

Instructions for Conference Preparation

- Please read through the briefings below with particular attention to your assigned country.
 - Feel free to look through the other briefings and identify issues in which you may anticipate agreement or disagreement with other countries.
 - Please prepare any questions for the start of class tomorrow that may develop while reading through the briefings.
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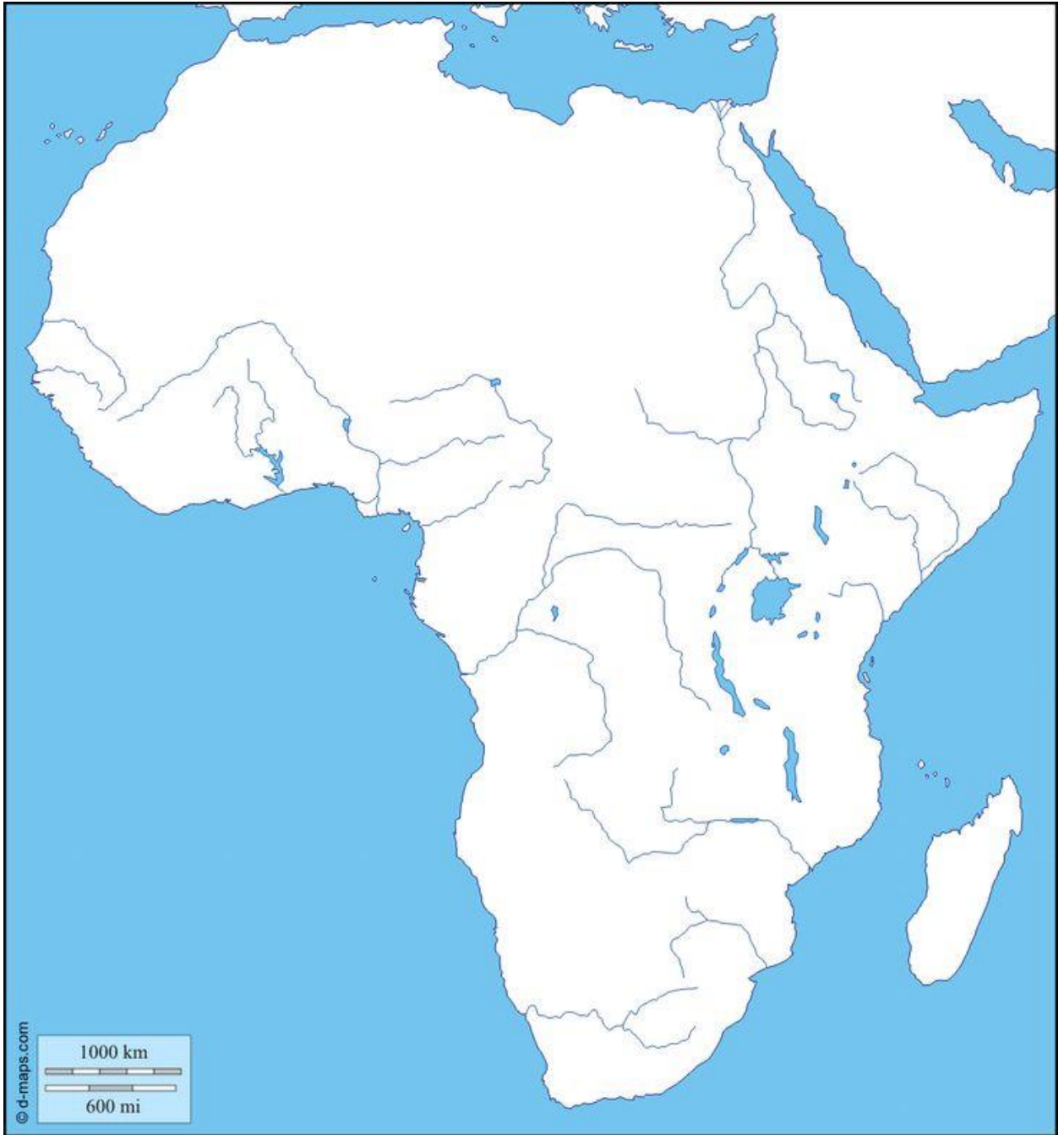
Belgium (Rhoen)

