

Effects of Imperialism in Africa

Colonialism had a huge impact on the lives of Africans. **Economic** policies were adopted by Europeans who destroyed the colonies, rather than help them. Africa was damaged economically, politically, and culturally. Africa's traditional lifestyles and culture were destroyed. The Europeans had no interest in traditional African culture and had no concern for the Africans. There were several negative effects of colonialism that became evident after many African nations became independent.

First of all, colonial governments took over much of Africa's land for their own personal or commercial use, like mining or **commercial** farms. They were selective in choosing land and took only the best and called it their own. Belgium and Britain were mostly responsible for taking the land. The Belgians took land in the Congo and the British conquered land in Kenya and South Africa. Central, East, and South Africa had nice climates and **fertile** soil, encouraging the British and Belgians to settle these areas.

Once European nations began creating farms and mining companies in Africa, they needed people to work on them so they started using Africans as cheap labor. Africans who lived in this area either lost their land to Europeans or were unable to live off their land. They moved to the towns, farms, or mines started by Europeans. Working conditions were terrible, with **corporal** punishment and low wages. They were paid in cash and food rations.

Europeans needed money to run their overseas governments and services for settler communities. "Mother" countries usually provided little to their colony, so colonial governments began taxing local Africans. This especially became a problem after World War II when European countries were financially devastated. Europeans began taking advantage of Africans, forcing them to work to pay their taxes, without giving them any other **compensation**.

Forced labor increased and many African men were separated from their families, since only men were used to work on farms and mines. African villages lost their manpower for food production, leading to famine. Traditional African villages started to decline and Europeans started employing Asian **immigrants**, creating tension between the Asians and Africans.

The economic structure of African society was changed by Europeans. Cash crops were introduced to meet industrial needs of European countries. Cocoa, coffee, tea, and cotton were the main cash crops produced on a large scale. Several minerals were mined extensively. The problem with this was cash crops were focused on instead of food for basic needs, leading to famine among many Africans. Europeans changed the economy from a model of producing foods for need to mainly the production of cash crops. All crops produced by Africans were **exported** and prices were set by the colonies. Africans were not allowed to grow these cash crops to benefit themselves. Trade was prohibited between Africans, so they were forced to export all cash crops produced and minerals mined.

European colonial powers did not plan to industrialize or **modernize** Africa. Africans were used to solely produce raw materials, export them to Europe, and then re-export them Africa as final products, sold at high prices. Africans could not afford to pay for these products. There were several negatives of colonialism for the Africans like resource depletion, labor exploitation, unfair taxation, lack of industrialization, dependence on cash crop economy, prohibition of trade, the breaking up of traditional African society and values, lack of political development, and ethnic **rivals** inside countries.

Africa would most likely still be behind the rest of the world without colonialism though. Some positives historians have pointed out are medicine, education, improved **infrastructure**, Christianity, and boundaries. The growth of the African population was aided by the Western medicine introduced by Europeans. Africans were introduced to formal education by Europeans. They also improved the African infrastructure with the addition of road systems, railroads, water, electricity, and communication systems. Christian missions promoted **literacy** and health care in Africa. The Christian religion made African spirituality simpler and took away the need for sacrifices and rituals. Europeans established boundaries, making the process of independence easier with predetermined state formation. Overall, there were many negatives, but some positives to colonialism in Africa.

Based on the article you read, answer the following questions on NOTEBOOK PAPER!

Vocabulary: Choose which *BEST* defines the word. Use the context clues in the article to help.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1) Commercial | A. Personal | B. For Profit | C. Small |
| 2) Fertile | A. Bountiful | B. Dry | C. Arid |
| 3) Corporal | A. Money | B. Economically | C. Physical |
| 4) Compensation | A. Payment | B. Capture | C. Check |
| 5) Famine | A. Feast | B. Starvation | C. Supply |
| 6) Immigrants | A. Foreigners | B. Natives | C. Indigenous |
| 7) Modernize | A. Damage | B. Update | C. Destroy |
| 8) Rivals | A. Enemies | B. Confidants | C. Friends |
| 9) Infrastructure | A. Basement | B. Support | C. Framework |
| 10) Literacy | A. Knowledge | B. Ignorance | C. Illiterate |

Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer. Go back into the article to help.

