

>> Europeans began trading along the African coast in the 1500s. Centuries later, they began moving into the continent's interior.

 **Interactive Flipped Video**

>> Objectives

Describe the forces that shaped Africa in the early 1800s.

Explain why European contact with Africa increased.

Analyze how European nations carved up Africa.

Describe African resistance to imperialism.

>> Key Terms

Usman dan Fodio
 Shaka
 paternalistic
 David Livingstone
 Henry Stanley
 Leopold II
 Boer War
 Samori Touré
 Yaa Asantewaa
 Nehanda
 Menelik II
 elite

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Between 1870 and 1914, Britain, France, Germany, and other European powers scrambled to carve up the African continent. They set up dozens of colonies and ruled over the lives of millions of people. Although people in Africa resisted, they could not hold back the tide of European conquest.

European Colonies in Africa

Africa Before Imperialism

Africa is a huge continent, nearly three times the size of Europe, with diverse regions and cultures. Before the scramble for Africa, people living on the continent spoke hundreds of languages and had developed varied governments. Some people lived in large centralized states, while others lived in village communities. Many still lived in nomadic societies.

North Africa North Africa includes the fertile land along the Mediterranean and the enormous Sahara. For centuries before 1800, the region had been part of the Muslim world. In the early 1800s, much of North Africa, including Egypt, was still ruled by the weakening Ottoman empire.

Islamic Conquest in West Africa In the great savanna region of West Africa, an Islamic reform movement brought change. It began among the Fulani people in what is today northern Nigeria. There, the scholar and preacher **Usman dan Fodio** (oo SMAHN dahn foh DEE oh) denounced the corruption of the local Hausa rulers. He called for social and religious reforms to purify and revive Islam. Under Usman and

other leaders, several new Muslim states arose, built on trade, farming, and herding.

Usman dan Fodio ruled the Sokoto Caliphate, the largest empire in Africa since the fall of Songhai. At its height in the mid-1800s, it stretched for 1,500 miles and included 30 emirates, or smaller states. During this time, literacy increased, local wars were quieted, and trade improved. Their success inspired other Muslim reform movements in West Africa. Between about 1780 and 1880, other Islamic leaders replaced old rulers or set up new states in West Africa.

In the forest regions, strong states like the Asante (uh SAHN teh) kingdom had emerged. The Asante traded with both Europeans and Muslims. Asante power was limited, however. They controlled several smaller states that felt no loyalty to the central government. These tributary states were ready to turn to other protectors who might help them defeat their Asante rulers. European powers would exploit this lack of unity.

East Africa Islam had long influenced coastal regions of East Africa, from the Red Sea south to port cities like Mombasa (mahm BAH suh) and Kilwa (KEEL wah). These cities had suffered setbacks when the Portuguese arrived in the early 1500s.

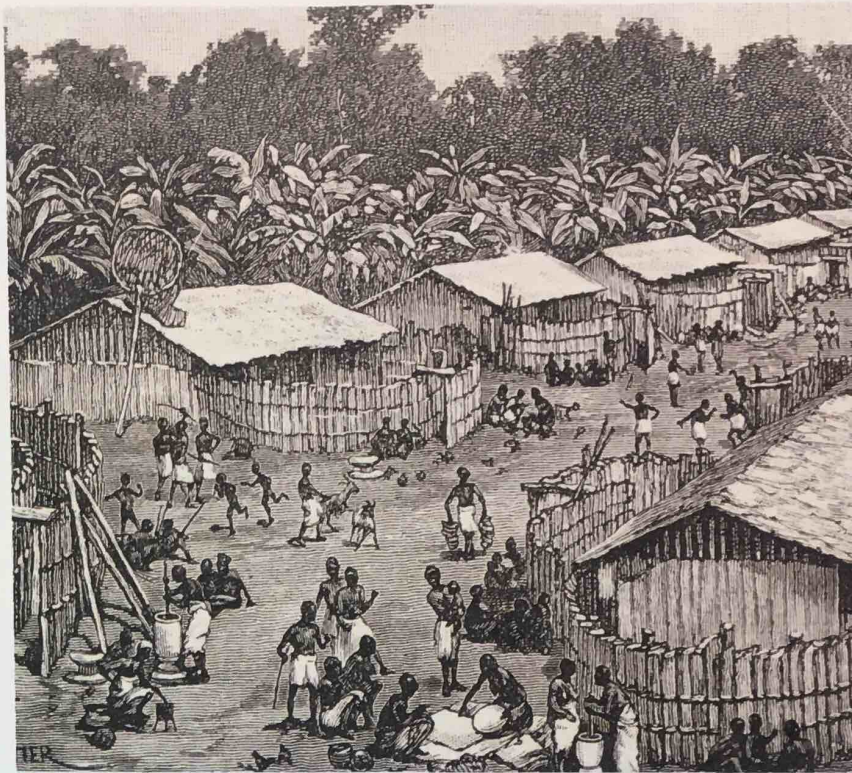
Yet East African cities still sent trading ships to the Red Sea or Persian Gulf. The cargoes were human captives, who had been seized in the interior and marched to the coast. From there, they were shipped as slaves to the Middle East. Ivory and copper from Central Africa were also exchanged for goods such as cloth and firearms.