Newly formed after a revolt from the Netherlands in 1830, Belgium leapt to the forefront of the Industrial Revolution. With coal readily available, blast furnaces and railways quickly spread across the country, but the nation lacked many of the natural resources found by other colonial powers. Also, while the military swelled during the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71), they were unable to compete territorially with the great powers of Europe, leaving trade and diplomacy their main means of leverage.

Recently, King Leopold II of Belgium funded the exploration of the interior of Africa as a means to find new trading partners and resources. New inroads have been made towards the Belgian colonization of Central Africa, but this Berlin Conference is critical to maintaining this new imperial destiny.

Conference Goals:

- Control and access to the **Congo River** region of central Africa.
 - *Exclusive* control is ideal though shared control of the region is... acceptable.
 - If shared control is achieved, Leopold should be the administrator of this territory.
- Access to gold and diamond deposits found in **southern Africa**.
- You would also benefit from other territories, if the other nations will allow it... the more the merrier.
- Allow each participating nation to have at least SOME gain.



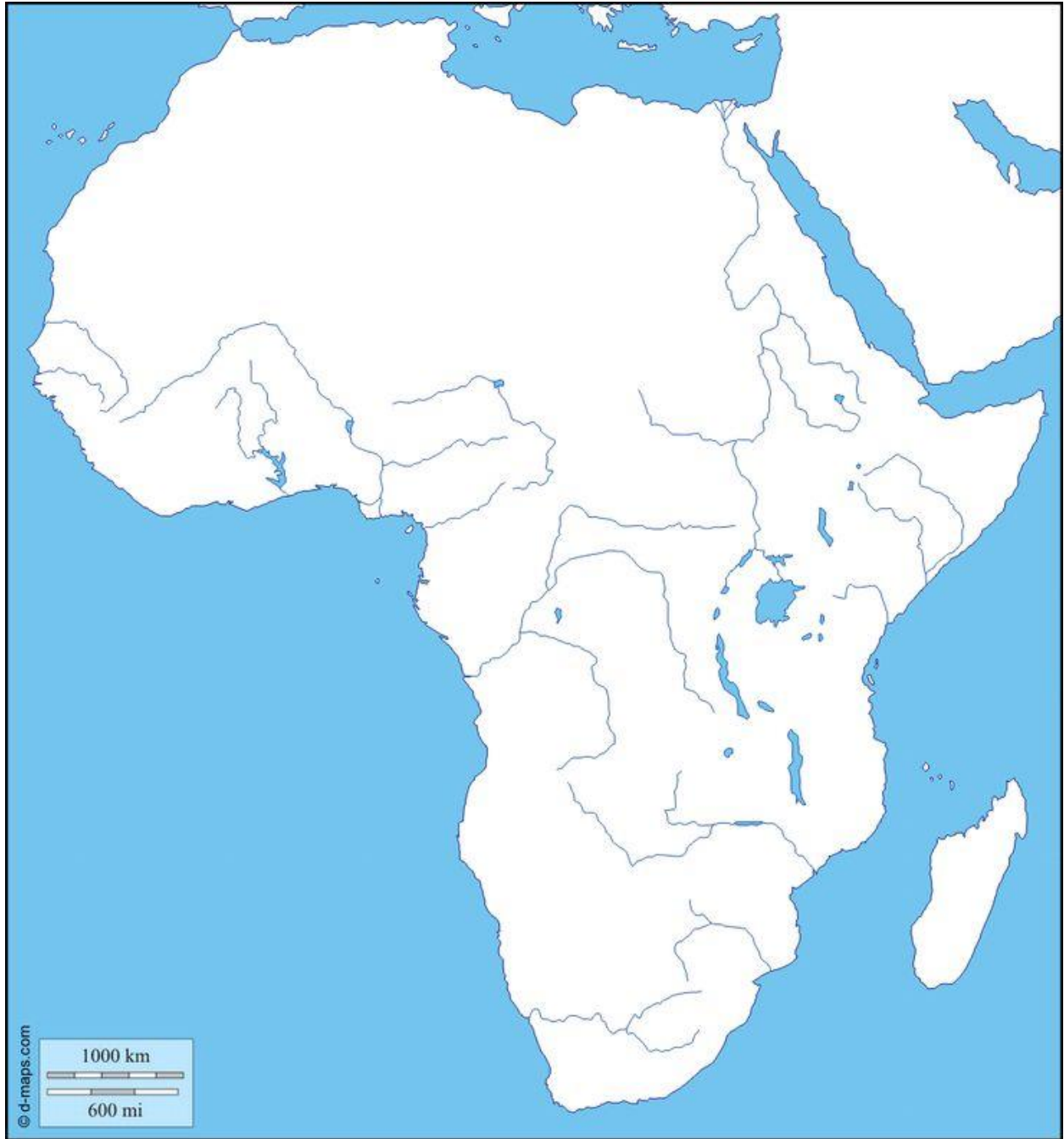
France (Katelyn and Kirsten)

