

## Colonialism in Latin America, Asia and Africa

### Expansion of Europe and Early Colonialism

Look at the map of the world given below. It shows the world as known to the Europeans some 600 years ago.



*Map 1: Map of world known to Europeans in 1400 known as Genoese.*

Some 600 years ago the people of the world travelled very little. They usually travelled on the backs of horses or camels or by small boats and ships which only sailed along sea coasts. However, the contact between peoples and countries began to increase as traders travelled far and wide to buy exotic goods and sell them at high prices. Silk and porcelain ware from China, cotton textiles, steel and spices from India, fruits and scents from Arabia and wine from Europe were some of the most sought after goods all over the world. The traders usually purchased and sold them in exchange for gold and silver and made huge profits. So much so that some of them were richer than kings.

Most of the trade routes connecting Europe and Asia around 1400 were controlled by Muslim kingdoms, especially the Ottoman Empire which was constantly at war with the European Christian powers. The Italians were able to work out an understanding with the Arab traders who brought Asian goods to the Alexandria (in Egypt) and sold them to the Italians. As traders and

- Which of the continents were they not familiar with at all?
- Which were the continents whose coastal areas were known to them but not the interior regions?

governments of western Europe like Holland, Spain, Portugal and England realised the importance of this trade, they wanted to find faster and easier routes to countries like India and China, without passing through regions controlled by Italian traders. The Portuguese for example, wanted to find a route around Africa to reach India. The Spanish wanted to know if it was possible to reach India by crossing the Atlantic Ocean. They invested huge fortunes by hiring experienced sea mariners and giving

- Why do you think the Italians were controlling the trade with Asia in 1400 and not other Europeans like Portuguese or Spanish?
- Why were the Portuguese and Spanish keen to find other routes to reach Asia?

them ships and other resources to explore. This led to the discovery of Central America by Christopher Columbus in 1492 and of sea route to India around Africa by Vasco Da Gama in 1498. Columbus was working on behalf of the Spanish queen while Vasco da Gama was working for the Portuguese king. Soon English and Dutch governments too were sending their sailors to these regions.

### European Colonies in America

Columbus landed up on what today are called the West Indies – the islands off the coast of South America. He had thought that he had reached India and called the local people ‘Indians’. (That is why the original inhabitants of America are called Native Indians today.) These were simple tribal people who welcomed the visitors and gave them food and shelter. However Spaniards repaid them by enslaving and plundering them – converting them into slave labourers to grow food and mine gold. Eventually virtually all native people of the islands died or were killed.

After Columbus the Spanish government sent several expeditions to conquer



*Fig. 17.1: Columbus before the Queen, as imagined by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze, 1843.*

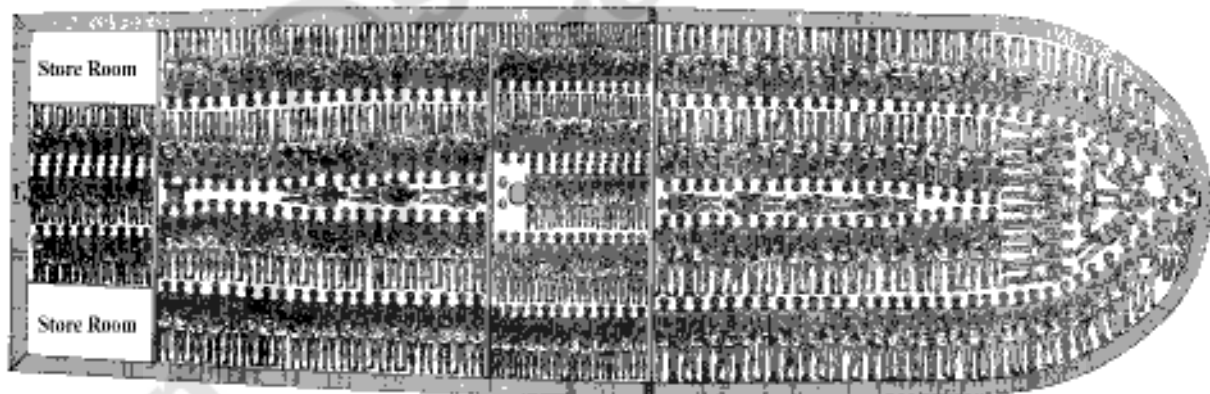
America and plunder it. They expected to find gold and silver mines and vast quantities of these precious metals with local kings. Cortez, a Spanish conqueror led an expedition to massacre the people and plunder Mexico. He eventually killed the local king and put an end to the independent rule of Mexico. Similarly another conqueror named Pizarro plundered and conquered Peru.

