

2.4 Colonization to Independence

of colonialism and photos of African leaders



Maps and
Graphs



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Main Idea European powers colonized and ruled large parts of Africa until Africans began independence movements in the mid-1900s.

As you have learned, the Portuguese began exploring the African coast in the 1400s. By the 1500s, many European nations were seeking to control large parts of Africa.

Imperialism and Colonialism

Imperialism is the practice of extending a nation's influence by controlling other territories. European imperialism in Africa began when Europeans started trading with slave merchants on the coast. Little by little, Europeans moved into African lands in search of profitable resources. Eventually, several European countries conquered African lands and established colonies. The practice of directly controlling and settling foreign territories is known as **colonialism**.

By the mid-1800s, European powers began to fight over their African colonies. They wanted more natural resources to fuel industrialization, or the transition to large-scale industries, in Europe. Because of advanced European weapons, there was little the Africans could do to stop them.



Scramble for Africa

In 1884, Europeans held the **Berlin Conference** to settle their disputes about colonial claims in Africa. No Africans were invited to attend. Europeans at the conference divided Africa among themselves. By 1910, France, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, Spain, and Great Britain had established themselves as colonial powers in all parts of Africa.

Many Europeans believed that African culture and religion were inferior to those of Europe. They wanted to change African traditions. Europeans sent **missionaries**—people sent by a church to spread their religion among native populations—to convert Africans to Christianity.

African Independence

In the early 1900s, **Pan-Africanism**, a movement to unify African people, grew among African leaders in London and other cities around the world. By the 1950s and 1960s, this nationalist movement had brought together many African leaders. **Jomo Kenyatta** (JOH moh ken YAA taa) of Kenya and **Kwame Nkrumah** (KWAA mah en KROO mah) of Ghana helped to gain independence for their people.

EUROPEAN COLONIES, 1938



AFRICAN NATIONS, 2013



In 1963 the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was founded to promote Pan-Africanism. The OAU is known today as the African Union (AU). It continues to promote African unity and cooperation, but also functions as an economic group similar to the European Union.

Before You Move On

Make Inferences What action by Africans helped bring colonialism to an end?

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

MAP LAB



GeoJournal

- 1. Location** Which modern countries made up the colony of French Equatorial Africa?
- 2. Interpret Maps** Identify the locations of Mali and Sudan. Describe the changes to Africa's internal borders from 1938 to today.
- 3. Analyze Cause and Effect** Why did European countries colonize Africa? Trace some of the effects of colonization on African societies today.