Following the defeat of Napoleon, the Bourbon Restoration, and various civil wars, France has emerged during the Third Republic. Now with a relatively stable government, industrialization has reinvigorated the nation's powerful navy and army. This in turn has allowed for France to expand colonial possessions, particularly in Southeast Asia, but now Africa remains. Your nation sees the Berlin Conference as a means to cement your political position in the region, and to, most *importantly*, offset the growing power of a newly minted Germany.

Africa is not a new venue for French involvement. The northern nation of Algeria has been critical to French expansion and attempts by Napoleon III were made to make the nation a model of French/Arab cooperation. Now is the chance for this influence to expand even further, establishing a Francophile sphere of influence across the northern African coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

Conference Goals:

- Expansion of French control along the Mediterranean region (north African coast) and western coast of Africa, particularly into **Tunisia** and **Morocco**.
- Access to trade goods such as rubber, cotton, tropical hardwoods, palm oil, and cocoa (located along the **Congo River**).
- Access to gold and diamond deposits found in **southern Africa**. Perhaps you can petition Britain or the Netherlands for mining rights in the territory... and maybe you can throw your support behind the one that presents the best offer.
- When forced, you would prefer to allocate territory to a minor European power (Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, or Portugal) rather than allow a major rival (Britain or Germany) to gain too much influence.
- Allow each participating nation to have at least SOME gain.

