

Chapter 27

The Age of Imperialism

A southern African king, Lobengula, wrote a letter to Queen Victoria about how he had been cheated:

“Some time ago a party of men came to my country, the principal one appearing to be a man called Rudd. They asked me for a place to dig for gold, and said they would give me certain things for the right to do so. I told them to bring what they could give and I would show them what I would give. A document was written and presented to me for signature. I asked what it contained, and was told that in it were my words and the words of those men. I put my hand to it. About three months afterwards I heard from other sources that I had given by the document the right to all the minerals of my country.”

—*The Imperialism Reader*, Louis L. Snyder, ed., 1962

Europeans did not hesitate to deceive native Africans in order to get African lands.

- 27-1 Africa
 - Before 1450, African Empires
 - Between: 1450-1880s
 - Gold
 - Salt
 - Slaves
 - European Exploration of interior
 - Livingstone
 - Dutch/Boers (Afrikaners)
 - Rhodes
 - Social Darwinism

I contend that we [Britons] are the first race in the world, and the more of the world we inhabit, the better it is for the human race. . . . It is our duty to seize every opportunity of acquiring more territory and we should keep this one idea steadily before our eyes that more territory simply means more of the Anglo-Saxon race, more of the best, the most human, most honourable race the world possesses.
--CECIL RHODES, Confession of Faith, 1877

- Africa under European Imperialism (After 1880)

