The Ultimate AP® World History Unit 6 Cheat Sheet

6.1 Rationales for Imperialism

Ideologies Behind Empire

Social Darwinism: misapplied "survival of the fittest" to races & nations → justified conquest as natural & inevitable.
Civilizing mission: claimed duty to "uplift" colonized peoples; Kipling's "White Man's Burden" (1899); French *mission civilisatrice* in W. Africa & Indochina.
Religion: Christian missionaries (David Livingstone) sought converts → schools & churches, often paving way for rule.
Nationalism: colonies = prestige & power; rivals (Britain, France, Germany) raced to claim land before others did.

Motive	Example
Economic	raw materials, markets
Ideological	Social Darwinism
Religious	missionaries in Africa
Political	naval bases, prestige
Strategic	Suez Canal route to India

Economic Roots

Industrial needs: factories needed cotton, rubber, palm oil & metals + new markets for surplus goods.
Coaling stations: steamships needed refueling ports → islands & coasts gained strategic value.
Investment: surplus capital sought higher returns abroad in railroads, mines & plantations (Hobson's critique).

Using Sources

Pro-empire sources: speeches, cartoons & missionary accounts; read purpose (rally support) & audience (voters).
Critics: J.A. Hobson (1902) argued empire profited a few investors; anti-imperialists in US opposed Philippine war.

⚠ Rationales ≠ causes: ideologies justified empire; industrial demand & rivalry drove it. Separate them.

✓ DBQ sourcing: Kipling's poem → purpose = persuade Americans to annex & rule the Philippines.

6.2 State Expansion

Companies → State Control

British Raj: after the 1857 Indian Rebellion, Britain dissolved the East India Co. rule → direct crown rule (1858).
Dutch East Indies: VOC went bankrupt (1799) → Dutch state ran Indonesia; cultivation system forced cash crops.
Congo: Leopold II's personal Congo Free State (1885) → atrocities over rubber quotas → Belgium took over (1908).

Scramble for Africa

Berlin Conference (1884–85): Europeans set rules for claiming Africa w/o Africans → borders ignored ethnic lines.
By 1900: ~90% of Africa under European rule; only Ethiopia & Liberia stayed independent (Liberia US-backed).

Power	Major holdings
Britain	India, Egypt, S. Africa
France	W. Africa, Algeria, Indochina
Germany	SW & E. Africa, Cameroon
Japan	Taiwan (1895), Korea
US	Hawaii, Philippines (1898)
Russia	Central Asia, Siberia

Settler Colonies & New Players

Settler colonies: Europeans moved in large numbers & displaced natives (Australia, New Zealand, Algeria, S. Africa).
Non-European imperialists: Meiji Japan (Taiwan after 1895 war), US (Spanish-American War 1898), Russia.
Ottoman & Qing losses: both lost land to Europe & Russia; Ottomans lost the Balkans, Egypt & N. Africa.
Russia pushed into Central Asia & the Caucasus; the **US** expanded west (Manifest Destiny), displacing Natives.

⚠ Siam (Thailand) stayed independent as a buffer between British Burma & French Indochina; Ethiopia won at Adwa.

✓ Compare: trading-company empires (Unit 4) vs. direct state rule after 1850; name a colony for each.

6.3 Indigenous Responses

Armed Resistance

Indian Rebellion (1857): sepoys rose vs. British (cartridge rumor, land & religious grievances) → crushed; Raj created.
Samory Touré: built the Wassoulou empire, fought the French in W. Africa for ~16 yrs before capture (1898).
Yaa Asantewaa War (1900): Asante queen mother led revolt vs. British over the Golden Stool; defeated.
Zulu: beat Britain at Isandlwana (1879) but lost the Anglo-Zulu War; **Ethiopia** crushed Italy at Adwa (1896).
Taiping Rebellion (1850–64): revolt vs. weakened Qing (20M+ dead); outside pressure fed internal unrest.

Religious & Millenarian Movements

Ghost Dance (1890): Lakota & other Plains peoples hoped ritual would restore land & bison → Wounded Knee massacre.
Xhosa Cattle-Killing (1856–57): prophecy said killing cattle would drive out British → famine, collapse of resistance.
Pattern: when armed resistance failed, many turned to prophecy & religion to explain loss & promise renewal.

