

Passage to 20th Century

Why did west modernize?

1. Scientific revolution, where scientists studied nature and found ways to supersede natural limits in demography and ecology
2. French Revolution, where the people overthrew the monarchy and established the first nation state, which was just as powerful with the peoples backing for the people
3. Industrial revolution, where machines and fossil fuels create more products (surplus) and increase productivity, while limiting jobs and increasing urbanization. Allows for creation of stronger more modern arms, which transforms modern warfare

West grew in military power, in colonial expansion, in global economy integration, in resource exploitation (ex in colonies like Congo) and forcing non-western peoples to adapt Western ideas and institutions

	Great divergence (1815-1870)	Imperial wave (1871-1908)
Military Power	Improvements to steel and coal industries, better engines allow further exploration and increased naval supremacy for West	Industrial weapons such as Gatling gun allow supremacy in the battle with smaller forces and with less casualties
Colonial expansion	Gunboat diplomacy and railroads expand Western ideas and power. Colonial expansion allows for better trade and resource exploitation	Africa and Asia scramble for colonies as bargaining chips and for resource exploitation. Investment in Latin America allowed for more urbanization in Europe with Latin America producing food and primary resources.
Economic integration	Increased production and productivity needed place to go, so unfair treaties (ex with China) allowed Europe to dump products	Rural communities involved in global trade. Western goods flood local markets, reducing artisan number significantly
Resource exploitation	Colonies with resources exploited to increase productivity and profit in European industry	Colonies used as resource pits and bargaining chips for the European powers
Cultural coercion	Non-western people and thinkers debate benefits of modernization vs losing heritage and culture to west	Non-western people forced to cooperate in slave-like conditions of Civilizing mission. Resistance was futile

Technology in 1900

- telegraph: allows for better communication in trade, in military mobilization. Very expensive, allows rich to get leg up on the less wealthy for business and the military powers now could stop rebellions and revolts within weeks, not months, allowing faster logistics and rapid expansion. Makes the world a smaller place, bringing the farthest reaches of the world closer together

- Steam engine: more efficient steam engines allowed for the creation of railroads, for transporting people and goods at lower cost. Less coal was needed to use ships, allowing for more people or goods on trips, less space needed for coal
- Iron working: allowed for larger stronger buildings and machines ex trains and steamships, gunboats
- Integrated Labour Market: more people leaving farming in favour of industry. Machine cause many to lose their jobs, forcing mass migration to the Americas for work. Prices became equal around globe for commodities. Dumping of European goods in Asia drives many artisans out of work, forcing them into industry or cash cropping.

The Great Divergence (1815-1870)

- China was great power in 1800's, with all the tech advances, but did not expand because other nations were not worth their resources to expand to, so they stay in China
- Chinese had best goods, and Britain wanted in to get tea and silks from China, who kicked them out because Britain had nothing of value to trade (1793 McCartney Mission)
- Industrialization made Britain more powerful in military, so they used gunboat diplomacy (1839-1841) to get five free ports in China, implementing one sided treaties to allow new industries to dump products in China. Also sold opium to peasants, causing massive disruptions to the Chinese peasantry
- 1885- the Berlin conference slices Africa into colonies for the European powers to exploit. Used as diplomatic tokens for bargaining and for resource exploitation
- 1898- Battle of Omdurman, where British military superiority destroys jihadist regime quickly and with limited casualties due to better weapons
- Global wealth redistributed from Asia to Europe with in 100 years (70% to 25% in Asia and 27% to 58% in Europe)

Theories about Great Divergence

- Take theories of predestination with grain of salt
- Oriental despotism made political systems of Orient inefficient, with no real loyalty to crown. In China, Emperor Cixi didn't let the country assimilate better tech for fear of losing identity, especially because normally invaders adopted Chinese customs and values. The Meiji in Japan allowed change and became a world superpower quickly
- Orient had inferior military, while Europeans could attack with great efficiency from distance. Better logistics allowed for fast mobilization and transportation of troops anywhere. Resistance could happen. Ex Battle of Adowa, where Italians beaten by rallied Ethiopian army.
- Failed modernization, like Russia, Ottoman Empire and China
 - China: had economy based on rice and found no incentive to change labour for machines, which drove up prices and they could not compete
 - Ottomans: wanted western arms, but could not reform state and economy to cause change and use industrialization to their advantage
 - Japan managed change: Decisive action to change economy, government to adopt western policies, allowing them to defeat the Russians, making them an industrialized power
- Nation states more powerful than the imperial powers, with greed to expand, allowed them to expand successfully, although they did not have the power to project into Asia, so they used economy to destroy the Asian states
- Asia had dilemma; wanted modernization, but did not want to give up identity

Catalysts of Great Divergence and mad scramble for Africa and Asia

- The Long Depression: machine usage in industry forces labourers out of business to the streets. Overproduction also was problem for people, forcing artisans and farmers out of business, being unable to compete on the global market. Unrest with labour unions was high and anxiety about changes from new to old ways. Anxieties cause need for expansion, causing Britain to expand to India.
- Nationalism: based upon imagined community of individuals, not based on race, but based on communal ideas and values. Very military focused, focused on serving the country, the place and ground from which the peoples sprang, on dying for the Fatherland. The soil was sacred and gave them their biological identity. Good solution for unrest in bad times. Leads to the colonialism of Africa, not for economic gain, but for psychological importance and increasing morale

