

Chapter 24 – Age of Modernity, Anxiety, and Imperialism 1894-1914

Toward the Modern Consciousness: Intellectual and Cultural Developments

Before 1914, Europeans trusted *reason*, *science*, and *progress* (from the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment)

Evidence was in the rising standard of living, urban improvements, and mass education

Too, electric lights, phonographs, and automobiles

It seemed as the human mind could comprehend everything – through *reason*

Developments in the Sciences: The Emergence of the New Physics

Science had supported optimism and rational ways of looking at the world: it provided order and certainty

Newton's Universe was intact: the universe was a giant machine, existing apart from those who viewed it

Time, space, and matter were objective realities

The Curies (Marie and Pierre) discovered radiation, energy given off by atoms

Perhaps atoms weren't the solid substances they had been thought to be

There were subatomic particles (protons, neutrons, and electrons) with "enormous" space between

1900: Max Planck proposed that energy wasn't a constant flow but irregular packets, called "quanta"

The Work of Einstein

Albert Einstein (1879-1955) was a German-born patent officer when he exploded previous conceptions

1905: proposed the *theory of relativity*

space and time aren't *absolute* but *relative to the observer*

space and time were interwoven and not independent of the observer

matter was just a form of energy ($E=mc^2$ proposed quantifying the energy within the atom)

was effectively "proven" during a solar eclipse in 1919

light was bent by the gravitational field of the sun – as Einstein had predicted

Toward a New Understanding of the Irrational

Nietzsche

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) glorified the irrational

Said Western bourgeois society blocked cultural creativity because of excessive rationality

He said that emotions, passions, and instincts played a larger part in life than reason

Famously said "God is dead" and that Europeans had killed him

It was necessary, therefore, to create a higher moral being, an *ubermensch* (superman)

Superior intellectuals must free themselves of bourgeois morality and lead the masses

Bergson

Henri Bergson (1859-1941), a French philosopher

Believed that rational thought was useful for providing *knowledge* but not *truth*

Reality was a whole that could not be broken apart and analyzed; it could only be intuited

Analysis brings description but loses the experience of reality

Sorel

Georges Sorel (1847-1922), a French political theorist (a *revolutionary* socialist who advocated violence)

Recommended a general strike as having the power to inspire workers to take violent, heroic action

Believed that new socialist society must be led by small elite body (the masses couldn't rule themselves)

Sigmund Freud and Psychoanalysis

Freud (1856-1939) was a Viennese doctor who added to the uncertainty of the age

1900: he published *The Interpretation of Dreams*, containing the foundations of *psychoanalysis*

Role of the Unconscious

Human behavior was strongly determined by the *unconscious* (made up of earlier experiences and inner feelings)

They could be unlocked through hypnosis and the analysis of dreams

They were unconscious because people repressed them (blocked them out of conscious awareness)

Inner life was a battle among three forces (the restraining *superego* and *ego*, and the impulsive *id*)

Id (ruled by the pleasure principle)

Superego (the conscience which housed inhibitions and was ruled by others' expectations)

Ego (ruled by the reality principle)

The most important repression was sexual repression

Through psychoanalysis these repressions could be revealed and resolved

The Impact of Darwin

Darwin's idea of organic evolution was *mis*applied – often for political ends

Social Darwinism

Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) argued that progress evolved through a “struggle for survival”

The “fittest” – he meant strongest – advanced while the weak declined

The state should not intervene in this “natural process” – and the weak will die

Racism

Extreme nationalists applied Darwin and proposed that war was healthy and inevitable

For some, nationalism “meant” racism (e.g., Germans were the only “pure” descendants of the Aryans)

Volkish thought: Houston Stewart Chamberlain, an Englishman who became a German citizen

Germans must be prepared for war to save Europe from the Jews, Negroes, and “Orientals”

The Attack on Christianity

Scientific thinking and industrialization had a profound impact on Christian churches

Traditional ties of the village and the church were diminished as the rural poor moved to the cities

After 1848, governments had been willing to ease controls over churches in order to impose stronger order

Eventually there was a backlash of anticlericalism, especially among liberal nations

e.g., French republican governments substituted secular civic training for religious instruction

