

## THEMATIC REVIEW SHEET #9: Empire - "New" Imperialism and "New" Nationalism in Asia, Africa, & the Americas

- Defined broadly as the systematic domination of one state or people over another, imperialism can be found throughout history in many parts of the world. However, the "new imperialism" refers more specifically to the expansion of Europe (including Russia) AND the United States and Japan beyond their own borders from the mid- 19th century to the beginning of World War I (1914).
- The counterpart of imperialism is colonialism: the economic, political, cultural, and social structures imposed on peoples by the forces of imperialism.
- The dual revolutions of capitalist industrialism and the nation state in Europe fueled the hunger for global expansion in the 19th century.
- *Europeans constructed a new global order through the creation of colonies in some parts of the world and through less visible, though no less potent, means of domination in others.*

### Many factors motivated expansion and imperialism in the 19th and 20th centuries:

- nothing more than **national rivalry** -- new nation states competed for power and territory
- the **new economic forces** heightened this rivalry --> industrialized European nations in the 19th century and Japan and the U.S. in the 20th century **required expanding markets and cheap raw materials**
- **The principle of balance of power** among European nations -- that is, **no single state should be allowed to dominate territory or economic control** -- guided the diplomatic and political decisions underlying global expansion through imperialism.
- As European nations created empires and colonies, the balance of power came to be applied on a global scale.
- As a global balance among European nations was sought, the imbalance between European powers and those they colonized was heightened.
- Between 1800 and 1914 the dissolution of old empires and states produced new nationalisms around the world that would eventually alter the global balance of power in the 20th century.

### SYMBOLS -- "sun never sets on the British Empire" / rising sun of Japan's new nation: As the dual revolutions of the nation state and industrial capitalism gave rise to imperialism (BRITAIN), in turn European imperialism stimulated non-European nationalisms (JAPAN), that fed revolutions both against European nation states and against traditional dynastic states.

- Technological advances made possible European expansion across the globe.
- Profound cultural transformations in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas were the result of encounters produced by imperialism.
  - The **tools of empire** -- including such things as the steam boat, railroad and telegraph -- furthered communications and the transportation of goods between the colony and the imperial center and thus facilitated exploitation of resources.
- All imperialisms were not the same, just as the "responses" to European imperialisms differed according to distinctive cultural and historical experiences in widely varying parts of the globe.
- In many non-European parts of the world, **European imperialism stimulated indigenous nationalisms, which often led to revolutions** -- many of which began as anti-European, anti-imperialist movements.