**Latin American Revolutions and New Imperialism**

**I. The Latin American Revolutions (1800-1830)**

A) The Latin American Revolutions were the events where the colonies of Latin America (Central

America, South America, and the Caribbean) fought to gain independence (self-government)

from Spain, Portugal, and France.

B) Key causes of (reasons for) the Latin American Revolutions:

1) The governments of Latin America were controlled by Peninsulares (people born in Spain and Portugal) who treated the people of Latin America poorly. Creoles (Europeans born in Latin America), Mestizos (mixed Europeans/Native Americans), Native Americans, and African slaves demanded more rights.

2) The ideas of the Enlightenment inspired the Latin Americans to fight for independence (self-government) and overthrow their unfair governments.

3) The American Revolution and the French Revolution inspired Latin Americans to fight

for independence (self-government) and overthrow their unfair governments.

C) Below is a list of leaders that helped gain independence (self-government) for the colonies of

Latin America:

1) Simon Bolivar

2) Jose de San Martin

3) Miguel Hidalgo

4) Toussaint L’Ouverture

5) NOTE: All of these men are considered nationalists since they loved their nations and

wanted to free them from European control.

D) NOTE: After gaining independence, attempts were made to unify (combine) the different areas of Latin America in order to form one country. These attempts failed because Latin America has 21 many natural boundaries (i.e.- Andes Mountains, Amazon Rainforest, etc.) that prevent communication between regions.

**II. Introduction to Imperialism**

A) Imperialism (also called colonization) is when a strong country conquers and takes over a

weaker country. The area that is taken over is known as a colony.

B) During the 19th century (1800s), many European nations (also called Western nations) such as Great Britain, France, Germany, and Italy took over lands throughout Africa and Asia.

C) Causes of (reasons for) imperialism- The European nations imperialized/colonized lands in

Africa and Asia for several important reasons:

1) Mercantilism - Europeans wanted raw materials/natural resources (like coal, tin, iron) in order to make goods in their factories. Markets for finished goods

2) “White Man’s Burden”- This was a racist poem that encouraged Europeans to civilize

(help improve) the people that they took over by teaching them European customs and

religious beliefs (like Christianity). The poem referred to the people of Asia and Africa as

“half devil” and “half child.”

3) Social Darwinism- This was the idea that it was natural for strong countries (like the

European nations) to take over weaker countries (like nations in Africa and Asia).

III. **Imperialism in India, China, and Africa (1800s-1914)**

A) Effects (results) of imperialism- The Europeans generally had a very negative impact on the

regions that they colonized (took over) in India, China, and Africa:

1) “Scramble for Africa”- Over 90% of Africa was taken over by European countries that

scrambled (raced) to take over the continent.

2) China - After the British began smuggling opium (an addictive drug) into China, the

Chinese fought back in the famous Opium Wars. After being defeated, China was carved

up into spheres of influence (areas where trade was controlled by different European

nations).

a. Treaty of Nanjing: Unequal treaties, China lost territories (Hong Kong), extraterritorial Rights

3) India- India was taken over by Great Britain (England) and ruled for almost 200 years.

B) The people of Africa and Asia did not like being ruled by European nations. As a result, they

fought many wars to kick out the Europeans (also called Westerners) and gain independence (self-government):

1) Sepoy Mutiny- Rebellion in which India tried (but failed) to gain independence from

Great Britain (England).

2) Boxer Rebellion- Rebellion in which China tried (but failed) to gain independence from the various European (Western) nations that controlled them.

**IV. Imperialism in Japan**

A) Tokugawa Japan - from 1600-1854, Japan was largely isolated and wanted little contact with the rest of the world.

B) 1854- Commodore Matthew Perry of the United States sailed into Tokyo Harbor in order to open up Japan to trade.

C) Meiji Restoration (1868-1912)

1) This is the period in Japanese history when Japan was ruled by Emperor Meiji.

2) NOTE: During this period, Japan began a rapid (fast) program of modernization and

westernization.

3) Modernization- Japan industrialized (built factories, machines, roads, communications).

4) Westernization- Japan adopted the customs and techniques of Western countries (i.e.-Europe and the United States). Japan changed its government, military, education

system, and technology to make it more like those of Europe and the United States.

D) NOTE: As result of the changes made during the Meiji Period, Japan became a powerful and

modern industrial country. Instead of being taken over by Europeans or the United States (the

way India, China, and Africa were), Japan actually started to take over (imperialize) other

countries.

E) Japanese Imperialism

1) Now that Japan had factories, it needed natural resources/raw materials (like coal, tin, iron, and lead) to make products.

2) Since Japan had very few natural resources of its own, Japan took over Korea and part of China to gain these resources.