Not to be left behind the English landed in North

America and began to set up colonies of English farmers along the eastern coast. The native Americans mostly acted in friendship and extended help and cooperation to the Europeans. This was the time when in England the small peasants were being deprived of their land by landlords. Many of these peasants migrated to North America and wished to settle down there. They forcibly deprived the native Americans of their land and massacred them and drove them into the interior.

As the news of the natural resources of America reached the people of Europe, a stream of land hungry settlers set out to America. They drove off the native people and took over their lands.

Once the initial spree of massacre and plunder subsided the Europeans wanted to settle and exploit the natural resources of America. However, they needed servile labour to do the work. They realised that the native Americans could not be easily enslaved. They therefore began to transport large number of African slaves who had been captured from the interiors of Africa by European (especially Portugese) traders and their agents. These African slaves were transported to America under very inhuman conditions and sold to large landlords and others. About 15 to 20 million African slaves were thus forcibly taken away to America. They were made to work on sugar cane farms, corn fields, tobacco fields and cotton fields. Their produce was taken over and sold in different countries including England and France for huge profits.



*Fig. 17.2: Illustration showing 292 slaves being stowed in the lower deck of ship*

## **‘Latin’ America**

During the three hundred years period from 1500 to 1800, most of Central and South America was brought under the control of Spain and Portugal. Since Spanish and Portugese languages are considered off shoots of Latin, these countries are called “Latin American” countries. As about half of the original inhabitants of the continent had been killed or died of diseases brought by Europeans, a large number of people from Europe settled there who also purchased slaves from Africa. The residents of these countries today are a mix of native Indians, Spanish and Portugese



Map 2:  
South America - 1800.

settlers and descendents of African slaves. A large number of people are descendents of mixed parents – Europeans who married Indians or Africans.

- Look at the map of South America around 1800 to identify the countries controlled by the different powers.

We saw that a large number of native Indians had been killed. Many small tribal communities survived in deep forests while other communities came under the control of the Spanish. They were heavily taxed, and had to provide labour supply to the mines and farms owned by the Spanish. Most of their temples were destroyed and they were

all converted to Roman Catholic religion. There were several small and large rebellions in 17th and 18th centuries by the Indians in South America, but these were mercilessly crushed as they lacked the arms and ammunitions which the Spanish had.

In most of the Spanish ruled countries all power was concentrated in the hand of Supreme Council located in Madrid (capital of Spain). This council appointed high officials and nobles from Spain to govern the colonies. The Catholic Church also played an important role in the governance of the colonies. Then there were the Spanish settlers who controlled the land and mines of these countries. Some of them were large landlords who had vast estates called ‘haciendas’. Haciendas were estates of thousands of acres which contained silver and copper mines, agricultural lands and pastures and also factories. They were owned by landlords who employed peons or unfree Indians and African slaves to work on them. Besides these there

- Why do you think the Spanish Settlers were not allowed positions of importance in the government of the colonies?

were ordinary Spanish who had settled as small farmers and animal herders. However, the settled Spanish did not have any role in the administration of the colonies which were controlled by the Spanish from Europe.

During the course of time, the Spanish landlords and farmers developed trade and industry in these countries and exported large amounts of agricultural produce like sugar and meat besides some metals like tin and copper.

The economies of the colonies were controlled by Spain in such a way as to serve as source of inexpensive labor and natural resources, and never planned to spark internal development. This situation led to monopolistic trade-relations for the benefit of the economies of the colonial powers. To ensure these monopolistic privileges, the colonial powers forcibly shaped the social and economical dynamics of the colonies.

The colonies were forced to develop cultivation of commercial crops like sugarcane or tobacco or cotton, which were sold cheaply to the dominant countries. They were not allowed to develop industries or trade with other countries. Growing commercial crops on a large scale at low costs was possible because of the large estates which used unfree labour. These estate owners had no incentive to use modern methods of cultivation or production as they had a supply of cheap forced labour.

