

**THEMES OF WORLD HISTORY**



**MODULE 7**

**MODERN REVOLUTIONS**

- French Revolution
- Russian Revolution
- American Revolution
- English Revolution of 1688

**FRENCH REVOLUTION**



### **Causes of French revolution:**

**1. Situation of Bankruptcy in France:** the state treasury in France was completely empty by 1786–88 mainly due to the activities of the higher social order and the king tried to tackle this by increasing the tax burden on the third estate (common people with no privilege); This proved to be a major reason of revolt.

**2. Impact of American revolution:** French soldiers that had returned from America after the revolution proved to be a major vehicle of transfer of progressive ideas to French society.

**3. Role of natural calamities:** During 1780's France was struck by a number of droughts and floods and the plight of the commoners was ignored by the royalty.

**4. Role of French philosophers:** France in the 18th century had many revolutionary thinkers.

Among them were Voltaire, Rousseau, Montesquieu and Diderot. Their revolutionary ideas encouraged people to fight for their rights. They exposed the inefficiency of the monarch and his government and aroused the people to challenge authority.

### **Rousseau**

- Rousseau articulated the idea of the '**social contract**', an unwritten agreement that exists between governments and individuals.
- He also articulated the concept of popular sovereignty, suggesting that the true power of government was derived from the consent of the people.

Popular sovereignty was a critical idea that was used to justify the American and French revolutions.

- The revolutionaries embraced Rousseau's belief that political systems, while never perfect, must strive to progress and improve.
- One of Rousseau's more contentious claims was that private property was an impediment to good political leadership. Property interests, Rousseau suggested, distracted politicians from their primary roles: representing the people and ensuring morality.
- Rousseau also advocated the concept of a civic religion, a religion to worship God and uphold morality rather than serve vested interests.

### **Voltaire**

- He was an admirer of English literature, particularly Shakespeare; its constitutional monarchy; its freedom of speech and the press; particularly the open criticism and mockery of political figures in London newspapers and pamphlets.
- He returned to France in 1729 and published Letters on the English Nation. It caused considerable controversy in France, comparing the English system with the French system and finding the latter wanting.
- Politically, Voltaire was no democrat. He had no faith in the ordinary people, who he considered apathetic and too concerned with trivialities.
- Voltaire was particularly severe on organized religion, which did not dominate or define English society as it did in France.
- Voltaire was also an advocate of religious tolerance. Throughout his life he was a fierce critic of the Catholic church, condemning its endemic corruption and the greed and depravity of high ranking clergymen.
- Supporters of the church damned Voltaire as a heretical atheist but like many other philosophes he was a deist.

### **Montesquieu**

- He was an enlightened nobleman turned political philosopher, responsible for articulating a clear explanation of the separation of government powers.
- His early writings reveal Montesquieu as a liberal, a deist and a supporter of

constitutional monarchy.

- He was less receptive to republicanism or democracy. Like other intellectual giants of his age, Montesquieu believed that government was best left to educated and enlightened elites.
- Common people, Montesquieu argued, were too shiftless and poorly equipped to discuss either law or the business of government.
- Montesquieu also believed that political systems must be organized so that those in government could not accumulate or abuse power.
- Montesquieu expanded on this point in his best known work 'The Spirit of the Laws'.
- He compared different systems of government, with particular focus on how each system protected individual liberty.
- Expanding on ideas previously explored by the English philosopher John Locke, Montesquieu decided the best means of protecting individual liberty was through the separation of government powers.
- The different functions of government – executive or monarchical, legislative and judicial – must be carried out by different people and different departments. The power of each branch of government must be limited, ideally by a constitution.

**Role of French peasants:** The peasants, many of whom owned land, had attained an improved standard of living and education and wanted to get rid of the last vestiges of feudalism so as to acquire the full rights of landowners and to be free to increase their holdings.

**Role of French bourgeoisie:** The increasingly numerous and prosperous elite of wealthy commoners—merchants, manufacturers, and professionals, often called the bourgeoisie—aspired to political power in those countries where it did not already possess it.

**Role of Monarchy:** the French monarchy, no longer seen as divinely ordained, was unable

## **French Revolution – Important Events:**

## **Meeting of the Estates General**

- The Estates General were reluctantly summoned by King Louis XVI in May of 1789 with an aim to solve the monarchy's financial crisis.
- There were three classes represented by the Estates General: the nobles, clergy and the rest of the population or the so-called Third Estate. Each estate had only one vote. As a result, the nobility and clergy could always overrule the Third Estate.
- Fearing they would be forced to bear the burden of the financial crisis, the members of the Third Estate decided to form their own National Assembly.
- After being locked out of the meeting of the Estates General, they moved to an indoor tennis court where they pledged the so-called Tennis Court Oath, vowing to remain there until a new constitution had been written.

## **Fall of the Bastille**

- In July 1789, an angry crowd marched on the Bastille, a medieval fortress in east Paris that was mostly housing political prisoners. To many people in France, it was considered as a symbol of the much-hated Louis' regime.
- The commander of the Bastille surrendered to the mob.
- King Louis XVI could no longer reverse the Revolution.
- The National Assembly became the de facto French government.

### March on Versailles

- Many people in Paris and the rest of France were hungry, unemployed and restless. In October,

A large crowd of protesters, mostly women, marched from Paris to the Palace of Versailles, convinced that the royal family and nobility there lived in luxury, oblivious to the hardships of the French people.

- They broke into the quarters of Queen Marie Antoinette. The crowd demanded bread and wanted to bring the King and his family back to Paris to "live among the people".
- Louis conceded to their demands and agreed to go to Paris with the mob, believing it would only be a temporary inconvenience.

- After some time the royal family decided to leave France and seek refuge in Austria, hoping to eventually be reinstated on the throne as absolute monarchs.
- Before leaving, Louis wrote a manifesto denouncing the Revolution.
- On June 20, 1791, the royal family quietly left Paris. They managed to get within a few miles of the border before being recognized in the town of Varennes and forced to go back.

### **Dissolution of the National Assembly**

- The long-awaited constitution finally came into effect on September 30, 1791. France was proclaimed a constitutional monarchy, while the National Assembly was dissolved and replaced by a new political body named the Legislative Assembly.
- No member of the National Assembly was elected to the new legislative body as it was agreed earlier that the members of the National Assembly would not be allowed to hold a seat in the new parliament.
- The result was the loss of everyone with valuable political experience.
- The Legislative Assembly was composed of various political factions, ranging from moderate royalists to radical republicans.

