

TO WHAT EXTENT SHOULD CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY RESPOND TO THE LEGACIES OF HISTORICAL GLOBALIZATION?

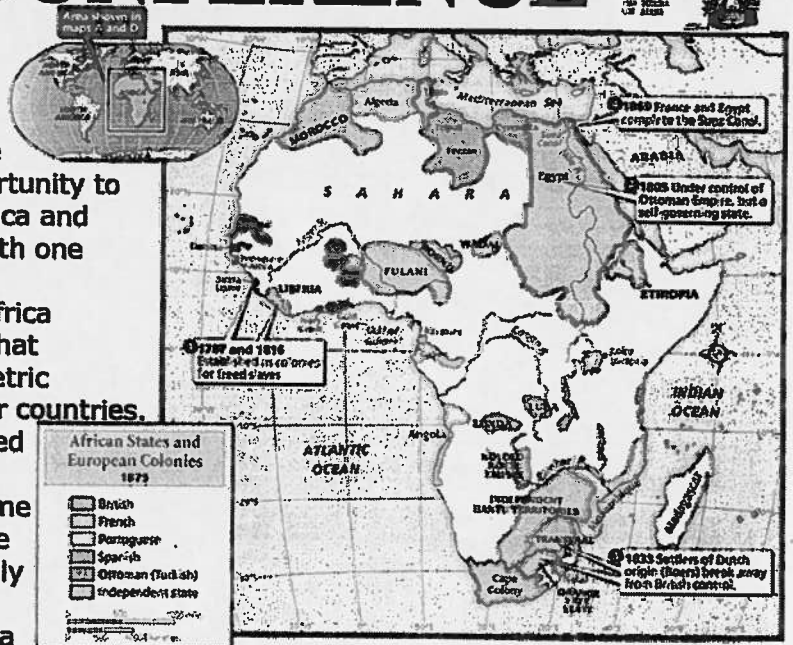
THE BERLIN CONFERENCE



In 1884 at the request of Portugal, German chancellor Otto von Bismark called together the major western powers of the world to negotiate questions and end confusion over the control of Africa. Bismark appreciated the opportunity to expand Germany's sphere of influence over Africa and desired to force Germany's rivals to struggle with one another for territory.

At the time of the conference, 80% of Africa remained under traditional and local control. What ultimately resulted was a hodgepodge of geometric boundaries that divided Africa into fifty irregular countries. This new map of the continent was superimposed over the one thousand indigenous cultures and regions of Africa. The new countries lacked rhyme or reason and divided coherent groups of people and merged together disparate groups who really did not get along.

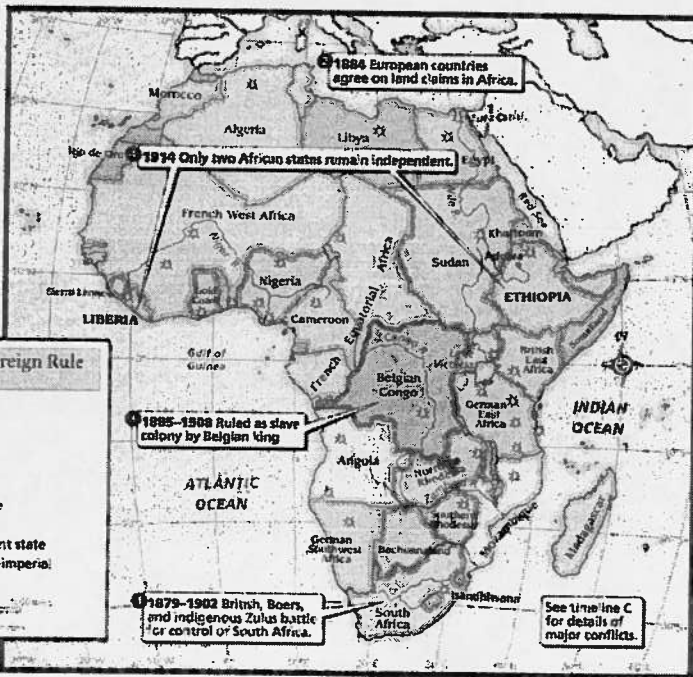
Fourteen countries were represented by a plethora of ambassadors when the conference opened in Berlin on November 15, 1884.



On November 15, 1884. Of these fourteen nations, France, Germany, Great Britain, and Portugal were the major players in the conference, controlling most of colonial Africa at the time.

At the time of the conference, only the coastal areas of Africa were colonized by the European powers. At the Berlin Conference the European colonial powers scrambled to gain control over the interior of the continent. Following the conference, the give and take continued. By 1914, the conference participants had fully divided Africa among themselves into fifty countries.

The boundaries of present day Africa were largely determined at the Congress of Berlin.



European leaders met in 1914 to peacefully divide claims on African lands. Africans had no say in this agreement. By 1914 European colonies had been set up in nearly every part of Africa.