The profits accumulated by the local elites were used up in luxurious goods display, rather than saving and investing in production. This sustained a very unequal agrarian social structure which also meant acute poverty for the majority of the people.

The colonial system also placed a lot of control on the colonial economy. Strict laws and other measures of social control were established in the colonised countries. Even the manufacture of minimal industrial products such as nails were forbidden, artificially increasing the dependence of the colonies. Thus colonial control forced a kind of 'underdevelopment' of the colonies – prevented them from developing themselves by investing in productive sectors.

The people of the Spanish colonies including old Spanish settlers disliked the control exercised by Spanish nobles over them and a series of revolts broke out against Spain from 1810 in Latin America. They were greatly influenced by the Declaration of Independence by the north American colonies and French Revolution. Between 1816 and 1826 most of the Latin American countries became independent. Simon Bolivar led a revolutionary army which was supported by black slaves and small farmers and also many people from Europe who supported freedom and democracy under the influence of French Revolutionary ideas. This army liberated Venezuela. Another revolutionary army led by San Martin liberated Chile, Peru and Argentina

- You studied about the zamindari system in the Nizam state in Class VIII. Compare the Zamindari system in the Nizam state and the haciendas of South America. What similarities and differences do you find between them?
- Try to formulate the grievances of the following people of the Latin American colonies:
  1. Spanish settlers who owned haciendas
  2. Small Spanish farmers settled in America
  3. Native Americans
  4. African slaves settled in Latin America



*Fig. 17.3: An Inca site of worship known as Machu Picchu in today's Peru*

by 1817 and Brazil which was a colony of Portugal became independent in 1822. Thus ended the colonial rule of European powers over much of South America.

By 1820s United States of America had emerged as a major economic and political power. It began to regard the South America as a sphere of its influence and actively discouraged any European power to establish control over

this area. The President of USA James Munroe formulated the 'Munroe Doctrine' according to which no European power would be allowed to build colonies in the American continents and US will not interfere in the affairs of Europe or colonies in other continents. Read below an extract of Munroe's speech of 1823:

"The occasion has been judged proper for asserting, as a principle in which the rights and interests of the United States are involved, that the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonisation by any European powers."

You may note that Munroe was not supporting the right of the American colonies to freedom but asserting the rights and interests of US. While it asserts that European powers should not consider colonising any American country it allows an American country to colonise these countries.

Britain which had a powerful navy supported the Munroe doctrine. Britain was keen that the American colonies were not under political control of any European power so that they would be free to trade with England and purchase its industrial goods.

Thus even though the direct colonial rule ended, many remains of the old colonial rule remained. Thus the Latin American countries had a social system which consisted of very large landlords on the one hand and a large number of slaves, semi slaves and poor small farmers on the other hand. There were also

villages of poor Indian communities. Industry and trade was under the control of the landlords who had not little interest in developing them as they received sufficient incomes by exploiting servile labour. Thus in many ways old colonialism continued to influence the Latin American countries. The dependence upon developed industrial countries like Britain and US, very high levels of social and economic inequality and very high incidence of poverty due to landlessness has continued to keep these countries undeveloped.

- Why do you think the Latin American countries remained undeveloped despite getting independence from colonial rule?
- In what way did the Munroe doctrine protect the independence of Latin America? Did it also limit their freedom?
- How did Britain gain from the Munroe doctrine?

## European Colonialism in Asia

Most countries of Asia, like India, China and Japan were different from Latin American countries in many ways. Most of the Asian countries were densely populated by prosperous peasant communities and were governed by powerful empires defended by vast armies. Thus when the European powers sought to attack the Mughal Empire, they were repeatedly defeated by Mughal armies. However, the Europeans were able to establish power over some important ports like Goa from where they controlled the oceanic trade. The Portugese for example established in 16th century a 'seaborne empire' over the Indian Ocean. All ships travelling on the Arabian Sea or Indian Ocean or Bay of Bengal had to pay a special tribute to the Portugese and if they did not, they were attacked and looted.

The Portugese control of the seas was finally broken by other European powers like Holland and England which too were reaching Asia for trade. Holland and England had set up their own East India Companies in 1600-1602 to handle trade with Asian countries. The Companies were keen to purchase produce from Asian countries like cotton and silk textiles, spices, steel etc. which were in great demand in Europe and fetched very high profit. The first Dutch expedition for example, fetched about 400% profit on its investment!