### **French Revolutionary Wars**

- The issue of war dominated the debate in the new Legislative Assembly. Tensions with the rest of Europe continued to rise. Revolutionary France was viewed with both fear and anger by the European monarchies, especially by the neighboring Austrian monarchy.
- #### **Attack on the Tuileries Palace**
- In spring and summer of 1792, the Austrian army and its Prussian allies started advancing into French territory.
  - The King was widely viewed as a traitor for trying to flee the country.
  - On August 10, a crowd of about 20,000 people attacked the Tuileries Palace.
  - The King and Queen had escaped the Palace and placed themselves under the protection of the Legislative Assembly. Fearing further violence, the Assembly placed them under arrest.

## Declaration of the Republic and the Trial of Louis

- Following the arrests of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, the Legislative Assembly disbanded and replaced itself with a new political body named the National Convention.
- The first act of the latter was to declare France as a republic on September 21, 1792. Meanwhile, the French military had halted the foreign invasion and pushed back the Austrians and Prussians.
- Louis was charged with treason. The vote at the end of the trial was unanimous: Louis was guilty.
- On January 21, 1793, Louis was driven through the streets of Paris to a guillotine and decapitated.
- Marie Antoinette was accused of numerous crimes. She too was found guilty and guillotined.

## **Reign of Terror**

- The new National Convention was dominated by the Committee of Public Safety.
- Robespierre came to dominate the Committee and established himself as the leader of the so-called Reign of Terror.
- Robespierre wanted to rid France of all enemies of the Revolution and to protect the “virtue” of the nation.
- From September 1793 to July 1794, an estimated 16,000 people were guillotined.
- Many radicals were executed along with moderates. Most leaders of the French Revolution were now either dead or had fled the republic.
- Opposition to Robespierre grew both in the Committee of Public Safety and within the National Convention.
- The execution of popular Committee member George-Jacques Danton and Robespierre proclaiming himself as the leader of a new religion of the Supreme Being caused much resentment. Robespierre was arrested and guillotined.

## **Directory and the Rise of Napoleon**

- After the dramatic fall of Robespierre, the National Convention created a new constitution for France that was implemented in 1795.



- Leading the new government was the Directory consisting of an executive council of five members.
- Almost from the start, the Directory became mired in corruption, political conflict, financial problems and depended on the army to remain in power.
- In 1799, a successful military commander named Napoleon Bonaparte returned from a military expedition in Egypt and ousted the Directory.
- Napoleon established what he called the Consulate and himself as the First Consul.

### **Consequences of the French Revolution:**

#### **Political**

- • Establishment of a New Order: A new order was established based on the 'Declaration of the Rights of Man'. The Declaration possesses a very important place in the history of man.
- • The idea of Republic: Although a permanent republic could not be established in France, nevertheless the French revolution marked an end of the ancient regime.
- • The main theme of the French Revolution was "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity". The new constitution proclaimed the doctrine of popular sovereignty as enshrined in Rousseau's Social Contract.
- • Spread of Nationalism: Napoleon's conquests had such a great impact that the revolutionary ideas of nationalism, patriotism and democracy spread throughout Europe.
- • End of monarchy: The Revolution of 1789 sealed the fate of monarchy, once for all. It paved the way for democracy. The cries of the constitution and Parliament rent the air in Europe and the kings were forced to grant them.
- • Independence for colonies in South and Central America: The wars with France weakened the European colonial powers like Spain and Portugal and their colonies in South and Central America declared themselves as independent.



- • Finally, the French revolution caused great political turbulence which could not be controlled except by one great man, Napoleon Bonaparte.

### **Social**

• Large scale emigration: In the short-term, France lost thousands of her countrymen in the form of emigrants who wished to escape political tensions and save their lives. The displacement of these Frenchmen led to a spread of French culture and ideas.

**Feudalism abolished:** The French Revolution abolished all elements of feudalism including serfdom. The privileges of the clergy and the nobility also came to an end.

### **Social Reforms:**

The National Assembly, followed by the National Convention, began several social and economic reforms.

- It abolished slavery and imprisonment for debt.
- Women were guaranteed protection in their property claims in common with men.
- New laws of inheritance were passed, by which all heirs were to inherit the property equally.
- Metric system: The Metric system was another effect of the Revolution, which was later adopted by the whole of Europe and some Asian countries too.
- The lands of the Church and the nobles were confiscated and these were bought by the middle classes who now became politically powerful.

### **Economic**

- Capitalism became the new economic system.
- Napoleonic Economic policies- economic unity under Napoleon, continental policy etc.

# RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

**“The Russian revolution was like a firecracker with a very long fuse. Even though the actual revolution was in 1917, the fuse had been burning for nearly half a century.”**

What were the conditions of Russia before the revolution? or What circumstances led to the Russian revolution?



## 1. Historical Causes:

- ❖ Even though serfdom had been abolished in 1861 it did not improve the conditions of peasants.
- ❖ Almost the entire Europe underwent political and economic transformation by becoming republics like France or constitutional monarchies like England. However, Russia was still living in the old world under the autocratic rule of Czars.
- ❖ Even though serfdom was abolished in 1861, it did not improve the condition of the peasants.
- ❖ They still had small land holdings with no capital to develop. Land hunger of the peasants was a major social factor in Russian society.

## 2. Economic cause:

- ❖ • Industrialisation began very late in Russia in the second half of the nineteenth century. More than half of the capital for investment came

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from foreign countries. But they showed no concern for the workers' conditions.

- ❖ • Whether factories were owned by foreigners or Russians, the conditions of work were horrible. Low wages, child labour was common.
- ❖ • Workers had no political rights and trade unions were outlawed.
- ❖ • By 1911, Stolypin's land reforms were starting to fail because of the rapid growth of peasantry and the inefficient farming techniques.
- ❖ • Whatever improvements had taken place post 1905, they were obviously not enough to remove all the pre-1905 grievances.
- ❖

### **3. Political causes:**

- ❖ • The Russian state under the Czars was completely unsuited to the needs of the modern times. Czars still believed in the divine right of kings
- ❖ • Alexander III- "Pogroms" organized violence against revolutionaries and Jews which broke out in many parts of Russia. With this the government alienated three most important groups: peasantry, industrial workers and the intelligentsia.
- ❖ • They imposed the use of the Russian language and tried to belittle the cultures of the people of these areas.
- ❖ • The Czar Nicholas announced his "October Manifesto" granting freedom of speech, press and association and conferred the power to make laws upon an elected body called "The Duma". But he soon relapsed into his old ways.
- ❖ • Many scandals took place especially royal family's association with Rasputin a self-imposed
- ❖ holy man who became the real power behind the throne.
- ❖ • Corruption resulted in great suffering to the people.
- ❖ • By 1912, Both Bolsheviks and Mensheviks revived

### **4. Ideology:**

- ❖ • Russian thinkers had been influenced by developments in Europe and wanted to see similar changes in Russia.
- ❖ • After the split in the Russian Social democratic labor party Mensheviks and Bolsheviks came into picture
- ❖ • Bolsheviks worked for the demands of peasantry

### **5. Military:**

- In the 1904 Russian-Japanese war, Russia suffered reverses in the war which strengthened the revolutionary movement in Russia.