Darwin's theory of evolution seemed to contradict Biblical story of creation

Churches' suppression of Darwin's ideas often drove the more educated away from the church

Even among the faithful, scientific thought led to challenging the historical accuracy of the Bible

Ernst Renan, a French catholic scholar, in his *Life of Jesus*, proposed that Jesus was not divine

Response of the Churches

Rejection

Protestant fundamentalists rejected modern ideas and forces, maintained literal interpretation of the Bible

Pope Pius IX condemned nationalism, socialism, religious toleration, freedom of speech and press

Reinterpretation in light of modern ideas

Modernism viewed the Bible as a book of useful moral ideas, encouraged social reforms

Pope condemned Modernism

Compromise

Catholic Church allowed teaching evolution as a hypothesis

Pope Leo XIII issued an encyclical *De Rerum Novarum*

Criticized “naked” capitalism and allowed that some of socialism was based on Christian principles

But also criticized communism for its antireligious foundations

Recommended that Catholics form socialist parties and labor unions to help the workers

Sects of evangelical missionaries (esp. the Salvation Army) aided the urban poor

Established food centers, shelters for the homeless, “rescue homes” for women

All in the name of saving souls

The Culture of Modernity: Literature

Before 1914, writers and artists had rebelled against the traditional styles that had dominated since the Renaissance

The changes have since been called *Modernism*

Naturalism

A continuation of Realism – but without the general optimism about Europe's future

By addressing social problems, artists and writers could contribute to understanding the world

French writer Émile Zola (1840-1902) provided a good example

He showed how urban slums and coalfields, alcoholism, and other “real” conditions affected life

He felt that authors should “dissect” life as biologists dissected living organisms

Russia's “Golden Age”

Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) wrote *War and Peace* about Napoleon's invasion

Analyzed his characters psychologically and imposed a fatalistic view on his them that was overcome by love and trust

Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881) wrote *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov*

Thought the major problem of his age was the loss of spiritual belief

Westerners placed too much emphasis on human reason and materialistic gain
Believed that only through suffering and faith could the soul be purified

Symbolism

A reaction against Realism, it believed that the external world was not real and only a collection of symbols
Those symbols reflected the true reality: the human mind
Art should function for its own sake, independent of society's views
Primarily expressed through poetry, it could only be understood by knowing the poet's personal language
Examples: W.B. Yeats (Irish) and Rainer Maria Rilke (Bohemian-Austrian)

Modernism in the Arts

Impressionism (1870s)

French movement of the 1870s, it rejected studio art in favor of painting nature directly
Particular interest in painting light, water, and atmosphere
Artists: Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Edgar Degas, Pierre-Auguste Renoir
Berthe Morisot broke from the tradition that women could only be amateur artists

Post-Impressionism (1880s)

Continued Impressionists' interest in light and color, but went "beyond"
Paid less attention to painting what they saw; more about painting what they *felt*
Paul Cézanne looked for the underlying geometric structure of what he saw
Vincent van Gogh, a tortured and tragic figure, believed painting was a spiritual experience

The Search for Individual Expression

Because of the new "discoveries" of psychology and physics, the definition of reality shifted
Photography had "outdone" realism, so why try to paint reality? Artists could "create" reality
1905: Pablo Picasso, a Spaniard who had settled in Paris, moved through several styles
worked in *Cubism*, which imposed a geometric structure to re-create reality
1907: *Les Femmes d'Alger* is considered to be the first Cubist painting
1910: Wassily Kandinsky, a Russian, was one of the founders of *abstract painting*
he made no attempt at "representation," painting recognizable objects
he thought that art should speak directly to the soul, and representative art distracted viewers

Modernism in Music

The early 1800s Romantics' interest in folk cultures eventually grew into a nationalistic spirit in music

Grieg

Edward Grieg was a Norwegian composer, whose Peer Gynt Suite reflected his nationalism

Debussy

Claude Debussy was a French composer who composed in a style reminiscent of impressionism
Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun was intended to capture the feeling of a poem

