

GRADE 9 | 2024

Colonialism and Imperialism in Africa

Social Sciences: History

CAPS ALIGNED

MatricHub.co.za | South Africa's Matric Resource Hub

1. What is Colonialism?

Colonialism is the practice of a powerful country taking control of weaker countries and ruling them as colonies. European powers colonised much of Africa, Asia, and the Americas from the 15th to the 20th centuries.

2. The Scramble for Africa (1880s-1914)

European countries competed to colonise Africa. By 1914, only Liberia and Ethiopia remained independent.

- At the Berlin Conference (1884-85), European powers divided Africa without consulting Africans
- European countries used military superiority to conquer African kingdoms
- Motives: raw materials, markets, new settlement land, national prestige

3. Impact of Colonialism on Africa

Negative Impacts

- Loss of political independence
- Exploitation of natural resources
- Forced labour
- Destruction of traditional cultures and languages
- Artificial borders created ethnic conflicts
- Poor health, education for Africans

Positive Impacts (Contested)

- Infrastructure: roads, railways, ports built
- Education and healthcare introduced
- End of some internal slave trades

4. Resistance to Colonial Rule

African peoples resisted colonialism in various ways.

- Zulu resistance: Battle of Isandlwana (1879) - Zulus defeated the British
- Ethiopian resistance: Menelik II defeated Italy at Battle of Adwa (1896)
- Herero and Nama genocide: German South West Africa (Namibia) 1904-1908