The Simple AP® World History Unit 6 Cheat Sheet

6.1 Rationales for Imperialism

Ideas Used to Justify Empire

Social Darwinism: twisted "survival of the fittest" to claim some races should rule others.
Civilizing mission: Europeans claimed a duty to "improve" others (Kipling's "White Man's Burden").
Religion: missionaries spread Christianity & built schools, often helping colonial rule.
Nationalism: colonies brought prestige, so rival nations raced to claim land first.

Motive	Example
Economic	raw materials, markets
Ideological	Social Darwinism
Religious	missionaries
Strategic	Suez Canal, naval bases

Economic Roots

Factory needs: industry needed cotton, rubber & metals, plus new places to sell goods.
Coaling stations: steamships needed ports to refuel → small islands gained strategic value.

Using Sources

Critics: some writers said empire made only a few investors rich (J.A. Hobson, 1902).
Pro-empire sources: speeches & cartoons aimed to win voters' support for colonies.

⚠ Ideas justified empire; industry & rivalry actually drove it. Keep these separate.

✓ DBQ: Kipling's poem aimed to convince Americans to take the Philippines.

6.2 State Expansion

Companies → State Control

British India: after the 1857 rebellion, the British gov't replaced the East India Co. (1858).
Dutch East Indies: the Dutch gov't took over Indonesia from the bankrupt VOC.
Congo: King Leopold II's brutal rubber colony was taken over by the Belgian gov't (1908).

Scramble for Africa

Berlin Conference (1884–85): Europeans divided Africa w/o Africans at the table.
Borders: new lines cut across ethnic groups, causing conflicts that lasted long after.
By 1900: about 90% of Africa was colonized; only Ethiopia & Liberia stayed independent.

Power	Main colonies
Britain	India, Egypt, S. Africa
France	W. Africa, Indochina
Japan	Taiwan, Korea
US	Hawaii, Philippines

New Players

Settler colonies: many Europeans moved in & pushed out natives (Australia, Algeria).
Non-European empires: Japan, the US & Russia also expanded in this era (US took Hawaii).

⚠ Siam (Thailand) stayed independent as a buffer between British & French lands.

✓ Compare company rule (Unit 4) to direct gov't rule after 1850, w/ 1 colony each.

6.3 Indigenous Responses

Armed Resistance

Indian Rebellion (1857): Indian soldiers rose up vs. British rule; it was crushed in 1858.
Samory Touré: fought the French in West Africa for years before his capture in 1898.
Yaa Asantewaa War (1900): an Asante queen mother led a revolt vs. the British.
Adwa (1896): Ethiopia's army, armed w/ modern rifles, defeated Italy & stayed independent.

Religious Movements

Ghost Dance (1890): Plains peoples hoped ritual would bring back land & bison.
Result: US troops killed hundreds of Lakota at Wounded Knee (1890), ending the movement.
Xhosa Cattle-Killing (1856–57): a prophecy led people to kill cattle → famine & collapse.

New States

Cherokee Nation: wrote a constitution, but the US still forced them west (Trail of Tears, 1838).
Zulu Kingdom: a strong African state that beat Britain once (1879) before losing.

Response	Example
Armed revolt	India, 1857
Religious	Ghost Dance
New state	Cherokee Nation
Military win	Adwa, 1896

⚠ Most resistance failed, but Adwa shows Africans could beat a European army.

✓ SAQ: name 1 response + its cause & its result.

6.4 Global Economic Development

Export Economies

Export economies: colonies & Latin America focused on 1–2 raw goods for factories abroad.

Good	Where
Cotton	Egypt, India
Rubber	Congo, Amazon
Palm oil	West Africa
Beef, wheat	Argentina
Gold, diamonds	South Africa

Risk: relying on 1 export → hurt badly when world prices fell; food crops were replaced.

Technology

Steamships & railroads moved goods cheaply; the telegraph sent prices & news fast.
Suez Canal (1869): shortened the trip from Europe to Asia → Britain took Egypt (1882).
Refrigerated ships: frozen meat from Argentina & Australia could now reach Europe.

Who Profited

Profits went mostly to European & US investors & banks, not to local workers or farmers.
Labor: mines & plantations used forced or low-paid workers (Congo rubber quotas).
Japan & Russia built their own industries w/ gov't help (Trans-Siberian Railroad, 1891–1916).

⚠ Latin America was independent but still economically dependent on Britain & the US.

✓ Link 1 product to 1 place & 1 effect.