### **Bloody Sunday (Revolution of 1905):**

1. In 1905 mass of peaceful workers with their wives and children were fired at in St.Petersburg while on their way to the winter palace to present a petition to the Czar
2. This incident provoked a wave of strikes all over the country and it was considered a dress rehearsal for the later revolution.
3. A new form of organization developed in this revolution which proved decisive in the upheaval of 1917.This was the "Soviet" or the council of workers representatives.

### **World War I failure:**

1. The Czarist state was incapable of waging a modern war and Russia entering WWI proved fatal and the breakdown of Russian autocracy.
2. 6,00,000 soldiers were killed. Russia's weak generals and poorly equipped troops were no match to the German army.
3. Poor transportation meant that arms and ammunition were slow to reach the front.

### **October Manifesto:**

- The concessions by Czar took the form of a promise named October manifesto after the 1905 revolution. Some of the provisions are: -

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- An elected parliament named “Duma” will be established
- Working conditions in the factories will be improved
- Workers pay will be hiked
- Cancellation of redemption payments by former serfs
- Greater freedom for press
- Promised a genuine democracy with Duma playing a greater role.

There are arguments which show that the 1917 revolution was not inevitable because:

- After 1906 the economy started improving
- As more factories came under the control of inspectors, working conditions of workers improved, industrial profits increased and insurance schemes were also started
- Peter Stolypin, the PM played a significant role by bringing in reforms like redemption payments were abolished, peasants were encouraged to buy their own land. As a result he thought that there emerged a class of comfortably well off peasants “**Kulaks**” on whom the government could rely for support against revolution.



### **Bolsheviks vs Mensheviks:**

- Bolsheviks under Lenin wanted a small, disciplined party of professional revolutionaries who would work full time to bring about revolution

- They believed they have to work with peasants and get them involved in the revolutionary activity
- Mensheviks were ready to have party membership open to anyone
- They believed that a revolution could not take place until Russia was fully industrialized and industrial workers were in a big majority over peasants. They did not believe much in peasants
- Mensheviks were strict Marxists but Bolsheviks moved a bit away from Marxism

### **The two revolutions: (February and October)**

In Russia, these revolutions are still known as February and October revolutions as the Russians were still using the old Julian calendar which was 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar used by the rest of Europe. Russia adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1918.

### **March Revolution: (February in Russia)**

o Bread riots: demonstrations of working class women trying to purchase bread were quickly joined by thousands of strikers from nearby factories.

o Demands made by the people were:

Peace, land to the tiller, control of industry by workers, equal status for non-Russian nationalities

o Czar's troops opened fire and 40 people got killed. Also, some of the troops refused to shoot and then the whole Petrograd garrison mutinied.

o Duma suggested Czar to setup a constitutional monarchy but he refused and sent more troops to restore order

o Czar abdicated the throne in favor of his brother listening to senior generals who believed that would save monarchy

o As his brother abdicated the throne, monarchy ended in Russia.

The March revolution was a spontaneous outburst of popular unrest which the imperial government did not handle well.

o Fall of Czar Nicholas II is known as February revolution

o A provisional government under Kerensky was set up but this government did not implement any demands and lost the support of the people.

## **October Revolution 1917: -**

o The failure of the provisional government led to October revolution where Bolsheviks did a coup and overthrew the government.

## **Consequences of the revolution:**

### **Political:**

- Overthrow of autocracy and destruction of aristocracy and the power of the church
- Czarist state got transformed into USSR and led to end of Czarist rule
- Policies of the new state were to be directed to the realization of the old socialist ideal from each according to his capacity to each according to his work

### **International:**

- First revolution in history which proclaimed the building of a socialist society as its objective. This had led to the creation of new states all across the globe.
- oFormation of communist parties in many countries of the world with the objective of bringing about revolution and following common policies

### **Rise of Russia as a world power:**

It also influenced movements for independence in Asia and gradually broadened the objectives of independence to include social and economic equality through planned economic development

### **Economic:**

1. oPrivate property was abolished
2. Economic planning by the state was adopted to build a technologically advanced economy
3. Right to work became a constitutional right



### **Social:**

- Education of the entire people was given a very high priority
- Promoting secularism, improvement in women conditions, class differences removed.

### **Cultural:**

- Equality of all the nationalities in the USSR was recognized in the constitution
- The constitution gave republics formed by the nationalities autonomy to develop

## **AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



### **Why did the Europeans move to America and settle there?**

After the discovery of the new continent, colonies of different European powers such as Spain, British, French moved to America and settled there. The reasons behind their migration are:

#### **Trade:**

- People and traders moved to America with the intention of earning profit
- Southern colonies such as Virginia and Georgia developed due to rapid spread of tobacco and cotton cultivation
- Jamestown settlement was started as a commercial venture

**• Religion:**

- To get religious freedom and get redemption from European prosecution.
- For instance, in Pennsylvania residents were free to worship as they pleased.

**Political:**

- People migrated from Europe to get rid of the wars of genocide going on constantly in Europe.
- To escape political tortures
- Dynasties that lost in civil war during Charles I such as Stuart dynasty emigrated to America
- Autocratic rule of German rulers impelled the Germans to settle in American colonies

**Social:-**

Poor were sold to the rich and the governing class and they were also used as slaves in war. To avoid such grievous fate people migrated to American colonies.

**How did the British become the sole ruler of the thirteen colonies?**

- The British colonies sprang up on the eastern part of the Present-day USA. They were promoted by chartered companies and were approved by the British crown.
- Jamestown in Virginia became the first British settlement in 1607.
- Many of the colonial settlements like New York which was New Amsterdam under Dutch, Delaware under Swedish control fell into the hands of the British
- With the exception of Connecticut and Rhode Island all the colonies had governors who were appointed by the King.
- All the colonies were under British protection

## Causes of American Revolution

### 1. Policy issues:

• Greenville's policy 1765: The prime minister Greenville framed the policies with the following

objectives:

- Only the English currency should be used for business transactions
- Direct taxes to be levied on colonies
- Customs reform:

He convinced British Parliament to pass a law allowing smugglers to be tried at the new vice admiralty court.