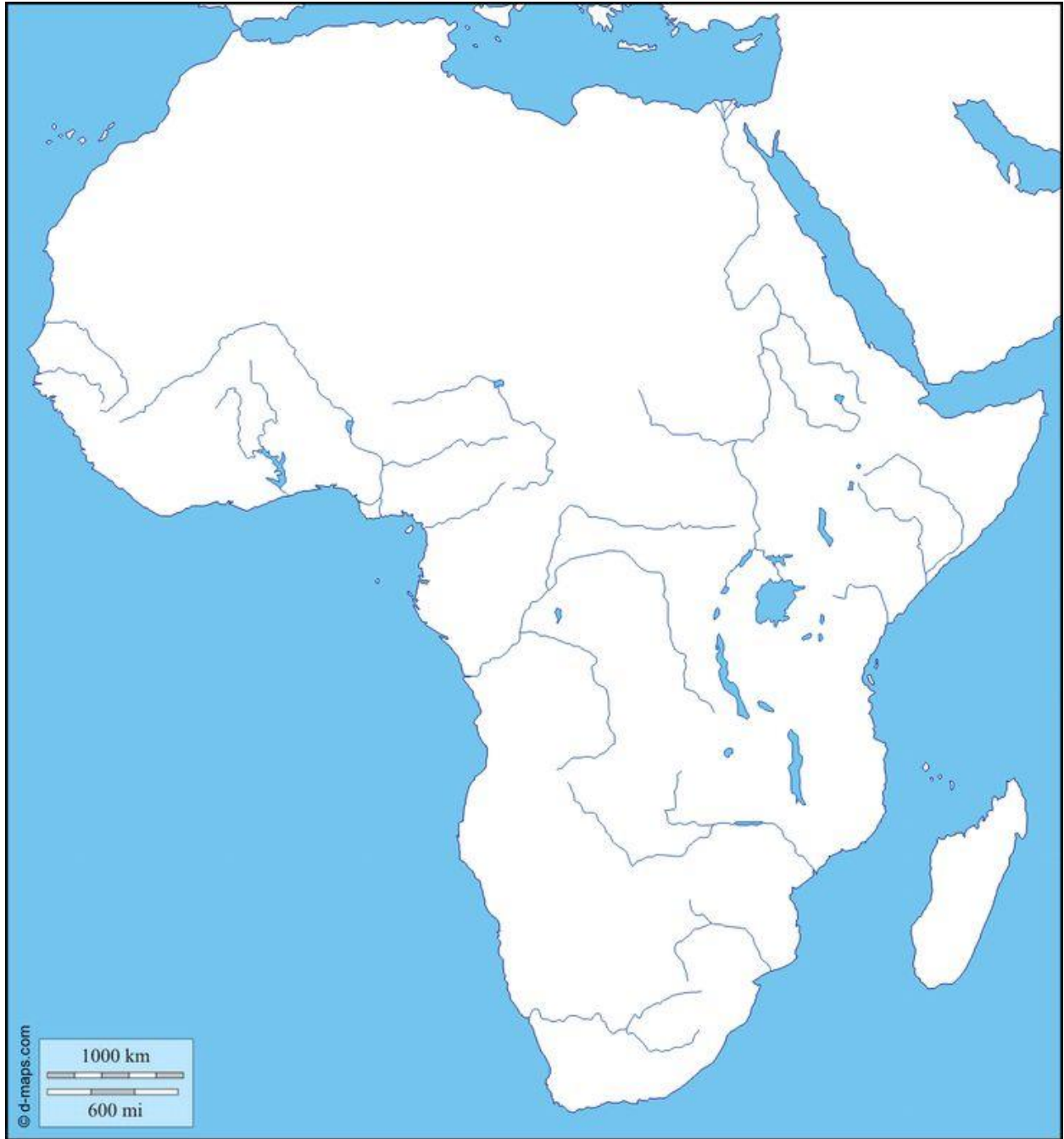


Netherlands (Mr. Yu)

Despite setbacks and invasions during the 18th century, the Netherlands has emerged as one of the richest European states in the world because of their embrace of the cultivation system in its East Asian colonies. This renewed wealth has brought the nation back from the brink of bankruptcy caused by the Napoleonic invasions and wars in Java, an island in southeast Asia. This growth in turn has spurred industrialization in the nation, but the lack of indigenous natural resources makes expansion into Africa even more important. With a focus on the Bantu-speaking areas of Southern Africa, mining operations have already developed and the Berlin Conference is critical to defending these interests.

Conference Goals:

- Complete and total control over **Southern Africa**
- Removal of British control from **Southern Africa**
- Access to natural mining resources such as iron, copper, diamonds, and gold in **Southern Africa**
- Access to trade goods such as rubber, cotton, tropical hardwoods, palm oil, and cocoa (located along the **Congo River**).
- You would also benefit from other territories, if the other nations will allow it... the more the merrier.
- Allowing each participating nation to have at least SOME gain