Primitivism

Igor Stravinsky was an influential Russian composer who revolutionized music through 3 ballets
The Rite of Spring, *The Firebird*, *Petrushka* – all based on Russian folk tales
Used pulsating rhythms, sharp dissonances, and unusual dancing – which outraged Parisian audiences

Politics: New Directions and New Uncertainties

The pendulum swung again: liberal principles and *political democracies* grew until 1871 and then shrank again
Mass politics was too liberal for even traditional liberals to accept
Right-wing politics based on racism grew
Radical socialists, feminists made greater demands
In Central Europe, authoritarian regimes clashed with reformers
The U.S. arose as an industrial giant

The Movement for Women's Rights

1830s: some women in the U.S. and Europe became frustrated with prejudice against females
divorce and property laws stacked against them: women were essentially the property of men
legal property rights: Britain (1870), Germany (1900), France (1907)
right to divorce: Britain (1857), France (1884), never in Catholic countries like Spain and Italy

New Professions

Middle- and upper-class women sought higher education and entrance into male-dominated occupations
First: teaching; next: nursing – but not as doctors – think Florence Nightingale and Cara Barton (U.S.)

The Right to Vote

1840s-1850s: realization that almost all women's rights resting on suffrage

Feminists split into moderate (Millicent Fawcett) and radical (the Pankhursts) factions

The Pankhursts (Emmeline and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia) believed in publicity stunts

Pelted politicians with eggs, chained themselves to lampposts, smashed department store windows

Burned railroad cars, went on hunger strikes; one even threw herself in front of the king's horse

Demands were heard throughout Europe and the U.S.

but only some U.S. states and Scandinavian countries granted women the vote before World War I

Efforts for Peace

Peace movement supported by women in many countries

Bertha von Suttner headed the Austrian Peace Society and protested the arms race in the 1890s

Wrote *Lay Down Your Arms* and received a Nobel Peace Prize

The New Woman

Some were socialists, some just sought freedom outside the household (wanted more than mother and wife)

e.g., Maria Montessori: received a medical degree, devised a new system of childhood education

by 1930s hundreds of Montessori schools had been opened in the U.S. and Europe

Jews in the European Nation-State

Nationalism and racism in the late 19th C. combined and targeted the Jews

As a result of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution, Jews had been granted increasing legal equality

1790-91: Jews granted full citizenship; after 1848: emancipation was established throughout Europe

They achieved greater assimilation: entered universities and the professions, engaged freely in politics

1880: they were 10% of Vienna (although 39% of its medical students and 23% of its law student)

Benjamin Disraeli became British prime minister (by "leav[ing] his Jewishness behind")

Became successful bankers, lawyers, scientists, scholars, journalists, and stage performers

Anti-Semitism in Austrian Empire and Germany

In Austria, the Christian Socialist Party was fiercely *anti-Semitic*

Most notably in Vienna, the brilliant center of European culture

Home of German nationalism the blamed Jews for the corruption of German culture

Adolf Hitler claimed his worldview was shaped in Vienna from 1907-1913

In Germany, it was the Christian Social Workers Party

Used anti-Semitism to woo lower class workers, who felt threatened and left behind by Jews

Jewish conversion to Christianity was no longer acceptable (it was "impossible")

Persecution of Jews in Eastern Europe

Worst treatment occurred in eastern Europe (where 72% of all Jews lived)

In Russia, persecutions and *pogroms* (organized massacres) were widespread

Hundreds of thousands of Jews emigrated to escape persecution

Between 1881 and 1899, an average of 23,000 Jews left (most to the U.S. and Canada)

Perhaps 25,000 left for Palestine, which became the focus of the *Zionist* movement

The Zionist Movement

The "sudden" emancipation left many Jews wondering: assimilation or a lifelong dream of Palestine?