Southern Africa In the early 1800s, southern Africa was in turmoil as a result of the Zulu wars. The Zulu people had migrated into southern Africa in the 1500s. By the 1800s, they had emerged as a major force in southern Africa under a ruthless and brilliant leader, **Shaka**.

Shaka's war disrupted life across southern Africa. Groups driven from their homelands by the Zulus then adopted Shaka's tactics.

They migrated north, conquering still other peoples and creating their own powerful states. By the 1830s, the Zulus faced a new threat, the arrival of well-armed, mounted Boers, descendants of Dutch farmers who were migrating north from the Cape Colony.

In 1806, the Cape Colony had passed from the Dutch to the British. Many Boers resented British laws that abolished slavery and otherwise interfered with their way of life. To escape British rule, they loaded their goods into covered wagons and started north. Several thousand Boer families joined this "Great Trek."



>> When Europeans arrived in Tanzania, they encountered small village communities like this Utiri village.

 **Interactive Map**



>> East African port cities often served as centers for the slave trade. This slave market was on the island of Zanzibar.

As the migrating Boers came into contact with Zulus, fighting quickly broke out. At first, Zulu regiments held their own. But in the end, Zulu spears could not defeat Boer guns. The struggle for control of the land would rage until the end of the century.

Impact of the Slave Trade For centuries, Europeans had taken Africans as slaves to work the plantations and mines of the Americas. Arabs and Africans had also traded in slaves. Beginning in the early 1800s, European nations slowly outlawed the slave trade, though it took years to end.

In Britain and the United States, abolitionists promoted the idea of returning freed slaves to Africa. In 1787, the British organized Sierra Leone in West Africa as a colony for former slaves. Later, some free blacks from the United States settled in nearby Liberia. By 1847, Liberia had become an independent state.

Slavery still existed, however. Arab and African slave traders continued to seize people from Central and East Africa to work as slaves in the Middle East and Asia well into the 1800s. Thus the demand for slaves remained and the slave trade continued in Africa. As

reports of this slave trade spread, abolitionists and European explorers demanded action to end it.

? SUMMARIZE What factors shaped each of the main regions of Africa during the early 1800s?

European Contact Increases

From the 1400s through the 1700s, Europeans traded along the African coast, but they knew very little about the continent. They relied on Africans to bring slaves and trade goods, such as ivory and gold, from the interior to their trading posts on the coast.

European interest in Africa increased during the Age of Imperialism. Spurred on by trading companies and a desire for adventure, Europeans explored the rivers of Africa. In the past, difficult geography, resistance by Africans, and diseases had all kept Europeans from moving into the interior of Africa. In the 1880s, medical advances and river steamships helped Europeans move inland.

