

BENEFITS OF IMPERIALISM

- We feel . . . our rule . . . has brought security and peace and comparative prosperity to countries that never knew these blessings before . . . You cannot destroy the practices of barbarism, of slavery, of superstition, which for centuries have [ruined] the interior of Africa, without the use of force . . . But . . . we may rest assured that . . . the cause of civilization . . . will in the long run be [greatly] advanced.
(European perspective)

As yet the Congo basin is a blank, a fruitless waste, a desolate and unproductive area.... It has been our purpose to fill this blank with life, to redeem this waste, to plant and sow that the dark man may gather, to vivify the wide, wild lands so long forgotten by Europe. But cursed be he or they who, animated by causeless jealousy and a spirit of mischief, will compel us to fire our station, destroy our work so conspicuously begun, and abandon Africa to its pristine helplessness and savagery.

—Henry Stanley, 1882