The same nationalist sentiment that other ethnic groups felt visited the Jews

1896: Theodor Herzl published *The Jewish State*, in which he said that such a state was inevitable

Despite financial support from bankers, settlement was difficult: Ottoman authorities were opposed

1897: First Zionist Congress proclaimed its aim to be creation of a "home in Palestine"

The Transformation of Liberalism: Great Britain and Italy

Great Britain

Trade unions and a new Labour Party forced the Liberal Party to adopt significant social reforms

Trade unions pushed for "collective ownership and control over production, distribution, and exchange"

Led to organization of many steel factories and confrontation in the streets

1900: trade unions & Fabian Socialists formed the Labour Party

they got only 1 seat in the House of Commons in 1900, but they got 29 in 1906

Liberal Party saw the results and abandoned *laissez-faire* in favor of social reforms
Pushed particularly by David Lloyd George, a Welshman who was moved by misery of Welsh miners
National Insurance Act of 1911 provided sickness, unemployment benefits
Further legislation provided retirement benefits and workers' compensation (paid by tax on the rich)
Lloyd George pushed back on the power of the House of Lords
1911: House of Lords were restricted from stop legislation passed by the House of Commons
1914: Parliament granted Ireland home rule
that created a new problem: Protestants in Northern Ireland didn't want a Catholic Irish state
World War I allowed Britain to suspend home rule, avoid religious problem

Italy

Stability was achieved by political and economic bribery
Liberal leader Giovanni Giolitti used *trasformismo* (*transformism*), making old political groups into new ones
Faced violence from urban workers, tried to appease them with social welfare and universal male suffrage
To strengthen his popularity, he conquered Libya – but popular unrest rose anyway

France: Travails of the Third Republic

The Dreyfus Affair: institutional anti-Semitism revealed
Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a Jew, was convicted of selling army secrets
He was sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil's Island
Eventually, an aristocratic Catholic officer was pointed out as the more likely suspect
Nevertheless, the army refused Dreyfus a new trial
Republican leaders ordered a new trial, but he wasn't acquitted (he was later pardoned, exonerated)
As a result of the Affair, a new, more radical government was voted in
It purged the army of antirepublican officers
1905: separation of Church and state; most Catholic orders that ran schools were forced to leave
The Third Republic was free of threats from the right
But France was economically well behind Britain, Germany, and the United States
Surge of industrialization revealed terrible working conditions
Relative small size of working class made politics less responsive to their needs
That led to more radical acts by the workers

Growing Tensions in Germany

Kaiser Wilhelm II was unstable and aggressive; he and a small group of advisers set government policy
Rapid growth of industrialization and urbanization created a divided country
Social Democratic Party grew as the cities expanded; it became the largest party by 1912
Although it was not very revolutionary, it still frightened the middle and upper classes
Landowning nobility and representatives of industrialists tried to block democratization
Believed that an expansionist foreign policy would divert people
Traditionalists formed radical, nationalistic right-wing groups like the Pan-German League
Were imperialistic and anti-Semitic

Austria-Hungary: The Problem of the Nationalities

The problem of multiple ethnic groups did not get better with universal male suffrage in 1907
It served to heighten political action focused on autonomy
It sparked a virulent nationalism in German-speaking minority in Austria; two parties emerged
(Marxist) Social Democrats, who thought the ethnic minorities would hurt workers' improvement
Christian Socialists, who combined agitation for workers with anti-Semitism
Magyars in Hungary sought separation, demanded a Hungarian army
Emperor Franz Joseph threatened universal male suffrage, which would have hurt Magyar domination
Prime ministers tended to ignore parliament in favor of imperial emergency decrees

Industrialization and Revolution in Imperial Russia

Under Sergei Witte, minister of finance (1892-1903) Russia sponsored a massive surge of industrialization
Thought that transportation was the key, so massive buildup of railways took place
Also imposed a system of protective tariffs, encouraged foreign investment
Spawned a rapid growth of the coal and steel industries (4th largest – behind GB, Germany, and US)
With it came all the ills of early industrialization, socialist movement

(Marxist) Social Democratic Party formed in 1898 but soon its leaders were arrested
Socialist revolutionaries worked to overthrow the tsar, increasingly turned to terrorism

The Revolution of 1905

Russian imperialist designs on northern Korea led to the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) and defeat
Growing discontent led to upheaval

Middle-class and professionals wanted liberal institutions and political system

Ethnic populations resisted control by the Russian minority (only 40%)

