European Partitioning Across Africa

Colonization, Conflict, & Artificial Boundaries

Standards

SS7H1 The student will analyze continuity and change in Africa leading to the 21st century.

a. Explain how the European partitioning across Africa contributed to conflict, civil war, and artificial political boundaries.

Trade Routes

- Europeans first became interested in Africa for trade route purposes.
  - They were looking for ways to avoid the taxes of the Arab and Ottoman empires in Southwest Asia.

- Sailing around Africa was the obvious choice, but it was a long voyage and could not be completed without "pit stops" along the way.
  - Europeans created ports in southern and eastern Africa so traders could restock supplies before crossing the Indian Ocean.

Slave Trade

- During the 16th century, Portuguese explorers became engaged in the African slave trade.
  - They kidnapped Africans and forced them to work on plantations and mines in their colonies in the New World.

- Other European countries soon participated in the slave trade as well.

- The trans-Atlantic slave trade lasted from the 1500s to the mid-1800s.
  - Even after the slave trade had ended, European interest in Africa was still going strong.

- European countries saw that Africa was a continent full of vast natural resources and mineral wealth.

Imperialism

- The end of the 19th century is called the "Age of Imperialism", which refers to European countries competing for land and power.

- Imperialism is a system were a strong country takes wealth and raw materials from another country.

- A "strong" country was supposed to have many colonies to increase its wealth and importance around the world.

Colonialism

- During this time, many European countries expanded their empires by aggressively establishing colonies in Africa so that they could exploit and export Africa's resources.
  - Raw materials like rubber, timber, diamonds, and gold were found in Africa.

- Europeans also wanted to protect trade routes.

Europeans in Africa

- During the 1800s, Europeans moved further into the continent in search of raw materials and places to build successful colonies.
  - Great Britain, France, & Germany fought over control of land that is now Egypt and Sudan.
  - Belgians took control of the Congo.

- The natives often fought against the European powers; however, they often lost because the European weapons were superior.
  - The Zulu nation fought the British in South Africa and the Ashanti struggled to hold onto what is now Ghana.

Economic Reasons

- Economic motivation played a large part in the colonization of Africa.

- The 1800s was a time of great industrialization in Europe (Industrial Revolution).
  - Factories required raw materials that could be manufactured into marketable products.

- When Europeans returned to Africa for more resources they brought back the manufactured goods and sold them to Africans.
  - Africa became a new market for Europe to sell goods.

Political Reasons

- Politics in Europe also led to the colonization of Africa.

- Nationalism, a strong sense of pride in one's nation, resulted in competition between European nations.

- No major nation wanted to be without colonies, which led to this "Scramble for Africa".

- The competition was particularly fierce between Great Britain, France, and Germany, the strongest European nations in the 1800s.

Religious Reasons

- Christian missionary work gained strength during the 1800s as European countries were becoming more involved in Africa.

- Many missionaries were supportive of the colonization of Africa because they believed that European control would provide a political environment that would help missionary activity.

- The idea of "Christianizing" Africa also made many Europeans look favorably on the colonization of the continent.

Berlin Conference

- By the 1880s, Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, and Portugal all wanted part of Africa.

- To prevent a European war over Africa, leaders from fourteen European governments and from the United States met in Berlin, Germany, in 1884.
  - No Africans attended the meeting.

- At the meeting, the European leaders discussed Africa's land and how it should be divided.

Berlin Conference

- Going into the meeting, roughly 10% of Africa was under European colonial rule.

- By the end of the meeting, European powers "owned" most of Africa and drew boundary lines that remained until 1914.

- Great Britain won the most land in Africa and was "given" Nigeria, Egypt, Sudan, Kenya, and South Africa after defeating the Dutch Settlers and Zulu Nation.

- The agreements made in Berlin still affect the boundaries of African countries today.

Artificial Boundaries

- European powers organized Africa's population in ways to make the most efficient workforce, ignoring the natives' cultural groups or existing political leadership at the time of colonization.
  - Sometimes they grouped together people who had never been united under the same government before.
  - Sometimes they divided existing groups of people.

- The creation of these borders had a negative impact on Africa's political and social structures by either dividing groups that wanted to be together or combining ethnic groups that were enemies.

