

# Imperialism in Political Cartoons ...

## IMPERIALISM

What is it and what purposes has it served in world history?

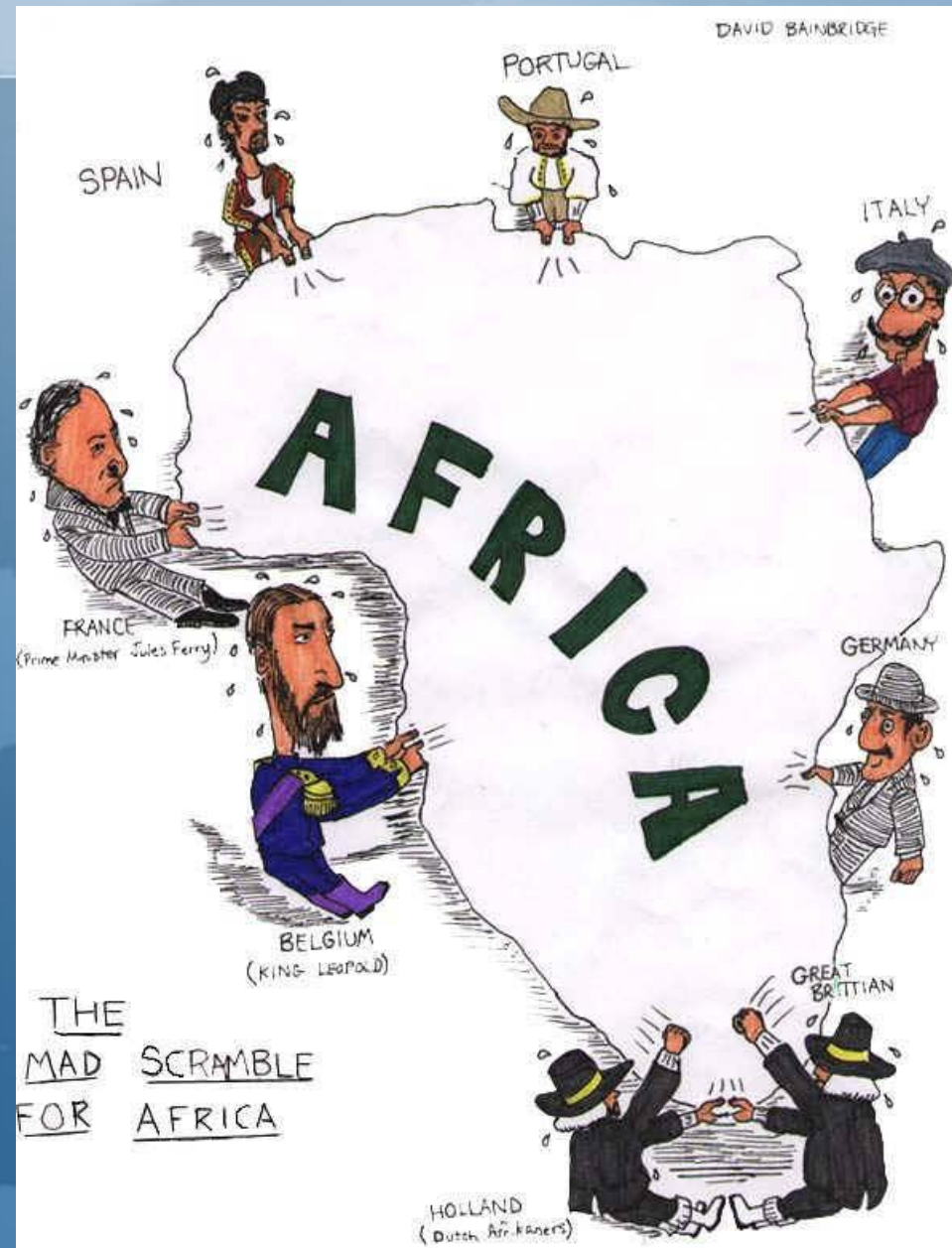
Prepare to answer this question through political cartoon analysis!

**Read the following quote in order to define the purpose of a political cartoon:**

- "A cartoonist is a writer and artist, philosopher, and punster, cynic and community conscience. He seldom tells a joke, and often tells the truth, which is funnier. In addition, the cartoonist is more than a social critic who tries to amuse, infuriate, or educate. He is also, unconsciously, a reporter and historian. Cartoons of the past leave records of their times that reveal how people lived, what they thought, how they dressed and acted, what their amusements and prejudices were, and what the issues of the day were." Ruff, Thomas P., and Jennifer T. Nelson. *Classroom Ready Activities for Teaching History and Geography in Grades 7-12*. Needham, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 1999.

# Imperialism: Political Cartoon Analysis

- **Answer the questions below-Research it:**
- 1) Which countries does each character represent in the cartoon? Are these characters presented in stereotypical ways? Explain.
- 2) What major event is taking place? Challenge: Name that event!
- 3) Does the cartoon present a positive or negative view of colonialism and imperialism? Support your answer.
- **Thinking Beyond-Research it:**
- 4) Provide several reasons why stronger countries fought for African colonies during the imperialistic age.
- 5) How did stronger countries maintain control over their African colonies?
- 6) What are the long-term effects of colonialism and imperialism upon the culture, politics, and economics of the now independent nations of Africa?





# Imperialism: Political Cartoon Analysis

**Answer the questions below. Note:  
Requires some prior knowledge and/or  
research:**

- 1) Which countries does each character represent in the cartoon? Are these characters presented in stereotypical ways? Explain.
- 2) What major event is taking place?
- 3) Does the cartoon present a positive or negative view of colonialism and imperialism? Support your answer.

**Thinking Beyond-Research it:**

- 4) Provide several reasons why stronger countries fought for Asian colonies during the imperialistic age.
- 5) How did stronger countries maintain control over their Asian colonies?
- 6) What are the long-term effects of colonialism and imperialism upon the culture, politics, and economics of the now independent nations of Asia?



# **Final Assignment: Create your own political cartoon on European Imperialism**

- **DIRECTIONS:** Select an event from the list below to conduct further research. Then, render a digital political cartoon (comic strip also okay), featuring a strong commentary about European imperialism in your chosen area of the world.
  - 1) the Berlin Conference and the Scramble for Africa
  - 2) European economic imperialism in Asia (China, Japan or India) and “spheres of influence.”
  - 3) European political and economic imperialism in Latin America
  - Good place to start:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Imperialism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Imperialism)

