

## European and Japanese Imperialism

### Industrialization, Imperialism, and Nationalism in Political Cartoons

#### Directions

Analyze the following political cartoon. Pay close attention to the details of the cartoon, including who the individuals are, where they represent, how they are depicted, and what they are doing. Reflect on the meaning of the cartoon and the point of view of the artist. Respond to the questions that follow.

**“China – the cake of kings and... of emperors.” Le Petit Journal, 16 January 1898.**



Source: Cornell University - PJ Mode Collection of Persuasive Cartography. <https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:3293809>

Describe the cartoon. Which countries are represented and what are they doing?

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What is the artist's point of view?

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What does the source communicate about imperialism and nationalism during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries? In what ways are the processes of imperialism and nationalism connected during this time?

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## Source Analysis of Industrialization, Nationalism, and/or Imperialism

You will be given two documents to read and analyze. Each document connects to industrialization, nationalism, and/or imperialism. In small groups, read and analyze the documents and answer the questions below for each document in the appropriate areas of your chart (documents can be placed in more than one box). Then, switch groups so that you are with at least two other students that have a different country from you. Share what you have learned about your country with each other, pointing out the specifics that led you to your conclusions and placing the additional countries' notes into your chart.

After you have finished sharing information with the other members of your group, your teacher will lead a class discussion on the similarities and differences that can be seen in each category.

### Document Questions

1. What do we learn about the country from the document?
2. Is the document more a demonstration of imperialism, nationalism, and/or industrialization? Justify your response with evidence from the document.

### *Great Britain*

#### *Document 1*

*Cecil Rhodes was financier, statesman, and empire builder of British South Africa. He was prime minister of Cape Colony (1890-96) and organizer of the giant diamond-mining company De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd. (1888). His views on nation and duty are expressed below:*

"It often strikes a man to enquire what is the chief good in life. To one the thought comes that it is a happy marriage, to another great wealth, to a third travel, and so on; and as each seizes the idea, he more or less works for its attainment for the rest of his existence. To myself, thinking over the same question, the wish came to render myself useful to my country.

I contend that we are the first race in the world, and that the more of the world we inhabit, the better it is for the human race. I contend that every acre added to our territory provides for the birth of more of the English race, who otherwise would not be brought into existence. Added to which the absorption of the greater portion of the world under our rule simply means the end of all wars".

Source: "European Imperialism" [http://faculty.gilman.edu/us/JamieSpragins/Euro\\_Hum\\_2002-03/Conrad/Imperialism%20Documents/imperialism\\_primary.htm#chamberlain](http://faculty.gilman.edu/us/JamieSpragins/Euro_Hum_2002-03/Conrad/Imperialism%20Documents/imperialism_primary.htm#chamberlain)

## Document 2

*Joseph Chamberlain Preaches the Doctrine of Commercial Imperialism, 1893*

*Joseph Chamberlain (1836-1914), a ... highly successful Birmingham manufacturer and an outspoken champion of British imperialism, was convinced that the "British Empire is commerce." British workingmen could have employment, he was sure, only if there were a market for the products they made ... In the following speech Chamberlain made his views known to an audience composed mostly of manufacturers and workingmen:*

"We must look this matter in the face, and must recognize that in order that we may have more employment to give we must create more demand [hear, hear]. Give me the demand for more goods and then I will undertake to give plenty of employment in making the goods; and the only thing, in my opinion, that the government can do in order to meet this great difficulty that we are considering, is so to arrange its policy that every inducement shall be given to the demand; that new markets shall be created, and that old markets shall be effectively developed [cheers]. . . . I am convinced that it is a necessity as well as a duty for us to uphold the dominion and empire which we now possess [loud cheers]. For these reasons, among others, I would never lose the hold which we now have over our great Indian dependency [hear, hear], by far the greatest and most valuable of all the customers we have or ever shall have in this country. For the same reasons I approve of the continued occupation of Egypt, and for the same reasons I have urged upon this government, and upon previous governments, the necessity for using every legitimate opportunity to extend our influence and control in that great African continent which is now being opened up to civilization and to commerce; and, lastly, it is for the same reasons that I hold that our navy should be strengthened [loud cheers] until its supremacy is so assured that we cannot be shaken in any of the possessions which we hold or may hold hereafter. "