- Berlin Conference

- Malaria
- Weapons
 - Maxim's machine gun

- Congo

- Livingstone & Stanley
- Belgium
- King Leopold

- South Africa

- Boers, British, Zulus (Shaka)
- Natal

- West Africa

- French

- British/Italian, Portuguese, German

- Scattered colonies

- Independent

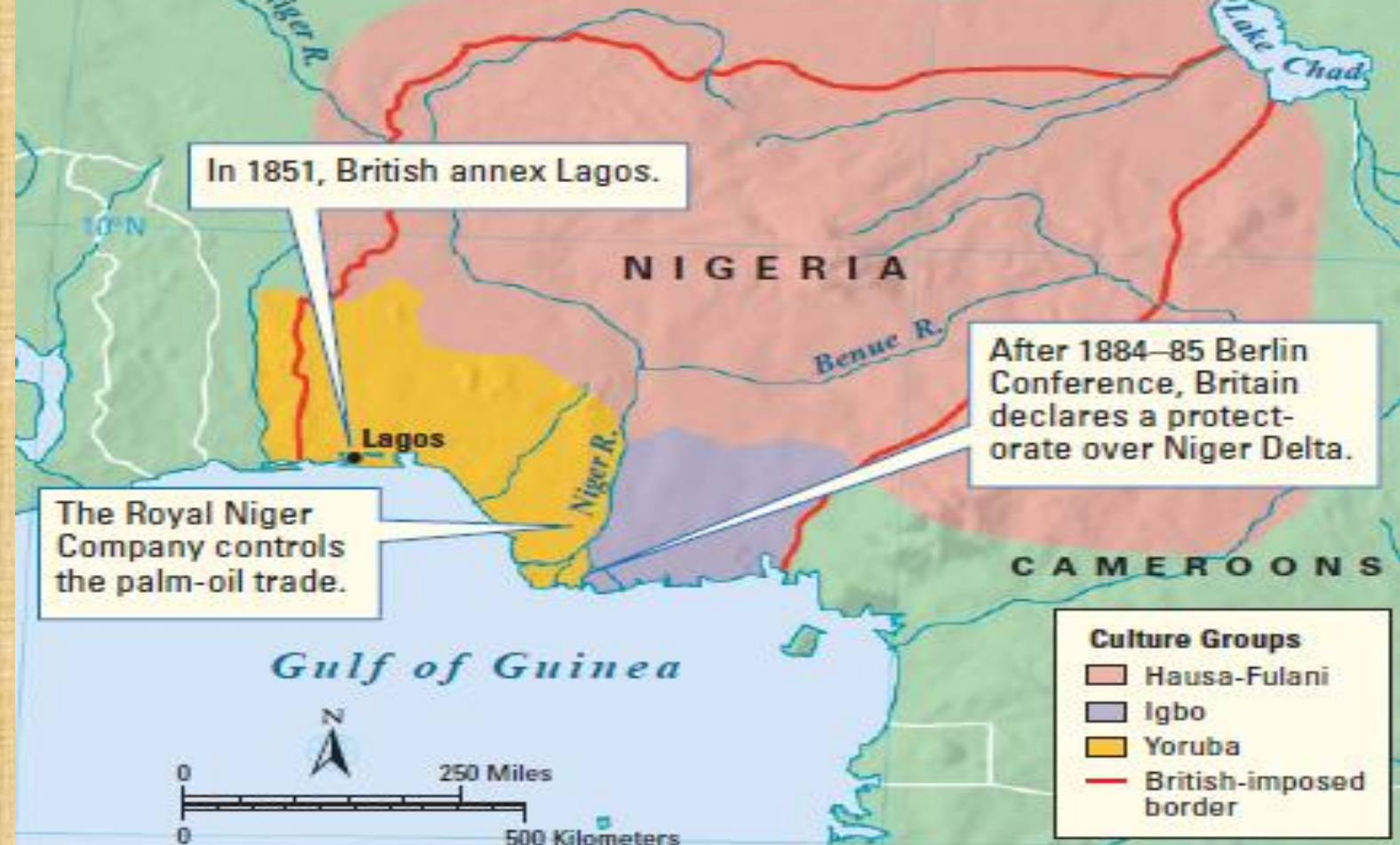
- Liberia (US)
- Ethiopia



- 27-2 Imperialism types
 - Colony
 - Protectorate
 - Sphere of influence
 - Economic
- Management
 - Indirect
 - British/American
 - Direct
 - European
 - Paternalism
 - assimilation

Nor is violent physical opposition to abuse and injustice henceforth possible for the African in any part of Africa. His chances of effective resistance have been steadily dwindling with the increasing perfectibility in the killing power of modern armament. Thus the African is really helpless against the material gods of the white man, as embodied in the trinity of imperialism, capitalistic exploitation, and militarism.

- Nigeria
 - British divide and conquer
 - 250 ethnic groups
- Ethiopia
 - Maintains independence
 - Menelik II
 - Plays Europeans
 - Modernizes army
- Resistance fails
 - Superior European weapons
- Effects of Imperialism
 - Positive
 - Reduces ethnic warfare
 - Improved infrastructure
 - Negative
 - Cash crops lead to famine
 - Boundaries
 - Diseases spread



- 27-3 Islam experiences Imperialism

- Ottoman Empire fails

- Janissaries do not modernize
- Corruption
- Economics
- Nationalism
 - Greece
 - Serbia
 - Balkans
 - Arabs



- Geopolitics
 - Crimean War
 - Ottomans, French, British
 - Russia's search for warm water port
 - Egypt
 - French & British
 - Suez Canal
 - Afghanistan
 - Persia
 - Oil & Tobacco

The necessity for using every legitimate opportunity to extend our influence and control in that great African continent which is now being opened up to civilization and to commerce.

---unknown

He has sold to the foes of our Faith the greater part of the Persian lands and the profits derived from them, for example...tobacco, with the chief centers of its cultivation, the lands on which it is grown and the ware houses, carriers, and sellers, where ever these are found...In short, this criminal has offered the provinces of Persia to auction among the Powers, and is selling the realms of Islam and the abodes of Muhammad and his household to Foreigners.

---Jamal Al-Din Al-Afghani 1891

- 27-4 British India
 - East India Tea Company
 - Hindus and Muslims and Sikhs
 - Jewel in the Crown of the British Empire
 - Mercantilism
 - Raw materials
 - Cotton
 - jute
 - Markets
 - Infrastructure
 - Railroads

The British set up restrictions that prevented the Indian economy from operating on its own. British policies called for India to produce raw materials for British manufacturing and to buy British goods. In addition, Indian competition with British goods was prohibited. For example, India's own handloom textile industry was almost put out of business by imported British textiles. Cheap cloth and ready-made clothes from England flooded the Indians market and drove out local producers.

• Resistance

- Sepoy Mutiny 1857
 - Religious conflicts
- British direct rule
 - Viceroy

• Nationalism begins in India

- Ram Mohun Roy
 - Westernization
 - Caste System
 - Indian Civil Service
- Indian National Congress 1885
- Muslim League 1906
- Religious Partition

Indian Servants

Caste determined Indian occupations. Castes were divided into four broad categories called varna. Indian civil servants were of the third varna. House and personal servants were of the fourth varna. Even within the varna, jobs were strictly regulated, which is why such large servant staffs were required. For example, two servants were often of the same varna. However, the person washing the British officer's feet was of a different caste than the person doing the fanning.

In 1860, E. Douwes Dekker wrote a book on the Dutch colonial system on the island of Java. He said:

“The [Dutch government] compels [the Javanese farmer] to cultivate certain products on his land; it punishes him if he sells what he has produced to any purchaser but itself; and it fixes the price actually paid. The expenses of transport to Europe through a privileged trading company are high; the money paid to the chiefs for encouragement increases the prime cost; and because the entire trade must produce profit, that profit cannot be got in any other way than by paying the Javanese just enough to keep him from starving, which would lessen the producing power of the nation.”

— *The World of Southeast Asia: Selected Historical Readings*,
Harry J. Benda and John A. Larkin, eds., 1967

Dekker, a Dutch colonial official, was critical of the havoc the Dutch had wreaked on the native peoples of Java.

