

Significance of Imperialism

Economic

- Annexation of land was a driving factor amongst 18-19th century Europe and appeared to form a pending competition for world supremacy and to fuel economic ambitions throughout Europe that was aligned to the industrial growth.
- Evidently parts of Africa
 - Evidenced in the Anglo-Boer war (1899-1902) = British colonies took a vast amount of South Africa
- Lucrative resources
 - Seen through the **Scramble of Africa** where the British recognised valuable minerals such as **diamonds** and **gold**
 - **Hobson** comments that the global capitalist network was one **“would eventually lead to an economic convergence between the developed and underdeveloped worlds, to world peace and eventually to some form of world government”**
 - Antagonistic manoeuvres to secure lucrative assets at the cost of estranging the Boers in the region
 - Indicative of their economic forethought, demonstrating their aggressive imperialism for wealth
- **Although, the Suez Canal** demonstrates the fall of the Ottomans – it shaped Egypt as a tied nation of economic and geographical importance with Europe.
- The canal was an example of capital outflow of the Europe → connecting the markets of Europe and Asia and Africa, thus sparking trade of imports and exports, as **Roger** puts it, England **"jugular vein of its Empire"**
 - **Burchell** highlights the essentiality of the canal for industrial nations, especially Britain in fuelling more **“raw materials – and needed them faster and faster”**

Social

- Nationalistic sentiments were somewhat uniform across society promoted imperialistic conduct
 - **McCreery** indicates that the **Boer is about nationalism as much as imperial desire for territory and resources**
 - Suggests that an economic intention was pre-eminent, however strong patriotism and nationalism drove Britain and Germany to be imperialistic
- This notion is substantiated by the **‘Last Wicket’** image
 - Suggests that war is somewhat a **game**, as the propaganda indicated British intentions and the belief that they will win the game
 - Demonstrates a strong nationalistic imperative and aggressive imperialism in antagonising vulnerable Africa = to please the people (upper-class perhaps)
- **Wehler** – **‘social imperialism’** → imperialism is used to divert public attention from internal, domestic conflict
 - **Rapport** indicates that **Wehler** believed **Bismarck’s** imperialistic conduct in the **1880’s** was evidence of ‘social imperialism’
 - This represents that imperialism was not always used to accentuate dominance and further economic prosperity at another nation's loss, but rather an avenue in suppressing internal affairs within a nation

Political

- British and German political system may be regarded as promoting aggression, however this is mainly seen in right-wing governors
 - With regard to Britain’s role in the **Boer War**, anti-imperialism banners saturated the cities, which expressed: **‘Stop the war’**
 - This was replicated in **Germany** where Austrian peasants were protesting **pan-Germanism** sentiments
 - **Hobson** contends that such anti-imperialism were utilised as **capitalism relied upon imperialism for economic growth and building a noble status** = therefore, part of politics promoted imperialist conduct for ulterior motives.