Writing Assignment #2:
Driving Force Behind European Imperialism in Africa DBQ

Historical Background:
For the 300 years between 1500 and 1800, European nations traded for slaves, gold, and ivory along the west coast of Africa, but they did not go deeply into the continent. In the 1800s, this changed as European explorers pushed their way into the interiors of western and central Africa. By the 1880s, Africa was under full assault as European nations competed with one another for control of the continent. This DBQ looks at this quest for colonies and asks what the primary driving force behind it was.

Prompt:
What were the driving forces behind European imperialism in Africa?

Directions:
Read and annotate each document. Answer the questions that follow each document. Then, complete the graphic organizer for putting your paragraph together. Lastly write a Step Up to Writing 5 paragraph essay answering the prompt. You must type your response.

<u>The Documents</u>

Document 1:
Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden," 1899.

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…

Take up the White Man's burden—
The savage wars of peace—
Fill full the mouth of Famine
And bid the sickness cease;
And when your goal is nearest
The end for others sought,
Watch sloth and heathen Folly
Bring all your hopes to nought…

1. What does the title "The White Man's Burden" mean?

2. How does Kipling's poem show bias in how people viewed the role of European colonialism?

3. How did ideological beliefs act as a driving force for European imperialism in Africa?

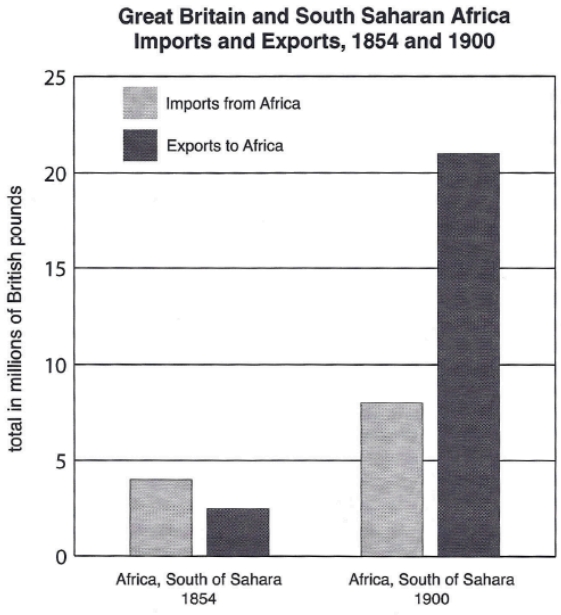
Document 2:
Adapted excerpt from Raymond Aron, *The Century of Total War*, Doubleday & Company, 1954.

"None of the colonial undertakings was motivated by the quest for capitalist profits; they all originated in political ambitions…the nations' will to power…[or] glory or national greatness."

4. How does this quote show the growing sense of nationalism in Europe at that time?

5. How can this document show how political factors were a driving force for imperialism?

Document 3:
Trevor Owen Lloyd, *The British Empire: 1558-1995,* 1996.



6. According to this chart, what benefit is Great Britain deriving from its African colonies?

7. How can this document show how economic factors were a driving force for European imperialism in Africa?

Document 4:
Quote by King Leopold II of Belgium

"I do not want to miss a good chance of getting us a slice of this magnificent African cake."

8. How can this document show how economic factors were a driving force for European imperialism in Africa?

Document 5:
David Livingstone's Epitaph. (An epitaph is a statement inscribed on a tombstone)

"Brought by faithful hands over land and sea, here rests David Livingstone, missionary, traveler, philanthropist, born March 19, 1813, at Blantyre, Lanarkshire, died May 1, 1873, at Chitambo's village, Ulala. For 30 years, his life was spent in an unwearied effort to evangelize the native races, to explore the undiscovered secrets, to abolish the desolating slave trade of Central Africa. Where with his last words he wrote, 'All I can add to my solitude may Heaven's rich blessings came down to everyone, American, English, or Turk, who will help heal the open sore of the world.'"

9. According to David Livingstone's epitaph, how did religious motivations act as a driving force for imperialism in Africa?

Document 6:
Information from various sources. Note: The Industrial Revolution led to many discoveries and inventions that helped Europeans to take over Africa.

Technological Development (Date Invented)	Use and Significance
Steam engine (1787) first used in boats; (1804) first used in locomotives	A more constant and forceful source of power than sails on ships or horse-drawn carriages. Steam engines powered ships and railroads.
Method of getting quinine from cinchona tree bark (1820)	Treatment for the disease malaria
Electric telegraph (1837)	Communication over long distances
Bessemer process (1855)	Quicker and cheaper method of manufacturing steel, which was lighter and more durable than iron
Maxim gun (1884)	First machine gun
Repeating rifle (late 1800s)	A faster-loading gun that was able to fire multiple shots more accurately than older muskets

10. How can these technological inventions make it easier for Europeans to take over Africa?

11. How can this document explain how the Industrial Revolution was a driving force for imperialism?

Document 7:
Cecil Rhodes, *Confessions of Faith,* 1877

"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."

12. How can this document explain the how ideological beliefs acted as a driving force for European imperialism in Africa?

13. How can this document also show that the desire for political power acted as a driving force for European imperialism in Africa?