6.5 Economic Imperialism

China

Opium Wars (1839–42, 1856–60): Britain forced China to allow the opium trade.
Treaty of Nanjing (1842): China gave up Hong Kong & opened ports → unequal treaty.
Spheres of influence: foreign powers each controlled trade in parts of China.
Open Door Policy (US, 1899): asked for equal trading rights for all powers in China.
Effects: addiction, lost silver & lost control → reform efforts & the Boxer Rebellion (1900).

Japan, Egypt & Latin America

Commodore Perry (1853): US warships forced Japan to open → Meiji reforms.
Egypt: huge debts → Britain & France took control of its finances, then Britain occupied it.
Latin America: British & US companies owned railroads, mines & fruit plantations.
Ottoman Empire: heavy debts let European lenders take over parts of its finances (1881).

Tool	Meaning
Unequal treaty	forced trade terms
Sphere	zone of trade control
Debt	loans → foreign control
Investment	foreign-owned railroads

⚠ Economic imperialism ≠ colony: China & Latin America kept their own governments.

✓ Compare: China was forced open & weakened; Japan was forced open & industrialized.

6.6 Causes of Migration

Push & Pull

Push factors: famine (Irish Potato Famine), poverty, crowding & persecution.
Pull factors: factory jobs, cheap land (US, Argentina) & gold rushes (California, 1849).
Transport: steamships & railroads made moving far away faster, safer & cheaper.
Cities: within countries, farm families moved to factory cities for wages (Manchester, Chicago).

Forced & Contract Labor

Indentured servants: Indian & Chinese workers signed multi-year work contracts.
Contracts: about 5 years of hard, low-paid work; many stayed after their contracts ended.

Migrants	Destination
Indians	Caribbean, Fiji
Chinese	US, Cuba, SE Asia
Italians	Argentina, US
Irish	US, Britain
Japanese	Hawaii, Brazil

Why: after Britain ended slavery (1834), plantations needed new workers from Asia.
Convicts: Britain sent prisoners to Australia.
Chain migration: early migrants sent letters & money → relatives followed them.

⚠ Many migrants planned to go home after a few years, like Italians working Argentine harvests.

✓ Give a push & a pull for 1 group (Irish: famine push, US jobs pull) + the transport used.

6.7 Effects of Migration

Back Home

Gender change: most migrants were men → women ran farms, homes & family businesses.
Remittances: migrants sent money home to support their families & villages (S. China).

In New Countries

Population growth: settler countries like Argentina grew fast from immigration (Buenos Aires).
Ethnic enclaves: neighborhoods where migrants kept their culture (Chinatowns).
Cultural blending: Indian food & Hindu temples in Trinidad; Italian words in Buenos Aires.

Group	Where
Chinese	SE Asia, US
Indian	E. Africa, Caribbean
Italian	Buenos Aires
Irish	Boston, New York

Backlash

Chinese Exclusion Act (US, 1882): banned most Chinese immigration until 1943.
Nativism: native-born people blamed migrants for low wages & sometimes attacked them.
White Australia policy (1901): limited non-European immigrants to Australia.
Resistance: Gandhi organized Indians in South Africa vs. unfair pass & tax laws.

⚠ Migrants weren't passive; they built communities, churches & mutual-aid groups.

✓ Show effects at home (gender, money) & abroad (enclaves, nativism) w/ examples.

6.8 Causation + the Exam

Big Causal Chain

Industrialization → need for raw materials & markets → empire → export economies & migration all around the world by 1900.
Military tech: machine guns, steamships & quinine (vs. malaria) helped Europeans conquer.

Change	Continuity
Gov'ts rule colonies	Forced labor
Africa divided	Raw-material exports
Mass migration	Racial hierarchies
Japan & US join in	Local resistance

Arguing Causes

Most important cause: compare economic, ideological & tech causes; pick 1 & explain.
Context: start essays w/ the Industrial Revolution & rivalry between new nation-states.

Exam Moves

Format: 55 MCQ, 3 SAQ, 1 DBQ & 1 LEQ; from May 2027, no choice on SAQs or the LEQ.
DBQ (7 pts): thesis, context, use 4+ docs, outside evidence & source 2 docs (HIPP).
LEQ prompts: causes of imperialism, responses to empire & effects of migration on society.
SAQ: name 1 way people resisted empire, then explain what happened next & why.

⚠ Stay in 1750–1900: World War I & decolonization belong to Units 7 & 8.

✓ Go-to evidence: Opium Wars, Berlin Conference, Adwa & the 1857 Rebellion.