

# IMPERIALISM



The British Dominions Beyond the Seas:  
Natives of the Greatest Empire the World  
has ever Known.  
SPECIALLY PAINTED FOR "THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS"

*(For Details, see the Map on the Opposite Page and the Appendix.)*

# Opening Questions

- ✦ What were the characteristics of European colonialism before the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century?
- ✦ What were the major factors that drove European imperialism in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries?
- ✦ What factors drove European imperialism in that period?

# The Close of the Age of Early Modern Colonization

✦ Conflict between European powers (1600s-1700s):

- ◆ Dominance in North America
- ◆ Establishment of trading posts in Africa and Asia
- ◆ Dutch dominance in Indonesia
- ◆ British dominance in India.

✦ Collapse of Spain, Portugal, and France: Colonial powers left Britain as Europe's most powerful imperialist nation.

# The Age of British Imperial Dominance

## ✦ Imperialism and Free Trade

- ◆ The Industrial Revolution and British imperialism
- ◆ Free trade and military conflict
- ◆ The Opium Wars (1839-42)

## ✦ British Settler Colonies

- ◆ Canada, Australia, New Zealand





Armed Chinese junks were no match for British warships during the first Opium War. The war ended in 1842 with the Treaty of Nanjing.

# India – The Jewel in the Crown of the British Empire

- ✦ British shift away from Atlantic to Asia
- ✦ Challenges of controlling India
  - ◆ Vast heterogeneous population
  - ◆ Complex social and economic conditions
  - ◆ Non-Western religions
- ✦ The East India Company
- ✦ Changing rationale for British rule in India
- ✦ The 1857 Sepoy Rebellion



Map 25–1 BRITISH INDIA, 1820 AND 1856.



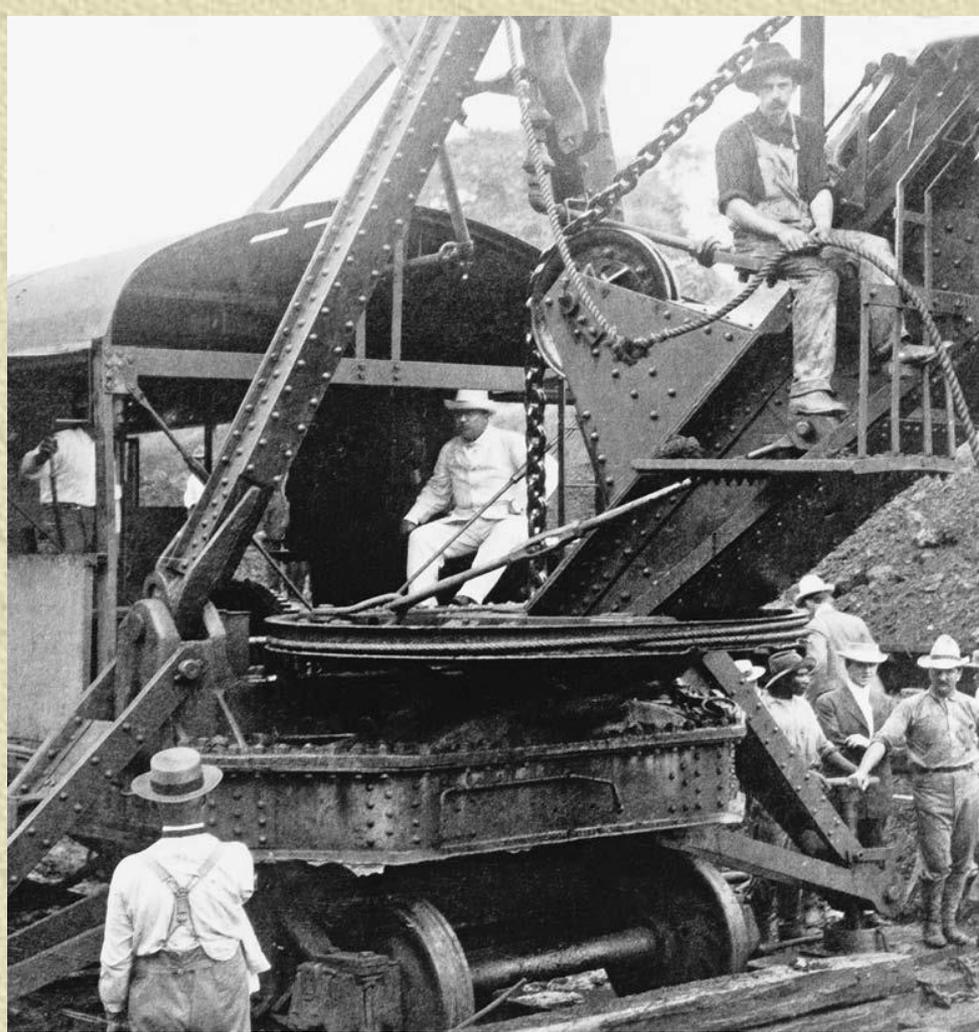
The mutinous sepoy cavalry attacking a British infantry division at the Battle of Cawnpore in 1857. Although the uprising was suppressed, it was not easily forgotten. In its aftermath the British reorganized the government of India.

