Imperialism Review Sheet

1. What is imperialism?

2. Why did the industrialized countries of Europe begin creating overseas empires?

3. Define White Man’s Burden —

4. Define Social Darwinism —

5. What hindered (prevented) Europeans from exploring the interior of Africa prior to the 1800s?

6. Europeans began a “Scramble for Africa” in the late 1800s because of their need for ___________________________. They met at the ________________________ to establish rules for partitioning (dividing) up Africa.

7. What did the Zulu in Southern Africa, the Boxers in China, and the Sepoys in India all have in common?

8. Why did the British (and other European nations) build roads, railroads, bridges, schools, and irrigations systems in their colonies in Africa and Asia?

9. What are two reasons why the British were able to dominate India for almost 200 years?

10. Why were the Chinese not interested in foreign products while they remained isolated from the world?

11. What happened to China as a result of the Opium War and the Treaty of Nanjing?

12. What was the major policy taken by the Tokugawa Shogunate in Japan from 1603-1868?

13. Japan began to open up trade and diplomatic relations with the United States and the West after the arrival of ____________________________ in 1853-54. Japan soon began to modernize and learn/compete with the west during the _____________________________.

14. The Japanese gained control of Korea, Manchuria, and other lands as a result of fighting wars against ____________________________ because of Japan’s need for ____________________________ after industrializing their economy.

15. Why are the Persian Gulf and the Suez Canal strategic waterways?

16. Why have the Russians desired warm water ports throughout their history?
Imperialism (When a stronger country takes over a weaker country and creates colonies in these lands)

- **Mother Countries** (the stronger countries with more technology, industry that create colonies) were looking: 1. for natural resources (raw materials) to be used in factories for industrialization, 2. for a place to sell their manufactured goods, 3. for places to build military bases to expand overseas empires, and 4. to educate or civilize the natives of their colonies (this responsibility to educate the natives was called White Man’s Burden).

- European powers easily defeated colonial natives because of their superior military technology. Impacts:
  - Negative Impacts: The natives (African, Indian, Asian people) and their land were exploited (taken advantage of) and they were forced to change their cultures and identities. They were taught only European history, European languages, and European customs (nationalism began to grow amongst many natives as a result of colonialism as they looked to rid their lands of foreign influence and rule)
  - Positive Impacts: Europeans improved the transportation, communication, education, and medical systems within their colonies; however, this was mostly done to make it easier to obtain resources and maintain political and economic control for the European Colonial rulers and not for the benefit of the natives.

- **Imperialism in Africa**
  - **Scramble for Africa** — Industrialized European Nations (Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Spain) raced to overtake land in Africa in the late 1800’s (1870’s)
  - Rules and areas of colonization for Europeans were decided at the Berlin Conference in Germany (1884-85). Africans were not invited to the conference and had no say in how the land was divided. Even today African boundaries for current nations are based on these European territorial claims which separated tribal and cultural backgrounds of Africans preventing unity amongst the native Africans.
  - **Zulu** were warriors in Southern Africa who learned new fighting techniques to attempt to resist foreigners

- **Imperialism in India**
  - **The British East India Company** (a joint-stock company) began controlling India in the late 1600’s. The British company maintained control because they had superior military technology and the Indian people were unable to unite due to many different religious and ethnic groups living in India.
  - **Sepoy Mutiny/Rebellion (1857)** — a revolt of Native Indian soldiers (Sepoys) against the foreign influence of British Imperialists — The revolt failed and as a result the British government seized control of India becoming Britain’s most valuable colony (India was considered the jewel in the British crown)

**Imperialism in China and Modernization of Japan**

- **China** — China had a policy of isolationism (they cut themselves off from the rest of the world) since the 16th Century — The Chinese were ethnocentric (they thought they were better than everyone else, including Europeans) but as a result of their isolation they fell behind Europe in terms of learning and advancement.
  - Europeans arrived in the 1800’s looking to imperialize with more technology and better militaries
  - Chinese leaders refused to westernize/modernize and did not want foreign influence, but they had become weaker than the Europeans due to the policy of isolation and were unable to keep them out
  - **Opium Wars (1800’s)** — China went to war with the British in series of wars because of the British sale of opium (a drug) in China — The First Opium War began in 1839.
    - Result — China lost and was carved into spheres of influence (regions within China where a foreign country controls trade and economic activities) — other Western countries (and Japan) followed and established spheres of influence in China as well.
  - **Boxer Rebellion (1898-1901)** — A revolt by the Chinese against foreign influence (Westerners) in China that failed (similar to the Sepoy Rebellion in India). This weakened the power of the Chinese monarch (emperor) and the Qing Dynasty would collapse in 1912 and China would become a republic.

- **Japan** — Also had a policy of isolationism before the 19th Century under the Tokugawa Shogunate. . . BUT
  - Japan decided to accept Western ways and modernized and industrialized rather than fight back
  - **Commodore Matthew Perry** of the United States arrived in 1853-54 and this sparks Japanese interest in the West and modern ideas. Japan agrees to open trade with the United States (**Treaty of Kanagawa**)
  - **The Meiji Restoration** — A Period of modernization beginning in 1868 ending the Tokugawa Shogun’s rule (the Tokugawa ruled Japanese feudal society and isolated Japan) — The result of the Meiji Restoration was that Japanese feudalism ended and Japan would become a modern, industrial, imperial power with Western technology, governments, and policies by the end of the 19th Century (1800’s).
  - Japan won wars against China in 1894 (Sino-Japanese War) and Russia in 1905 (Russo-Japanese War). Japan began imperializing lands in Asia (Korea and China) in order to gain raw materials for industry.