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2 Imperialism and the Colonial Experience

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What is colonialism?
   a) A political ideology of empire building
   b) The exploration of one country's territory by another country
   c) A historical phenomenon describing governing relations between a colonial country and its colonies
   d) A political movement within the territories that sought to oppose the occupying country
   e) The territorial conquest, occupation, and direct control of one country by another

2. What motives were linked to the Industrial Revolution and launched "high imperialism" in the nineteenth century?
   a) Great Power motives
   b) Economic motives
   c) Expansionist motives
   d) Religious motives
   e) Democratic motives

3. Why is the fifteenth century "Age of Exploration" a misnomer?
   a) China had already established colonial possessions in the "New World."
   b) It incorrectly assumes European states were motivated by economic interests.
   c) People, goods, and ideas had been traveling the "Silk Road" for centuries.
   d) It was more correctly a period of European imperialism.
   e) Europe had previously established colonies in the Spice Islands.

4. Which of the following is NOT a common theme in the colonial experience?
   a) The importation of large numbers of settlers from the colonizing country
   b) Europe's belief in its cultural superiority
   c) The ambivalence of metropolitan states toward overseas imperial commitments
   d) An eventual shift toward promoting economic development in colonies
   e) A fundamental transformation of indigenous colonial societies

5. Indirect rule was used to promote which of the following?
   a) Advantageous commercial ties
   b) The legitimacy of local governments
   c) Imperial recognition
   d) The legitimacy of colonial powers

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e) Subordination of all groups in the colony

6. Which of the following statements is true of the term "neo-colonialism"?
   a) It refers to the direct political control of colonies.
   b) It involves the formal annexation of territory into the colonial state.
   c) It refers to the existence of external influence over other countries through unequal economic ties.
   d) It represents a new model of colonial interaction based on learning from the mistakes of the past.
   e) It is a strategy employed only by emerging powers like China.

7. Which of the following European countries was NOT a major colonial power?
   a) England
   b) Spain
   c) Portugal
   d) Sweden
   e) France

8. Which term refers to the late nineteenth-century European colonization of Africa?
   a) "Night of the long knives"
   b) "Scramble for Africa"
   c) "Race for Africa"
   d) "Civilizing mission"
   e) "Crusades"

9. Which of the following is NOT considered a motivation for colonization during the period of "high imperialism"?
   a) Search for new markets to support European economic growth
   b) The existence of protectionist policies within Europe that constrained the growth in trade between colonizing powers
   c) The need to lower unemployment at home by exporting labour to colonized areas
   d) A sense of greatness and the nationalistic desire for prestige relative to other European states
   e) Competition between "Great Powers" over new territories as a source of power and influence

10. The classical period of "high imperialism" occurred during what time period?
    a) 1600 to 1789
    b) 1870 to 1914
    c) 1914 to 1945
    d) 1945 to 1991
    e) 1991 to the present

11. Which of the following was NOT a result of Spanish colonization of Central and South America?
    a) A massive population collapse
    b) The spread of smallpox to the indigenous population
    c) The enslavement of indigenous people to work in mines
    d) The strengthening of existing political systems through indirect rule
    e) The extraction of large amounts of wealth in the form of gold and silver

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12. Which of the following statements is true of colonialism?
    a) It involved the equal sharing of ideas between countries.
    b) It affected all colonized people in the same ways.
    c) It created new tensions, or worsened existing ones, in colonized societies by benefiting some groups over others.
    d) It came to an end mostly as a result of non-violent means.
    e) It was mostly a religiously-motivated phenomenon.

13. What was arguably the most important chartered company in the British Empire?
    a) English East Indian Company
    b) English West Indian Company
    c) Hudson's Bay Company
    d) British South Africa Company
    e) Royal Niger Company

14. How can the outsized role of Belgium and Portugal in the "Scramble for Africa" be explained?
    a) Economic motives
    b) The strategy of Great Power politics
    c) Religious motives
    d) The desire for prestige and recognition of greatness
    e) European alliances

15. Britain's policy of indirect rule in Africa is evidence of which of the following?
    a) The nation's desire to uphold local African culture and seek harmonious relations
    b) Born of necessity when Britain was unable to break the power of local rulers
    c) The challenges of delegating political authority
    d) A humanitarian motive inherent to British culture
    e) A sensitivity to local political and economic interests that generated good will

16. Whose research was misapplied to human society in an effort to justify colonialism as a moral obligation to transform "inferior" societies?
    a) Darwin
    b) Freud
    c) Marx
    d) Malthus
    e) Huxley

