

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

UNIT 6.1 | Rationales for Imperialism (Reasons for Imperialism)

Five Key Ideas

1. **Nationalism Drove Imperial Expansion** – Countries sought **colonies to increase power and prestige**.
2. **Cultural and Religious Justifications for Imperialism Emerged** – Europeans used **racist ideologies, Social Darwinism, and Christianity** to justify control over other nations.
3. **Economic Motivations Fueled Imperialism** – Industrialized nations **needed raw materials and new markets** for their goods.
4. **Companies Played a Major Role in Imperialism** – Corporations like the **British East India Company and Dutch East India Company** helped expand European influence.
5. **Competition Among Industrialized Nations Increased** – Nations raced to establish **colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific** to maintain economic and political dominance.

Major Vocabulary

- **Imperialism** – The policy of expanding a nation’s power through colonization and economic control.
- **Nationalism** – The belief in a nation’s superiority, often linked to expansion.
- **Social Darwinism** – The idea that some races were biologically superior and destined to rule others.
- **White Man’s Burden** – A belief that Europeans had a duty to “civilize” non-Europeans.
- **New Imperialism** – 19th-century expansion focused on **economic dominance** rather than direct settlement.

Intro

1. What justifications did Europeans use for imperialism?
2. How did Rudyard Kipling’s poem reflect imperialist attitudes?

Summary: Imperialists justified expansion by claiming it would help “inferior” people. They used nationalism, economic greed, religion, and racist ideologies to support colonization.

Nationalist Motives for Imperialism

3. What characterized most of the 1800s - why are countries wanting colonies?
4. How did the following try to assert their national pride through settlement:
 - Britain:
 - France:
 - Italy and Germany:
 - Spain:
 - Japan:

Summary: Countries used imperialism to assert power and identity. Britain, France, and Germany expanded empires to compete for global influence. Italy and Germany, newly unified, sought colonies for prestige.

Cultural and Religious Motives for Imperialism

5. How did Europeans justify imperialism using racist and cultural ideologies?
6. What role did missionaries play in imperialism?

Summary: Imperialists viewed non-Europeans as inferior and believed they had a duty to “civilize” them. Missionaries spread Christianity, Western education, and medicine to colonized peoples.

Economic Motives for Imperialism

7. How did industrialization increase European demand for colonies?
8. Why did European companies play a role in imperial expansion?

Summary: Industrialized nations needed raw materials (cotton, rubber, metals) and new markets for their goods. Companies helped establish colonies and trading posts to secure resources.