

## APWH|Unit 6 “Imperial Migration from 1750 to 1900” Reading Questions

### UNIT 6.2|State Expansion (Empire Building)

#### Five Key Ideas

1. **Imperial Expansion Intensified in the 19th Century** – European powers, along with the U.S., Russia, and Japan, expanded through conquest and colonization.
2. **The Scramble for Africa Created European Rivalries** – European nations divided Africa for resources, leading to competition and resistance.
3. **Asia Faced Increased Foreign Influence** – China resisted European dominance, while Japan embraced modernization and expansion.
4. **The United States and Russia Expanded Their Borders** – Both nations grew through conquest, territorial purchases, and imperial control.
5. **Settler Colonies and Economic Imperialism Altered Local Societies** – European settlers displaced indigenous people, and industrial powers controlled foreign economies.

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#### Key Concepts

- **Imperialism** – The policy of expanding a nation’s influence through conquest or economic control.
- **Scramble for Africa** – European nations' race to colonize Africa for resources and power.
- **Sphere of Influence** – A region where a foreign power had economic or political dominance, especially in China.
- **Settler Colony** – A colony where Europeans permanently settled, often displacing indigenous populations.
- **The Great Game** – The geopolitical rivalry between Russia and Britain over control of Central Asia.

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#### Intro

1. How did imperial expansion affect Africa and Asia?
  
2. What role did private companies play in imperialism?

**Summary:** European powers, along with the U.S., Russia, and Japan, expanded their influence through conquest, settlement, and economic control. Companies like the Dutch East India Company and King Leopold II’s Congo colony abused their power, leading to government takeovers of colonies.

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#### Imperialism in Africa

3. What resources made Africa a target for European imperialism?
  
4. How did European technology help in Africa’s colonization?

**Summary:** Even after the slave trade ended, Europeans exploited African resources, including palm oil, ivory, and diamonds. Quinine (malaria treatment) and steamships allowed deeper exploration into the continent.

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#### The European Scramble for Africa

5. What was the purpose of the Berlin Conference?
  
6. How did artificial colonial borders impact Africa?

**Summary:** To avoid war over African colonies, European powers held the Berlin Conference (1884–1885). They divided Africa without African input, creating borders that disregarded ethnic groups, leading to future conflicts.

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#### Imperialism in South Asia

7. How did the British gain control of India?
  
8. What role did the British East India Company play in India?

**Summary:** After defeating France in the Seven Years’ War (1756–1763), Britain’s East India Company (EIC) expanded its control over India. The company recruited Indian soldiers (sepoys) to enforce British rule, but resentment led to the Sepoy Rebellion in 1857.

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### Imperialism in East Asia

9. How was imperialism in China different from other regions?
10. What internal conflicts weakened China during this period?

**Summary:** China remained politically independent but was economically dominated by European powers. The Qing government's weakness led to foreign-controlled "spheres of influence".

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### Imperialism in Southeast Asia

11. How did European powers control Southeast Asia?
12. What resources made Southeast Asia valuable to imperial powers?

**Summary:** European nations dominated Southeast Asia for cash crops and trade routes. Britain, France, and the Netherlands established colonies for rubber, sugar, and spices.

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### Australia and New Zealand

13. How did Britain use Australia as a colony?
14. What conflicts arose between settlers and indigenous peoples?

**Summary:** Britain established a penal colony in Australia (1788), later encouraging free settlers to farm wool and gold. New Zealand (1840) became a British colony, leading to Maori resistance and war.

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### U.S. Imperialism in Latin America and the Pacific

15. What territories did the U.S. gain through imperial expansion?
16. How did the U.S. enforce the Monroe Doctrine?

**Summary:** The U.S. expanded westward, displacing Native Americans (Trail of Tears) and acquiring Alaska (1867) and Hawaii (1898). The Spanish-American War (1898) gave the U.S. Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.

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### Russian Expansion

17. How did Russia expand its empire in the 18th and 19th centuries?
18. What was the Great Game?

**Summary:** Russia expanded into Poland, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, competing with Britain in the Great Game over Afghanistan. Russia also controlled Manchuria but later lost influence to Japan.