# The New Imperialism, 1870 – 1914

- ✦ Expansion of Western control between 1870 and 1900
- ✦ What was “new” about the new imperialism?
  - ◆ More intentionally imperial and involved direct control by Westerners
  - ◆ Occurred over a brief period of time and involved many nations
  - ◆ Few settlers



Arrival in Saigon of Paul Beau (1857–1927), governor general of Indo-China 1902–1907, from “Le Petit Journal,” November 1902.



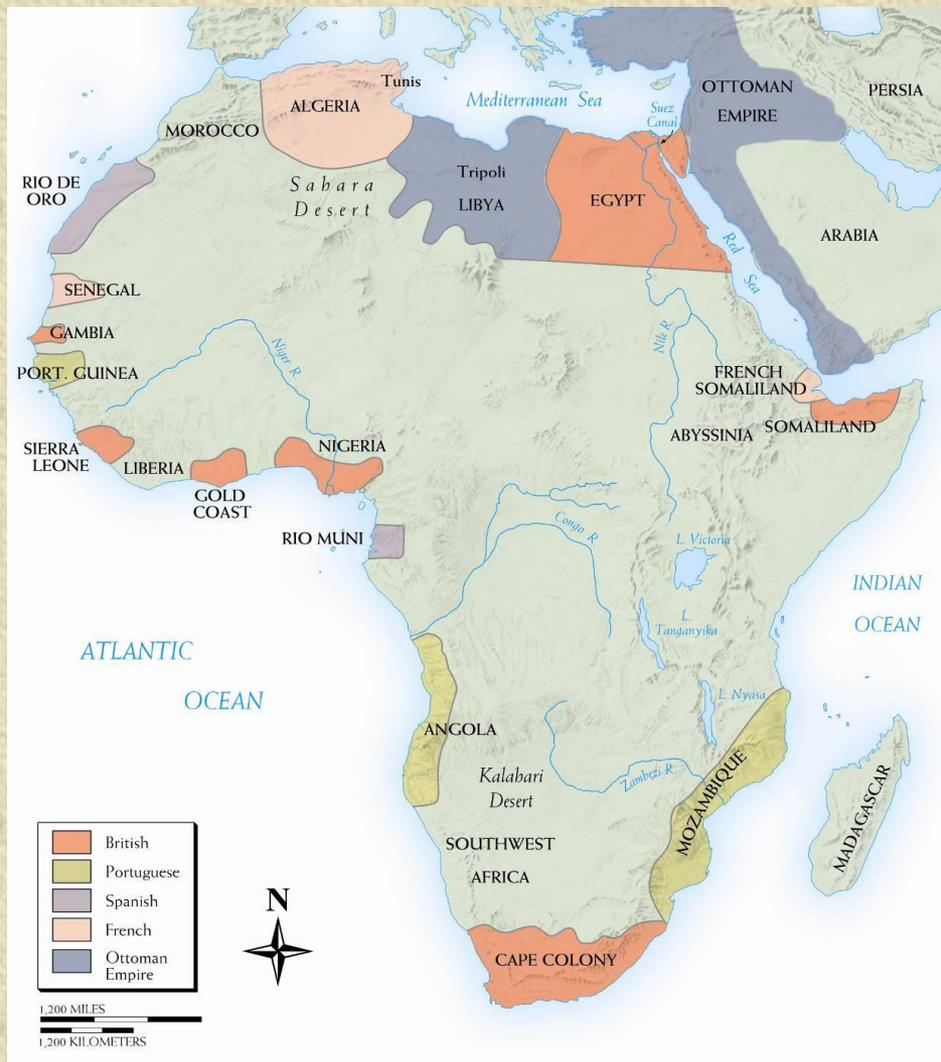
President Theodore Roosevelt at the controls of a steam shovel during construction of the Panama Canal in 1906. The Panama Canal serves as an example of U.S. imperialist ventures in the Western Hemisphere.