• 27-5 Pacific Rim Imperialism

• Indonesia-Dutch

- Dutch East India Company
1602
- Spices

• Singapore-British

- Malaysia-straight of Malacca
- rubber

• Marshalls, New Guinea, Solomons-German

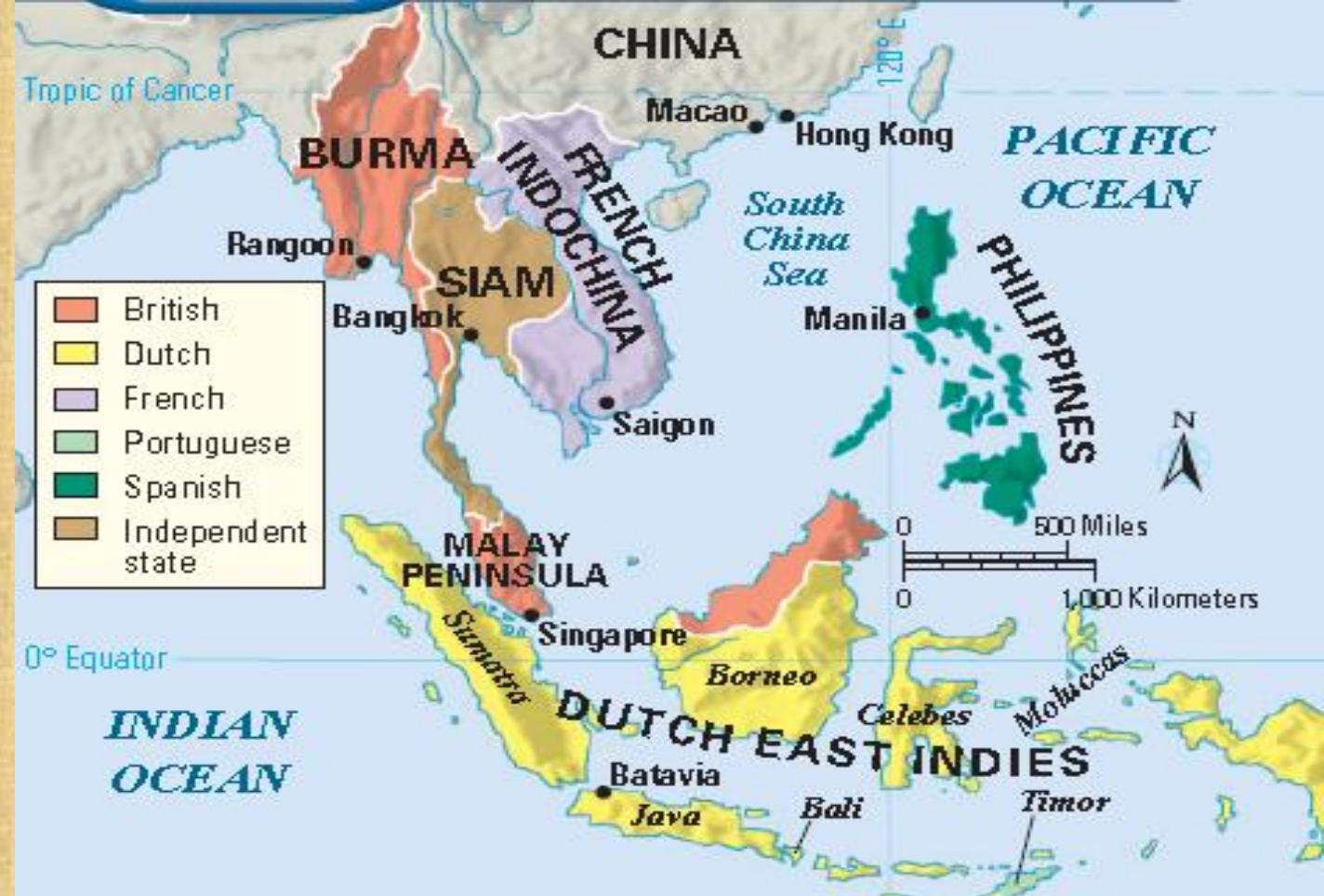
• Indochina-French

- Direct control
- Ethnic & Religious Melting pot

• Burma-British

• Siam-(Thailand) Independent

- Mongkut & Chulalongkorn



• United States Imperialism

• Philippines

- Annexed during Spanish-American War 1898
- Nationalist Aguinaldo
 - Insurrection 1899-1902
- Modernization
 - Infrastructure
 - Schools
 - Railroads
 - Hospitals
 - Cash crops

• Hawaii

- Sugar & Pineapples & Missionaries
- McKinley Tariff 1890 cause depression
- Liliuokalani's republic
- U.S. annexation 1899

As the times and the course of things in our country have changed, it is essential to promote the advancement of all our academic and technical knowledge and to prevent it from succumbing to competition from the outside. In order to achieve this, it is imperative to make haste in education so that knowledge and ability will increase.
---King Chulalongkorn