

# Warm-Up | Imperialism in Africa



## Lesson Question

How did European imperialism affect the people of Africa?

## Lesson Goals

Learn about **imperialism** in Africa.

**Explain** the causes and effects of the **Scramble** for Africa.

**Describe** **Leopold II's** rule in the Congo Free State.

**Describe** how some Africans **resisted** European rule.

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## Words to Know

Write the letter of the definition next to the matching word as you work through the lesson. You may use the glossary to help you.

\_\_D\_\_ supplement

A. hard, smooth yellowish-white substance that forms the tusks of an elephant

\_\_A\_\_ ivory

B. the division of a territory into separate political units

\_\_B\_\_ partition

C. a cruel or terrible act

\_\_E\_\_ quota

D. something added to make larger or to strengthen

\_\_C\_\_ atrocity

E. a specific number or amount of something that is required to be achieved



## Stanley and Livingstone

David Livingstone was a European explorer and **missionary** who

**disappeared** in Africa.

Henry Stanley was a **journalist** sent to **find** him.

Their books excited Europeans who wanted to **colonize** Africa.

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## Africa

Africa is the **second**-largest continent in the world.

Important features:

- Sahara **Desert**
- Nile and Congo **Rivers**
- Vast **rain forests**

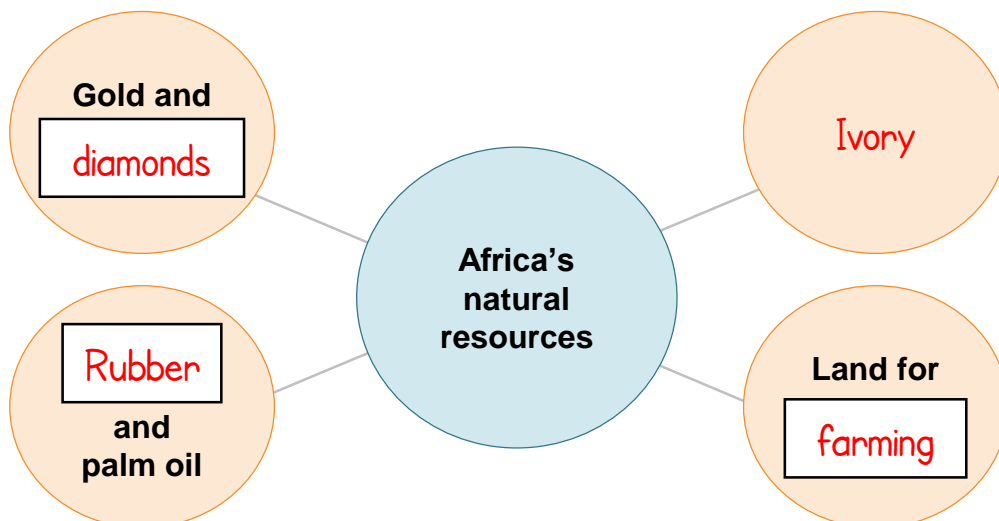
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## Africa Before Imperialism

In the 1800s, African **societies** and **governments** were organized differently than those in Europe.

- **Thousands** of cultural groups lived on the continent.
- Each group had its own **language** and customs.

## Africa's Natural Resources



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## Scramble for Africa

In 1885, the **Berlin Conference** was held to divide the continent.

- Africa was **partitioned** by the European leaders.
- **Africans** were not invited.
- Traditional **tribal** and ethnic boundaries were **ignored**.

*Circle the part of Africa that was claimed by Belgium.*



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## Leopold II (1835–1909)

- Ruled as king of **Belgium**
- Took control of the **Congo** region in Africa after the Berlin Conference
- Made it his **personal** colony

## Abuses in the Congo Free State

King Leopold II used the Congo Free State to **supplement** his personal fortune.

- The Congolese were **enslaved** to gather resources, primarily **rubber** and ivory.
- Entire villages were **tortured** if they failed to meet their **quota**.
- **Atrocities** affected millions of people.

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## Forces Enabling Imperialism

Three main factors enabled Europeans to establish **empires** in Africa:

| New technologies  | Lack of African unity   | Slave trade  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced <b>weaponry</b>, transportation, and <b>communications</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tribal</b> societies</li> <li>• Diverse <b>languages</b> and customs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Weak</b> African kingdoms</li> </ul> |

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## Zulu Resistance

The Zulus successfully **resisted** British occupation in **southern** Africa.

- Led by **Shaka** (c. 1787–1828), a powerful Zulu **chieftain**
- Used advanced **military** tactics to defeat British forces
- Remained independent until **1879**

## Menelik II (1844–1913)

- Ruled **Ethiopia**, the only nation to successfully resist European control
- Built up a large arsenal of **weapons**
- Defeated **Italy** in the Battle of Adwa

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## Compare and Contrast

Resistance was **difficult** for the Zulu.

- European soldiers had firearms, while the Zulu used **spears** and swords.
- European rulers did not recognize tribal groups such as the Zulu as modern **nations**.

Ethiopia remained **independent**.

- The Ethiopians had **modern** weapons.
- At the Battle of Adwa, the Ethiopian army **outnumbered** the Italians by **seven** to one.
- European rulers signed **treaties** that recognized Ethiopia as a modern **nation**.

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## Cultural Effects of Imperialism

Imperialism **transformed** local cultures in Africa.

- **Christianity** spread across the continent.
- Many Africans **adopted** European customs and **learned** European languages.
- European-style **education** systems were created, but in limited areas.

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## Political Effects of Imperialism

The partition of Africa created **artificial** boundaries.