# Motives for the New Imperialism

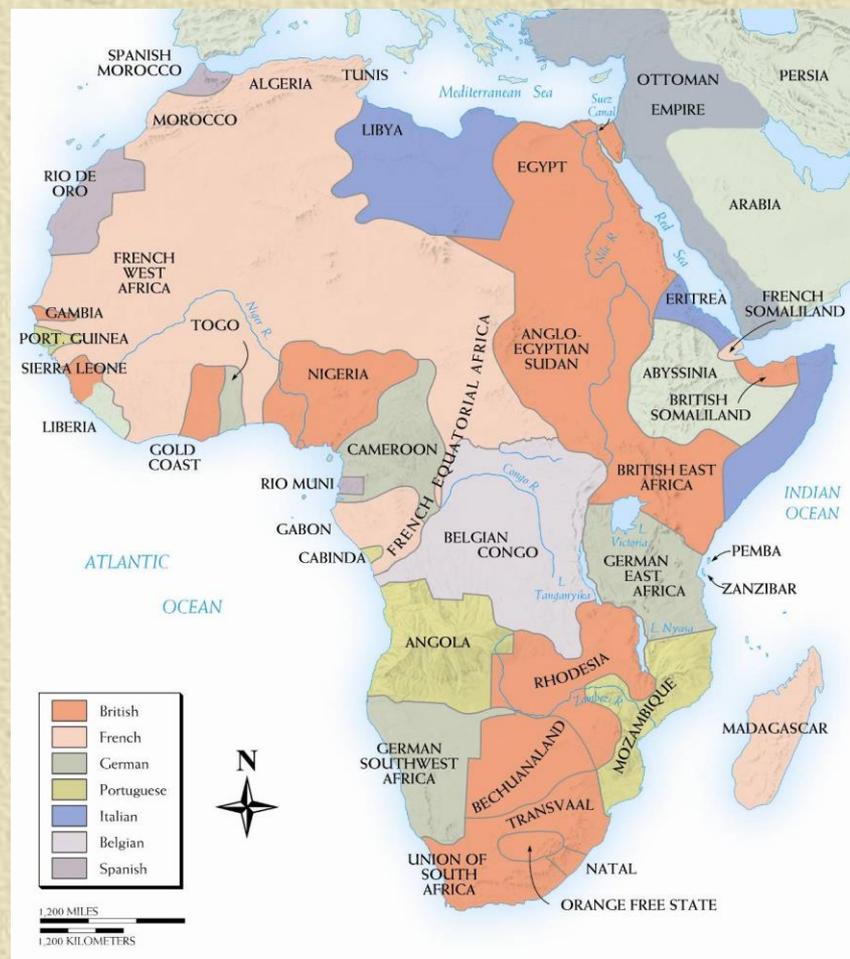
- ✦ Economic motives cannot account for the entire impetus behind New Imperialism
- ✦ Social Darwinist groups claimed Europeans had an obligation to civilize “backward” peoples
- ✦ Religious groups agitated for the spread of Christianity
- ✦ Some suggested imperialism be used to attract attention away from social policy

# The Partition of Africa

- ✦ Between the late 1870s and 1900, European powers divided the entire continent among themselves, motivated by economic and political competition
- ✦ The nations used a variety of rationalizations to justify their actions
- ✦ Important African raw materials include ivory, rubber, minerals, diamonds, and gold
- ✦ **Berlin Conference**
  - ◆ Mapped out which European nations had access to certain parts of Africa
- ✦ European nations appointed administrators to supervise their African possessions



Map 25–2 **IMPERIAL EXPANSION IN AFRICA TO 1880** Until the 1880s, few European countries held colonies in Africa, mostly on its fringes.