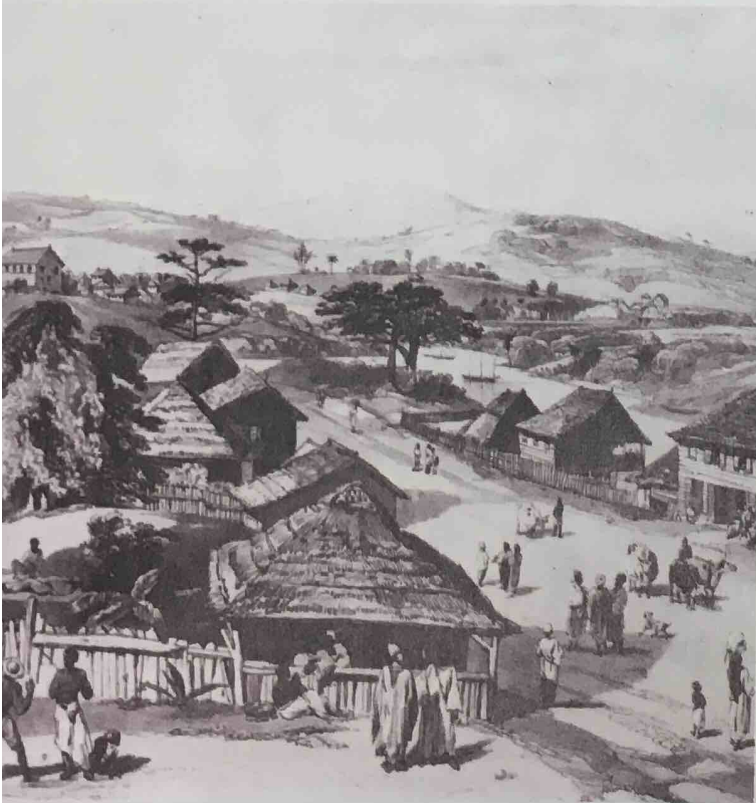
Explorers Push into Africa's Interior In the early 1800s, European explorers began pushing into the interior of Africa. Daring adventurers like Mungo Park and Richard Burton set out to map the course and sources of the great African rivers such as the Niger, the Nile, and the Congo.

Some explorers were self-promoters who wrote glowing accounts of their bold deeds. While they were fascinated by African geography, they had little understanding of the peoples they met. All, however, endured great hardships while exploring Africa.

Missionaries Follow Explorers Catholic and Protestant missionaries followed the explorers. All across Africa, they sought to win people to Christianity. The missionaries were sincere in their desire to help Africans. They built schools and medical clinics alongside churches. They also focused attention on the evils of the slave trade.