17. In Africa, how did colonial powers pursue modernization?
    a) Through the creation of domestic banking and currency systems
    b) By applying "direct rule" with resource exploitation
    c) Through investment in local industries
    d) By developing surplus trade balances
    e) Through the promotion of increasing the production of raw materials for export

18. Later economic development programs were used by colonial powers to do what?
    a) Reconcile past injustices
    b) Improve the overall economic well-being of colonies
    c) Curb nationalist sentiments

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d) Improve communication and transportation networks in the colonies
e) Learn about indigenous cultures

19. Why was World War II a decisive moment in colonial history?
a) Colonial subjects had fought for the principle of self-determination.
b) Colonial empires collapsed.
c) European States were unable to support colonial enterprises.
d) Ethical norms in European society had evolved.
e) Power shifted from Europe to the US and USSR.

20. In Latin American in the nineteenth century, the British financed a vast expansion of which of the following, which allowed for the increased exploitation of local resources?
a) Roads and highways
b) Rail lines
c) Water purification systems
d) Court systems
e) Schools

21. Portugal is often described as following what type of approach to ruling its colonies?
a) Indirect
b) Hands-on and violent
c) Assimilatory
d) Economy-focused
e) Humanitarian

22. How did the Cold War push the European colonial powers towards national self-determination?
a) Economic costs of maintaining colonies and containing the USSR
b) The declining importance of colonial resources
c) The fear of motivating anti-colonial movements to ally with the USSR
d) Political opposition at home
e) The nuclear arms race

23. Why were chartered companies initially more common than direct colonization in Africa?
a) It was easier to infiltrate the continent commercially than militarily.
b) Colonization had been unsuccessful elsewhere.
c) Direct colonization was thought to be inhumane.
d) Europe was generally ambivalent towards creating an African empire.
e) African societies welcomed commercial ties.

24. Which of the following was NOT an action of the English East India Company in South Asia?
a) It created an extensive rail network in the region.
b) It put into place the infrastructure for an economy based on the export of high-bulk, low-value goods.
c) It re-invested the vast majority of its profits locally.
d) It implemented a law-based governance system to replace systems of personal rule.
e) It refused any role for South Asian representation in government.

25. Which of the following statements was true of France's early-twentieth century Office du Niger

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development project?

a) It aimed to develop underused land through expanding irrigation.
b) It was an unqualified success that served as a model for other colonial powers.
c) It was designed in close consultation with locals.
d) It resulted in the forced resettlement of very few locals.
e) It was based on existing social values and economic realities.

TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS

1. Most scholars accept that there is a single explanation for imperial expansion.

2. Many experts argue that economic motives during the Industrial Revolution initiated the period of "high imperialism."

3. Colonization is defined as the resettling or displacement of a population.

4. Imperialism does not usually involve long-distance commercial ties.

5. Self-determination was a motivating principle for struggles against colonial rule.

6. The existence of massive wealth and the collapse of native populations led to greater immigration to the Americas than to other Spanish colonies.

7. The export of slaves from Africa to the Americas starting in the 1600s was driven mostly by a demand for household servants.

8. European colonization in Africa occurred over a much shorter period of time than the colonization of Asia and Latin America.

9. Europe's colonization of Africa was a slow process.

10. Regardless of the type, colonial rule was backed by violence or the threat of violence.

11. Indirect rule followed closely to the early model the British had established in South Asia.

12. Colonial rule created or worsened inequalities of power and wealth in colonized countries by privileging some individuals and groups over others.

13. In order to "modernize," the African economy was oriented by colonizers towards manufacturing.

14. Colonial rule caused minor, but not fundamental, changes in indigenous societies.

15. Formal independence did not result in equal status between colonizers and former colonies.

16. Development as a professional field stems from early-twentieth century efforts by colonizers to implement economic policies that would benefit indigenous societies.

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17. The strategy of "indirect rule" is associated with British colonization.

18. France's Office du Niger project of agricultural transformation was major development success.

19. After the end of formal colonialism, economic links replaced direct colonization as a means of influence by the former colonizing countries.

20. Nationalism played a key role in the competition between European states over territory and resources in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

21. The terms "Global North" and "Global South" accurately reflect the division of states according to wealth.

22. Early Portuguese and Spanish expansion into North Africa was driven by both economic and religious motivations.

23. The English East India Company possessed such economic and coercive force as to make it the most powerful actor in European imperial history.