The European companies had established trading posts in different port cities of India, Africa and Indonesia. Some of them like Holland established political control over some port cities in Indonesia.

**Dutch:** The people of Holland are called the 'Dutch'. The official name of Holland today is Netherlands.

Soon objections began to develop in Europe over the activities of these companies. They were buying commodities from India with precious metals like gold and silver thus draining Holland and England of their accumulated wealth. It was felt that India will become richer at the cost of European countries as a result



*Fig. 17.4: Dutch imperial imagery representing the Dutch East Indies (1916)  
The text reads Our most precious jewel.*

of this trade. Hence there was a great pressure on the Companies to finance their trade in Asia itself.

The Dutch Company responded to this change by conquering extensive lands in countries like Indonesia which did not have very powerful kingdoms then. They could pressurize the local people to sell their products at a cheap price to the Company which also had a monopoly as it did not allow other countries to trade with them. In 1800 the Dutch Government disbanded the Company and established direct rule over Indonesia. Since the government was in deep financial crises it wanted to use Indonesia as a source of revenue. The Dutch forced the native people to deliver products like coffee, sugar and spices as taxes. This was sold in international markets by the government which earned huge profits. As much as 25% of the Dutch government budget came from these

profits. This caused untold hardships for the native people who could not grow necessary food grains or obtain even minimum prices for their commercial produce. This resulted in acute poverty and famines. They rose in many revolts which were brutally suppressed. This policy was also criticised by many people in Holland.

The government finally ended the system of forced delivery of produce in 1870. It now encouraged Dutch capitalists to invest in Indonesia to set up 'plantations' in which a single crop (like rubber, pepper or sugarcane) was extensively planted and managed by Dutch planters. The Dutch introduced coffee, tea, cocoa, tobacco and rubber and large expanses of land became plantations. The plantations were worked by semi-servile workers under overseers. Many of them were even brought from distant countries like India. The produce of the plantations were sold by the owners in international markets especially in Europe. They also invested in mining tin and petroleum. To facilitate the transport of these goods the government invested heavily in railway, as well as telegraph lines etc. The Dutch Indonesia produced most of the world's supply of quinine and pepper, over a third of its rubber, a quarter of its coconut products, and a fifth of its tea, sugar, coffee, and oil. The profit from the Dutch East Indies helped Holland to develop industries and made it one of the world's most significant colonial powers. This power was ended by Japan during the second World War between 1939-45. Indonesia became independent after the world war along with India.



## Colonial Expansion in India

You have read about British conquest of India in the earlier classes. This is to help you to remember some of the important stages of this conquest. The Portuguese had established control over some ports like Goa in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century. Other European powers began to trade with India by the end of 16<sup>th</sup> century by establishing their trading outposts. Till Aurangzeb was alive, no European power could think of building political power in India. As the Mughal empire declined after 1700, the European companies gradually sought to establish political control over parts of the coastal regions. They began in South India, where the English gained control over Madras and the French over Pondicherry. They also fiercely fought with each other and wanted to establish monopoly trade with India. The English eventually succeeded in defeating the Nawab of Bengal and establishing political control over Bengal in 1757. This laid the foundation of British rule in India. The Company used the revenue of Bengal to finance its purchases in India and also used political power to force Indian artisans and farmers and traders to sell their goods at a very cheap price to it. This helped the company to make huge profits.

## China

China like India was one of the most populous countries of the world and had a powerful empire. It was also further east of India and the Europeans could not establish control over it the way they could conquer Latin America or Indonesia. Chinese rulers realized the danger of allowing Europeans to trade freely in China and permitted them to trade only in one city with specially designated traders. They could not even move about the empire and were confined to their residential quarters. In this way the authorities sought to reduce the threat posed by the European traders. The European traders found the trade in Chinese silk and tea very profitable but since the Chinese did not want any European goods, they had to use silver and gold to pay. As we saw earlier this policy was opposed in Europe as it caused drain of precious metals from Europe. The European traders hit upon an item which was in great demand in China but was produced in India. This was opium. The English encouraged Indian peasants to produce large quantities of opium and purchased it from them at very low prices. This opium was smuggled illegally into China



*Fig. 17.5: British navy in the first Opium war.*



*Fig. 17.6: Watercolour on paper titled 'Macao street scene' from 1840. Macao was one of the port cities in China where Europeans were allowed to conduct trade.*

and sold there. In return the Europeans purchased silk and tea which they sold in Europe. In this way they did not have to pay the Chinese in silver. As the smuggling of opium increased, the Chinese authorities suspended all trade with European traders even in the one city they had allowed it. This led to what are called the Opium Wars which were fought between China and England which was supported by the other European powers between 1840-42. China was defeated by England which imposed a series of unequal treaties. These treaties allowed England to trade with China without restrictions and allowed the English to establish trading enclaves in China in which only English laws could be in force. England also forced China to give it the most favoured nation treatment, by which any concession given to any other country would be automatically apply to England too.

