute to the new imperialism?

4. In what way was the “new imperialism” an outgrowth of the Second Industrial Revolution? How did new medical advances make the new imperialism possible?

5. How did the “scramble for Africa” begin?

6. What forms of imperialism were imposed on China? What non-European nation was involved in Asian imperialism?

7. How did African peoples react to the European imperialist takeover of their homelands? How effective were they? How did Japan react to western encroachment?

8. What was the cause of the Boer War? What was its outcome?

DOCUMENT QUESTIONS

The following questions test your ability to interpret the primary source documents in the textbook.

1. How did Darwin’s Descent of Man affirm white prejudices about other races?

2. How does Otto Weininger’s Sex and Character reflect prejudices of the time regarding the gender roles?

3. What fears does Tachibana Mituomi reveal in his dream? Were these fears justified by events in other parts of the world?

PUTTING LARGER CONCEPTS TOGETHER

1. Define fin-de-siecle and discuss what factors led many Europeans in this period to believe they were living in a time of cultural crisis.

2. What factors kept religion as a vital force in the decades after the 1870s--an age of scientific discovery?
SELF-TEST OF FACTUAL INFORMATION

1. Which of the following statements about “new imperialism” is NOT accurate?
   a. The new imperialism was partly made possible by the inventions of the Second Industrial Revolution.
   b. Industrial powers dominated the non-industrial world.
   c. None of the European nations that had held colonies prior to 1870 participated.
   d. The new imperialism was influenced by the ideas of Social Darwinism.

2. Which of the following people developed a method for purifying milk?
   a. Louis Pasteur
   b. Robert Koch
   c. Marie Curie
   d. Albert Einstein

3. Which of the following statements concerning the motivations for imperialism is NOT accurate?
   a. Competition for markets in the depression that began in 1873 pushed the drive to acquire colonies.
   b. Some colonies were important due to proximity to other colonies, important sea lanes, or as fueling stations.
   c. European statesmen used imperialism as a means of appealing for new voters.
   d. Newly formed nations had no interest in imperialism.

4. The theory put forward by Charles Darwin to account for the development of the natural world was
   a. relativity.
   b. heliocentrism.
   c. evolution.
   d. positivism.

5. Which of the following statements is NOT accurate about modernism?
   a. Modernism rejected the idea of art as a moral instrument.
   b. Modernism rejected established authority.
   c. Modernists rejected human emotion.
   d. Modernists rejected the belief in the power of human reason.
6. What African nation most successfully resisted European imperialism at the end of the nineteenth century?
   a. Ethiopia
   b. Zimbabwe
   c. Libya
   d. South Africa

7. The new ideas of LeBon, Weber and Freud led many people to think
   a. you could produce a totally rational human being.
   b. emotions had no influence in human behavior.
   c. the irrational was in control.
   d. positively about the future.

8. Which of the following contributed to the outbreak of the Boer War?
   a. the takeover Transvaal and Orange Free State by Germany
   b. the fear of French intervention in the Boer republics
   c. the discovery of large gold deposits
   d. the Italian defeat in Ethiopia

9. What British colonial possession was the starting point for British expansion in Asia?
   a. South Africa
   b. India
   c. Egypt
   d. Singapore

10. Which of the following statements best summarizes J. A. Hobson’s critique of European imperialism?
    a. Capitalism leads inevitably to imperialism.
    b. White men had a burden or responsibility to bring the benefits of civilization to the non-white peoples.
    c. Europeans had a biological mandate to conquer the rest of the World.
    d. Europeans must bring Christianity to the non-western world.