24. The 1884 Berlin Conference negotiated the rules for colonization with prominent African leaders.

25. European colonizers did not try to replicate in Africa the indirect-rule model used in South Asia.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What are chartered companies? What was their role in imperial expansion?

2. How did the use of indirect rule serve British colonial interests?

3. What were the motivations for Europe's initial phase of colonial territorial expansion?

4. What is the "Great Power" rivalry? What was its impact on the expansion of empire?

5. What was the role of nationalism in the expansion of colonial empires?

6. In what ways were economic motives in the Industrial Revolution responsible for launching the era of "high imperialism"?

7. How was the English East India Company able to gain so much power in India?

8. What is meant by the term "neo-colonialism"?

9. What was the "Scramble for Africa"?

10. How did European faith in essential human differences influence colonialism?

11. How did a move towards economic development in colonial territories change the face of

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colonialism?

12. What was the effect of the Cold War on colonialism?

13. How did colonial policies lead to awareness on the part of indigenous groups of the "right to self-determination"?

14. How did colonization affect people in colonized societies differently?

15. How did colonizers vary in their approaches to ruling? How were they similar?

16. What differentiates European colonization from other forms of colonization?

17. How was the impact of Europeans in "new" world of the Americas different from that of Asia?

18. Following World War II, how did Britain and France react to increasingly militant demands for rights, including self-determination, in African colonies?

19. How is the Office du Niger project emblematic of the wider problems of European colonization in Africa?

20. How did existing tensions between disparate African polities in the nineteenth century facilitate the Scramble for Africa?

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. How has the language used to describe both the history and current status of international development focused too much on a European perspective?

2. A comprehensive understanding of European colonialism is not possible without understanding the role of the "Men on Spot." Discuss

3. Why is the differential impact within colonies an important legacy of Colonialism to this day?

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Answer Key

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. **e** (pp. 28–29)
2. **b** (p. 27)
3. **c** (p. 26)
4. **a** (p. 38)
5. **d** (pp. 34–35)
6. **c** (pp. 28–29)
7. **d** (p. 33)
8. **b** (p. 35)
9. **c** (p. 33)
10. **b** (p. 28)
11. **d** (pp. 30–31)
12. **c** (pp. 37–39)
13. **a** (pp. 31–33)
14. **d** (p. 28)
15. **b** (p. 34)
16. **a** (p. 37)
17. **e** (p. 38)
18. **c** (p. 39)
19. **a** (p. 38)
20. **b** (p. 38)
21. **b** (p. 34)
22. **c** (p. 39)
23. **d** (p. 41)
24. **c** (p. 33)
25. **a** (p. 40)

TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS

1. **F** (p. 28)
2. **T** (p. 27)
3. **T** (p. 29)
4. **F** (p. 30)
5. **T** (p. 38)
6. **T** (p. 33)
7. **F** (p. 31)
8. **T** (p. 33)
9. **F** (p. 33)
10. **T** (p. 34)
11. **T** (p. 34)
12. **T** (p. 37)
13. **F** (p. 38)
14. **F** (pp. 37–38)
15. **T** (p. 38)
16. **T** (p. 38)
17. **T** (p. 34)
18. **F** (p. 40)
19. **T** (pp. 38–39)
20. **T** (p. 28)
21. **F** (p. 26)
22. **T** (p. 26)
23. **T** (p. 32)
24. **F** (p. 35)
25. **F** (p. 36)

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. A chartered company was a private company that received monopoly commercial rights from a state in order to promote trade and exploration in a specific region. The private capital provided by chartered companies gave an advantage to their home states in competition with other imperial states. Chartered companies were particularly used by the British, Dutch, and French. Some of the most well-known examples included the English East India Company, the Dutch East India Company, and the Hudson's Bay Company. (pp. 29–30)
2. Indirect rule's strategy of retaining (or creating) local rulers allowed Britain to avoid the problems of creating a vast network of domination and rule. There was no need to import large numbers of settlers from Britain to facilitate colonial rule. Thus, indirect rule would save time, effort, and manpower, allowing for the creation of "hegemony on a shoestring" (Berry, 1992). (pp. 34–36)
3. Early excursions from Portugal and Spain into North Africa were fuelled by centuries of prior political-religious tensions. European ambitions for more direct access to trade goods, such as gold, spices, and textiles were meant to meet the demands of a growing population back home. (pp. 26–27)
4. Competition between the "Great Powers" of Europe (namely Britain, France, and Germany) is argued to be part of an explanation for the shift into "high imperialism" in the mid-nineteenth century. From this view, the "Great Powers" competed with one another over control of unclaimed territories in Southeast Asia and Africa. The existence of strategic natural resources in those areas largely accounts for this push for expansion. (p. 28)
5. Growing nationalism toward the end of the nineteenth century is argued to have been a contributing factor to the expansion of colonial empires. First, newly unified nations like Germany and Italy saw the acquisition of colonies as a means to catch up to older rivals like France and

