

# OLD IMPERIALISM VS. NEW IMPERIALISM

## DIFFERENCES

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Old Imperialism 1450-1650</b>	<b>New Imperialism 1870-1914</b>
Economic Causes	<p>“God, Glory, and Gold”</p> <p>Sought precious metals and goods they could not produce</p> <p>Asia—luxury goods</p> <p>America—cash crops/land</p> <p>Africa—labor, ivory</p> <p>Sought new routes to Asia</p>	<p>Cheap, certain raw materials—metals, vegetable oils, dyes, cotton, hemp</p> <p>Colonies functioned as markets for manufactured goods</p> <p>Large profits with minimum risks</p> <p>Military bases and materials</p> <p>Outlet for surplus population</p>
Religion	Primarily Roman Catholic missionary zeal	<p>As much Protestant missionary activity as Catholic</p> <p>Humanitarianism</p>
Geographic Focus	<p>Africa—coastal</p> <p>Asia—coastal, islands</p> <p>Americas—primary focus for colonization</p>	<p>Sub-Saharan Africa divided up</p> <p>South and southeast Asia colonized</p> <p>Spheres of influence—Asia</p>
Technology	<p>Ocean-going vessels</p> <p>Cannon</p> <p>Muskets</p> <p>Writing</p>	<p>Quinine</p> <p>Vaccination</p> <p>Machine gun</p> <p>Railroad</p> <p>Telegraph</p> <p>Steamboat</p>
Nature	<p>Aspect of exploration and Commercial Revolution</p> <p>Africa and Asia—more commercial empire</p> <p>Explored for new trade routes</p> <p>Americas more a land empire</p> <p>Founded settlements</p> <p>Established rule</p>	<p>Aspect of Industrial Revolution</p> <p>Africa and Asia—land empires</p> <p>Pushed social reforms and western education</p> <p>Spread blessings of Western culture</p> <p>Nationalism</p> <p>Glory (place in the sun)</p>
Administration	<p>Large geographic areas under single nation</p> <p>Profit over empire</p> <p>Dutch and British East India Companies—monopolies through trading posts</p> <p>British—established permanent colonies with limited self-rule</p> <p>Spain—subjected conquered people to system of forced labor</p> <p>Not interested in territorial acquisitions and war, though they did occur</p>	<p>Smaller colonial areas</p> <p>British—relied on indirect rule</p> <p>Other powers ruled directly through paternalism and assimilation</p> <p>Not result of coherent planning</p> <p>With telegraph, more control from mother country</p> <p>More racism and segregation</p> <p>Social snobbery</p>
Education Policies	State-supported in Java and India	<p>Africa—not state education; left to Missionaries; higher ed not promoted</p> <p>Asia—More access to higher ed</p> <p>Superiority of Western learning and culture stressed; ultimately provoked anti-colonial resistance and nationalism</p>

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Leading States	1500s—Portugal & Spain 1600s—France, Britain, & Netherlands	Great Britain dominant France Germany USA Italy Belgium Russia
Methods of Conquest	Military conquest of native peoples	Concessions Spheres of influence Protectorates Colonies
Resistance to Colonial Rule	Natives of New Mexico revolted against Spanish settlers	Algerians and East Africans failed in resistance attempts
Impact of Colonization	Negative— Death of natives from war and European diseases Breakdown of traditions Positive— Global exchange of food items and livestock	Negative— Death of natives from war and European diseases Economic exploitation Arbitrary political divisions Breakdown of traditions Positive— Reduced local warfare Unification Modernization Raised standards of living
Reason for End	Nations lost interest because: Napoleonic Wars Nationalistic movements Industrial development Cost of colonies outweighed benefits	World War I Native uprisings

## **SIMILARITIES**

Never a single, simple process, western imperialism evolved over a 400-year period from 1450 to 1914. New Imperialism is the mature stage of western expansion

1. Both periods were shaped by an elite political control.
2. Colonial government in both periods legitimized their authoritarian, non-representative methods with claims of progress and maintenance of order.
3. Export-oriented development functioned to integrate the colony into the world economy.
4. Sharp social/racial divisions were maintained.  
Ex: Mexico and Indonesia—a multi-racial/plural society, strict class lines  
Ex: South Africa—sharp racial divisions (European/African)
5. Paternalist, racist colonial culture increased inequalities while ignoring needed social reforms
6. Gender divisions of labor intensified
7. Systems of exploitation and indebtedness were imposed.
8. Precedents of administrations, legal and educational systems (British India, French Senegal, Dutch Java) continued to be used.
9. Recruitment of one group against another (favored minorities like Christian converts, or western educated youths) was used for civil service or police.
10. Europeans tended to concentrate in urban areas or provincial towns.