Map 25–3 **PARTITION OF AFRICA, 1880–1914** Before 1880, the European presence in Africa was largely the remains of early exploration by old imperialists and did not penetrate the heart of the continent. By 1914, the occupying powers included most large European states; only Liberia and Abyssinia (Ethiopia) remained independent.

# North Africa

- ✦ Technically part of Ottoman Empire
- ✦ Pressure applied diplomatically and through investments and loans to exert influence on the area

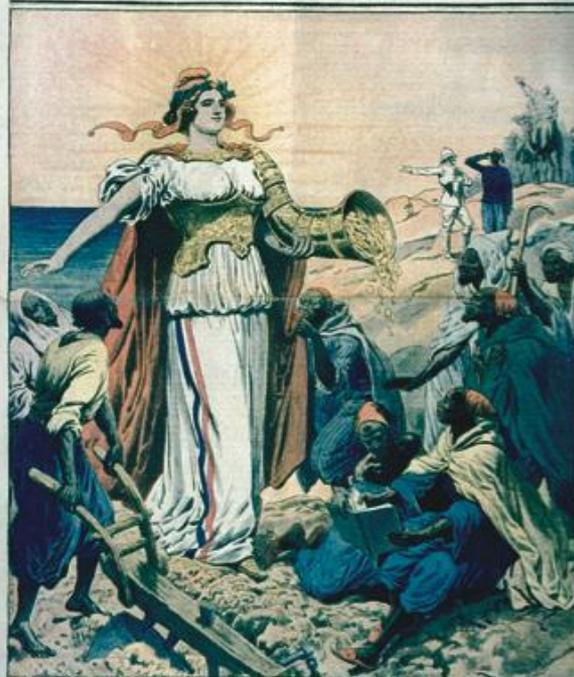
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DIMANCHE 10 NOVEMBRE 1911



LA FRANCE VA POUVOIR PORTER LIBREMENT AU MAROC LA CIVILISATION  
LA RICHESSE ET LA PAIX

**The French in Morocco** Many imperialists—European, American, and Asian—claimed altruistic motives for their acquisition of colonies. The French, especially, have always taken pride in bringing “French civilization” to the lands France ruled. This cover of a magazine appeared in November 1911, the year when the French decision to extend and tighten their control of Morocco sparked a serious international crisis. It is a good example of how France justified its colonial empire as a “*mission civilitrice*,” a vocation to bring civilization to “backward” peoples.

# Egypt

- ✦ Sold cotton as a cash crop on the international market
- ✦ Financed the **Suez Canal** through foreign loans
- ✦ The bankrupt government was overthrown by the army in 1881
- ✦ Britain defeated the army and installed administrators to ensure repayment of their loans for the Suez Canal and access to the path to India



The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 was a major engineering achievement that linked Asia to Europe. It also became a major international waterway benefiting all maritime states reducing the distance from London to Bombay in half.

# West Africa

- ✦ France controlled much of sub-Saharan Africa
- ✦ The British had four West African colonies: Sierra Leone, Gambia, the Gold Coast (now Ghana), and Nigeria



The battle of Omdurman, fought on September 2, 1898 and described in the Churchill feature on page 772, demonstrated the capacity of European forces armed with the most modern weapons—in this case, a British army composed of British, Egyptian, and Sudanese troops, commanded by Major General Sir Horatio Kitchener—to decimate a vast Sudanese force armed with less advanced weapons. In the battle, which occurred near Khartoum, the British encircled the Sudanese forces. Approximately 10,000 African warriors were killed, while British losses numbered forty-eight men. Contrary to the image on this contemporary print, the British forces wore khaki rather than red uniforms.