With this began the loss of independence of China even though the Emperor's rule continued till 1911. We can see that unlike India or the Latin American countries, China was not brought under direct political control of any European power. However, it was made to serve the interests of these powers through unequal treaties which forced China to accept terms that were favourable to the European countries. China thus had to pay heavy war indemnity to the Europeans, allow free trading rights to them, keep the import duties to the minimum, allow the European powers to establish settlements on Chinese soil in which their laws applied and not the Chinese laws etc. Thus while the Chinese government was responsible for handling the day to day administration of the country, the economy came under the control of the Europeans who could now sell their produce in China, purchase raw materials for their industries at low costs and at the same time ensure that local industries did not develop in China.

You may remember that England was not the only country to trade with China. Other European countries like France, Germany, Russia etc. forced the Chinese government to recognise certain parts of China as areas of special influence of these countries, where they had a free entry but not the other countries. This was a kind of partitioning of China without actually doing so. Thus China came to be controlled economically and politically not by one country but by several European

countries. These European countries were joined by a new power that had emerged in Asia itself – Japan. Japan had a political revolution in 1861 and had begun a programme of rapid industrialisation and modernisation. Japan too was seeking colonies from where it could get cheap raw materials and where it could sell its industrial products. It waged a war against China in 1894-95 and forced China to cede much territory and pay damages to Japan.

In this way various European powers and Japan carved their spheres of influence in China. That is why China is considered a semi-colony and not a full fledged colony of any particular country.

- Main products imported by western countries from China was \_\_\_\_\_.
- The product that western countries tried to sell in China was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Asian country that tried to influence trade in China was \_\_\_\_\_.

## Colonialism in Africa

Till almost the middle of 19th century the Europeans showed little interest in establishing colonial power in Africa. Between the 16<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century it was just used as a source of slaves who were sold off in America. Some powers like England used crucial parts of African coast like the Cape of Good Hope as landing points to refresh supplies to their ships on their way to India and China. These powers were of the view that Africa had little to offer the colonial powers in terms of trade.

**Explorations:** Europeans had called Africa a ‘Dark Continent’ as they had very little information about the interiors of the continent. The entire continent was on a high plateau with a very narrow coastal region. Most of the rivers flowed through the plateau and reached the coasts through narrow gorges and steep water falls. Thus European traders had avoided the interior regions. Throughout the 19th century and especially after 1850 European countries sent expeditions to explore the interiors of Africa, prepare maps of the places, natural features like rivers and mountains, mineral sources, forests and products and the people living there. They used this valuable information to make plans for conquering and colonising these interior regions. The most famous of the European explorers were David Livingstone and H. M. Stanley, both of whom mapped vast areas of Southern Africa and Central Africa on behalf of Belgium. Arduous expeditions in the 1850s and 1860s by Richard Burton, John Speke and James Grant located the great central lakes and the source of the Nile. By the end of the 19th century, Europeans had charted the Nile from its source, traced the courses of the Niger, Congo and Zambezi rivers, and realised the vast resources of Africa. Many of these explorers were also linked to various Christian churches who were keen to spread Christianity among the people of Africa.

As industrialisation proceeded in different countries of Europe like England, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy etc. after 1850, they desperately sought markets

for their products in Africa. They also realised that Africa had many important industrial raw materials to offer like copper, tin, rubber, palm oil, cotton, tea, cocoa etc. The European manufacturers also looked upon Africa as a major market for their produce. Many of these countries like Germany and Italy were late entrants to nation building and industrialisation and were keen to establish the power of their states by acquiring more colonies than other European powers. Africa was the only continent with large population and natural resources which was left for Europe to colonise.

