DBQ SOURCE SUMMARIES: THE PARTITION OF AFRICA

Note to Teachers:

Below are summaries of the sources in DBQ Sources: The Partition of Africa. These are meant to provide you a quick understanding of the document types and content so you can decide which sources you want your students to use. You may choose to provide these summaries to your students as additional scaffolding.

Source	*Summary*
Document 1 (Text) **Source:** Cecil Rhodes, "Confession of Faith," 1877, in John E. Flint, *Cecil Rhodes* (Boston: Little Brown, 1974), 248–249. Text is edited for brevity and clarity.	*This is an excerpt from an 1877 essay by the prominent British politician and businessman, Cecil Rhodes. In it, he explains an ethnocentric and racist worldview which sees Britain increasing its influence across the globe--mainly for economic benefit, but also to "civilize" what he sees as lesser cultures.*
Document 2 (Text) **Source:** Jules Ferry (1832–1893), "Speech Before the French Chamber of Deputies, March 28, 1884," reproduced in *Modern History Sourcebook*, Fordham University, https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1884ferry.asp.	*Jules Ferry (1832–1893) was prime minister of France (1880–1881, 1883–1885) when he delivered these comments as part of a speech in 1884. In these remarks, he echoes those of Cecil Rhodes in document 1. Again, he displays ethnocentric and racist world view; however, he couches them in terms of responsibility and generosity on the part of what he perceives as their superior role in the world.*
Document 3 (Chart) **Source:** Martin Lynn, *Commerce and Economic Change in West Africa: The Palm Oil Trade in the Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), 31.	*This chart shows the increasing value of West African imported goods to Britain, which explains that country's increasing interest in expanding its influence on the African continent.*

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Source	*Summary*
Document 4 (Image) **Source:** Cartoon, "The Sleeping Sickness: Cutting a Continent out from under Him," published in Puck, October 25, 1911, and reproduced here: https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2011649074/.	*This cartoon portrays an anti-colonial viewpoint through the image of what could be assumed is a sleeping giant representing Africa, and all of the European powers around the giant taking as much of the continent as they can, even to the extent of prying the letters in "Africa" from the map itself.*
Document 5 (Text) **Source**: "General Act of the Berlin Conference on West Africa, 26 February 1885," reproduced by Professor Emeritus Brian Loveman, San Diego State University: https://loveman.sdsu.edu/docs/1885GeneralActBerlinConference.pdf.	*This excerpt contains the introduction and a portion of section six from the General Act of the Berlin Conference on West Africa, February 26, 1885.What is notable is how the European nations that agreed to this act concern themselves with what they can do in regard to the African continent, but nothing whatsoever about Africa or Africans themselves.*
Document 6 (Chart) **Source**: Ewout Frankema, Jeffrey Williamson, and Pieter Woltjer, "An Economic Rationale for the African Scramble: The Commercial Transition and the Commodity Price Boom of 1845–1885," National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 21213, May 2015. https://voxeu.org/article/economic-rationale-african-scramble, arrows and annotations added.	*This chart shows how, over the course of the 1800s, European powers shifted the profit power in Africa from African interests to European interests, particularly after the partition of Africa.*
Document 7 (Text) **Source**: Hillaire Belloc, *The Modern Traveller* (London: E. Arnold, 1898).	*Quite simply, this quote explains how European firepower (in this case, the Maxim—an early form of machine gun) gives them power over colonialized people.*