- This increased **conflict** between tribal groups.
- Independent nations were **unable** to accommodate for ethnic, religious, and cultural **diversity**.

## Political Effects of Imperialism

Europeans held **most** positions in power and decision-making.

- Imperialism created **white** minority rule.
- Africans received little experience in **self-government**.

## Economic Effects of Imperialism

Imperialism created **unequal** trade and economic development.

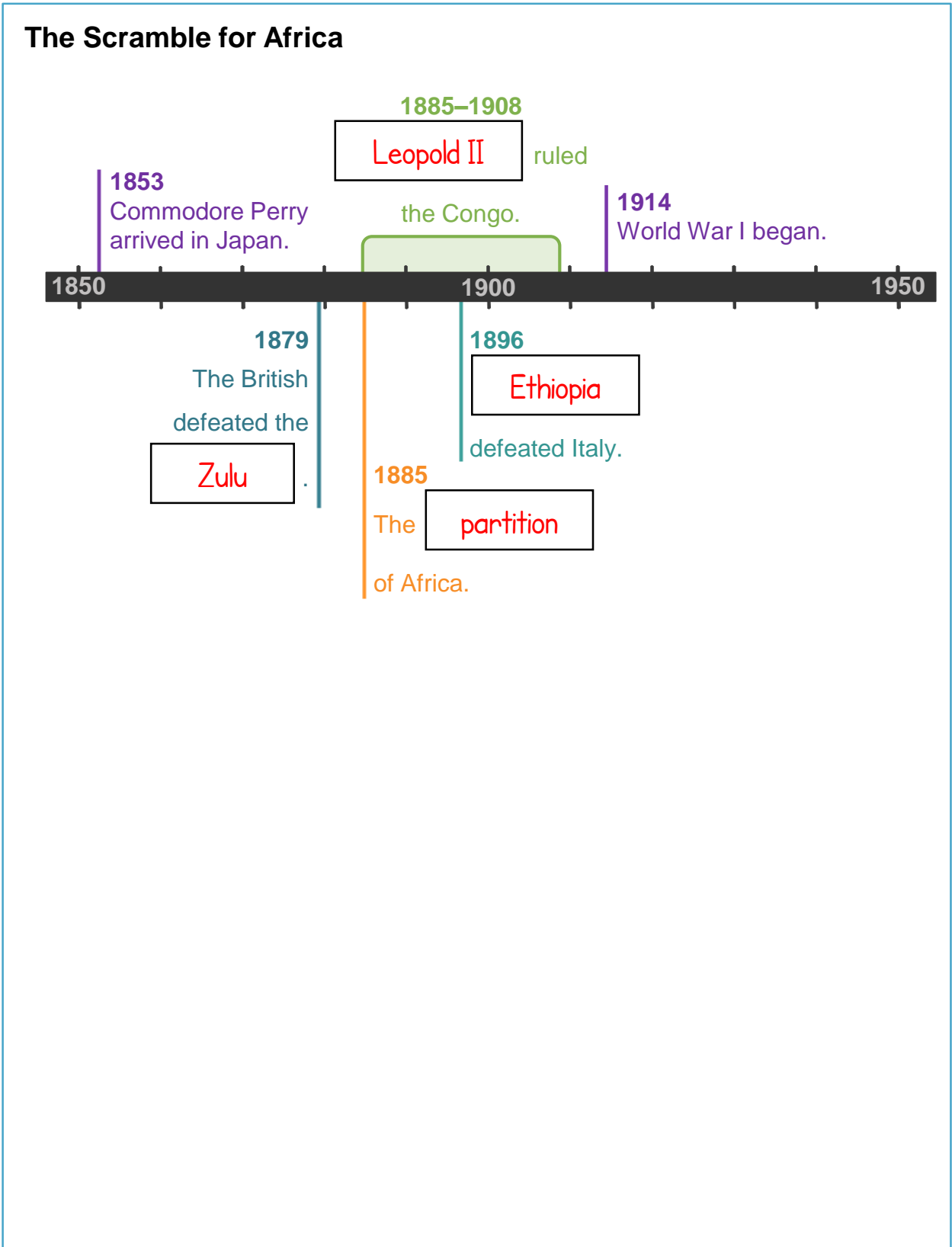
- Riches and resources were **exported** by force.
- Plantations and mines were exclusively **owned** by Europeans.
- **Manufacturing** was prohibited.
- The labor force was **exploited**.
- Investments were not made in technology, education, or **infrastructure**, unless related to **exports**.



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# Summary | Imperialism in Africa



## Lesson Question

How did European imperialism affect the people of Africa?



## Answer

(Sample answer) When Africa was partitioned among the European powers, tribal and ethnic borders were ignored, which led to increased conflict between African peoples. Many Africans resisted conquest, but most accepted it as well as European religion, language, and customs. Benefits included some increased access to education and technology, but these affected Africans unequally. Some African peoples, such as those in the Congo Free State, became victims of terrible atrocities at the hands of their colonizers.

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## Review: The Scramble for Africa

The European powers **partitioned** Africa in 1885.

- The region was home to vast **natural resources**.
- Europeans justified their actions by **ethnocentrism**.
- Only **Ethiopia** successfully resisted colonization.

**King Leopold II** ruled the Congo Free State as his personal colony.

- His government troops committed great **atrocities** against the Congolese.

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## Review: Effects of Imperialism

Effects of imperialism:

- Adoption of European **culture**
- Growth of **infrastructure**
- Increased **education**
- **Unequal** economic development
- Widespread ethnic **conflict**

*Use this space to write any questions or thoughts about this lesson.*