Peasants suffered from a lack of land; laborers were suffering from industrial conditions

Bloody Sunday: January 1905, in St. Petersburg, the army fired on protesting workers, killing hundreds

In reaction, workers called strikes and formed unions, *zemstvos* demanded parliamentary government

After a general strike in October, the Tsar Nicholas II issued the October Manifesto

Granted civil liberties, created the *Duma*, a legislative assembly

Middle class was satisfied, and supported government repression of the workers later that year

Failure of the Revolution

By 1907: the tsar had curtailed the power of the *Duma*

Peter Stolypin, tsar's chief adviser, dissolved village ownership of the land, moved toward private ownership

He was assassinated in 1911, and the tsar turned back to the army and the bureaucracy to govern

The Rise of the United States

From 1860 to 1914, the US made the shift from agrarian to industrial

Expansion of urbanization: new large cities, already large cities grew larger (NY, Philadelphia, Boston)

Aided by migration – 8-10 million from rural areas, 14 million from abroad (mostly Europe)

Although the richest nation in the world, its prosperity was highly concentrated

9% of the people owned 71% of the wealth

Labor unrest led to union organizing

The “Progressive Era” after 1900 saw real reforms

Social legislation: hours, wages, and working conditions, especially for women and children

Nationwide reform: regulation of industries, like the pure Food and Drug Act

Under President Woodrow Wilson, a graduated income tax and the Federal Reserve System (which allowed the government to make economic decisions formerly granted to bankers)

The Growth of Canada

1872: Canada added provinces and stretched from coast to coast

Some division within the country because of two cultures: British and French (primarily in Quebec)

Eased with the first French Canadian prime minister, Wilfred Laurier (in 1896)

Otherwise, the economy boomed through industrialization aided by European immigration

The New Imperialism

Causes of the New Imperialism

Heightened competition among nations,

Colonies provided prestige, markets for goods, and ports and refueling stations

Nationalism (patriotism) was used to arouse interest in imperialism

Voluntary organizations (geographical societies and naval leagues) promoted enthusiasm for imperial ventures

The Role of Social Darwinism and racism

Social Darwinists believed that in the struggle between nations, the fit are victorious and survive

“Superior” races must dominate the “inferior” ones – by force if necessary – to prove strength and virility

Religious Motives

Some argued that Europe had a “responsibility” to civilize “ignorant” peoples (the “white man’s burden”)

Thousands of Catholic and Protestant missionaries went abroad to seek converts

Economic Motives

Europe’s great demand for natural resources and products not found in Europe spurred imperialism

need for rubber, oil, and tin fostered direct control over just trading for them

huge accumulations of capital encouraged seeking profit overseas

Economic imperialism was different from colonial expansion – it sought profits *wherever* they could be made

The Scramble for Africa

Before 1880, Europe had little interest in Africa

South Africa

During the Napoleonic Wars, the British had taken control of Cape Town, founded by the Dutch. Afterwards, the British encouraged settlers to go to the “Cape Colony”

Disgusted with British policies, the Boers (Dutch farmers) migrated on “The Great Trek” to Transvaal

1877: British governor seized the Transvaal, igniting a Boer revolt

1880s: British policy in South Africa shaped by Cecil Rhodes

founded diamond and gold mines, monopolizing production

gained control of the Transvaal, renaming it after himself (Rhodesia)

his goal was to create a series of British colonies “from the Cape to Cairo”

1896: Rhodes’ conspired to overthrow of the Boer regime in South African Republic w/o British approval was removed as prime minister of the Cape Colony

led (inevitably) to the Boer War (1899-1902) which Britain won

1910: Union of South Africa was formed, joining the British Commonwealth

Portuguese and French Possessions

Portuguese and French had maintained settlements before the scramble

Portuguese kept Angola on the west coast and Mozambique on the east coast

French had conquered Algeria in 1830 and established civilian rule by 1879

With the scramble, they added a huge area of West Africa, Tunisia, and Morocco

Other British Possessions

Sought control of the Suez Canal (which had been built by France within Muslim Egypt)

An “expeditionary” force landed in 1882, and Britain eventually created a protectorate in Egypt