# Belgian Congo

- ✦ King Leopold financed Stanley's African explorations on his behalf
- ✦ Berlin Conference codified his "treaties" with local tribes
- ✦ Leopold cultivated the image of a humanitarian ruler while imposing brutal conditions on residents of the Congo
- ✦ In thirty years as ruler, approximately one-half of the residents of the Congo were victims of murder, exploitation, starvation, and disease



Congo.  
No. 63.  
Caravane  
d'Ivoire à  
vendre.

*De Grog-bailey à Jozefpe  
et Fribb de tante Jemant*

Photographie R. Visser. Déposé.

Elephant tusks in Central Africa. Ivory was a prized possession used for decorative purposes and jewelry.

# German Empire in Africa

- ✦ In 1884 and 1885, Germany declared protectorates over South-West Africa (today Namibia), Togoland, the Cameroons, and Tanganyika
- ✦ German imperialism short-lived, involved few Germans, and produced no significant economic returns
- ✦ Genocide in South-West Africa
  - ◆ 1904 Genocide of the Herero people

# Southern Africa

- ✦ Important resources include fertile pastures and farmland, deposits of coal, iron ore, gold, diamonds, and copper
- ✦ Partially inhabited by the Afrikaners, or Boers, descendants of Dutch settlers
- ✦ After a series of bloody wars, the British arranged with the Boers for a white-only ruling class
- ✦ **Apartheid**
  - ◆ “Separateness” – the policy that segregated non-whites and granted virtually no civil rights in South Africa



Diamond mining in South Africa took off in the late 1860s. By 1880 Kimberly, the biggest mine in the region, had 30,000 people, second only to Cape Town. Whites, such as these diamond sorters, monopolized the well-paid, skilled jobs.

# Russian Expansion in Mainland Asia

- ✦ Consolidation of control around the Baltic Sea
- ✦ Changing attitude towards nomadic societies
- ✦ 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russian Expansion
  - ◆ The Transcaucasus
  - ◆ Steppes of Central Asia
  - ◆ Southern Middle East



Though the Russians largely subdued the Caucasus region by the 1860s—with a Muslim separatist movement led by Imam Shamil put down only after decades of struggle—the many ethnic groups of this rugged mountain region remained largely autonomous until well into the twentieth century. This photograph, most likely taken around 1890, shows a group of chain-clad warriors from the Khevsureti region of Georgia (which had been incorporated into the Russian Empire early in the nineteenth century). With their primitive firearms, swords, and shields, these fighting men may appear to be no match for mechanized firepower, but in reality the people of this region remained largely free of governmental authority until well into the twentieth century.

# Western Powers in Asia

## ✧ France in Asia

- ◆ French interest in Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos) began with missionaries
- ◆ French expansion in Indonesia