What motivations do you think caused this sudden "Scramble for Africa"? List 3 motivation below, rank ordered 1 - 3.

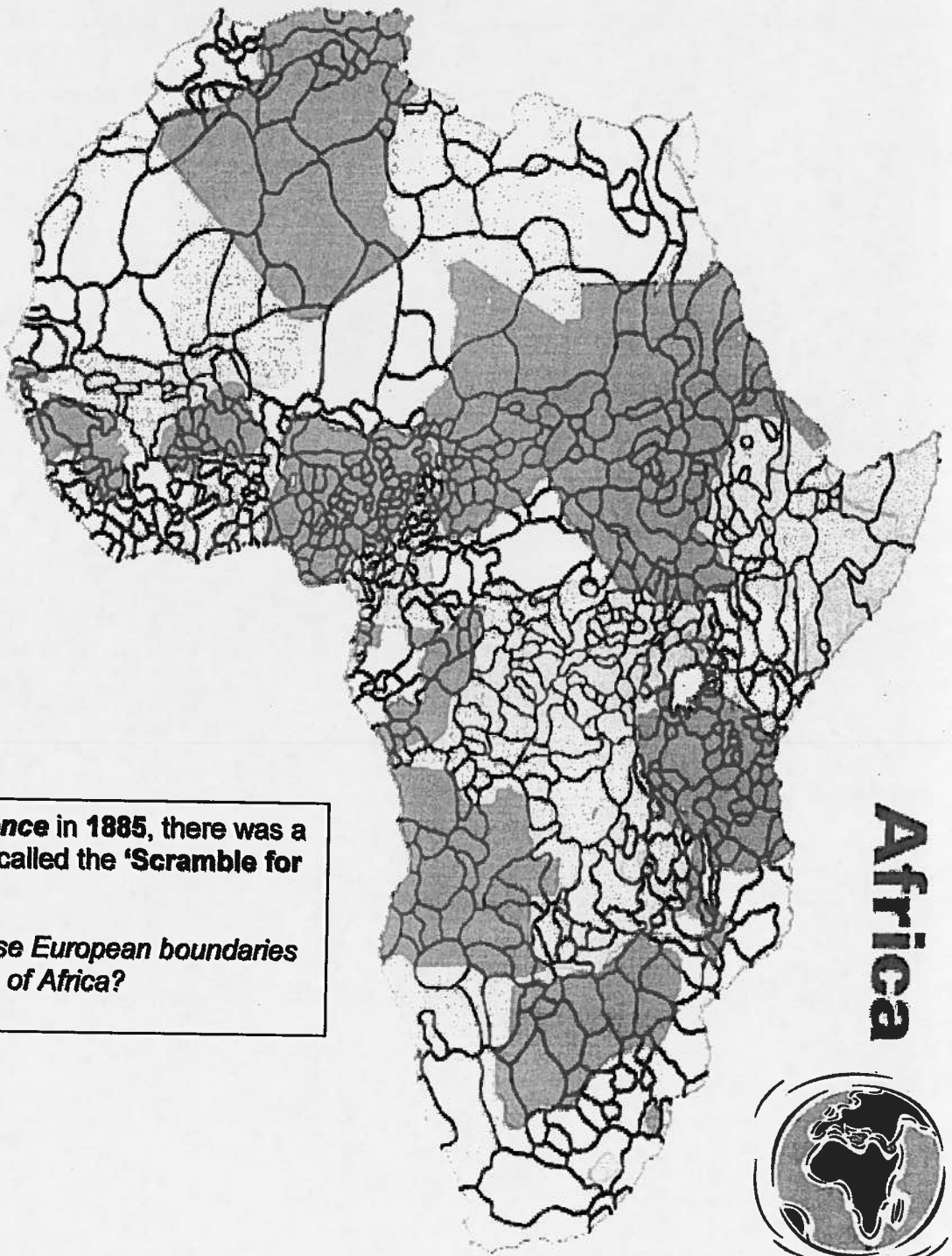
As a member of the English middle class in 1885, you've recently been exposed to Darwin's evolutionary theory that the strongest species are those that are able to adapt to their environment, while those that do not will die out. How might you use Darwin's evolutionary theory to justify the colonization and subjugation of the indigenous "savages" within your nations newly acquired colonies?

Imperialism

Legacy in Africa

African populations

The map shows Africa as it might have been. The lines are the boundaries between the different ethnic and language groups according to written and oral history. This contrasts with the present political units, shown in colour, which are largely the result of Africa's colonial past.



Following the **Berlin Conference** in 1885, there was a European chase for colonies called the 'Scramble for Africa'.

What impact do you think these European boundaries had on the indigenous people of Africa?

Scale 1:80 000 000

0 500 1000 km

Zenithal Equal Area Projection

