Imperialism 1800-1914: Africa, Ottomans

Slave Trade, Rise of New Imperialism and the ‘Scramble for Africa’
Slave Trades out of Africa

From 15th Century:
[see “Bible and the Gun” 1:07-4:25min., Add’l Rdgs]

- Major European countries exporting slaves from Africa to New Worlds – British, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch

- Smaller annual trade into Europe itself, Middle East (Ottoman Empire)

- Varied over the centuries according to demand
Slave Trades out of Africa

‘Atlantic Slave Trade’: peaked in 18th -19th centuries

- Labour for cotton, tobacco, rice Southern US; also ‘domestic’ labour

- Sugar in Caribbean: Spanish and Dutch originally strongest; by 18th/19th centuries British and French predominant

- Spanish, Portuguese: mainland South America – integrated into society, all labour
Slave Trades out of Africa

Slavery and Atlantic Trade:

- Fed ‘mercantilism’: development trading relations from colonies, benefiting ‘mother country’

- 18th century: shift to industrialism focused demand increasingly on raw materials for industry eg cotton, sugar

- Working conditions varied by region, master, crop: sugar in the Caribbean believed to have been worst
Abolition: Slave Trade

Last Part 18th century: push to abolish the trade

- Britain (had counterparts in the US, as we will see later): Christian groups appalled by conditions in which slaves transported (‘packed’ in ships holds), stories of suicides, slave markets (slaves sold like animals), working conditions, death rates

- Increasing question about profitability of slavery, as opposed to ‘free labour’: working class – liberal economy

- 1807: lobbying parliament, genuine ‘abolitionist politicians’ – ending of British Slave Trade 1807
Abolitionist ‘logo’

Designed by Porcelain Maker Josiah Wedgewood
“The Middle Passage”
The Middle Passage
Abolition: Slave Trade

19th Century: impact industrialism ‘laissez-faire’ market economy

- Official ending of ‘trade’ was NOT ending of slavery (nor did all European powers agree to end trade)

- Britain: arguments about need to create ‘free labour’ (working class) pushed further – need to create consumers – slaves could not purchase goods, wage-labourers could
Abolition: Slave Trade

Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton:

- Published “The African Slave Trade and its Remedy” (1940)

- Argued Britain would have been better convincing African Rulers to end the Trade rather than Portugal etc.

- Argument: output of workers cultivating/exploiting Africa’s resources/raw materials [for Europe] could in turn purchase more of Europe’s goods in return
Abolition: Slave Trade

**19th Century: impact ‘liberalism’**

- ‘equality before the law’ incompatible with ‘slavery’

- British abolished slavery in colonies from 1834

- Post-1848 French reforms included abolition slavery in Caribbean colonies

- Spanish, Portuguese: much later – ranged from 1850s through 1890s
Abolition: ‘Civilising Mission’

Arguments for abolition: brought into line with Darwinism, late century Racist thought

- Davidson [video] argues that ‘Racism was born out of the Slave trade’: controversial

- Also can be argued: Racism as translated into ‘civilizing mission’ became support for ending slavery

- As science ‘proved’ European racial superiority, ‘duty’ to take on civilizing mission acquired popularity
‘Scientific Racism’

Virey’s 1824 text on the natural history of humans

1864 Vogt’s anatomy text

1868 Nott and Gliddon’s scale of human evolution
French satirical cartoon of the English obsession with the tour of the ‘Hottentot Venus’, a South African woman who was displayed in many cities in Europe from 1810 to 1815.
Abolition: Missionaries

‘Civilizing Missions’ also consistent with goals of Christian Proselytizing:

- Europeans ‘superior’ not only because of race but because of religion: Christianity

- Christian missionaries active around globe since 15th centuries

- 19th goals of Ending Slavery, bringing Commerce and Civilization facilitated spreading Christianity
Missionaries & Imperialism

**Missionaries: personified the ‘Imperial Project’**

- In many parts Asia, Africa: Missionaries the only Europeans indigenous people knew

- they lived in local communities teaching Christianity but also ‘how to be European’

- European merchants, businessmen saw Missionaries as their ‘frontline agents’: well-positioned to facilitate economic, political goals – in the interest of ‘Civilizing’ new Christians
Missionaries & Imperialism

Example: story of Cecil Rhodes, Reverend Helm and King Lobengula (Matabele land)

“Did you ever see a chameleon catch a fly? The chameleon gets behind the fly and remains motionless for some time, then he advances very slowly and gently... At last, when well within reach, he darts his tongue and the fly disappears.