## ✧ The United States' Actions in Asia and the Pacific

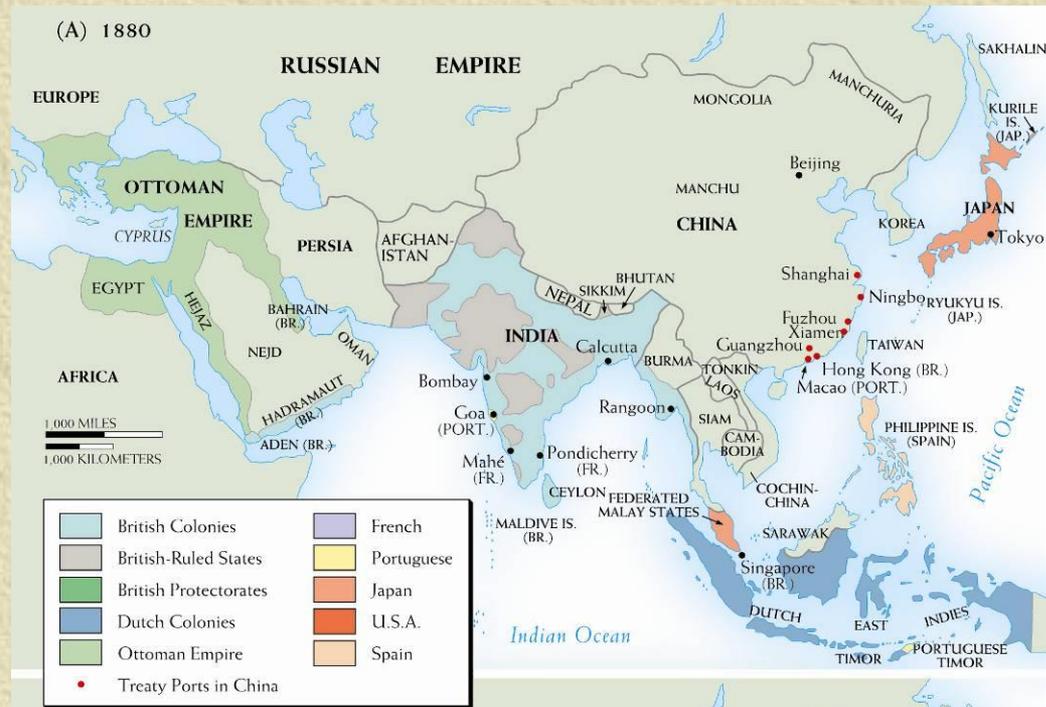
- ◆ Matthew Perry and the opening of Japan (1853)
- ◆ Purchase of Alaska (1867)
- ◆ The Spanish-American War (1898)

## ✧ The Boxer Rebellion

- ◆ Qing decline
- ◆ The Open Door Policy
- ◆ 1899–1901 Boxer Rebellion
- ◆ Rebellion suppressed by Western powers