Moved south from Egypt in the Sudan and created a colony

Italy attempted imperialism, losing to Ethiopia in 1896 but taking Tripoli (renamed Libya) in 1911

Belgium and Central Africa

Central Africa, very dense, was finally judged accessible as a result of explorers Livingstone and Stanley

King Leopold of Belgium saw profit in central Africa, notoriously brutalizing the natives

German Possessions

Began late (Bismarck had downplayed the significance of colonies)

Established colonies in South-West Africa, Cameroons, Togoland, and Tanganyika

Impact on Africa

By 1914, all of Africa had been carved up by Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, and Portugal

Only Ethiopia and Liberia (founded by emancipated American slaves) were independent

Despite rationalizations (“white man’s burden”) Africa had been conquered for the sake of colonization

Imperialism in Asia

Although open to Western influence since the 1500s, most of Asia hadn’t been under direct control

Dutch in the East Indies, Spain in the Philippines, the French and Portuguese had trading posts

China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia had managed to largely exclude Westerners

The British in Asia

Captain Cook’s voyages in the 1700s had resulted in settlement in Australia

1850: Home rule for various provinces; 1901: creation of a unified Australian Commonwealth

British East India Company had controlled much of India – but it was enterprise, not government

1858: after Sepoy Mutiny, British government took over (1876: Victoria proclaimed Empress of India)

Russians had expanded into Siberia in 1600s, claimed Alaska in the 1700s (and sold it to the US in 1867)

Seven million Russians settled in Siberia between 1800 and 1914, when Siberia was 90% Slavic

1830: Russians controlled the North Coast of the Black Sea; 1881: Caspian Sea; 1885: Turkestan;

These brought Russia up against the borders of Persia and Afghanistan, which were close to British India

1907: British, Russians agreed to make Afghanistan a buffer state and divide Persia into separate spheres

Russia then expanded east into Manchuria and attempted to move into Korea

Brought about the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)

China

By the 1800s, the Manchu dynasty was in decline

1842: as a result of the Opium War, Britain gained Hong Kong and trading rights in some Chinese cities

France, Germany, Russia, the US, and Japan rushed and eventually established spheres of influence
1899: American-led “open door policy” eased any restrictions on commerce within these spheres

Japan and Korea

1853-1854: Commodore Perry forced Japan to grant the US trading and diplomatic privileges
Korea was the “victim” of the Sino-Japanese (1894-1895) and Russo-Japanese Wars: Japan annexed Korea

Southeast Asia

British: Burma (Myanmar) and the Malay States
French: Cochin China (North Vietnam) then Cambodia, Laos, and Annam and Tonkin (rest of Vietnam)
Thailand remained the only free nation – because both British and French saw it as a buffer

American Imperialism

Pacific islands: Samoa then Hawaii
For Hawaii, economic imperialism first, then annexation in 1898
Spanish-American War (1898) gave the US the Philippines, and Guam (and Puerto Rico)
Americans refused to grant Philippine independence, preferring paternalistic “civilizing”
It took 3 years and 60,000 troops to pacify the Philippines

Responses to Imperialism

Initially, resistance was met by Westerners’ superior technology – resulting in indigenous people’s defeat
Adjustment took two forms: adoption of western ways or maintenance of traditional ways (where possible)

Africa

By 1900, many leaders had been educated in colonial schools
Although admiring Western culture (sometimes criticizing their own) they came to resent arrogance
Western ideals of democracy, equality, and political freedom had not been granted to the locals
Native people held mostly menial jobs, resulting in a lack of economic prosperity
Local traditions had been replaced by a society run by foreigners for foreign profit
Segregation was prevalent in clubs, schools, and churches
Europeans had a habit of addressing natives by their first name only or (for males) as “boy”
Across Africa, native peoples began organizing to seek the end of foreign rule

China

Humiliation of China brought on antifeign violence
Led to the Boxer Rebellion (1900-1901) by members of the Society of Harmonious Fists
Attacked foreigners (missionaries and businessmen), Chinese who cooperated with foreigners
Foreigners retaliated with an allied army, defeated the Chinese, and demanded more concessions
Manchu Dynasty was so weakened that a revolutionary force overthrew it in 1912
Sun Yat-Sen (*Sun Yixian*), its leader, declared a Republic of China, but China continued to be weak