Artificial Boundaries

- Europeans placed colonies into administrative districts and forced the Africans to go along with their demands.
    - In order to establish their indirect rule, Europeans used local chiefs as their enforcers in the colonies.

- Europeans also tried to assimilate Africans (have African people give up their own African customs and adopt European customs).

- Protests and revolts were common and starvation and disease became widespread.

Lasting Effects

- Europeans took the best land by force.
  - African farmers were forced to grow cash crops like cocoa and coffee, causing there to be a shortage of food in many areas of Africa.

- Africans were forced to work under terrible conditions on plantations, railways, and logging.

- In order to gain power, Europeans encouraged Africans to fight against each other.
  - New political boundaries caused ethnic groups to clash.

- This has led to ethnic and political unrest in Africa today.
  - There have been over 50 ethnic conflicts in Africa since WWII as a result of the colonial lines drawn by Europeans.

African Unrest

- By the mid-twentieth century, Africans began to openly oppose European control of their countries.

- It was obvious that colonialism was not fair, as it only benefitted the Europeans.

- Africans were tired of being treated like second-class citizens on their own land.
  - They soon begin to demand freedom for themselves…

COUNTRY	INDEPENDENCE DAY	COLONIAL NAME	COLONIAL RULERS
Algeria	July 5th, 1962		France
Angola	November 11th; 1975		Portugal
Benin	August 1st; 1960		French
Botswana	September 30th, 1966		Britain
Burkina Faso	August 5; 1960		France
Burundi	July 1st; 1962		Belgium
Cameroon	January 1st; 1960		French-administered UN trusteeship
Cape Verde	July 5th; 1975		Portugal
C.A.R	August 13th; 1960		France
Chad	August 11th, 1960		France
Comoros	July 6th; 1975		France
Congo	August 15th; 1960		France
Congo DR	June 30th; 1960		Belgium
Cote d'Ivoire	August 7th; 1960		France
Djibouti	June 27th; 1977		France
Egypt	February 28th, 1922		Britain
Eq Guinea	October 12; 1968		Spain
Eritrea	May 24th; 1993		Ethiopia
Ethiopia	over 2000 years, Never colonized	(formerly) Kingdom of Aksum	--
Gabon	August 17th; 1960		France
Gambia	February 18th; 1965		Britain
Ghana	6 March 1957	Gold Coast	Britain
Guinea	October 2nd; 1958		France
Guinea Bissau	10 September 1974 24 September 1973		Portugal
Kenya	December 12th, 1963		Britain
Lesotho	October 4th; 1966		Britain
Liberia	July 26th; 1847		American colonization Society
Libya	December 24; 1951		Italy
Madagascar	June 26th; 1960		France
Malawi	July 6th; 1964		Britain
Mali	September 22nd; 1960		France
Mauritania	November 28th; 1960		France

COUNTRY	INDEPENDENCE DAY	COLONIAL NAME	COLONIAL RULERS
Mauritius	March 12th, 1968		Britain
Morocco	March 2nd; 1956		France
Mozambique	June 25th; 1975		Portugal
Namibia	March 21st; 1990		South African mandate
Niger	August 3rd; 1960		France
Nigeria	October 1st, 1960		Britain
Rwanda	July 1st; 1962		Belgium administered UN trusteeship
SaoTomePrincipe	July 12th; 1975		Portugal
Senegal	April 4th; 1960		France
Seychelles	June 29th; 1976		Britain
Sierra Leone	April 27th; 1961		Britain
Somalia	July 1st; 1960	British Somaliland Italian Somaliland	Britain Italy
South Africa	11 December 1931, April 1994(end of apatheid)	Union of South Africa	Britain
Sudan	January 1st; 1956		Egypt, Britain
Swaziland	September 6th; 1968		Britain
Tanzania	April 26th, 1964		Britain
Togo	April 27th; 1960		French administered UN trusteeship
Tunisia	March 20th; 1956		France
Uganda	October 9th; 1962		Britain
Zambia	October 24th; 1964		Britain
Zimbabwe	April 18th; 1980		Britain

http://www.japanafricanet.com/directory/presidents/africanindependence.html