Unlike colonial courts where the judges were often sympathetic to smugglers but these courts were run by naval officers. Sending colonies to these courts also violated their right to a speedy trial.

### Sugar act 1764:

- Duty was imposed on molasses imported by the colonies. Despite efforts to smuggle colonist's activists were curbed.
- banned import of sugar from any other country except England
- This was to compel the colonists to contribute towards meeting the expenses
- of British troops stationed in the colonies.

### Stamp Act:

Colonists were required to register various legal documents walls and licenses by affixing revenue stamps.

§ Colonists protested by burning heaps of stamps and effigies of stamp collectors.

§ Stamps act congress at New York passed a resolution that British Parliament has no right to tax the colonies without their consent. This agitation brought about the unity of the nine colonies.

## Rockingham's declaratory act –

After repealing stamp act to show its authority Britain made this act showing that British parliament was fully empowered to impose taxes on America

### Townshend's tax project:

- The following have been passed by the British parliament and caused widespread uproar in the colonies as they boycotted British goods:
- Proposed duties on colonial imports on Glass, lead, paint, paper and tea.
- He also ordered the suspension of the New York assembly for not enforcing
- the Mutiny act of 1765.
- Violators of this act had to face trial in vice admiralty courts where they were presumed guilty.
- Also allowed officials to seize property under certain circumstances without due process

## 2. Administrative issues:

•When the colonies grew in size and importance, the British government wanted to gain further control over them. To rule over them governors were appointed but their salaries were to be borne by the colonial exchequer which angered colonists.

During the early period of the 18th century the colonies had developed to the extent that it was not possible to control their activities.

### The administrative setup of colonies consisted of 3 organs: -

- **Governor, Executive council of Governor, legislative assembly**
- Governor and his executive council were responsible to the emperor but the right of legislation and tax imposition was handed over to the legislative assembly elected by the immigrants. This created tension.
- Britain ordered settlers not to move beyond the traditional border on the western side.

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- This order made the fur traders and small farmers very angry.
- Businessmen also became disturbed as they hoped to buy western lands at cheaper price

### 3. Economic issues:

• During the mid 18th century trade was the basis of the British economy. The only importance of

The colonies were where certain raw materials were procured from them. Therefore England did not take any interest in the colonies life and administration

#### • **British Mercantilist policy:**

- A series of mercantilist regulations were passed by the British Parliament which restricted the scope of colonial exports and imports.
- For example, colonists were made to sell their goods only to the English merchants and to buy foreign goods after paying duty at an English port.
- Colonists were not allowed to compete with English manufacturers.
- This caused widespread resentment and taxes were also evaded by the colonists.
- American business was still under the control of England and farmers were burdened with the debts of English money lenders so they felt breaking relations with England would let them be free of debt.
- England wanted to exploit the colonies to the maximum to save itself from financial bankruptcy but the colonies wanted to expand and run their businesses themselves.

Also conflicting views arose when Britain tried to make good her financial deficit by resorting to taxing the colonies.

Britain's view was that as it protected the colonies during the Seven years' war, it was justified for the colonies to share some part of its financial burden.

But colonies rejected this view as war on the continent had been fought and financed by them and therefore Britain should not impose taxes.

Certain trading laws passed by the British against the colonies further worsened the situation:

**Navigation laws:**

The acts made it mandatory that commodities had to be transported through the British ships only

**Trading regulations**

Some commodities produced in the American colonies had to be exported to England only

**Industrial regulations:**

§ Industries were suppressed through industrial regulations, British Parliament banned the export of woolen goods

Task of deploying military for security of colonists and imposing new taxes was not very welcome by the colonists and this led colonists gave the slogan “No taxation without representation”

**4. Ideology clash:**

Colonists did not intend to snap political connection with England but at the same time they wanted autonomy and equality.

- Americans did not want absolute authority of the British parliament and they wanted to be treated equally.
- Education and journalism cultivated a new outlook towards life and produced the spirit of nationality among people within a century after the formation of colonies in America.
- The American revolutionaries were inspired by the ideas of the English philosophers of the 17th century. These philosophers Locke, Harrington, Milton believed that men had certain fundamental rights which no government had the right to infringe.

**5. Military:**

- The England–French war benefited Americans immensely. This war developed their industries and quality of life.

- The long war with the French strained Britain's resources to such an extent that her government started imposing heavy duties on her manufactured goods.
- Also when the French lost Canada to Britain after the Seven Years' war, the colonists heaved a sigh of relief. This change in the situation that they are no longer under the French attack gave them courage and began articulating their views boldly which was not what the British expected or wanted.

### **Boston Massacre:**

o Britain dispatched roughly 1000 troops to Boston to maintain order. The British opened fire at the crowd and some people died. This shooting came to be known as the Boston massacre.

## **6. Immediate causes:**

- Lord North's tea policy and his other policies:
- To break the unity of the colonies, he repealed all Townshend duties except on tea because of two reasons:
- The British government wanted to uphold its right to tax the colonies despite
- opposition
- He tried to help East India Company by disposing of its large stock of tea by selling them to the colonists
- A strong movement was launched against this which was called the Boston tea party.
- In 1774 British parliament passed four more coercive acts:

### **Boston port act:**

The port was shut until the city paid for the tea that had been destroyed.

Massachusetts Government act required all council members, judges and sheriffs in this city to be appointed by governor instead of being elected.

Administration of justice act allowed the governor to transfer the trials of British soldiers and officials to Britain to protect them from American juries.



New quartering act required local officials to provide lodging for British soldiers in private homes if necessary. These acts violated several traditional English rights.

### **Quebec Act:**

Another coercive act aimed at the protestants in the colonies. These colonists who were interested in acquiring western lands considered it as a serious obstacle to westward progress.

### **Boston Tea party:**

At Boston harbor Samuel Adams and his followers disguised themselves as Mohawk Indians and stealthily made entry into East India company godowns and threw all the chests of tea in water. This was repeated in other ports as well.

### **First continental congress 1774:**

To deal with the intolerable acts of the British Parliament which endangered the liberties of every colony. This congress was formed.

A petition was sent to George III to redress their grievances.

Continental association was formed with the purpose of stopping all trade with Britain Also had approved steps to be taken to prepare for war

- The people of Massachusetts gathered arms and ammunition and trained **“minutemen”** but British troops destroyed the ammunition and the minutemen in Battle of Lexington

In the Battle of Concord, the British also suffered casualties and their atrocities soon spread like wildfire and resulted into war.

