Africa in the Age of Imperialism

Imperialism is the domination by one country of the political, economic, or cultural life of another country or region.

• Until the 1870s CE, Europeans had little interest in Africa.
• In the 1600s & 1700s CE, the Portuguese and Dutch had established forts & trading posts along the African coast.
• Between 1870 & 1914CE, nearly all of Africa came under European rule. [Scramble for Africa]
• Berlin Conference (1884-1885CE): to avoid war European nations divided up Africa among themselves
• Economic Causes
  > need for natural resources
  > desire to expand markets
  > desire to invest profits
  > outlet needed for growing populations
  > economies strengthened by industrial revolution
• Social Causes
  > desire to spread Christianity
  > desire to share Western civilization
  > “White Man’s Burden”
  > belief in Social Darwinism
  > increased European self-confidence
• Technological Causes
  > medical knowledge (quinine for malaria)
  > advances in weaponry (Maxim gun)
  > advances in overseas travel
• Political and Military Causes
  > bases needed for merchant and naval vessels
  > national security
  > nationalism
  > prestige of global empire
  > strong, centrally-governed nation-states
• Forms of Imperialism
  > Colony: a country or a region governed internally by a foreign power
  > Protectorate: a country or territory with its own internal government but under the control of an outside power
  > Sphere of Influence: an area in which an outside power claims exclusive investment or trading privileges
North Africa
• Egypt
    > In the 1500s CE, the Ottoman Turks conquered North Africa.
    > In 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Egypt, & Egyptians broke free of Ottomans
    > Muhammad Ali (1769 – 1849) took control in 1805.
> Ali’s reforms:
- introduced modern farming methods
- built dykes & irrigation canals
- built schools
- sent Egyptians to study in Europe
- brought European experts to Egypt to establish textile mills, iron works, & shipyards
- invited French military officers to train army
- ordered *cash crops* grown to pay for reforms (cotton, sugar, & tobacco)