

24. Africa – The Colonial period

Most nowadays African states took shape at the end of the 1800s. Egypt = cotton + Suez Canal => *interest* of British Empire.

1884-1885: Berlin Conference = beginning of a colonial era that lasted into the 2nd half of 1900s.

European colonies in Africa:

19th century – time of wars and uncertainty associated with the impact of Europe + diseases (measles, sleeping sickness).

1900: only Morocco, Libya, Ethiopia and Liberia remained independent.

- *French* = French West Africa = from Senegal to Lake Chad, Equatorial Africa (CAR), Algeria and Madagascar
- *British* = British E Africa (Kenya), Uganda, S + N Rhodesia (Zimbabwe + Zambia), British S Africa
- *Italian* = Libya, Italian Somalia
- *Portugal* = Angola and Mozambique
- *Belgian* = Belgian Congo
- *Spanish* = Rio de Oro (today's Western Sahara)
- *German* = German SW Africa (Namibia) and German E Africa (Tanzania), Cameroon

European colonialism

= the end of slave trade

- ❖ organizing the administration of the African people
- ❖ for most Africans conditions probably improved under the new order but no systematic economic development of the new colonies
- ❖ local governments had low capital and foreign (European) capital was used to improve infrastructure, housing and other facilities mainly for the colonists
- ❖ *railway construction*: fastest growing nodes were coastal cities (harbours) where from transport connections were constructed directly to inland industrial zones
 - e.g. from Durban and Port Elisabeth in RSA to the Rand
- ❖ most densely constructed railroads are in RSA and Tunisia
- ❖ Europeans contributed to African development but reason was to obtain huge mineral and oil wealth
- ❖ Europeans didn't really care of African standards of living ⇔ after the independence they took everything except of buildings and run away to host countries