Battle of Bunker hill gave the confidence to the colonists that they can stand up against British Military

### **Second continental congress 1776:**

Delegates from all colonies except Georgia decided to go for war.

The British retaliated with a Prohibitory Act which closed the colonies to international trade. This congress decided to break with the mother country by appointing a committee to draft a formal declaration of American independence.

o Up to this time the colonists had been fighting for their rights as Englishmen.

### **After**

In the Declaration in 1776, they fought for their right to be an independent nation.

### **What circumstances led to the defeat of England?**

#### **Political:**

- ❖ Revolt against England was a very planned one and very well organized
- ❖ George III wanted absolute rule over colonies. With his increasing despotism, the honest leaders departed with the government.
- ❖ The British government overlooked colonial problems rather than solving them. There was no proper plan and strategy followed by the British government. Britain leaders were unable to direct it efficiently in the war.
- ❖ Competent and efficient leadership under George Washington contributed to the success of the colonists
- ❖ France supported colonies openly in 1778 to avenge the defeat of the Seven years' war.

It lent money and sent her volunteers to America.

The French navy also played a decisive role during the crucial stages of the war. Even Spain and Holland extended help. This weakened the position of England.

In 1781, the British army was surrounded by French and American armies. Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington.

#### **Economical:**

o British traders and some leaders were not in favor of fighting with America.

#### **Geographical:**

- o As England is very far from America, British soldiers had to face great hardship in the absence of local cooperation.
- o Lack of communication and fresh reinforcements weakened the British army which had the problem of effectively controlling the territories it had conquered.

### **Military:**

- British commanders committed many mistakes and this played a critical role in the success of colonists. British forces lacked the skill of dealing with guerrilla warfare.
- For instance, General Howe left New York for the south not knowing that he had to meet Burgoyne
- The defeat of the British at Saratoga proved to be a turning point in favor of the colonists.

### **Paris Pact (1783)**

War of American independence ended with the settlement of Paris pact important provisions are:

- England recognized the independence of 13 American colonies
- France obtained from England some of its colonies from all around the world
- Boundary of America was demarcated along the river Ohio.
- And ultimately the declaration of independence was framed in 1789 after many discussions.

### **American constitution:**

- Before the American constitution came into force in 1789 the 13 British colonies became practically independent states and sovereign following the declaration of independence in 1776.

- The federalists and the Anti-federalists arrived at a compromise regarding the amendments to be made to the constitution before the approval of the congress. These amendments came in the form of the Bill of Rights.
- In 1781, as states of the United States, they united through a plan for a national government.

A constitutional convention was called in Philadelphia to frame a new constitution, which came into effect in 1789.

- The American constitution established a republican form of government.
- The American Constitution set up a federal system under which powers were divided between a central or federal government and the state governments.
- Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, and his followers campaigned for the addition of a Bill of Rights to the federal constitution.
- The constitution marked the emergence of the United States of America as a nation in world
- The constitution gives a free rein to the philosophy of individualism by giving the right to property.

## **Nature of the revolution:**

### **• Highly reformative:**

It divided the people into 2 classes i.e., loyalists and patriots and put the whole country into these camps

- Not only confined to America but had connections with other countries as well. For instance Paris pact not only dealt with independence of America but also ceded some territories to France and Spain
- It gave the first defeat to imperialism and placed doctrines of nationality and secularism before human society.
- Middle class and women played a very important role .The Constitution assembly was also dominated by the middle class.
- The streak of class struggle is clearly visible in this revolution

## **Significance of American revolution: -**

### **• Political: -**

It gave a new turn to the political life of America as well as rejuvenated her social, religious and cultural organizations

Democracy was promoted and for the first time it gave the public right to vote. Struck a great blow to the absolute monarchy and aristocratic supremacy. The powers of the king were restricted and those of the cabinet were revived.

o Royal interference was kept at low level henceforth in Britain.

### **• Economical: -**

- It removed the obstacles that came in the way of capitalist economy and encouraged its growth.
- The mercantilist theory that colonies exist for the benefit of the mother country came to be very much criticized. Britain changed her policies to other colonies considerably.
- American agriculture was greatly influenced by the revolution as it boosted
- production. Big landlords' estates were fragmented into small pieces and handed over to the people of lower and middle classes

### **Industries were benefited in two ways:**

- American industries got rid of the mercantilist restriction imposed by England.
- The development of colonial industries was boosted as imports from England stopped during the war.

### **Navigation:**

- ❖ Because of the revolution parts of American colonies were open to the world for trade
- ❖ Private navigation was promoted by the revolution. Private companies made a valuable contribution

### **International:**

It paved the way for the French revolution and played a great role .The key concepts of French revolution –liberty ,equality and fraternity are inferred from the American struggle.

Indian nationalists were inspired by the revolution too

**Social:**

- Realized the great importance of education. It was soon realized that educated voters were a must for democracy
- America took initiative in improving the condition of women.
- Thousands of enslaved African Americans obtained their freedom during the revolution.

## English Revolution of 1688



In the **Glorious Revolution** of November 1688 James II and VII, king of England, Scotland and Ireland was deposed and replaced by his daughter Mary II and her husband, stadtholder William III of Orange, the de facto ruler of the Dutch Republic. The term was first used by John Hampden in late 1689.Historian Jeremy Black suggests it can be seen as both the last successful invasion of England and also an internal coup.

- Despite his Catholicism, James became king in February 1685 with widespread support as many feared his exclusion would lead to a repetition of the 1638–1651 Wars of the Three Kingdoms.
- Over the next three years, he alienated his supporters by suspending the Scottish and English Parliaments in 1685 and ruling by personal decree. Despite this, it was considered a short-term issue, as James was 52, and

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since his second marriage was childless after 11 years, the heir presumptive was his Protestant daughter Mary.