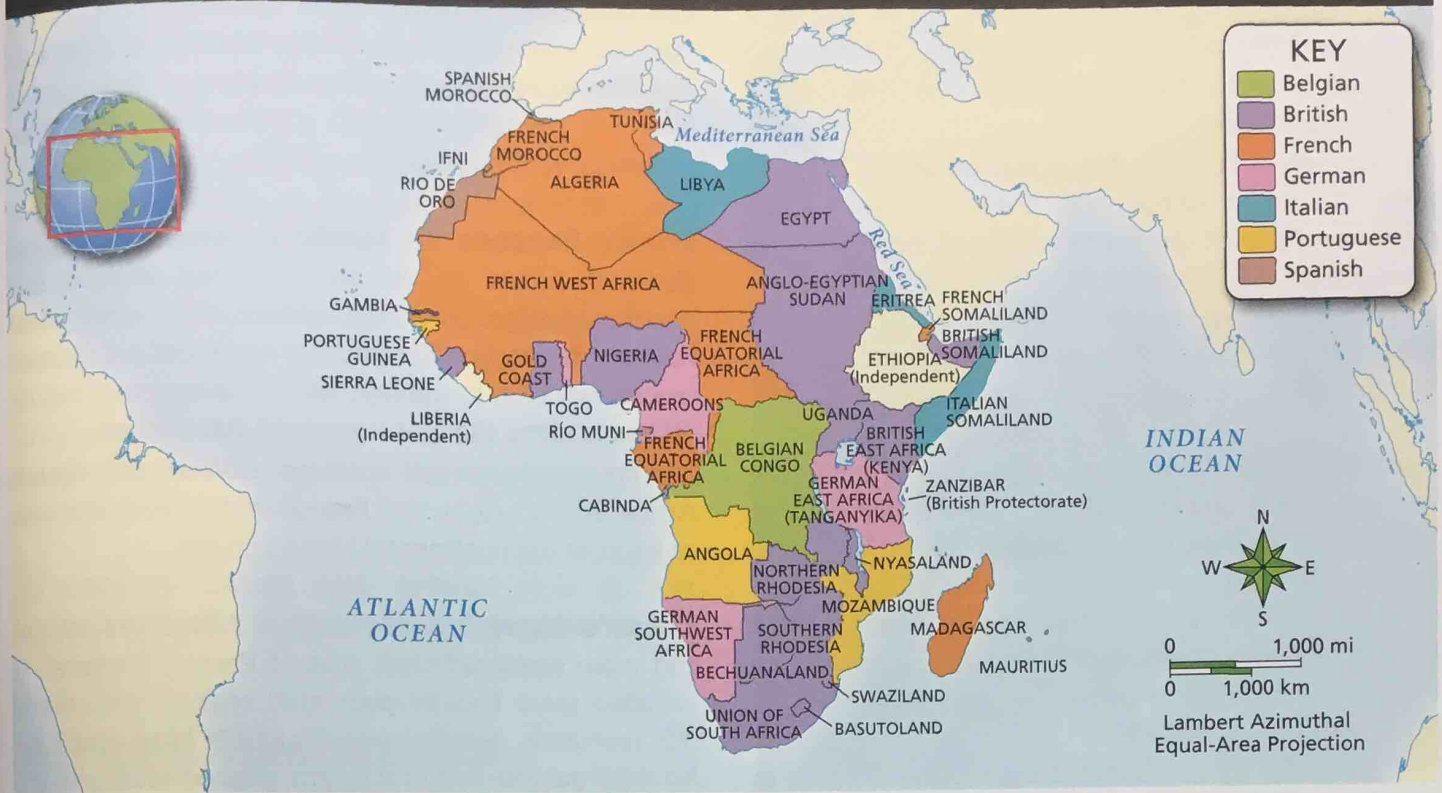
Still, missionaries, like most Westerners, took a **paternalistic** view of Africans, meaning they saw them as children in need of guidance. To them, African cultures and religions were "degraded." They urged Africans to reject their own traditions in favor of Western civilization.

Livingstone's Explorations More than anyone else, **David Livingstone**, a British doctor and missionary, captured the imaginations of Westerners. For 30 years, he crisscrossed Africa. He wrote about the many



>> Freetown, Sierra Leone, was settled by freed slaves from all over the world. Many had their origins in regions of Africa. Sierra Leone became a center of education for Africans.

Africa in 1914



>> **Analyze Maps** One goal of British imperialists in Africa was to gain control “from Cairo to the Cape” (South Africa). Which colony stood in the way of that plan? Which European country controlled that colony?

Interactive Map

peoples he met with more sympathy and less bias than did most Europeans.

He relentlessly opposed the slave trade, which remained a profitable business for some. The only way to end this cruel traffic, he believed, was to open up the interior of Africa to Christianity and trade.

Europeans credited Livingstone with “discovering” the huge waterfalls on the Zambezi River. He named them Victoria Falls, after Britain’s Queen Victoria. The Africans who lived nearby, however, had long known the falls as Mosi oa Tunya, “the smoke that thunders.”

Livingstone blazed a trail that others soon followed. In 1869, the journalist **Henry Stanley** trekked into Central Africa to find Livingstone, who had not been heard from for years. He finally tracked him down in 1871 in what is today Tanzania, greeting him with the now-legendary question “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?”

? RECALL Why did European contact with Africa increase in the late 1800s?

European Nations Scramble for Colonies

Shortly after Stanley met up with Livingstone, King **Leopold II** of Belgium hired Stanley to explore the Congo River basin and arrange trade treaties with African leaders. Publicly, Leopold spoke of a civilizing mission to carry the light “that for millions of men still plunged in barbarism will be the dawn of a better era.” Privately, he dreamed of conquest and profit.

Leopold’s activities in the Congo set off a scramble by other nations. Before long, Britain, France, and Germany were pressing rival claims to the region. The scramble for Africa had begun. It would end with the partition of virtually the entire continent among the great powers of Europe.