New States

Cherokee Nation: wrote a constitution (1827) & a syllabary → still forcibly removed (Trail of Tears, 1838).
Zulu Kingdom (Shaka, 1810s) & **Mahdist state** in Sudan (1880s) built strong states, partly vs. outsiders.
Adaptation: some elites cooperated w/ colonizers for power (Indian princes) or reformed to resist (Ethiopia's guns).

Response	Example	Result
Armed revolt	1857 India	crushed, Raj
Religious	Ghost Dance	massacre
New state	Cherokee	removed
Military win	Adwa 1896	independence

⚠ Resistance varied: most failed militarily, but Adwa shows Africans could beat a European army.

✓ SAQ: identify 1 response + explain its cause & outcome (e.g., Ghost Dance → Wounded Knee).

6.4 Global Economic Development

Export Economies

Export economies: colonies & Latin American states specialized in 1–2 raw goods for industrial markets.

Commodity	Where
Cotton	Egypt, India, US South
Rubber	Congo, Amazon, Malaya
Palm oil	West Africa
Guano	Peru
Beef, wheat	Argentina
Gold, diamonds	South Africa

Monoculture risk: dependence on 1 export → boom & bust w/ world prices; food crops replaced by cash crops.
Latin America: independent states borrowed from Britain to build export railroads → debt & foreign ownership.

Technology Links the World

Steamships & railroads: moved bulk goods cheaply inland & across oceans; telegraph sped price & market news.
Suez Canal (1869): cut Europe–Asia voyage by ~7,000 km → Britain bought shares, then occupied Egypt (1882).
Refrigerated ships (1870s–80s): frozen beef & mutton from Argentina, Australia & NZ reached Europe.
Industrializing outside Europe: Japan (Meiji) & Russia (Trans-Siberian Railroad) built state-backed industry.

Who Profited

Profits flowed to European & US investors, banks & shipping firms; local elites gained, workers rarely did.
Labor: plantations & mines used forced or low-wage labor (Congo rubber quotas, S. African mine compounds).
Industrial capitalism: stock markets, banks & limited-liability firms financed global trade & production.

⚠ Latin America was politically independent but economically dependent on British & US capital.

✓ Causation: industrial demand → export economies → dependence; link 1 commodity to 1 place.

6.5 Economic Imperialism

China

Opium Wars (1839–42, 1856–60): Britain forced China to accept opium trade after Qing tried to ban it.
Treaty of Nanjing (1842): Hong Kong to Britain, 5 treaty ports opened, extraterritoriality → 1st unequal treaty.
Spheres of influence: Britain, France, Germany, Russia & Japan carved zones of trading privilege in China.
Open Door Policy (US, 1899): equal trade access for all powers in China, protecting US business.
Effects in China: silver outflow, addiction, lost sovereignty → Self-Strengthening Movement & Boxer Rebellion (1900).

Japan, Egypt & Latin America

Commodore Perry (1853–54): US warships forced Japan to open ports → unequal treaties → Meiji reforms.
Egypt: debts from modernization & Suez → British & French control finances → British occupation (1882).
Ottoman Empire: lost trade control via capitulations & debt → foreign-run Ottoman Public Debt Admin. (1881).
Latin America: British & US firms ran railroads, mines & plantations; United Fruit Co. (1899) in Central America.
Gunboat diplomacy: navies backed investors' demands; US took the Panama Canal Zone & intervened in the Caribbean.

Tool	How it worked
Unequal treaty	forced trade terms
Sphere of influence	zone of trade control
Debt	loans → foreign control
Investment	foreign-owned infrastructure

Free-trade imperialism: Britain used trade treaties & finance, not conquest, to dominate weaker states.

⚠ Economic imperialism ≠ colony: China & Latin America kept their governments but lost economic control.

✓ Compare: China (forced open, weakened) vs. Japan (forced open, industrialized & became imperial).

6.6 Causes of Migration

Push & Pull Factors

Push: famine (Irish Potato Famine 1845–52), land shortage, rapid pop. growth, poverty & persecution (Russian Jews).
Pull: industrial jobs, cheap land in settler states (US, Canada, Argentina, Australia), gold rushes (California 1849).
Transport: steamships & railroads made long moves faster & cheaper → mass migration became possible.
Urbanization: within countries, rural people moved to factory cities for wages (Manchester, Osaka, Chicago).