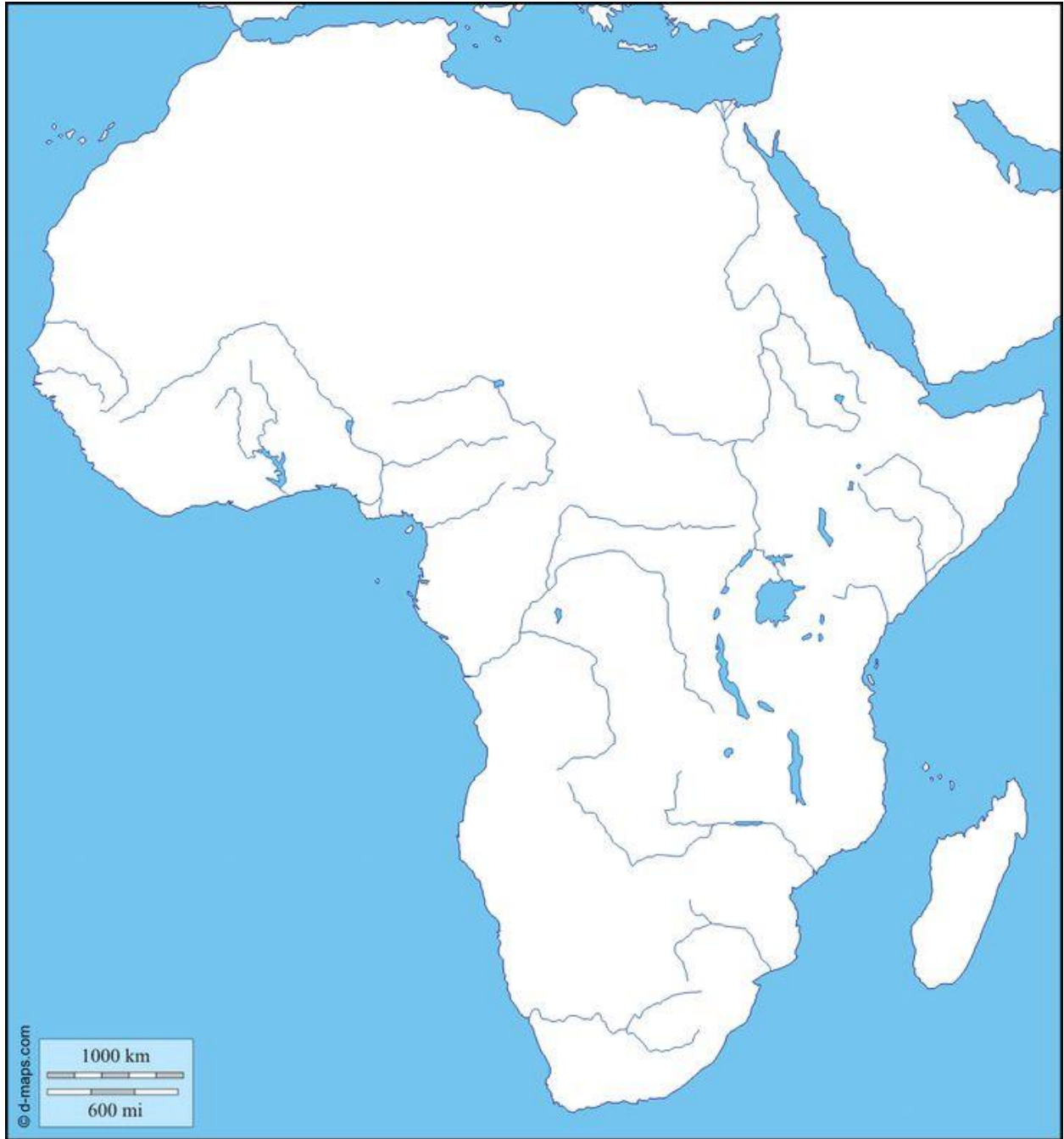


Portugal (Adalie)

Originally, one of the first great colonial powers, Portugal sent explorers across the world, claiming Brazil and establishing entrepôts (trade hubs) across the world. Now though, a slow decline has overtaken the empire. Beginning with the invasion of Napoleon's forces in 1807 and the declaration of independence of Brazil by Pedro I, Portugal now seeks to restore its colonial power and Africa can do just that for them. Seeking to expand colonial outposts in Africa to full nation-state status, the Berlin Conference will allow your nation to once again compete with other European powers.