Japan

Reaction was largely submission to Western demands by the *shogun*, a hereditary military governor
1868: samurais revolted and returned an emperor to the throne
New emperor, Mutsuhito, established *Meiji* (“Enlightened”) Restoration
Adopted Western methods and institutions
Students went abroad to receive western educations
He established a German-style army and British-style Navy, US industrial methods
He copied French system of centralized administrative control
Developed a strong military state and pursued a Western imperialist agenda
Success in wars (see above) expanded influence and control into China and Korea

India

With British government control came all the “fruits” of Western imperialism
A relatively honest and efficient government
Technology: railroads, banks, mines, industry, medical technology, and hospitals
Education: secondary schools and colleges (to train upper and middle classes for jobs as subordinates)
Didn’t bring prosperity for the majority of Indians
Extreme poverty for two-thirds of the population
British manufactured goods destroyed local industries
Education was English-only and restricted to the upper classes

1883: Indian National Congress formed in order to seek self-government

Results of the New Imperialism

Almost all of Africa and Asia were either colonized or near collapse (China and the Ottoman Empire)

Only remaining independent nations were Japan, Thailand, Afghanistan, Persia, and Ethiopia

Of these, only Japan was independent by design

International Rivalry and the Coming of War

By 1914, Europe as a whole had been at peace for almost 50 years (since the Crimean War)

Part of the reason was that Bismarck had exercised a restraining influence until 1890

The Bismarckian System

With Germany's creation in 1871, Bismarck knew that he had to ease fears about upsetting the balance of power

Fearing French revenge over the loss of Alsace-Lorraine, he formed the Three Emperor's League in 1873

It was an alliance of conservative powers Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia

The Balkans: Decline of Ottoman Power

The weakening of the Ottoman Empire encouraged subject peoples to seek independence

Only intervention of European powers could prevent the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire

Unfortunately, the Russians and Austrians both had designs on the Balkans

Russia wanted an overland route to the Mediterranean and Austria wanted to expand its territory

1878: Russia (with Austrian approval) defeated the Ottoman empire and created a Bulgarian satellite nation

in reaction, the Congress of Berlin, dominated by Bismarck, essentially revoked the Treaty of San Stefano

Bulgaria was diminished, the rest being returned to Ottoman control

Serbia, Montenegro, and Romania became independent

Bosnia and Herzegovina were placed under Austrian protection

New Alliances

Angered, Russia ended Three Emperors' League, so Bismarck formed *Triple Alliance* with Austria and Italy

Bismarck later signed a Reinsurance treaty with Russia (1887)

1890: Kaiser Wilhelm II dismissed Bismarck and upset the balance

New Directions and New Crises

Wilhelm II dropped the treaty with Russia: it made no sense considering the alliance with Austria

Republican France jumped at the chance to ally with Russia; later (1907) Britain joined the *Triple Entente*

Crises in the Balkans, 1908-1913

1908: Austria ignored the Congress of Berlin and annexed Slavic-speaking Bosnia and Herzegovina

Serbia was outraged: it had plans to join the two to form a Serbian kingdom

But that was precisely why the Austrians annexed the two countries: to stop Serbia

Russia, seeing itself as the protector of the Slavs (and wanting the territory), sided with Serbia against Austria

Backed by the Russians, the Serbs prepared for war

Kaiser Wilhelm demanded that Russia accept things or face a war with Germany

Weakened by its defeat by the Japanese, Russia agreed, but it vowed revenge

1912: First Balkan War – Serbia, Bulgaria, Montenegro, and Greece defeated the Ottomans

1913: Second Balkan War – Serbia, Romania, Greece, and the Ottoman Empire defeated Bulgaria

Nobody seemed to get what they wanted, and the tensions remained high

At the London Conference (arranged by Austria) Albania became independent, blocking Serbia again

Russia began to believe that it could never again back down to Germany or Austria