

Imperialism and the Race for Colonies



## IMPERIALISM: A GERMAN VIEWPOINT

The passage below is a summary of a passage written by Friedrich Fabri in his book, *Does Germany Need Colonies?* The book was published in 1879 and identifies some of the motives for European Imperialism.

Should Germany begin on the road to Imperialism? I believe we should. For one, we are an industrial nation. In order to maintain our factories and produce our goods we need access to natural resources. Resources like rubber, petroleum, manganese for steel, and palm oil for machinery is necessary and can be found in Africa and Asia.

Obtaining colonies will also benefit our economy. Obtaining colonies in far away lands will open up new markets to trade our goods, and buy items that we do not produce. Colonies will provide our bankers with new business enterprises and projects to invest money in.

Participating in Imperialism will strengthen our military and defend our nation. Our steam powered merchant ships and naval vessels require coal to operate. Colonies spread throughout Africa would provide all of our ships with a place to pick up coal and supplies.

By engaging in Imperialism we can limit the power of our competitors, Britain and France. We can prevent territory from falling into their hands, and halt further expansion. Germany would weaken their trade and keep colonial profits from going to Britain and France.

Lastly, taking part in Imperialism would increase national pride in Germany. If we successfully obtain colonies we will show the world that we are a strong nation. We will provide a place for our increasing population to live and work. By obtaining colonies, we can restore Germany's position as the most prestigious, important, and influential nation in Europe.

## **IMPERIALISM: A FRENCH VIEWPOINT**

Paraphrased from Paul Leroy Beaulieu- late 19<sup>th</sup>-century

The great part of the world is inhabited by barbarian tribes or savages who participate in wars without end and brutal customs. They know very little about the arts or sciences. They do not know how to work, invent, or exploit their land and its natural resources. They live in little groups in poverty spread throughout large territory which if used correctly, could provide much food and riches.

This area of the world needs civilized people to intervene. It is not natural for the civilized people of the west to gather the marvels of science, art, and civilization and not share the opportunities with the savages in need. We have a duty to spread knowledge of medicine, law, and Christian religion. Such a transformation of a barbarian country cannot be accomplished by business or economic relations alone.

## **The Predominance of the Anglo-Saxon Race**

Excerpted from Josiah Strong 1891

The Anglo-Saxon race is the greatest representation of Christian civilization, liberty, and freedom. We are divinely commissioned to watch over our brothers. God is training his Anglo-Saxon people to prepare for a day when the races of the world will compete for total domination. We are being schooled for the final competition of races. Once there was unpopulated land in the western world in which a great many people have migrated. There is no New World anymore. Today unoccupied lands are disappearing, and will soon be taken. Therefore it is our responsibility to seize these lands and secure our dominance.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage "Imperialism: A German Viewpoint." Using the reading, work with your group to answer the questions below

1. How did the Industrial Revolution encourage Imperialism?
2. How does the economy benefit from colonies?
3. What are the military benefits of having colonies?
4. Britain and France had many colonies, why should the Germans try and get some?
5. What is the relationship between Imperialism and Nationalism?

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passages "Imperialism: A French Perspective" and "The Predominance of the Anglo-Saxon Race," and work with your group to answer the following questions.

**Imperialism: A French Perspective**

1. Who is the author speaking about? How does he describe them?
2. What does the author say is the responsibility of civilized people like him?
3. What kinds of people might be inspired by what the author wrote?

**The Predominance of the Anglo-Saxon Race**

4. How would Europeans and Westerners feel after reading what Josiah Strong wrote?
5. Why did Josiah Strong write this?

