

International Competition Student Worksheet

Introduction:

In the last half of the 19th century, the powers of Europe treated the acquisition of colonies a game of sorts in which the nation with the most imperial possessions would be declared winner. This competition would later prove to be instrumental in drawing Europe into World War I. The three sources you will look at in this lesson reveal both the psychology of international competition and the concrete motives that underlay different nations' rhetoric.

Directions:

All Web links for this lesson can be found at:

<http://www.socialstudies.com/worldlinks.html>

The Earl of Cromer—Why Britain Acquired Egypt in 1882

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1908cromer.html>

1. Why does Cromer say that “Egypt may now almost be said to form part of Europe”?
2. What justifications does he give for his claim that Egypt in 1882 was incapable of “internal sovereignty”?
3. Why does Cromer say that foreign occupation of Egypt was “inevitable”?
4. Why does he assert that British occupation of Egypt was “preferable”?
5. Why does Cromer conclude that “it was impossible for Great Britain to allow the troops of any other power to occupy Egypt”? Do you agree with his conclusion? State why or why not.

“The John Bull Octopus in Egypt”

http://www.fresno.k12.ca.us/divdept/sscience/history/imperialism_colonialism.htm

6. What do you see literally depicted in the cartoon?
7. Why is Great Britain depicted as an octopus?
8. Who do the people in the cartoon represent?
9. Why are these people pulling at the octopus' tentacles?
10. What message do you think the cartoonist is trying to convey? How effectively do you think he conveys this message?

Program of the Pan-German League

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1890pangerman.asp>

11. What is the concern expressed in the newspaper advertisement?
12. Why does Dr. Hugenberg claim that “our fatherland, be it from one side or the other, will not be spared a new war if it wishes only to maintain the position which it won in 1870 [i.e., unification of Germany following the Franco-Prussian War]”?
13. Look at the policies of the Pan-German League. Do you think they address the concerns expressed both in the newspaper advertisement and by Dr. Hugenberg? Explain why or why not. What do you think this says about the nature of German imperialism?

Permission