The Berlin Conference To avoid bloodshed, European powers met at an international conference in 1884. It took place not in Africa but in Berlin, Germany. No Africans were invited to the conference.

At the Berlin Conference, European powers recognized Leopold’s private claims to the Congo Free State but called for free trade on the Congo and Niger rivers.

They further agreed that a European power could not claim any part of Africa unless it had set up a government office there. Europeans quickly sent officials who would exert their power over local African rulers and peoples.

The rush to colonize Africa was on. In the 20 years after the Berlin Conference, the European powers partitioned almost the entire continent. As Europeans carved out their claims, they established new borders and frontiers. They redrew the map of Africa with little regard for traditional patterns of settlement or ethnic boundaries.

Leopold's Horror in the Congo Leopold and other wealthy Belgians exploited the riches of the Congo, including its copper, rubber, and ivory. Soon, horrifying reports filtered out of the region. They told of Belgian overseers torturing and brutalizing villagers. Forced to work for almost nothing, unwilling laborers were savagely beaten or mutilated. The population in some areas declined drastically.

Eventually, international outrage forced Leopold to turn over his personal colony to the Belgian government. It became the Belgian Congo in 1908. Under Belgian rule, the worst abuses were ended.



>> A major resource that the Belgians wanted from the Congo was rubber. **Cite Evidence** What evidence in the photo indicates that these rubber workers were slaves?

Still, the Belgians regarded the Congo as a possession to be exploited for their own enrichment. African inhabitants of the Congo were given little or no role in the government, or the economy of the country. The rich resources of their mines went to Western investors in the mines.

France Expands Its Territory France took a giant share of Africa. In the 1830s, it had invaded and conquered Algeria in North Africa. The victory cost tens of thousands of French lives and killed many times more Algerians. In the late 1800s, France extended its influence along the Mediterranean into Tunisia.

France also gained colonies in West and Central Africa. At its height, the French empire in Africa was as large as the continental United States.

Britain's Share Britain's share of Africa was smaller and more scattered than that of France. However, it included more heavily populated regions with many rich resources. Britain took chunks of West and East Africa. It gained control of Egypt, pushed south into the Sudan, and ruled much of southern Africa.

The British industrialist Cecil Rhodes was a passionate imperialist who had made a fortune in mining in southern Africa. Rhodes dreamed of building a "Cape to Cairo" railway to link British possessions from Cape Town, South Africa, to Cairo, Egypt.

"I care nothing about money for its own sake," he once wrote, "but it is a power—and I do like power." Rhodes helped Britain extend its African empire by one million square miles. The British colony of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), was named after him.

The Boer War In southern Africa, Britain clashed with the Boers, who were descendants of Dutch settlers. Britain had acquired the Cape Colony from the Dutch in 1806. The Boers—Dutch farmers—resented British rule and many had migrated north to set up their own republics.

In the late 1800s, however, the discovery of gold and diamonds in the Boer republics led to conflict with Britain. The **Boer War**, which lasted from 1899 to 1902, involved bitter guerrilla fighting. The British won, but at great cost.

In 1910, the British united the Cape Colony and the former Boer republics into the Union of South Africa. The new constitution set up a government run by whites and laid the foundation for a system of complete racial segregation that would remain in force until 1993.

Others Nations Join the Scramble Other European powers joined the scramble for African colonies. They wanted to bolster their national image and further

their economic growth and influence. The Portuguese carved out colonies in Angola and Mozambique. Italy reached across the Mediterranean to occupy Libya and then pushed into the “horn” of Africa, at the southern end of the Red Sea.

Germany was newly united in 1871 under the expert leadership of Bismarck. At first, Bismarck had little interest in overseas expansion, but eventually realized the importance of colonies. In the 1880s, Germany took lands in Southwest Africa (now Namibia) and East Africa (now part of Tanzania) as well as what are today Cameroon and Togo. A German politician, trying to ease the worries of European rivals, explained, “We do not want to put anyone in the shade, but we also demand our place in the sun.”

? **IDENTIFY CAUSE AND EFFECT** How did King Leopold II set off a scramble for colonies in Africa?