8.5 – Political Geography

COLONIALISM

Trivia 1st
• How many places in the world does the United States list as a dependency or area of special sovereignty (colony)?

• What do they have in common?

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**COLONY + COLONIALISM**

- **COLONY** – territory tied to a state instead of being independent
  - Controlled
    - Politically
    - Economically
    - Culturally

- **COLONIALISM** – attempt by 1 country to establish settlements & impose its political, economic, & cultural control on another territory
  - Which continent dominated the world? _______________
    - “Mother country” claimed territories → raw materials
  - Creates **world economy**, interdependent global economy
    - MDCs vs. LDCs
3 Reasons for European Colonies

1. **Glory** — Fame for European states & explorers
   # of colonies was an indicator of power

2. **Gold** — Colonies provided **resources & markets** stimulated Mother Country

3. **God** — European **missionaries** established colonies to **promote** Christianity

Effect Video
The Columbian Exchange

From the Americas to Europe, Africa, and Asia:
- Pumpkins and squash
- Cassava
- Tomatoes
- Pineapples
- Avocados
- Beans (kidney, navy, lima)
- Cashews
- Cacao (for chocolate)
- Vanilla

From Europe, Africa, and Asia to the Americas:
- Honeybees
- Bananas
- Sugarcane
- Citrus fruits
- Apples
- Peaches and pears
- Grapes
- Carrots
- Lettuce
- Cabbage
- Onions
- Soybeans
- Weeds and crabgrass
- Sunflowers
European colonialism timeline

- **1492**: European colonial era → Columbus sailed west for Asia but “accidentally” found the Americas.
- **1776**: US declared independence & British lost Am. Colonies.
- **1800-1824**: Latin American states declared independence.
- **1870s**: Europe turns their attention to gaining colonies in Africa and Asia (START OF IMPERIALISM).
- **1914-1918**: Europe began “The Great War” (AKA WWI) over colonialism.
- **1945**: WWII ends & independence of many African & Asian former colonial states (UN assistance).
Americas before Columbus

World Map 1494

European Colonialism Map

Video
Scramble for Africa Activity

- Looking at the slip of white piece of paper given to you & your colonial empire, try to determine the answer.
Colonialism
• **United Kingdom** had largest empire
  → “Sun never set” on the British Empire
  - Colonies on every continent
  - Strategic islands in the Atlantic, Pacific, & Indian Ocean
  - Colonial self-rule so native culture was preserved / protected

• Most colonies became independent after WWII
French Imperialism

- France attempted to assimilate colonies into French culture & educate elite
  - Not so successful
  - EX. SE Asia = French Indochina = Laos, Burma, & Vietnam
  - Ex. West Africa
1. Which country appears to have had the most territory in Africa?

2. Which country appears to have had the second most amount of territory?

3. Between the 2 countries with the most territory, what patterns do you notice?

4. List at least 2 factors that would make one colony more valuable than another colony.

5. How do you think these colonies were obtained?
Why is conflict widespread in Africa?
- Europeans created boundaries
  - Ignored cultures there
    - Africa is linguistic, religious & ethnic diverse

CONERENCE OF BERLIN (1878)
- 7 countries divided Africa
- Created political boundaries
- Europeans divided without taking into consideration the people
  (not 1 African @ conference)
• Post-WWII – European states permit many colonies in Africa & Asia independence

• 1945 - United Nations was established, only 15 African and Asian states were members

• 2011 - 106 African & Asian states were members of the United Nations

• Today - The US still classifies 68 places in the world as colonies, most of them are islands in the Pacific Ocean or Caribbean Sea

Decolonization Video
Self-Rule Desires in the Global World

How did imperialism lead to globalization?
- Global differences in economic & political power
  - MDCs vs. LDCs
- Brought wealth only to Europe

Reasons & Economic Link to Globalization Video
INFO ON THE COLONIES: TODAY

- Nearly all (68) in Pacific Ocean or Caribbean Sea
  - Small islands – some inhabited

- Puerto Rico is most populous remaining colony
  → Commonwealth of the United States with 4 million

- Commonwealth - A territory that established a mutual agreement with another state for the benefit of each (economic & cultural)
Sequencing Activity - take the following 4 events & place them in chronological order

A. Europe turns their attention to gaining colonies in Africa and Asia

B. United Nations was established, only 15 African and Asian states were members

C. European colonial era began - sailed west for Asia but “accidentally” found the Americas

D. Latin American states and the US declare independence and those territories are lost