Conference Goals:

- Uniting the presently existing colonies of **Angola** (on the Atlantic coast) with **Mozambique** (on the coast of the Indian Ocean) via the intervening east-west stripe of territory in between. This would go through a region known as the **Hinterland**.
- Access to trade goods such as rubber, cotton, tropical hardwoods, palm oil, and cocoa (located along the **Congo River**).
- Allowing each participating nation to have at least SOME gain.

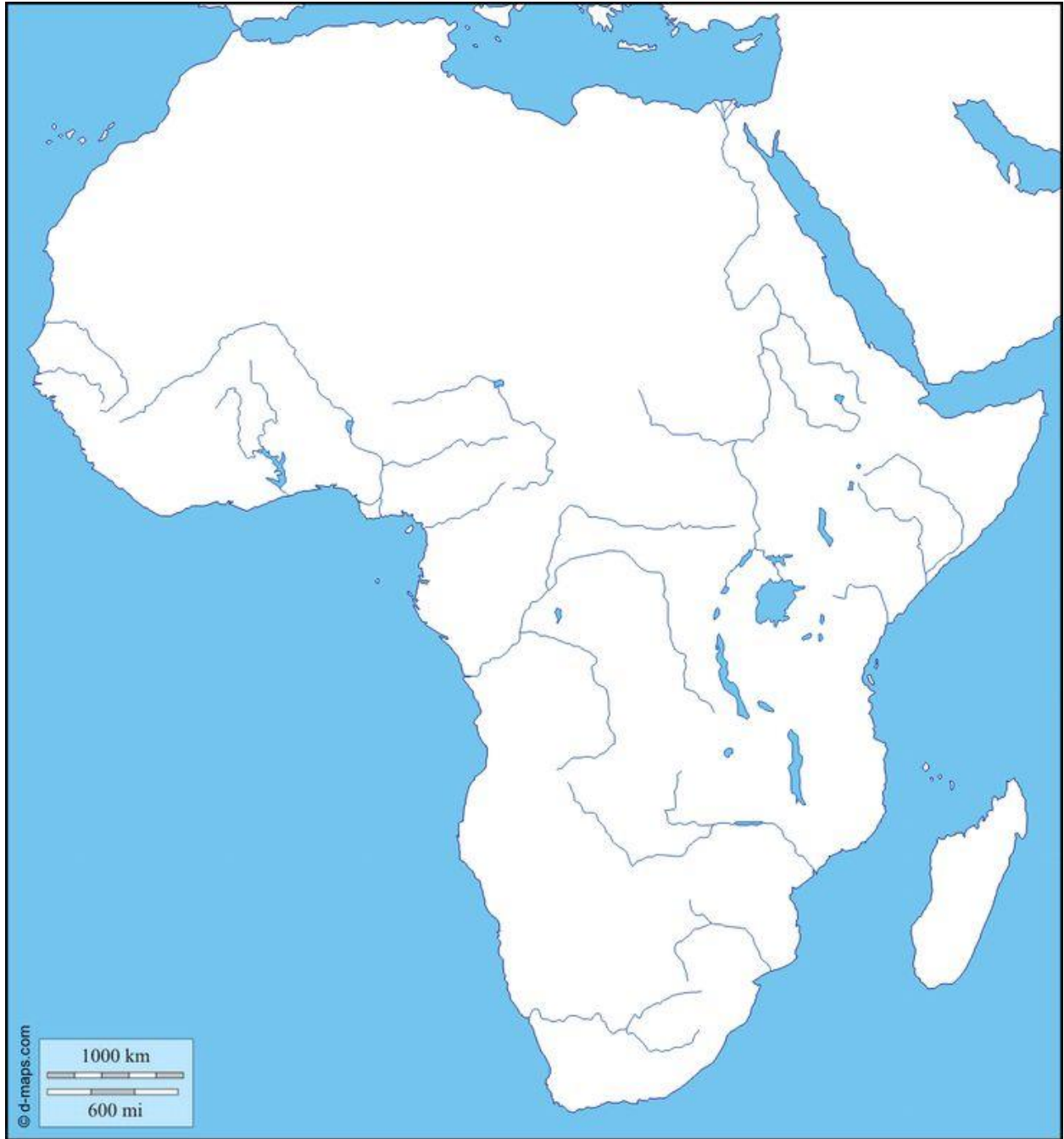


Great Britain (Tamsen and Juliana)

The reign of Queen Victoria has been glorious for the British people. After the loss of the American colonies to rebellion, your nation utilized their dominance of engineering and industry to facilitate the creation of an empire that is now unmatched. You are the most powerful of all the military and economic powers. Your empire now expands so far that it is said that the sun never sets on the British Empire, and Africa is the last remaining realm you seek to control. The British already have a presence in Southern Africa where colonists have clashed with Dutch-born Africans known as Boers, but you want even more. Funded and supported by visionaries like Cecil Rhodes, the imperial ambitions of Great Britain and the British Empire can fully be realized.

Conference Goals:

- Claim all of **Southern Africa** to gain access to precious minerals like gold, bauxite, and diamonds.
- Territorially connecting your northern colonies in the protectorate of **Egypt** to your possessions in **Southern Africa** for the construction of a future railroad across the continent from north to south. This would go through a region known as the **Hinterland**.
- Access to trade goods such as rubber, cotton, tropical hardwoods, palm oil, and cocoa (located along the **Congo River**).
- When forced, you would prefer to allocate territory to a minor European power (Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, or Portugal) rather than allow a major rival (France or Germany) to gain too much influence.
- Allowing each participating nation to have at least SOME gain.