- Two events in June 1688 turned dissent into a political crisis. The first was the birth of James Francis Edward on 10 June, displacing Mary as heir which created the prospect of a Catholic dynasty.
- The second was the prosecution of the Seven Bishops on 15 June; one in a series of perceived assaults on the Church of England, their acquittal on the 30th sparked anti-Catholic riots and destroyed James's political authority.
- The combination persuaded a broad coalition of English politicians to issue an Invitation to William, inviting him to intervene militarily to protect the Protestant religion.
- With Louis XIV of France preparing to attack the Dutch, William viewed this as an opportunity to secure English resources for the Nine Years' War, which began in September 1688. On 5 November, he landed in Brixham in Torbay with 14,000 men.
- As he advanced on London, most of the 30,000-strong Royal Army joined him. James went into exile on 23 December and in April 1689, Parliament made William and Mary joint monarchs of England and Ireland. A separate but similar Scottish settlement was made in June.
- While the Revolution itself was quick and relatively bloodless, pro-Stuart revolts in Scotland and Ireland caused significant casualties. Although Jacobitism persisted into the late 18th century, the Revolution ended a century of political dispute by confirming the primacy of Parliament over the Crown, a principle established in the Bill of Rights 1689.
- The Toleration Act 1688 granted freedom of worship to nonconformist Protestants, but restrictions on Catholics contained in the 1678 and 1681 English and Scottish Test Acts remained in force until 1828;
- while religious prohibitions on the monarch's choice of spouse were removed in 2015, those applying to the monarch remain



## MODULE 8

### **IMPERIALISM AND STRUGGLE FOR COLONIES**



Although the Industrial Revolution and nationalism shaped European society in the nineteenth century, imperialism—the domination by one country or people over another group of people—dramatically changed the world during the latter half of that century.

Imperialism did not begin in the nineteenth century. From the sixteenth to the early nineteenth century, an era dominated by what is now termed **Old Imperialism**, European nations sought trade routes with the Far East, explored the New World, and established settlements in North and South America as well as in Southeast Asia.

They set up trading posts and gained footholds on the coasts of Africa and China, and worked closely with the local rulers to ensure the protection of European economic interests. Their influence, however, was limited.

In the Age of **New Imperialism** that began in the 1870s, European states established vast empires mainly in Africa, but also in Asia and the Middle East.

Unlike the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century method of establishing settlements, the new imperialists set up the administration of the native

areas for the benefit of the colonial power. European nations pursued an aggressive expansion policy that was motivated by economic needs that were created by the Industrial Revolution.

Between 1870 and 1914, Europe went through a **“Second Industrial Revolution,”** which quickened the pace of change as science, technology, and industry spurred economic growth. Improvements in steel production revolutionized shipbuilding and transportation. The development of the railroad, the internal combustion engine, and electrical power generation contributed to the growing industrial economies of Europe and their need to seek new avenues of expansion.

The expansion policy was also motivated by political needs that associated empire building with national greatness, and social and religious reasons that promoted the superiority of Western society over **“backward” societies.**

Through the use of direct military force, economic spheres of influence, and annexation, European countries dominated the continents of Africa and Asia. By 1914, Great Britain controlled the largest number of colonies, and the phrase, **“the sun never sets on the British Empire,”** described the vastness of its holdings. Imperialism had consequences that affected the colonial nations, Europe, and the world. It also led to increased competition among nations and to conflicts that would disrupt world peace in 1914.

### **Old Imperialism**

European imperialism did not begin in the 1800s. In their efforts to find a direct trade route to Asia during the age of Old Imperialism, European nations established colonies in the Americas, India, South Africa, and the East Indies, and gained territory along the coasts of Africa and China. Meanwhile, Europe’s Commercial Revolution created new needs and desires for wealth and raw materials. Mercantilists maintained that

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colonies could serve as a source of wealth, while personal motives by rulers, statesmen, explorers, and missionaries supported the imperial belief in **“Glory, God, and Gold.”**

By 1800, Great Britain was the leading colonial power with colonies in India, South Africa, and Australia. Spain colonized Central and South America. France held Louisiana and French Guinea, and Holland built an empire in the East Indies.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, colonialism became less popular. The Napoleonic Wars, the struggle for nationalism and democracy, and the cost of industrialization exhausted the energies of European nations.

Many leaders also thought that the costs to their respective empires outweighed the benefits, especially the cost of supervising the colonies. However, in the mid-nineteenth century, Europe—especially Great **Britain and France**—began an economic revival. During the Victorian Era, which lasted from 1837 to 1901, Great Britain became an industrial giant, providing more than 25 percent of the world’s output of industrial goods. In France, Napoleon’s investment in industry and large-scale ventures, such as railroad building, helped to promote prosperity. Thus the Industrial Revolution stirred ambitions in many European countries and renewed their confidence to embark on a path of aggressive expansion overseas.

### **New Imperialism**



From the late 1800s through the early 1900s, Western Europe pursued a policy of imperialism that became known as New Imperialism. This New Imperialist Age gained its impetus from economic, military, political, humanitarian, and religious reasons, as well as from the development and acceptance of a new theory—Social **Darwinism**— and advances in technology.

### Economic Reasons

By 1870, it became necessary for European industrialized nations to expand their markets globally in order to sell products that they could not sell domestically on the continent. Businessmen and bankers had excess capital to invest, and foreign investments offered the incentive of greater profits, despite the risks. The need for cheap labor and a steady supply of raw materials, such as oil, rubber, and manganese for steel, required that the industrial nations maintain firm control over these unexplored areas.

Only by directly controlling these regions, which meant setting up colonies under their direct control, could the industrial economy work effectively—or so the imperialists thought. The economic gains of the new imperialism were limited, however, because the new colonies were too poor to spend money on European goods.

### Military and Political Reasons

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Leading European nations also felt that colonies were crucial to military power, national security, and nationalism.

Military leaders claimed that a strong navy was necessary in order to become a great power. Thus, naval vessels needed military bases around the world to take on coal and supplies. Islands or harbors were seized to satisfy these needs. Colonies guaranteed the growing European navies safe harbors and coaling stations, which they needed in time of war. National security was an important reason for Great Britain's decision to occupy Egypt.

Protecting the Suez Canal was vital for the British Empire. The Suez Canal, which formally opened in 1869, shortened the sea route from Europe to South Africa and East Asia.

To Britain, the canal was a lifeline to India, the jewel of its empire. Many people were also convinced that the possession of colonies was an indication of a nation's greatness; colonies were status symbols. According to nineteenth-century German historian, Heinrich von Treitschke, all great nations should want to conquer barbarian nations.

### **Humanitarian and Religious Goals**

Many Westerners believed that Europe should civilize their little brothers beyond the seas. According to this view, non-whites would receive the blessings of Western civilization, including medicine, law, and Christianity.

**Rudyard Kipling** (1865–1936) in his famous poem, "The White Man's Burden" expressed this mission in the 1890s when he prodded Europeans to take up "their moral obligation" to civilize the uncivilized. He encouraged them to "Send forth the best ye breed to serve your captives' needs." Missionaries supported colonization, believing that

European control would help them spread Christianity, the true religion, in Asia and Africa.

