GENERAL

ap world history chapter 27 new imperialism study guide answers

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AP World History Chapter 27: New Imperialism Study Guide Answers

When you sit down to tackle AP World History Chapter 27, you're stepping into the era of **New Imperialism**—a period marked by rapid expansion, intense competition among European powers, and profound global consequences. This chapter is a cornerstone of the AP curriculum, and mastering its concepts can give you a decisive edge on the exam. In this comprehensive guide, we'll walk through the key themes, critical events, influential figures, and essential questions that shape Chapter 27. We'll also provide concise, well structured answers that help you internalize the material and prepare for both the multiple choice and free response sections.

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1. Overview of New Imperialism

New Imperialism refers to the period from the 1870s to the outbreak of World War I (1914). Unlike earlier colonial ventures, this era was characterized by:

- Rapid expansion into Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.
- Technological advances—steamships, telegraphs, and rifles—facilitated control.
- Intense rivalry among European powers, the United States, and Japan.
- Ideological justifications: the civilizing mission, social Darwinism, and the "white man's burden."
- Economic motives: raw materials, new markets, and investment opportunities.

Chapter 27 focuses on how these forces reshaped the world map, altered local societies, and set the stage for the global conflicts that followed.

2. Root Causes and Motivations

Understanding why imperialism accelerated requires a multi layered look at political, economic, and social drivers.

2.1 Economic Motivations

Industrialization produced surplus goods and a need for raw materials. European powers sought:

- Access to unexplored natural resources (e.g., rubber in the Congo).
- New markets for manufactured goods to maintain industrial growth.

- Investment outlets for capital in the form of colonial enterprises.

2.2 Political & Strategic Considerations

National prestige and strategic positioning were paramount:

- Control of naval bases for projecting power (e.g., British bases in Hong Kong).
- Securing trade routes to avoid rivals (e.g., the Suez Canal).
- Competing for global influence to counterbalance rival empires.

2.3 Social & Ideological Factors

European societies justified expansion through:

- The civilizing mission—the belief that Western culture was superior.
- Social Darwinism—applying evolutionary concepts to justify domination.
- Religious zeal—spreading Christianity as a moral duty.

2.4 Technological Advances

Innovations such as:

- Steel hulled warships and breech loading rifles.
- The telegraph and telephone for instant communication.
- Railroads and steamships that shrank distances.

These breakthroughs made distant territories more accessible and controllable.

3. Major Imperial Powers and Key Figures

The competition involved several key players, each employing distinct strategies.

3.1 Britain

Britain's empire spanned continents, driven by a combination of naval supremacy and economic interests. Key figures:

- Lord Carnarvon – Oversaw the acquisition of Egypt.
- Sir Henry McMahon – Negotiated the McMahon–Hussein Correspondence.

3.2 France

France pursued a policy of "civilizing" its colonies, emphasizing cultural integration. Key figures:

- Jean-Baptiste de La Salle – Early missionary and colonizer.
- Joseph Chamberlain – Advocated for "Imperialism" in the British Empire, influencing French thought.

3.4 Germany

Germany entered imperial competition later, focusing on strategic naval bases and resource extraction. Key figures:

- Adolf von Trotha – German colonial governor in Namibia.
- Hermann von Wissmann – Explorer and administrator in Africa.

3.5 United States

Emerging as a global power, the U.S. pursued expansion through:

- The Spanish–American War (1898) – leading to control of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.
- The Philippine–American War (1899 1902) – consolidating control over the Philippines.
- Acquisition of Alaska (1867) – early example of American imperialism.

3.6 Japan

Japan's imperial ambitions were driven by industrialization and strategic security needs. Key figures:

- Emperor Meiji – Modernization and westernization reforms.
- Prince Iwakura Tomomi – Led the Iwakura Mission to study Western institutions.

3.7 Other European Powers

Portugal, Belgium, Italy, and Russia also expanded, each with unique motivations and methods.

4. Colonial Administration Models

Imperial powers adopted various administrative frameworks based on economic goals and local conditions.

4.1 Direct Rule vs. Indirect Rule

Direct rule involved governing territories with European officials; indirect rule relied on existing local structures.

- Britain often used indirect rule in Africa (e.g., Nigeria).
- France preferred direct rule with assimilation policies.

4.2 Corporate Governance

In some colonies, private companies held administrative power:

- The De Beers Company in South Africa.
- The British East India Company in India.

4.3 Protectorates and Concessions

These arrangements allowed European powers to maintain influence while nominally respecting local sovereignty.

- China's Treaty Ports (e.g., Shanghai).
- Russia's Siberian Railway and concessions in China.

5. Economic, Political, and Social Impacts

The consequences of New Imperialism were far reaching and often devastating.

5.1 Economic Transformation

- Extraction of resources (e.g., rubber, minerals).
- Shift from subsistence to cash crops.
- Infrastructure development—railways, telegraphs, ports.

5.2 Political Reconfiguration

- Redrawing of borders, often ignoring ethnic and cultural boundaries.
- Rise of nationalist movements seeking independence.
- Creation of new nation states after World War I.

5.3 Social and Cultural Consequences

- Displacement of indigenous populations.
- Spread of Christianity and Western education.
- Introduction of new legal systems and languages.

5.4 Environmental Impact

- Deforestation for rubber plantations.

- Mining operations causing soil degradation.
- Introduction of invasive species.

6. Study Guide Structure & Sample Questions

To master Chapter 27, structure your study sessions around the following framework:

1. Chronological Overview: Map out the timeline of major events.
2. Comparative Analysis: Contrast British vs. French colonial strategies.
3. Cause & Effect: Identify the motivations behind specific imperial actions.
4. Primary Sources: Analyze excerpts from treaties, speeches, and missionary accounts.
5. Free Response Practice: Create outlines for potential essay prompts.

Sample Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which technological advancement most directly facilitated European control over African interiors?\\n \
\n a) The telegraph
2. b) The steam engine
3. c) The steel hulled warship
4. d) The breech loading rifle

- a) Direct governance by British officials
- b) Use of local leaders to enforce British laws
- c) Complete economic exploitation without political control
- d) Establishing independent states with British advisors

Sample Free Response Prompt

“Analyze the role of economic interests in shaping the policies of at least two European powers during the New Imperialism era. Use specific examples to support your argument.”

7. Sample Answers & Analysis

7.1 Multiple Choice Answers

1. Answer: d) The breech loading rifle – its range and firepower enabled European forces to dominate local populations.
2. Answer: b) Use of local leaders to enforce British laws – exemplified by the British Protectorate system in Nigeria.

7.2 Free Response Outline

Thesis: Economic motives—primarily the acquisition of raw materials and new markets—were the primary drivers behind European imperial policies during New Imperialism, shaping the strategies of Britain, France, and Germany in distinct yet interrelated ways.

1. **Britain’s Economic Motives**\\n \\n Control of the Suez Canal for trade with India.
2. Extraction of rubber in the Congo.
3. Railway construction to open interior markets.

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