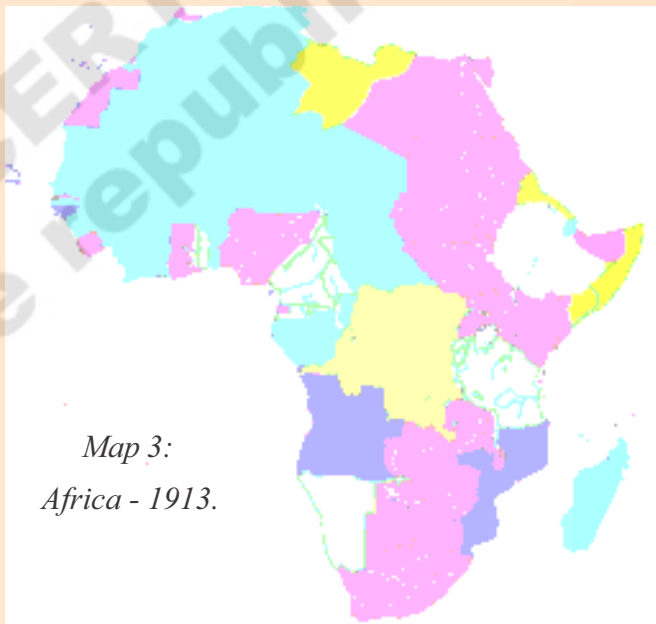
A virtual ‘Scramble for Africa’ began in 1870s. In 1870s only about 10% of Africa was under colonial powers and within forty years almost the entire continent with the exception of Ethiopia and a couple of small states. Ethiopia was able to decisively defeat Italy in a war and thus became the only traditional non-European empire to defeat an European army.

**Scramble for Africa:** It is used to describe the frantic claim of African territories by the European Countries.

Look at the Map of Africa in 1913 to see the extent of colonial possessions of the European powers in Africa.

Compare the map with a modern map of Africa.

Make a list of the large African countries and write against their names the countries that had colonised them.



Modern Country	Colonial power in 1913
South Africa	
Egypt	
Nigeria	
Ghana	
Libya	
Algeria	
Angola	
Congo	

As time proceeded the competition between the European powers for colonies and territories escalated and could no longer be peacefully 'managed' through negotiations. Thus the First World War broke out in 1914 which was the most destructive war humanity had seen till then.

## **The Experience of Colonisation – Some case studies**

### **Congo**

From 1869 to 1874, Stanley, the explorer was secretly sent by King Léopold II of Belgium to the Congo region, where he made treaties with several African chiefs and persuaded them to give up territories to him. To this territory he added the kingdom of Katanga by killing its king. By 1882 Leopald's African territories grew up to 2,300,000 square kilometres, about 75 times larger than Belgium. It was called the Congo Free State. Léopold II personally owned the colony and used it as a source of ivory and rubber. The Congo Free State imposed a reign of terror on the colonised people, including mass killings and forced labour. Each person in the village was forced to supply a quota of rubber and the hands of those who didn't fulfill this quota was cut off. Up to eight to ten million of the estimated 16 million native inhabitants died between 1885 and 1908. Leopald amassed a huge fortune a part of which he used to undertake many building activities in Belgium. There was much public criticism of this all over the world including Belgium and the Belgian government was forced to finally end the personal rule of its king over Congo and bring it under the rule of the Belgian Parliament.

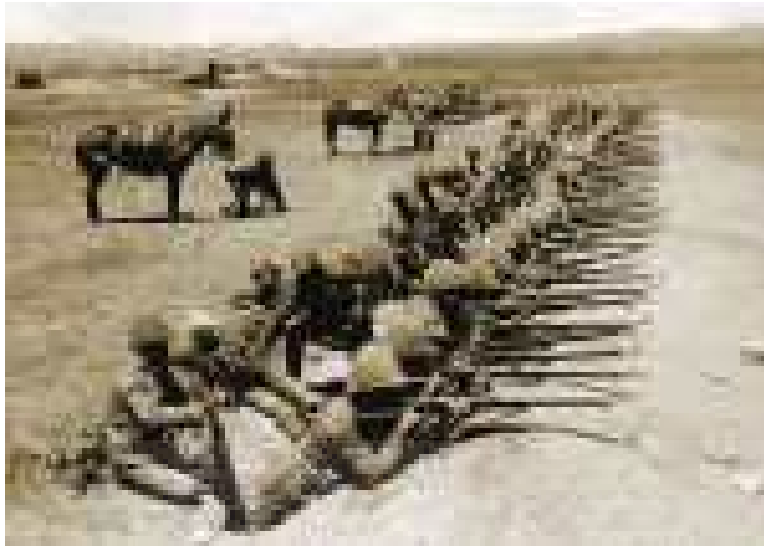


*Leopold - II*

A similar situation occurred in the neighbouring French Congo. Most of the resource extraction was run by concession companies, whose brutal methods resulted in the loss of up to 50 percent of the indigenous population.