Source: "European Imperialism" [http://faculty.gilman.edu/us/JamieSpragins/Euro\\_Hum\\_2002-03/Conrad/Imperialism%20Documents/imperialism\\_primary.htm#chamberlain](http://faculty.gilman.edu/us/JamieSpragins/Euro_Hum_2002-03/Conrad/Imperialism%20Documents/imperialism_primary.htm#chamberlain)

## Japan

### Document 1

*In the 1870s, former clerk to a feudal lord Iwasaki Yataro created a steamship company named Mitsubishi. But by 1876, British companies vied for dominance in Japanese coastal. In the document below, Yataro discusses the challenge and offers a solution.*

If we allow the right of coastal navigation to fall into the hands of foreigners in peacetime, it means loss of business and employment opportunities for our own people, and in wartime it means yielding the vital right of gathering information to foreigners. In fact, this is not too different from abandoning the rights of our country as an independent nation....

I now propose to do my utmost, and along with my 15 million compatriots, perform my duty as a citizen of this country. That is to recover the right of coastal trade in our hands and not to delegate that task to foreigners....

There is no other alternative but to eliminate unnecessary positions and unnecessary expenditures [in this way] we shall be able to solidify the foundation of our company.... If we succeed it will not only be an accomplishment for our company but also a glorious event for our Japanese Empire, which shall let its light shine to all four corners of the earth. We may succeed and we may fail, and it all depends on your effort or lack of it. Do your utmost in this endeavor!

Source: *Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader*, Kevin Reilly, pp. 268-270. Note: originally in *Sources of Japanese History*, vol. 2 (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1974), 80-82

### Document 2

*A key battle of the Japanese-Russo War as recounted by Lt. Tadayoshi Sakurai*  
"The Attack upon Port Arthur, 1905"

As soon as we were gathered together the colonel rose and gave us a final word of exhortation, saying: "This battle is our great chance of serving our country. Tonight we must strike at the vitals of Port Arthur. Our brave assaulting column must be not simply a forlorn-hope, but a "sure-death" detachment. I as your father am more grateful than I can express for your gallant fighting. Do your best, all of you." Yes, we were all ready for death when leaving Japan. Men going to battle of course cannot expect to come back alive. But in this particular battle to be ready for death was not enough; what was required of us was a determination not to fail to die. Indeed, we were "sure-death" men, and this new appellation gave us a great stimulus. Also a telegram that had come from the Minister of War in Tokyo, was read by the aide-de-camp, which said, "I pray for your success." This increased the exaltation of our spirits.

Source: Modern History Sourcebook: "Lt. Tadayoshi Sakurai: The Attack upon Port Arthur, 1905."  
<http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1905portarthur.asp>