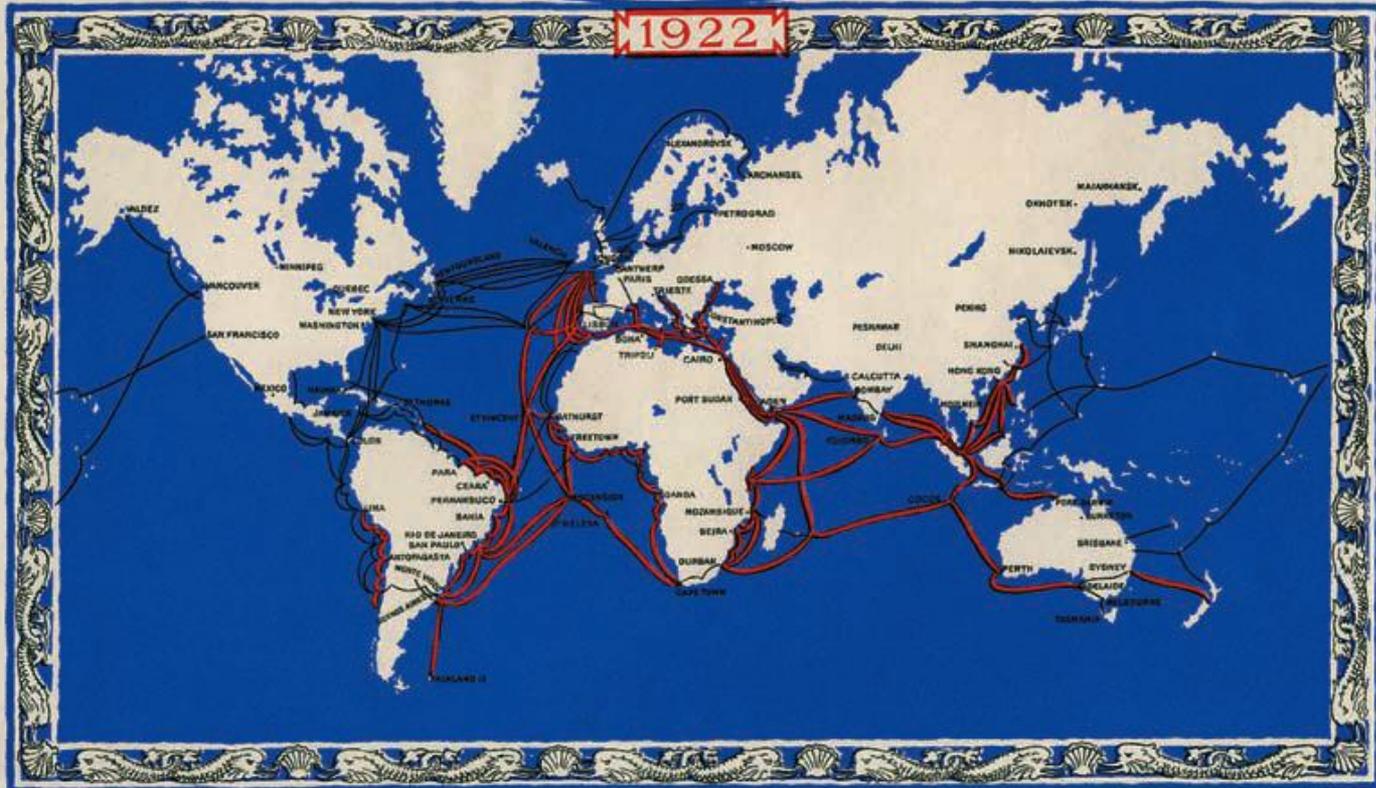


In 1900, an international force composed of troops drawn from Austria-Hungary, the French Third Republic, the German Empire, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States invaded China to put down the Boxer Rebellion, which had endangered Western missionaries and Western interests in China. In August 1900 these forces occupied Beijing. This contemporary print presents the image of a romanticized heroic assault by these foreign troops.