### **Social Darwinism**

In 1859, Charles Darwin (1809–1882) published *On the Origin of Species*. Darwin claimed that all life had evolved into the present state over millions of years. To explain the long slow process of evolution, Darwin put forth the theory of natural selection. Natural forces selected those with physical traits best adapted to their environment.

Darwin never promoted any social ideas. The process of natural selection came to be known as survival of the fittest. The Englishman Herbert Spencer (1820–1903) was the first to apply **“survival of the fittest”** to human societies and nations. Social Darwinism fostered imperialistic expansion by proposing that some people were more fit (advanced) than others. The Europeans believed that they, as the white race, were dominant and that it was only natural for them to conquer the “inferior” people as nature’s way of improving mankind. Thus, the conquest of inferior people was just, and the destruction of the weaker races was nature’s natural law.

### **Western Technology**

Superior technology and improved medical knowledge helped to foster imperialism. Quinine enabled Europeans to survive tropical diseases and venture into the mosquito-infested interiors of Africa and Asia. The combination of the steamboat and the telegraph enabled the Western powers to increase their mobility and to quickly respond to any situations that threatened their dominance. The rapid-fire machine gun also gave them a military advantage and was helpful in convincing Africans and Asians to accept Western control. The following table summarizes the causes of the new imperialism:

## **Imperialism in Africa**

Africa was known as the Dark Continent and remained unknown to the outside world until the late nineteenth century because its interior—desert, mountains, plateaus, and jungles—discouraged exploration. Britain's The occupation of Egypt and Belgium's penetration of the Congo started the race for colonial possessions in Africa.

### **Suez Canal**

In 1875, Britain purchased a controlling interest in the Suez Canal from the bankrupt ruler of Egypt who was unable to repay loans that he had contracted for the canal and modernization. of the country. The French, who organized the building of the Suez Canal under Ferdinand de Lesseps in 1859, owned the other shares. The Suez Canal was important because it shortened the route from Europe to South and East Asia. The canal also provided a lifeline to India, which Britain had made part of the British Empire in 1858.

In 1882, Britain established a protectorate over Egypt, which meant that the government leaders were officials of the Ottoman Empire, but were really controlled by Great Britain. The British occupation of Egypt, the richest and most developed land in Africa, set off "African fever" in Europe. To ensure its domination and stability in the area, Great Britain extended its control over Sudan as well.

### **Exploration of the Congo**

In 1878, Leopold II of Belgium (b. 1835, ruled 1865–1909) sent Anglo-American newspaperman Henry Stanley (1841–1904), to explore the Congo and establish trade agreements with leaders in the Congo River basin. Stanley, in 1871, had "found" the great Scottish explorer and missionary David Livingstone (1813–1873), who had traveled



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throughout Africa for over thirty years. When several years passed without a word from him, it was feared that he was dead. Stanley was hired in 1869 by the New York Herald, an American newspaper to find Livingstone. His famous greeting, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume" became legendary, even though there is some question about its authenticity. Stanley's account of their meeting made headlines around the world and helped make him famous.

Stanley eventually sold his services to Leopold II, who had formed a financial syndicate entitled The International African Association. A strong-willed monarch, Leopold II's intrusion into the Congo area raised questions about the political fate of Africa south of the Sahara. Other European nations were fearful that Belgium wanted to extend control over the entire area.

### **The Scramble for Africa**

Otto von Bismarck (1815–1898), Chancellor of Germany, and Jules Ferry (1832–1893), Premier of France and considered the builder of the modern French Empire, organized an international conference in Berlin to lay down the basic rules for colonizing Africa. The Berlin Conference (1884–1885) established the principle that European occupation of African territory had to be based on effective occupation that was recognized by other states, and that no single European power could claim Africa. The Berlin Conference led to the "Scramble for Africa."

Between 1878 and 1914, European powers divided up the entire African continent except for the independent countries of Ethiopia and Liberia. Liberia was settled by free slaves from the United States and became an independent republic in 1847. Ethiopia, which was already independent, routed an Italian invasion in 1896.

Defeating the Italians assured that the country would stay independent. European countries divided Africa as follows:

### **France**



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The French had the largest colonial empire in Africa, over 31 million square miles, half of which contained the Sahara Desert. In 1830, France had conquered Algeria in North Africa. Between 1881 and 1912, France acquired Tunisia, Morocco, West Africa, and Equatorial Africa. At its height, the French Empire in Africa was as large as the continental United States.

### **Great Britain**

Britain's holdings in Africa were not as large as France's but it controlled the more populated regions, particularly of southern Africa, which contained valuable mineral resources such as diamonds and gold. In 1806, the British displaced Holland in South Africa and ruled the Cape Colony. However, the British soon came into conflict with the Boers (farmers), the original Dutch settlers who resented British rule. In the 1830s, the Boers left British territory, migrated north, and founded two republics—the Orange Free State and Transvaal. The Boers soon came into conflict with the powerful Zulus, a native-African ethnic group, for control of the land. When the Zulus and the Boers were unable to win a decisive victory, the British became involved in The Zulu Wars and eventually destroyed the Zulu empire. In 1890, Cecil Rhodes (1853–1902), who was born in Great Britain and had become a diamond mine millionaire, became prime minister of the Cape Colony. He wanted to extend the British African Empire from Cape Town to Cairo and decided to annex the Boer Republic.

### **In the Boer War (1899–1902),**

The British, with great difficulty, defeated the Boers and annexed the two republics. In 1910, Britain combined its South African colonies into the Union of South Africa. Whites ran the government, and the Boers, who outnumbered the British, assumed control. This system laid the foundation for racial segregation that would last until the 1990s.

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### Germany

Late unification delayed Germany's imperialistic ventures, but it also wanted its place in the sun. Germany took land in eastern and southwestern Africa.

### Italy

Italy was another late entry into the imperialistic venture. Italy took control of Libya, Italian Somaliland, and Eritrea, which is the northernmost province of Ethiopia, near the Red Sea. Italy's efforts to gain control of Ethiopia ended in bitter defeat.

### Portugal

Portugal carved out large colonies in Angola and Mozambique.

The British took control of India in 1763, after defeating the French in the Seven Years' War (1756–1763).

The British controlled India through the British East India Company, which ruled with an iron hand. In 1857, an Indian revolt, led by native soldiers called sepoys, led to an uprising known as the Sepoy Mutiny. After suppressing the rebellion, the British government made India part of the empire in 1858, as mentioned previously. The British introduced social reforms, advocated education, and promoted technology. Britain profited greatly from India, which was called the **"Crown Jewel of the British Empire."** The Indian masses, however, continued to live close to starvation and the British had little respect for the native Indian culture.

