

Dbq imperialism assignment



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It would be interesting to see how they all have really felt as Imperialism took hold of the world and made it smaller. Racial superiority led Europeans to believe that they can take over the world because their race and country is better, thus leading Europeans to assume power over the less sophisticated (in terms of industrialization). For instance, Thomas Babington Macaulay of the British “Supreme Court for India” had exclaimed that “Western literature” had an “intrinsic superiority. However, Macaulay supposed superiority because he comes from Britain, which at the time was thriving with prosperity.

Therefore, to come to a nation lacking in the sophisticated technology of the British led him to think that these people were far lower than that of the British, and therefore, to remark in a crude way that their language is “so poor and rude”, which on the larger aspect is saying that India is less than Britain because of its racial supremacy (Document 2). Likewise, Jules Ferry speaks on behalf of the French that “superior races have rights over inferior races”, which means that he obviously considers the French race to be more superior to that of all other nations (Document 6).

In addition, the United States’ “assertion of ownership” over Hawaii represents that Americans believe that because they are Americans, they could assume leadership over Hawaii territory. This variation of manifest destiny had allowed Americans to think that their race is better than others (Document 8). Therefore, based upon these accounts, imperialism led to a sense of racial supremacy in powerful empires. With the major influences of Europeans during their expansion of imperialism, cultures were being negatively affected.

In the account of William Benedict, he pondered over whether the practice of sati should be abolished. Of course, since Benedict is British, he would think that his culture is more superior than that of the Indians, therefore, he thinks that their religion and culture is less important. The person does not stop this practice of sati because it might endanger the small British Empire in India. What Benedict is doing is intruding upon Indian culture because of its supposed inferiority.

However, if Benedict also abolishes the practice of sati, then it would destroy the Indian culture, of which their life is based. Under British rule, the “knife of sugar”, which translates that though European culture may be nice because of its industrialized sophistication, it is still very dangerous because it undermines the culture of the natives. It is important to remark that the writer is not a native or a British citizen, which concludes that this person is unbiased. The imperialism intrudes upon native culture because much of it is intruded with British industrialization (Document 4).

Therefore, imperialism led to the intrusion of inferior cultures. Imperialism urged many European countries to expand and colonize and conquer many other smaller and weaker empires. By an account of a German leader, the German’s “undisputed possession” of foreign land means that Germany was powerful enough to go across the oceans and conquer other lands. They thought other lands were already theirs because they were more powerful than other groups of people, and with this thinking, they claimed land as theirs and expanded (Document 3). Also, the Boers expanded from the Cape of Good Hope because of imperialism.

In a letter from the chief of the Boasts people addressed to the Boers, the Boers were “ driving out by one means or another ” the natives. The imperialism had started off when the Boers came to the Cape of Good Hope, and from there, began to expand north into other African territory (Document 5). Similarly, the United States had also expanded due to imperialism because they began occupying Hawaii for “ the civil, military, or naval purposes of the United States” they believed that they had a right to do so cause they had political advantages and could thus expand into Hawaii (Document 7).

Thus, due to the rise of imperialism, many nations expanded into one another’s territories. As imperialism proceeded in the 19th century, racial supremacy, intrusions of cultures, and the expansion of colonies also rose as well. Much smaller empire and less superior people were subjected down. Their cultures, in turn, were mixed and intruded with European culture. Lastly and most obviously, European nations expanded.