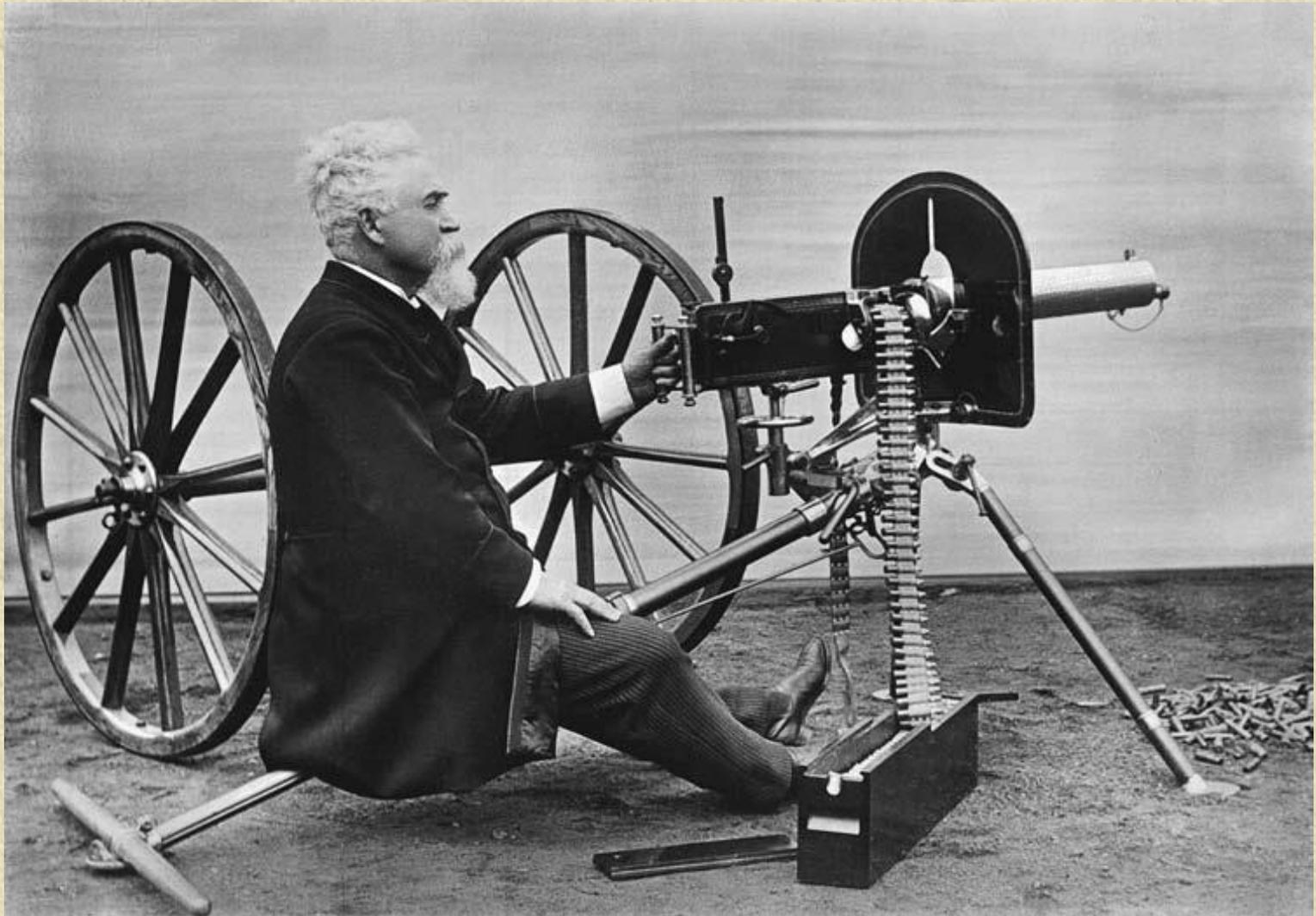




*The Eastern and Associated Telegraph Companies'*  
*"Via Eastern" Cable System. "Via Eastern"*  
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Source: *Fifty Years of "Via Eastern": A Souvenir and Record of the Celebrations in Connection with the Jubilee of the Eastern Associated Telegraph Companies MXMXII* (privately printed, 1922), pp. 13, 16.



The Maxim was the first wholly portable machine gun, pictured here with its American-born inventor Hiram Stevens Maxim (1840–1916), who became a British citizen. Technological superiority in weaponry and naval ships accounted in large measure for the success of Western imperialism in the nineteenth century.

# The Missionary Factor

- ✦ Evangelical Protestant missionaries
- ✦ Roman Catholic missionary advance
- ✦ Tensions between missionaries and imperial administrators
- ✦ Missionaries and indigenous religious movements



Women played a prominent role as teachers in the Western foreign missionary effort. Miss Emily Hartwell was a turn-of-the-century, American-born Protestant missionary to the Foochow Mission in Fuzhou Shi, China. Here, in a photo from the missionary magazine *Light and Life*, she is pictured with one of her Bible classes composed of Chinese women. Her letters home spoke of the disadvantages of women in Chinese culture.

# Science and Imperialism

## ✧ Botany

- ◆ Commercial applications
- ◆ Botanical gardens

## ✧ Zoology

## ✧ Medicine

- ◆ Medicine and the civilizing mission
- ◆ Cures for tropical diseases

## ✧ Anthropology

- ◆ Racial thinking and imperial policy



Kew Garden near London was the center of a vast network of botanical research. Joseph Dalton Hooker, its director, persuaded collectors from around the world to send specimens to Kew. Tropical plants were grown in its greenhouse, where British citizens could visit the grounds and see the plants that populated the far regions of the British empire. This photo shows Kew Palace, located in Kew Garden.



Peoples from colonized nations were transported to various world's fairs and similar exhibitions during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They constituted living exhibitions, where they were expected to portray "native customs" or the like. Here at the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904 African Pygmies demonstrated beheading. In this and other similar examples, native peoples were frequently presented in demeaning roles that filled the expectations of spectators to see "exotic" behavior. Such performances and exhibitions served to convince the Western spectators of the superiority of their civilization over that of the peoples living in the colonized world.



The ancient world was fascinated by the clash of empires that marked its history. The Romans created the grandest of the ancient empires, but they knew theirs had been preceded by others. On the walls of the House of the Faun in Pompeii, there resides an ancient mosaic depicting the Battle of Issus (333 B.C.E.), when the Macedonian Alexander the Great defeated the Persian Empire ruled by Darius III. Alexander appears on the left of the mosaic and Darius appears on his chariot. The mosaic, based on a still more ancient lost painting, probably dates from the second century B.C.E. and was rediscovered in 1831.