*England is the chameleon and I am that fly.*”

[Text.. P. 763]

[Davidson recounts the story and anecdote in ‘Bible and the Gun’]
Missionaries & Imperialism

Missionaries: personified the ‘Imperial Project’

- Situation often difficult, not to mention dangerous

- Disagreement between Churches and Missionaries themselves as to ‘role’

- David Livingstone: sought to reveal horrors of slave trade in Africa in interests of Abolition – also fervent believer in imperialism in name of ‘Commerce, Christianity and Civilization’

[see “Bible and the Gun” 8:00 – 11:20min., Add’l Rdgs.]
“Dr. Livingstone I Presume?”

American explorer Henry Morton Stanley ‘found’ David Livingstone 1871
Post-Abolition -- Africa

Post-Abolition ‘Projects’ (West Africa):

**Sierra Leone:**
- Capital: ‘Freetown’
- newly liberated slaves to join communities of Christian farmers

**Liberia:**
- Capital: ‘Monrovia’
- Christian Missionary Society established Fourah Bay College in 1827
Post-Abolition -- Africa

Freed-slaves ‘targeted’ for education
Creation of African missionaries from:

- returning slaves (many ‘Christianized’ while in captivity)
- newly educated freed slaves

Rev. Bishop
Samuel Crowther,
Southern Nigeria
Imperialism & ‘The Scramble’

Imperialism Argued in Many Terms:

- Jules Ferry (French): Premier 1880-1; 1883-5 – known for ‘empire building’ [see Text. Pp.768,9]

- Articulated ‘New Imperialism’ in terms of French Nationalism (speech 1883)

- Moved argument beyond ‘theory’, added political backbone to individual interests of merchants and missionaries
Imperialism & ‘The Scramble’

Imperialism Argued in Many Terms:

- Needs of ‘capitalism’: export markets; attempts by other countries to deal with Depression had led to imposing protective tariffs, reduced export options for France

- ‘duty’ of the civilized to ‘civilize others’: “White Man’s Burden” – interesting argument against liberals (‘Isn’t colonial conquest taking rights away from non-Europeans that Europeans have themselves just won?’)
“The White Man’s Burden”

Take up the White Man's burden—
Send forth the best ye breed—

Go, bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need;

To wait, in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild—

Your new-caught sullen peoples,
Half devil and half child.

•By Rudyard Kipling, McClure's Magazine 12 (Feb.1899).
Imperialism & ‘The Scramble’

Imperialism Argued in Many Terms:

- Nationalism: clear statement that France needed to ‘win’ in competition with others (especially Germany) for overseas wealth

“[France] cannot be merely a free country,... she must also be a great country, exercising all of her rightful influence over the destiny of Europe, ... She ought to propagate this influence throughout the world and carry everywhere that she can her language, her customs, her flag, her arms and her genius”. [Text. P.769]
Imperialism & ‘The Scramble’

Berlin Conference 1884-5: Africa

- Ferry stating what most nations thought at the time: way to assure political power in Europe was to acquire Colonial Territories abroad – extend commercial influence (story of 18th early 19th centuries) into political influence, colonies (end 19th, beginning 20th centuries)

- after 1870s Germany, Italy entered competition; so too did King Leopold of Belgium

- 1884-5: powers convened in Berlin to set ‘rules of the game’ to carve up resource and population rich Africa
Berlin Conference 1884-5:

- All European powers, US there – no African states

- Central issue to resolve: control in the Congo Basin – Portuguese (with British), French and Belgians claimed rights.

- French and Belgian Treaties ‘recognize’: Small French, Large Belgian Congo agreed upon

- Rest: ‘foothold rule’ – needed ‘foothold’ (treaty, fort) to make claims that would support political influence
The ‘Scramble’:

1883-84 Berlin Conference: to resolve emerging competition
Europe’s ‘Real Foot’ in Africa

AFRICA 1880
From Footholds to Colonial Rule:

“THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA

[See ‘This Magnificent African Cake’, Add’l Rdgs]
Africa: establishing footholds

Portuguese: from 16th century

- wanted to tie Africa into ‘Seaborne Empire’ of the East -- Indian Ocean, India, Indonesia

- East Africa: military battles to win ‘footholds’ on Indian Ocean coast -- succeeded in Mozambique

- West-Central: established Congo, Angola -- source slave trade into Brazil into late 19th century

By 19th century ‘settlers’ fully Africanized
Africa: establishing footholds

British, French, Dutch: from 16\textsuperscript{th}-17\textsuperscript{th} centuries
- followed trading footsteps; interest in ‘Christian conversion’ 18\textsuperscript{th}-19\textsuperscript{th} centuries

