

Imperialism in Two Pages

1. Imperialism

Imperialism is the **policy or practice of extending a nation's power and influence over other territories through diplomacy, economic control, or military force**. It is a broad concept that encompasses both colonialism and other forms of domination.

Examples:

- **The Roman Empire (27 BCE - 476 CE)** – Expanded through military conquest and governance over large parts of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.
 - **The British Empire (16th-20th century)** – Dominated large parts of the world, using trade, military force, and political control.
 - **The United States (19th-20th century)** – Engaged in imperialistic expansion through interventions in Latin America (e.g., Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines after the Spanish-American War in 1898).
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2. Colonialism

Colonialism is a form of imperialism that involves the **direct control and settlement of foreign territories**. Colonizers establish their own governance, exploit resources, and impose their culture on indigenous populations.

Types:

- **Settler Colonialism** – Large-scale migration and settlement (e.g., British colonies in North America, Australia, and South Africa).
- **Exploitation Colonialism** – Focuses on resource extraction and economic gain, often with minimal European settlement (e.g., Belgian Congo, British India).

Examples:

- **British rule in India (1757-1947)** – Economic exploitation, cultural imposition, and governance by the British East India Company and later the British Crown.
 - **Scramble for Africa (1880s-1914)** – European powers divided Africa into colonies (e.g., France in Algeria, Britain in Kenya, Belgium in Congo).
 - **Spanish and Portuguese colonies in Latin America (1492-1800s)** – Spain and Portugal controlled vast regions, exploiting resources and indigenous labour.
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3. New Imperialism (1870s–1914)

New Imperialism refers to a period of **aggressive expansion by industrialized European nations, the United States, and Japan** during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Unlike earlier colonialism, it was characterized by **rapid expansion, economic motives, technological superiority, and nationalist ideology**.

Key Features:

- Driven by industrialization, which created a demand for raw materials and new markets.
- Justified by **Social Darwinism** and the belief in the racial and cultural superiority of Western nations.
- Used advanced military technology (e.g., machine guns, steamships) to dominate less industrialized regions.

Examples:

- **The Scramble for Africa (1880s–1914)** – European powers partitioned Africa at the **Berlin Conference (1884–1885)**, with Britain, France, Germany, and Belgium establishing control.
- **British expansion in Egypt and Sudan (1882–1898)** – Control over the Suez Canal was vital for trade with India.
- **US expansion in the Pacific (1898–1904)** – The US annexed Hawaii and took control of the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico after the Spanish-American War.
- **Japan's imperial expansion (1890s–1945)** – Japan, influenced by Western imperialism, conquered Korea (1910) and later expanded into China (1931–1945).

Summary Table

| Concept | Definition | Key Features | Historical Examples |
|------------------------|--|---|--|
| Imperialism | <i>Broad domination of one country over another (economic, political, or military)</i> | <i>Can be indirect (economic influence) or direct (military rule)</i> | <i>Roman Empire, British Empire, US in Latin America</i> |
| Colonialism | <i>Direct control and settlement of a foreign territory</i> | <i>Settlement or economic exploitation, cultural imposition</i> | <i>British India, Spanish America, Belgian Congo</i> |
| New Imperialism | <i>Aggressive expansion (late 19th–early 20th century)</i> | <i>Driven by industrialization, nationalism, and military superiority</i> | <i>Scramble for Africa, US Pacific expansion, Japanese imperialism</i> |

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