New Imperialism

- Imperialism used to be a business transaction before, they would colonize, bring modernization, and get resources and products for their economies.
- with new militaries, conquering new territory was easy, efficient and cheap with better logistics also. Became a morale booster vs an economic gain.
- Europeans had religious duty to “civilize the lesser races, bringing modernization to their shores. The cultural racism against non-west caused scramble to colonize, with coverup of being missionaries for civilizing the lesser races (peoples on the road to extinction).
- Lots of arrogance, believing that their system was better and needed to be in place everywhere, destroying local traditions and systems.
- Rush for colonies ended in 1908 because there was nowhere left to colonize (some territories split up like China, others kept as buffer states as protection against other powers)
- East tried to resist, but was futile because of inferior communication and weapons
- West forced lesser races into the global economy (coercion), forcing resources to western industries, while ignoring local concerns. Started decolonizing ideas in non-west

Weapons

- Increased productivity leads to better weapons
- Machine guns with modern cartridges (magazines) allowed for faster firing
- bored rifles allowed shots to be more accurate and long range shots
- Small detachments of soldiers could now destroy large indigenous armies

Logistics

- with telegraph and Suez canal, Europe could better mobilize and suppress rebellions and revolts (takes weeks instead of years and months)
- Not limited to coastal ports, but could travel inland to collect resources with trains
- modern steamship could use energy of coal, with better propellers and more efficient engines, could travel long distances with more cargo in iron hulled ships
- world was smaller, with more potential to fill gaps
- rebellions like Impi in Battle of Shangani River (1893) would have been wars with many casualties on both sides, were now battles where imp were massacred, with few european losses
- Few rebellions successful (Adowa in 1896, Italians massacred after rallying all Ethiopians together using nationalistic ideas)

Mad Scramble for Africa and Asia (Imperial Wave)

- Scramble for Africa: in 1885-1908, where Africa divided between European powers as colonies. Most had no strategic value, but was good for national morale
- Ottoman Empire: not strong, trying to reform government and industrialize, but divisions allowed European powers to chip away at borders, taking parts for themselves.
- Scramble for Asia: many colonizing nations tried to take parts of Asia and Indochina, in a mad rush, with no strategic or economic value
- Buffer states also kept, either too hard to conquer or used to be buffer state between European powers
- Semi-Colonies: areas where influence is purely for economic purposes and control over country
- Latin America semi-colonized, played key role in economy, providing food for the working class in Europe. Piggybacked European industrialization. Elites were mainly Europeans, or locals who supported and ushered in industrialization and investing from powers. Mostly economically subordinate, where most of the countries were owned by Western investors
- Imperial wave done by 1900
- Western influence did not really influence world, only did in places where western diseases killed off natives, allowing easy colonization in places such as American west, Argentina, Africa and Australia

Mercantilism

- trading with Asia for spices and tea was not uncommon, but refusal could occur. With better weapons, now Europeans could take what they wanted and impose unjust treaties.
- Atlantic System: African slaves brought to America to work the fields, primary resources sent to Europe, where products then dumped in Africa. Tech allowed new trading networks to be built across oceans
- Unequal treaties forced colonies to give resources at deficit and accept dumped products, ex opium war: opium and tea

British India

- Controlled by Raj, united group of Indian princes controlled by consuls (British military officials)
- Changes to local life, forced from traditional farming into cash cropping (consequence was famines often). Taxes on land that was redistributed for increased production of goods)
- Machines out produced humans, forcing artisans out of work.

Civilizing Mission

- Europeans believed that they had a God-given right to expand across the globe.
- Racism had them believing that they were a better race, that they were the good branches of evolution and other races were worse (going to extinction)
- they had obligation to share the light of modernity
- Non-western people viewed west as devils
- Scientific racism used genes to discriminate between people, saying that gene mixing caused lower races. When ruling states abused locals, it was considered helping evolution
- some viewed mission as civilizing and wanted to help others, but most used scientific racism to justify actions

Berlin Conference

- Africa was unexplored for long time because tropical diseases killed explorers quickly. With quinine, they could survive and explore
- King Leopold II of Belgium wanted a colony, so he hired Stanley to explore the Congo for him. Stanley sent back raving reviews, and Leopold set up plan to get Congo. At Berlin conference, used philanthropic views to persuade USA to back them, then told Britain that they would let them trade in the Congo, told France they would get first dibs if Leopold's mission failed, allowing Leopold to win the Congo
- Europeans wanted to establish police, trading posts and markets, allowing them to keep their colonies
- Many soldiers go to get glory and riches for their own family
- France takes most of west Africa, left massive destruction and pulled out when reports of destruction made it back to Europe
- States were formed, but expenses were too much to produce wealth
- could be profitable for elites