Europeans first became interested in Africa for trade route purposes.

- They were looking for ways to avoid the taxes of the Arab and Ottoman empires in Southwest Asia.

- Sailing around Africa was the obvious choice, but it was a long voyage and could not be completed without “pit stops” along the way.
  - Europeans created ports in southern and eastern Africa so traders could restock supplies before crossing the Indian Ocean.
During the 16th century, Portuguese explorers became engaged in the African slave trade. They kidnapped Africans and forced them to work on plantations and mines in their colonies in the New World.

Other European countries soon participated in the slave trade as well.

The trans-Atlantic slave trade lasted from the 1500s to the mid-1800s. Even after the slave trade had ended, European interest in Africa was still going strong.

European countries saw that Africa was a continent full of vast natural resources and mineral wealth.
Essential Question: How did life change for the Africans after European colonization?
Boundaries were drawn that divided tribes and forced different tribes together.
### Imperialism

- **Definition**: A country’s efforts to gain control of the governments or economies of other lands.

- **Characteristics**

- **Types of Imperialism**
  1. **Colony**: Ruled directly through officials from the foreign power.
  2. **Protectorate**: Has its own government, but policies are directed by the foreign power. ("puppet government")
  3. **Sphere of influence**: Foreign power holds exclusive trading rights. *Mostly seen in China*

- **Examples**
  - 13 colonies (Britain)
  - India (British)
  - Puerto Rico & Guam (U.S. Territories)

*colonialism- the forced control of one nation by another nation*
Imperialism

- The end of the 19th century is called the “Age of Imperialism”, which refers to European countries competing for land and power.

- Imperialism is a system where a strong country takes wealth and raw materials from another country.

- A “strong” country was supposed to have many colonies to increase its wealth and importance around the world.
During this time, many European countries expanded their empires by aggressively establishing colonies in Africa so that they could exploit and export Africa’s resources.

- Raw materials like rubber, timber, diamonds, and gold were found in Africa.

- Europeans also wanted to protect trade routes.
During the 1800s, Europeans moved further into the continent in search of raw materials and places to build successful colonies.

- **Great Britain, France, & Germany** fought over control of land that is now Egypt and Sudan.
- Belgians took control of the Congo.

The natives often fought against the European powers; however, they often lost because the European weapons were superior.

- The Zulu nation fought the British in South Africa and the Ashanti struggled to hold onto what is now Ghana.
Reasons for Colonization

• Africa has many **raw materials** and **natural resources** not found in Europe including:
  – cotton
  – rubber
  – ivory
  – minerals including gold and diamonds
Reasons for Colonization

• New industries in Europe needed metals like copper and tin.
• Europeans also used Africa as a source of cheap labor.
• African countries were new markets for European goods.
Economic Reasons

- Economic motivation played a large part in the colonization of Africa.

- The 1800s was a time of great industrialization in Europe (Industrial Revolution).
  - Factories required raw materials that could be manufactured into marketable products.

- When Europeans returned to Africa for more resources they brought back the manufactured goods and sold them to Africans.
  - Africa became a new market for Europe to sell goods.
Politics in Europe also led to the colonization of Africa.

**Nationalism**, a strong sense of pride in one's nation, resulted in competition between European nations.

No major nation wanted to be without colonies, which led to this “Scramble for Africa”.

The competition was particularly fierce between Great Britain, France, and Germany, the strongest European nations in the 1800s.
Christian missionary work gained strength during the 1800s as European countries were becoming more involved in Africa. Many missionaries were supportive of the colonization of Africa because they believed that European control would provide a political environment that would help missionary activity.

The idea of “Christianizing” Africa also made many Europeans look favorably on the colonization of the continent.
European Influence

• Europeans looked down upon African ways of life.
• Europeans wanted to change African culture to be more like European culture.
• missionary- a person who goes to a foreign country to spread his or her religion
• Missionaries brought Christianity to Africa.
• One of the justifications for colonization was to spread Christianity.
Beginnings of New Imperialism

- the Age of New Imperialism—countries competing for land and power at the end of the 19th century
- The growth of European colonies in Africa was called “The Scramble for Africa.”
- European countries were “scrambling” to get their piece of Africa.
The Scramble for Africa

A great map of the scramble for Africa?
Why Not Liberia?

The history of Liberia is unique among African nations because of its relationship with the United States. It is one of the few countries in Africa, and the only country in West Africa, without roots in the European Scramble for Africa. It was founded and colonized by freed American slaves with the help of a private organization called the American Colonization Society in 1821-22, on the premise American slaves would have greater freedom and equality there.

Why Not Ethiopia?

Ethiopia has close historical ties to all three of the world's major Abrahamic religions. It was one of the first Christian countries in the world, having officially adopted Christianity as the state religion in the 4th century. It still has a Christian majority, but a third of the population is Muslim.

Remember: One of the justifications for colonization was to spread Christianity. Ethiopia was already a Christian nation.
Directions: The majority of native Africans were angry with European partitioning of Africa. Design a protest poster that would help raise awareness for the Africans’ cause. Your poster should have a catchy slogan, an illustration, and anything else you think will help the protest.