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England. Second, all European countries sought to bolster their prestige and sense of greatness, which they thought came from large colonial holdings. (p. 28)

6. An answer should be based around the following argument: European colonial expansion was part of a search for new markets in order to sustain profitable growth. Most European countries maintained protectionist trade policies toward one another; therefore, new resources, consumers, and investment opportunities had to be sought beyond the continent. (pp. 27–28)
7. The British East India Company's immense power stemmed from its control over Bengal province, one of India's most economically productive regions. The Company was able to use its control over Bengal's revenues and trade flows to finance its own operations. From that point forward, the Company exercised enormous power over a large area, despite only ruling a small area directly, by financing its own professional military force. Local elites willingly cooperated with the Company, seeing it as a means of pursuing their own interests. (p. 32)
8. An answer should be based around the following notion: Neo-colonialism is a view that sees the economies of formally independent former colonies continue to be controlled by their former colonial rulers. Prior colonization is not always necessary, as in the case of US neo-colonial policy toward the Middle East. (pp. 28–29)
9. The term refers to the rapid European conquest of Africa in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. European states decided that legal "ownership" of African territory stemmed from "effective occupation" of an area, which served to drive the dash for control of territories. Africa was divided into 40 colonies controlled by 7 European states. It involved the worsening of existing tensions in colonized areas through strategies of "divide and rule." (p. 35)
10. European belief in their cultural superiority over so-called "primitive" or "inferior" areas was a frequent justification for the violence and exploitation of colonialism. Misguided efforts were made to translate Darwin's ideas on evolution to the understanding of society and culture through a view known as "Social Darwinism." These views were then used as the basis for an effort to morally justify coercive intervention in supposedly "backward" societies for the purpose of helping them "evolve." (p. 37)
11. Efforts to bring "economic modernization" to colonized areas effectively meant that the economies of colonies were attuned even more centrally to the production of raw materials for export. Many scholars argue that this approach was merely new window dressing for the older ideal of bringing "modernity" to "backward" natives who were incapable of achieving such necessary progress on their own. This dynamic would set the stage for the phenomenon of neo-colonialism following the formal independence of colonies. (pp. 38–39)
12. The Cold War, which pitted the Western former colonial powers against the Soviet Bloc, saw the use of developing countries as strategic tools by the superpowers. Some leaders of nationalist independence movements in Africa and Asia were given military and financial aid by the Soviets, causing Western powers to take the ideal of self-determination more seriously. Fears that former colonies might be "lost" to the Soviets prompted more constructive policies from the West, but also led to brutal wars in former colonies. (pp. 39–40)
13. In particular, World War II saw the heavy use of colonial armies pressed into service in the fight against the Axis powers. This experience of fighting for freedom positively influenced Africans and Asians in demanding rights vis-à-vis their colonial rulers. Self-determination, or the right of people to freely choose their economic, social, and cultural development, was central in these demands. (p. 41)
14. Groups and individuals in colonized societies were differently impacted by colonial rule based on their position in society. Namely, some groups and individuals gained while others lost, especially under indirect rule. The general result was a worsening of existing tensions or the creation of new cleavages in society, often leading to outright violence both before and after the end of

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colonialism. (pp. 36–37)