- all in West Africa from 16\textsuperscript{th} c: British, French predominant by 17\textsuperscript{th} century

- Dutch active Cape of Good Hope from mid-17\textsuperscript{th} century: established Cape Town to service ships engaged in Indian Ocean, South East Asia trade
Africa: establishing footholds

British, French in North Africa: challenged weak Ottoman Empire

- Napoleon in Egypt (1798): led to French support Mohamed Ali Pasha, modernization in 19th century

- 1857 joint-capital venture in with British to construct Suez Canal
Africa: establishing footholds

Algiers:

- French in Algiers (1830): colony ‘coastal’ but saw it as gateway to Sahara and bridge to West Africa

- provoked extended Islamic ‘jihad’ Abd al-Kadir

- by 1870s, attracted large number French settlers: ‘here to stay’ in African overseas province
End Napoleonic wars (Europe, 1805): Britain ‘won’ Dutch territory South Africa

- established colony: British law ended slavery 1833-4

- original ‘Dutch’ settlers: Africanized, intermarried

- joined by French, German refugees fleeing European religious persecution
Africa: establishing footholds

South Africa (cont.):

– complex society developed: own language ‘Afrikaans’; own culture ‘Afrikaner’

- Outsiders referred to both as ‘Boer’

- conflict, clashes with British (especially over slavery): Boers moved to interior and north “The Great Trek”

[Text Discussion pp. 760-2]
Africa: establishing footholds

British missionaries, merchants followed into region: 1867 diamonds discovered, 1886 gold

-both attracted British, German commercial interest

-both needed more labour than available locally: drew on poor Europeans, Africans from neighbouring regions

-both needed capital investment to develop

BUT: *both lay in Boer-controlled territories*
The Scramble for Africa

South & Southern Africa: Cecil Rhodes
- fortune in Diamonds, established monopoly De Beers Co.

- invested in goldmines but could not monopolize because of Boer control

- drew Britain and Commonwealth into ‘Boer War’ 1898-1902

[see “Bible and the Gun”, 27:00-28:45min, Add’l Rdgs]
‘British - from Cape Town to Cairo

Published in British PUNCH magazine (1892)
The Scramble for Africa

West Africa

- trading companies like Royal Niger Company acted as Government agents

- signing agreements for ‘exclusive trading rights’ with local rulers

Royal Niger Co. Headquarters (Southern Nigeria)
The Scramble for Africa

Where local chiefs, African merchants did not co-operate: turned to military force

- gunboats deployed in Niger Delta (Nigeria), Zanzibar (Island, East Africa)

- ground troops used elsewhere (e.g. against Asante in West African Gold Coast, against Matabele in Southern Africa)

- importance European military technology should not be exaggerated but . . .
The Scramble for Africa

“Whatever happens – we have got The Maxim Gun – and they have not!”

[Hillaire Belloc, British Writer & Poet, 1898]
‘The Scramble for Africa’

American invention (1885):
-used by British 1889
Southern Africa

- 1893-4 Matabeleland: four Maxim guns defeated 5000 African warriors

[This is land of King Lobengula – Text. P.763, 4; “Bible and the Gun”, 32:04 – 37:12min., Add’l Rdgs]
The Scramble for Africa

North Africa:

- 1881: France declared Tunisia protectorate [see below ‘Fashoda’]

- 1882: British drawn into Egypt to put down Islamic revolt against government
  
  - established full ‘Protectorate’ over region

Both Direct and Successful Challenges to Ottomans
The Scramble for Africa
Tunisia and Egypt:

- saw commercial, political alliances with French, British as way to achieve independence from Ottoman control (and Sultan’s exploitation: taxes, conscription etc.)

**Tewfik Pasha, Khedive of Egypt 1879-92.** British supported him in struggle with army for control of Egypt; helped strengthen British influence in, ultimately control of the region.
The Scramble for Africa

Map of 1882 showing colonies of France and Britain in North Africa:
- Algeria (Fr.)
- Tunisia (Fr.)
- Tripoli (coast Only)
- Egypt (Br.)

Ottoman Empire
The Scramble for Africa

**Fashoda 1898:**

- France sought to block British claims to Sudan, Upper Nile: sent military expedition

- Armies met, War Threatened: French backed down at ‘Fashoda’: concerned about vulnerability in Europe vis-à-vis Germany, needed to retain British alliance

- ‘traded off’ for rights in Morocco: British dominant power in East Africa, challenged only by Germany
The Scramble for Africa

Fashoda

S U D A N

KHARTOUM

Fashoda
The Scramble for Africa

“Fashoda”: Egypt, Sudan, East Africa 1898
From The Scramble ... to Conquest