## Russia

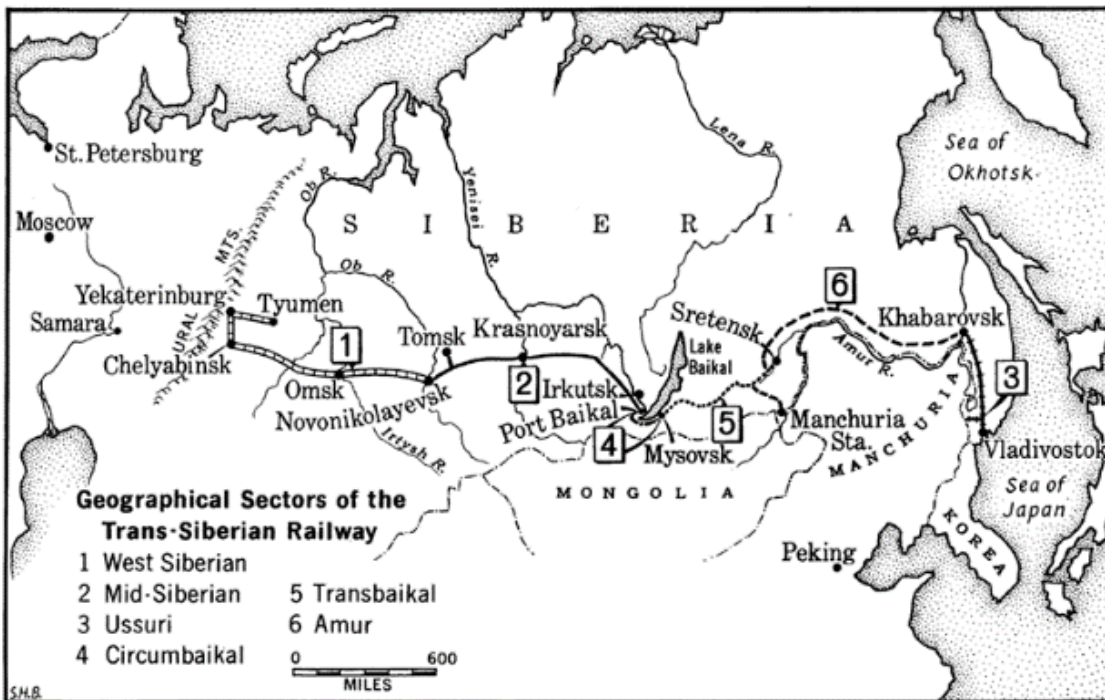
### Document 1

*Russia's Landward Expansion (1864)*

*While improvements in marine navigation facilitated 19th-century European expansion especially by Britain and France ... Russia ... made the most dramatic advances in the central and eastern parts of the Asian land mass. Below, Russia's foreign minister explains the dilemma facing the civilized power on a frontier.*

- [1] ...The position of Russia in Central Asia is that of all civilized States which are brought into contact with half-savage, nomad populations possessing no fixed social organization.
- [2] In such cases it always happens that the more civilized State is forced, in the interest of the security of its frontier and its commercial relations, to exercise a certain ascendancy over those whom their turbulent and unsettled character make most undesirable neighbors.
- [3] First, there are raids and acts of pillage to be put down. To put a stop to them, the tribes on the frontier have to be reduced to a state of more or less perfect submission. This result once attained, these tribes take to more peaceful habits, but are in their turn exposed to the attacks of the more distant tribes.
- [4] The State is bound to defend them against ... [and] punish those who commit them...If, the robbers once punished, the expedition is withdrawn, the lesson is soon forgotten; its withdrawal put down to weakness. It is a peculiarity of Asiatics to respect nothing but visible and palpable force; the moral force of reason and of the interests of civilisation has as yet no hold upon them. The work has then always to be done over again from the beginning.
- [5] In order to put top to this state of permanent disorder, fortified posts are established in the midst of these hostile tribes, and an influence is brought to bear upon them which reduces them by degrees to a state of more or less forced submission.

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*Document 2*

Source: <http://www.transsib.ru/Map/transsib-building.gif>

*Sequence of Great Siberian Railway construction*

On May 19 (31), 1891 at 10 a.m. in the area of Kuperovskaya fold in Vladivostok city a ceremony of grand laying of the railway was carried out and a service on this occasion was held. Heir to the throne, Czaravich Nikolai Alexandrovich (future emperor Nikolai II) took part in this ceremony. Amur bridge Construction of Amur bridge. Less than 3 versts (about 3 km). The beginning of construction took place on August 12, 1913. Putting into operation and beginning through regular communication from St Petersburg up to Vladivostok over the territory of Russia – October 5 (18), 1916.

Source excerpted from: <http://www.transsib.ru/Eng/history-phases.htm>

	Industrialization	Imperialism	Nationalism
Great Britain			
Japan			
Russia			
Similarities			
Differences			

**Writing about Comparison**

Now that you have studied the various factors at play in British, Japanese, and Russian industrialization, imperialism, and nationalism, and you have summarized your notes by comparing the countries in those three categories, you are to write a thesis statement and an outline of the evidence (including any outside evidence) you would use to answer this prompt: “Focusing on the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries’ development of industrialization, imperialism, and nationalism, evaluate the most significant area of difference between Great Britain, Japan, and Russia.”

Remember that to prove “most significant”, you must compare several categories in proving that one category is “most.”

After you have developed your thesis and outline for this prompt, you will review and evaluate each other’s work.