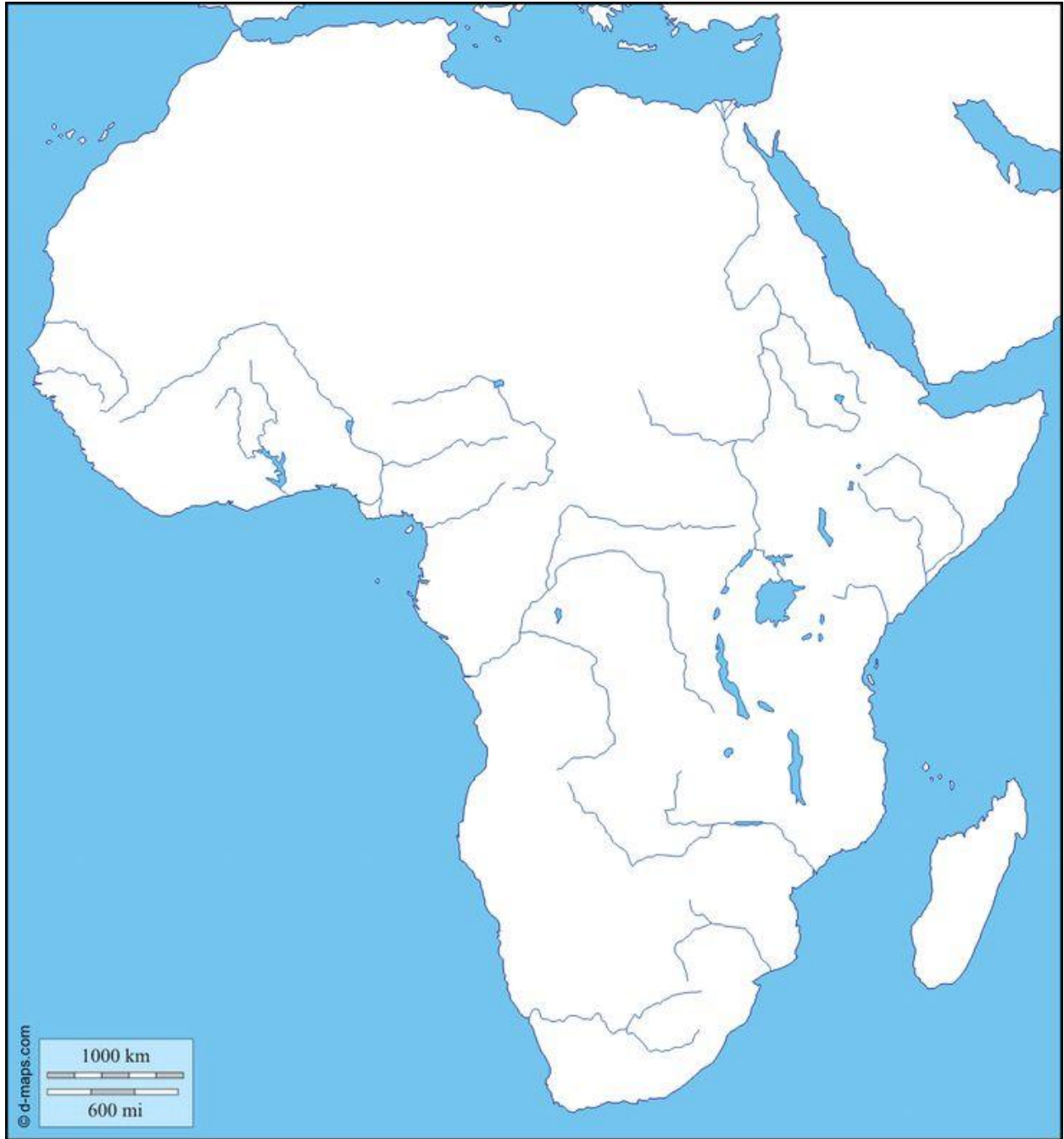


Germany (Micah and Brayden)

You came into the game late because you were not even a unified country until 1871. You have emerged as the major military power in Europe, you are very industrialized and you are interested in developing your world trade. You desire African colonies for their natural resources and for ports that will support your trade. Your pride as a major power demands that you have colonies like the other major powers... and that upstart Belgium has just grabbed a chunk of territory. You had better act fast.

Conference Goals:

- Declare a promise to end slavery among the African and Islamic powers, and get the other parties at the conference to join you. This will help generate public approval of the conference and its ambitions. Do this as early as possible.
- Serious territorial expansion so you'll be taken seriously by other European powers.
 - After doing some careful research, you have determined that the territories of **Namibia** in the southwest and **Tanzania** on the eastern coast can be picked up without any serious opposition.
 - You would also benefit from other territories, if the other nations will allow it... the more the merrier.
- Establish international free trade on the **Congo River**.
- When forced, you would prefer to allocate territory to a minor European power (Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, or Portugal) rather than allow a major rival (Britain or France) to gain too much influence.
- Allowing each participating nation to have at least SOME gain.



Italy (Adley)

Like Germany, you also came into the game late because you only recently unified. You are behind when it comes to industrialization, though you would like to have at least some territory on the African continent. If the rest of Europe are ever to take you seriously, you *need* some colonies.

Conference Goals:

- Any territorial acquisition so you'll be taken seriously by other European powers
 - Ottoman **Tunisia** has always been in Italy's economic sphere of influence. By all measures this region *should* go to Italy, though France increasingly shows interest...
 - **Libya** would be a fine acquisition, and it would serve as a buffer territory of sorts between the French and British. You should advertise your claim as such.
 - Control of land around the Horn of Africa in the easternmost tip of the continent is ideal. The desolate coastlands of **Eritrea** and **Somaliland** would be easy gains.
- Access to trade goods such as rubber, cotton, tropical hardwoods, palm oil, and cocoa (located along the **Congo River**).
- Allowing each participating nation to have at least SOME gain.