- 11) What was the author's purpose in writing this article?
- A. To persuade the reader that colonialism had only negative effects on the Africans.
 - B. To inform the reader that colonialism had only positive effects on the Africans.
 - C. To explain how the European nations used their power to destroy Africa.
 - D. To inform the reader of the positive and negative effects of colonialism on Africa.
- 12) Which of the following sentences *LEAST* supports the main idea of the selection?
- A. The economic structure of African society was changed by the Europeans.
 - B. Colonialism had a huge impact on the lives of Africans
 - C. Europeans started employing Asian immigrants, creating tension between the Asians and Africans.
 - D. Overall, there were many negatives, but some positives to colonialism in Africa.
- 13) Which of the following was *NOT* a negative effect of colonialism in Africa, according to the article?
- A. Africans were introduced to formal education and Western medicine by Christian missionaries.
 - B. Africans were forced to work on farms and mines in terrible working conditions.
 - C. The African economic system was changed to a cash crop system, leading to famines in Africa.
 - D. European colonial powers did not industrialize or modernize Africa.
- 14) Which of the following was *NOT* a positive effect of colonialism in Africa, according to the article?
- A. Europeans established boundaries, making the process of independence easier with the predetermined state formation.
 - B. The growth of the African population was aided by the Western medicine introduced by Europeans.
 - C. The Christian religion made African spirituality simpler and took away the need for sacrifices and rituals.
 - D. Trade was prohibited between Africans, so Africans were forced to export all cash crops produced and minerals mined.
- 15) Which of the following was *NOT* a major cash crop produced on a large scale in Africa?
- A. Cocoa
 - B. Coffee
 - C. Corn
 - D. Cotton

16) Why did the Belgians and British want to control the areas of Central, East, and South Africa?

- A. These areas had the nicest climates and best soil in Africa.
- B. These areas had the nicest natives in Africa.
- C. These areas had the strongest natives in Africa.
- D. These areas had the least amount of natives in Africa.

17) Which of the following is the MAIN reason a famine occurred in Africa during colonial times?

- A. Europeans took away all the food from the Africans.
- B. Europeans did not allow the Africans to eat.
- C. Europeans forced the Africans to focus on cash crops.
- D. Europeans took away all the Africans' land.

18) What type of source is the article?

- A. Primary
- B. Secondary

19) Is the political cartoon to the right a primary or secondary source?

- A. Primary
- B. Secondary

20) Who does the snake in the cartoon represent?

- A. Africans
- B. Europeans
- C. Kings
- D. Queens



21) What is the purpose of this cartoon?

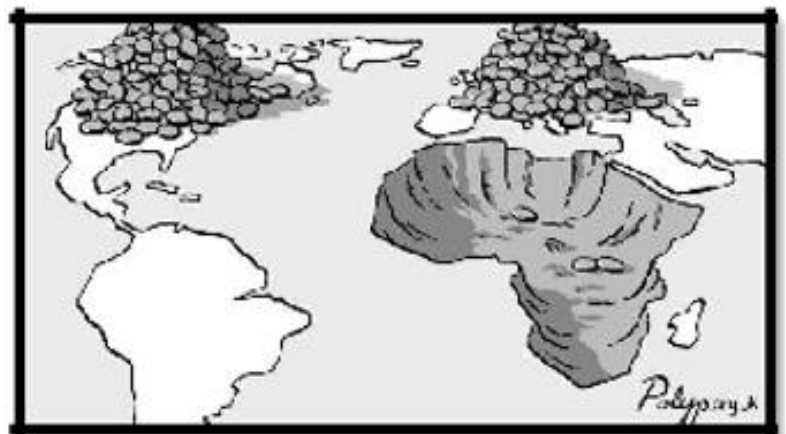
- A. To show how the Africans were controlling the Europeans.
- B. To show how the Europeans were controlling the Africans.
- C. To show that Africans were great snake charmers.
- D. To show that Africans were not great snake charmers.

22) Which of the following best describes the message of the cartoon to the right?

- A. Europeans stripped Africans of all their resources.
- B. Africans stripped the Europeans of all their resources.
- C. Africans dug themselves into a hole of debt.
- D. Europeans dug themselves into a hole of debt.

23) What is the best reason the cartoonist titled this cartoon, "Gold Diggers?"

- A. Europeans stole gold from Africa.
- B. Africans stole gold from Europeans.
- C. Europeans were money-hungry.
- D. Africans were money-hungry.



"Gold Diggers"