The Dutch held the Dutch East Indies and extended their control over Indonesia, while the French took over Indochina (Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam). The Russians also got involved and extended their control over the area of Persia (Iran).

### China

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Since the seventeenth century, China had isolated itself from the rest of the world and refused to adopt Western ways. The Chinese permitted trade but only at the Port of Canton, where the rights of European merchants were at the whim of the emperor. Imperialism in China began with the First Opium War (1839–1842), when the Chinese government tried to halt the British from importing opium. This resulted in a war in which Britain's superior military and industrial might easily destroyed the Chinese military forces. The Treaty of Nanking (1842) opened up five ports to the British, gave Britain the island of Hong Kong, and forced China to pay a large indemnity.

In 1858, China was forced to open up eleven more treaty ports that granted special privileges, such as the right to trade with the interior of China and the right to supervise the Chinese customs offices. Foreigners also received the right of extraterritoriality, which meant that Western nations maintained their own courts in China and Westerners were tried in their own courts.

Between 1870 and 1914, the Western nations carved China into spheres of influence, areas in which outside power claimed exclusive trading rights. France acquired territory in southwestern China, Germany gained the Shandong Peninsula in northern China, Russia obtained control of Manchuria and a leasehold over Port Arthur, and the British took control of the Yangzi valley. The United States, which had not taken part in carving up China because it feared that spheres of influence might hurt U.S. commerce, promoted the Open Door Policy in 1899.

John Hay, the American Secretary of State, proposed that equal trading rights to China be allowed for all nations and that the territorial integrity of China be respected. The imperial nations accepted this policy in

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principle but not always in practice. For the United States, however, the Open Door Policy became the cornerstone of its Chinese policy at the beginning of the twentieth century.

By the 1900s, China was in turmoil. There was rising sentiment against foreigners because China had been forced to give up so many political and economic rights. This anti-foreign sentiment exploded into the Boxer Rebellion or Uprising (1899–1901). The Boxers were a secret Chinese nationalist society supported by the Manchu government, and their goal was to drive out all foreigners and restore China to isolation. In June 1900, the Boxers launched a series of attacks against foreigners and Chinese Christians. They also attacked the foreign embassies in Beijing. The imperialistic powers sent an international force of 25,000 troops to crush the rebellion, which ended within two weeks. The Boxer Rebellion failed, but it convinced the Chinese that reforms were necessary. In 1911, revolutions broke out across the country and the Manchu emperor was overthrown. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen (1866–1925), the father of modern China, proclaimed a republic and was named the new president. He advocated a three-point program of nationalism (freeing China from imperial control); democracy (elected government officials); and livelihood (adapting Western industrial and agricultural methods). The Chinese republic faced many problems and for the next thirty-seven years, China would continue to be at war with itself and with foreign invaders.

### **Japan**

Japan was the only Asian country that did not become a victim of imperialism. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Japanese expelled Europeans from Japan and closed Japanese ports to trade with the outside world,

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allowing only the Dutch to trade at Nagasaki. In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry (1806–1858), an American naval officer, led an expedition to Japan. He convinced the shogun, a medieval-type ruler, to open ports for trade with the United States. Fearful of domination by foreign countries, Japan, unlike China, reversed its policy of isolation and began to modernize by borrowing from the West. The Meiji Restoration, which began in 1868, sought to replace the feudal rulers, or the shogun, and increase the power of the emperor. The goal was to make Japan strong enough to compete with the West. The new leaders strengthened the military and transformed Japan into an industrial society.

The Japanese adopted a constitution based on the Prussian model with the emperor as the head. The government was not intended to promote democracy but to unite Japan and make it equal to the West. The leaders built up a modern army based on a draft and constructed a fleet of iron steamships.

The Japanese were so successful that they became an imperial power. In the Sino-Japanese War of 1894–95, Japan defeated China and forced her to give up her claims in Korea. Japan also gained control of its first colonies—Taiwan and the Pescadores Islands—and shocked the world by defeating Russia in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–1905. Japan's victory was the first time that an Asian country had defeated a European power in over 200 years.

### **Imperialism in the Middle East**

The importance of the Middle East to the new imperialists was its strategic location (the crossroads of three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa), vital waterways (canals and the Dardanelles), and valuable oil resources.

The Europeans divided up the Middle East in the following manner:

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- **Great Britain:** Britain's control of the Suez Canal forced her to take an active role in Egypt as well as to acquire the militarily valuable island of Cyprus to secure oil resources for industrial and military needs.

The British also secured concessions in Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain. Pipelines were built to the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf.

- **Russia:** Traditionally, Russia sought to gain control of the Dardanelles as an outlet to the Mediterranean Sea and an area of expansion. Russia helped to dismember the Ottoman Empire and gain independence for several Balkan states.

- **Germany:** In 1899, German bankers obtained the Ottoman Empire's consent to complete the BerlinBaghdad Railroad.

### Consequences of Imperialism

The new imperialism changed both Western society and its colonies. Through it, Western countries established the beginning of a global economy in which the transfer of goods, money, and technology needed to be regulated in an orderly way to ensure a continuous flow of natural resources and cheap labor for the industrialized world.

Imperialism adversely affected the colonies. Under foreign rule, native culture and industry were destroyed. Imported goods wiped out local craft industries. By using colonies as sources of raw materials and markets for manufactured goods, colonial powers held back the colonies from developing industries.

One reason why the The standard of living was so poor in many of these countries that the natural wealth of these regions had been funneled to the mother countries.

Imperialism also brought confrontation between the cultures. By 1900, Western nations had control over most of the globe. Europeans were convinced that they had superior cultures and forced the people to

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accept modern or Western ways. The pressures to westernize forced the colonial people to reevaluate their traditions and to work at discouraging such customs as foot binding in China and sati in India. Sati was the custom in which a virtuous a woman (sati) threw herself onto her husband's funeral fire in the hope that the sacrificial act would wipe away the sins of both her husband and herself. Although imperialism exploited and abused colonial people, Western countries introduced modern medicine that stressed the use of vaccines and more sanitary hygiene that helped to save lives and increase life expectancy.

Imperialism created many political problems. European nations disrupted many traditional political units and united rival peoples under single governments that tried to impose stability and order where local conflicts had existed for years, such as in Nigeria and Rwanda. Ethnic conflicts that developed in the latter half of the twentieth century in many of these areas, can be traced to these imperial policies. Imperialism also contributed to tension among the Western powers. Rivalries between France and Great Britain over the Sudan, between France and Germany over Morocco, and over the Ottoman Empire contributed to the hostile conditions that led to World War I in 1914.