Coerced & Semi-Coerced Labor

Indentured servitude: Indian & Chinese workers signed multi-year contracts for plantations & mines after abolition.
Contract terms: 5-yr contracts, low pay, harsh discipline; many stayed after their terms → new diaspora communities.

Migrants	Destination	Work
Indians	Caribbean, Fiji, Natal	sugar plantations
Chinese	US, Cuba, SE Asia	rail, mines, sugar
Italians	Argentina, US	farms, cities
Irish	US, Britain	factories, rail
Japanese	Hawaii, Brazil	sugar, coffee

Abolition link: Britain ended the slave trade (1807) & slavery (1834) → planters sought indentured Asians.
Chain migration: early migrants sent letters & fares home → relatives followed to the same towns & jobs.
Scale: ~50M Europeans left for the Americas & Oceania (1815–1914); millions of Indians & Chinese moved too.
Convict labor: Britain transported convicts to Australia; Russia sent exiles & prisoners to Siberia.

⚠ Many migrants were temporary: Italian "golondrinas" crossed to Argentina for harvests, then returned.

✓ Name the push AND pull for 1 group (Irish: famine push, US jobs pull) & the transport that enabled it.

6.7 Effects of Migration

Sending Societies

Gender change: mostly male migrants left → women ran farms, households & businesses at home.
Demographic change: sending villages aged & lost young men; settler colonies grew fast (Argentina pop. ↑ ~4×).
Remittances: money sent home supported families & villages (S. China, S. Italy) & paid for more migration.

Receiving Societies

Ethnic enclaves: migrants kept language, food & religion → Chinatowns, Little Italys, Indian communities in E. Africa.

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

Cultural blending: Indian food & Hinduism in Trinidad; Italian words & cooking in Buenos Aires (lunfardo slang).

Nativism & Restriction

Labor competition: employers used migrants as strikebreakers; unions often sought to exclude Asians.
Resistance: Chinese in US sued in court; Gandhi organized Indians vs. pass laws in S. Africa (1890s–1900s).
Chinese Exclusion Act (US, 1882): 1st major US law barring a group by nationality; lasted until 1943.
White Australia policy (1901): limited non-European immigration; reflected racial ideas of the era.
Nativism: native-born workers blamed migrants for low wages → riots & laws vs. Chinese, Irish & Italians.

⚠ Don't treat migrants as passive: they built enclaves, unions & mutual-aid societies to survive.

✓ Effects at 2 scales: home villages (gender, remittances) & host cities (enclaves, nativism, labor).

6.8 Causation + the Exam

Big Causal Chain

Industrialization → demand for raw materials & markets → imperialism → export economies & labor migration.
Military tech: Maxim gun, steamships & quinine (vs. malaria) let small European forces conquer large areas.
Unit links: Unit 5 (industrialization, revolutions) causes Unit 6; Unit 6 rivalries lead into WWI (Unit 7).

Change	Continuity
Direct state rule	Coerced labor
Africa partitioned	Raw-material exports
Mass global migration	Racial hierarchies
Japan, US join empires	Local resistance

Arguing Significance

Most important cause: weigh economic vs. ideological vs. technological; rank & explain w/ evidence.
Contextualization: open w/ the Industrial Revolution & new nation-states racing for power after 1850.
Thesis template: "Although ideology justified empire, industrial demand for raw materials was the main cause."
Complexity: show both effects (railroads modernized India but drained wealth & raw cotton to Britain).

Exam Moves

Format: 55 MCQ (40%), 3 SAQ (20%), DBQ (25%), LEQ (15%); from May 2027 answer all 3 SAQs & 1 LEQ, no choice.
DBQ (7 pts): thesis, context, 4+ docs, outside evidence, sourcing on 2 docs, complexity (2 pts total).
LEQ prompts: causes of imperialism, compare 2 responses to empire, effects of migration on societies.
SAQ: "Identify 1 way Indigenous peoples resisted state expansion" → name it + explain its outcome.

⚠ Stay in 1750–1900: WWI, the Russian Revolution & decolonization belong to Units 7–8; don't drift forward.

✓ Go-to evidence: Opium Wars, Berlin Conference, Adwa, 1857 Rebellion, Chinese Exclusion Act.