15. Differences between forms of colonial rule are argued to be epitomized by the indirect rule of the British (relying on local elites to rule cheaply), the direct rule of the French and Portuguese, which varied in its degree of violence and being "hands-on." Whatever the differences between forms of colonial rule, all were implemented and maintained with violence or the threat of violence. (pp. 33–35)
16. While Europe does not hold a monopoly on colonization. It is speculated that the earliest human societies in Madagascar were established by colonists from South East Asia. However, European colonialism stands apart due to its association with imperial expansion and the ongoing political and economic links between the society of origin and society of settlement. (p. 29)
17. The European impact in the new world was one of political and social collapse due to disease and the enslavement of indigenous people in mining to satisfy the insatiable appetite of Europeans for gold and silver and later in cash crop agriculture. In South Asia, Europeans held no significant military advantage with the exception of sea power. Moreover, due to prior contact, they had a degree of immunity to European disease. Finally, the Amerindians communitarian ethos invited the Europeans in while the South Asian states regarded the Europeans with much more distrust. (pp. 30–31)
18. Both Britain and France substantially expanded development activities, through the increasing flow of funds and loans; Britain through the *Colonial Development and Welfare Act* in 1940 and France through the Investment fund for Social and Economic Development. Beyond the greater scale of assistance, however, they also changed the nature of colonial efforts to promote economic and social change. The plan for a "modern future set against a primitive present" was part of an attempt to prolong empire amid growing anti-colonial mobilization; economic development would be the "antidote to disorder." (p. 39)
19. The project was conceived and implemented from the Metropole. The goal was a transformation of not just agriculture but of traditional social and economic structures. However, like many development projects conceived from the metropole, it lacked any insight from local experts, leading to poor/inadequate infrastructure development and a lack of interest in African volunteers to resettle there. Again, like many European development projects, coercion was used when African will was found lacking. For example, when voluntary resettlement failed, France relied on its traditional use of forced labour, up to 90 per cent by some estimates. The Office du Niger is emblematic of wider problems of European colonization in its poorly devised central planning, use of coercion and violence, and finally both the attempt and failure of that attempt to redefine economic/social structures. (p. 40)
20. Amid tensions created by expanding African states or trade competition, African leaders were eager to sign treaties with European states to secure advantages over their rivals. Once support/resources had been given by the European state and their rivals had been subdued or defeated, the European partner often turned on the African partner who was now isolated and vulnerable. The African states could either fight a well-armed European army that was reinforced by regional troops already conquered or sign treaties that presumed their submission. (p. 35)

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. The answer to this question should first cover the Eurocentric aspect of international development historically as well as in contemporary terms. For example the language used to describe the hierarchy of states is deeply Eurocentric: First World vs Third World, developed vs developing, even Global North vs Global South. These dyads are very loaded. They situate the First, the developed, the North as the place to get to, with all others being "lesser." It frames European values as dominant and normatively superior. This framing continues with concepts like

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"the Age of Discovery," as if the rest of the world did not exist until found by Europeans. Even mainstream explanations of "high imperialism" are rooted solely in Europe's need to fuel the industrial revolution, nationalist sentiment, or Great Power rivalry. While this framing and these explanations have some validity, there is a conspicuous absence of agency from those in the colonized states. There is a conspicuous absence of social, political, and economic structures from anywhere but Europe. This question is important because devising appropriate forms of development to particular contexts will be difficult to achieve without embedding it in the history, both colonial and pre-colonial, of specific peoples. (pp. 26–28)

2. European colonialism is a contested subject. Early expansionism is less contentious explained via religious and economic motives. Later expansionism is more contentious with explanations varying between the economic motivations of the industrial revolution, the domestic motivations of nationalism, and the geopolitical motivations of Great Power rivalry. Yet these explanations often ignore the constitutive role that the agents on the ground played when acting on behalf of the metropoles. These agents had considerable latitude given the distance between the metropole and colonial administration. This latitude expanded considerably with the advent of the chartered companies, where the "Men on the Spot" wielded sovereign power in all but name. These agents often acted in their own interests, to expand their own economic, political, and military reach even when it may not have been in the interest or the official policy of the metropole or even the Company for whom they worked. The apex of this argument came in the form of the "Men on the Spot" within the English East India Company, who pursued personal as well as and sometimes in spite of company and state policy. The importance of the "Men on the Spot" argument is that it explains how colonialism played out in practice versus policy or theory. (pp. 28, 32)
3. Colonialism had a differential impact on the colonized, depending on their position in society. Certain groups of individuals could gain or lose status or economic power in society, particularly with indirect rule. Under indirect rule, Colonial agents would pick groups to act in their name to collect taxes or to impose coercive penalties. Those in favour gained while others would be further subjugated. More importantly perhaps, these policies exacerbated existing societal cleavages or created new ones, particularly in multi-ethnic states. These cleavages become increasingly salient as post-colonial movements came close to fruition and these groups started to position themselves to take a leadership role in the newly decolonized states. This instrumental policy of the colonial states is very relevant today as recent and current violence is linked to it; for example election violence in Kenya in 2007 and 2008 or the Rwandan genocide in 1994. (pp. 36–37)

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