### **South Africa**

The English had established an outpost in the Cape of Good Hope to help the passing ships to rest and replenish food supplies. Some Dutch farmers had settled in this area to cultivate and sell the produce to the passing ships. They came into conflict with the local African people whom they tried to drive away from their lands. They were called Boers. When the British began to increase their control



*Fig. 17.7: Boer war.*

over the area, the Boers were dissatisfied and migrated to new areas and even established independent republics. When gold and diamond mines were discovered in those parts (1869 and 1886), a large number of people from Europe and Africa and India migrated to South Africa and wanted to gain from the mining boom. The British government now wanted to end the independence of the Boers and establish British power over the mining regions. They

fought two bitter wars to gain control over much of what is today called South Africa. These wars ended in 1902 and the British consolidated all the regions of South Africa into one 'Union of South Africa'. By this time South Africa had a very mixed population of European migrants (mainly English and Dutch), Black Africans, Indians and Chinese. The British developed a government system which favoured the Europeans (called Whites and 20% of population) and gave them civic rights of voting etc. and discriminated against the Blacks (75% of population) and Indians (about 5%). Native Africans were subjected to heavy taxation, and had to remain confined to a very small demarcated area and could not acquire land in any other area which was reserved for the Whites. Thus whites had about 90% of all lands. A number of discriminatory laws were passed to ensure that the Blacks and Indians worked for the British settlers in farms and mines. They were also denied civil rights of free movement and right to form associations to express their grievances. This policy of discriminating against the majority of the population based on racial differences is called Apartheid Policy. The African people fought against it for almost the entire 20th century and finally ended it in 1994.

You would have noticed that from 1400 onwards almost the whole of America, Africa, Asia and Australia – that is all continents other than Europe was colonised by European powers. They established their political and economic control over these countries and peoples, and transformed their lives. Yet they were not colonised in the same manner or lead to similar results – you saw how in America a large part of the native population was killed, and plundered and enslaved; how Europeans settled down there; how they brought millions of people from other continents like Africa as slaves to settle in America. You saw how they established control over the people of India but did not kill off the Indians or even enslave them. Nor did they try to settle down in India in large numbers. Rather they tried to establish

control over the natural resources of India through taxation of agriculture, purchasing raw materials at low costs and at the same time selling their industrial products in India. Europeans did not even establish complete political control over China but established spheres of influences where they could trade freely.

The European powers thus changed the economic and social lives of the people of the colonies in such a way as to suit the needs of the European powers. However at the same time they could not stop new ideas of freedom and democracy and nationalism from reaching the colonies. These ideas gave the people of the colonies a new power and identity with which to fight colonialism and eventually win freedom.

### Key words

- |                    |                  |                   |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Colonialism     | 2. Latin America | 3. Ottoman Empire |
| 4. Explorations    | 5. Apartheid     | 6. Haciendas      |
| 7. Munroe doctrine | 8. Opium Wars    |                   |

### Improving your learning

- Match the following:
  - Opium war
  - Ottoman empire
  - Personally owned the colony
  - Settling farmers
  - Belgium
  - Spain
  - controlled trade before colonisation
  - China
- How is the word 'discovery' and 'exploration' used by Europeans? What did it mean to people who were already living in those geographical locations?
- What role did trade play in the colonisation?
- How did the lives of native people in different countries affect the colonisation – write two ideas each in the context of – crops cultivated / religion / use of natural resources – for the three continents
- Compare the nature of colonial rule over China and India and Indonesia. What difference and similarities do you find between them?
- Locate the Portuguese, Dutch, British and French colonies in the world map and filled with different colours.

### Project

If you were a citizen of Britain, could you support its colonisation? As an Indian citizen could you support or reject colonisation. Give a brief account of your views.