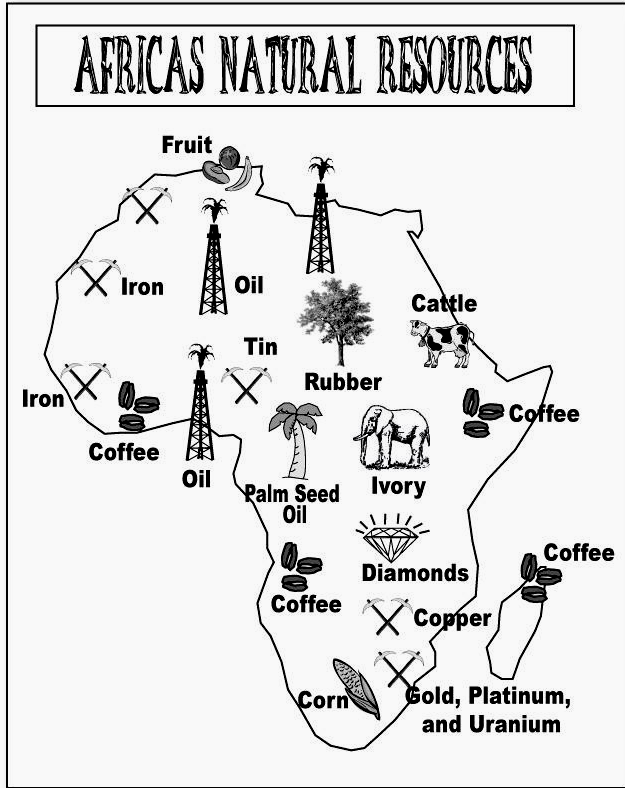


African Imperialism



The African slave trade lasted for over 300 years with disastrous effects on African society and life. The African people were left divided and in a state of chaos, with no form of organized government. For the West, African slave labor had played a major role in European and American economic success. By the start of the Industrial revolution in the 1800's, Europe and the U.S. had switched from an agricultural (farming) economy to an economy based on industry (factories). As a result of this switch, they needed various raw materials to keep up with the production of factory goods. The past European experience in Africa had shown them that Africa is rich in these needed natural resources. It was only a matter of time before European nations began to divide up Africa to their liking, and this time they intended to stay.



Imagine that you were a European factory owner during the Industrial revolution. **What resources in the map to the left may be of interest to you?**
What could you do with these resources?
(remember you are a European factory owner)

African Tribes

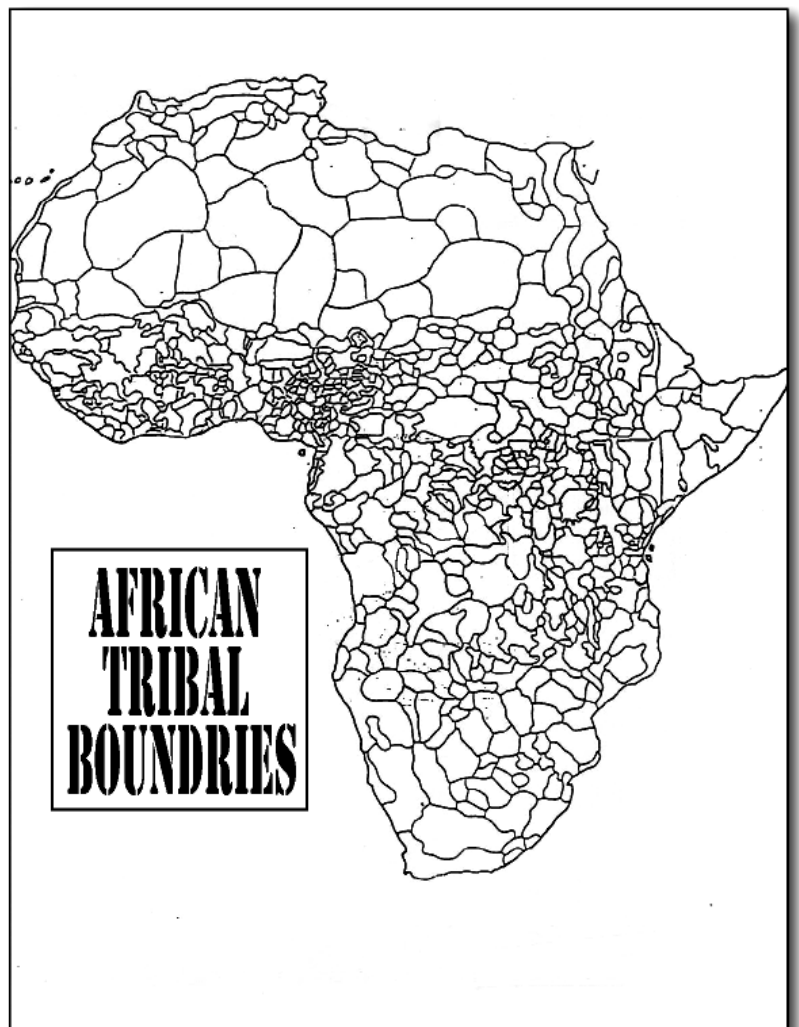
The African people are made up of hundreds of different tribes. Many of these tribes have their own language or dialect as well as their own culture and traditions. The map to the right shows the boundaries for each tribe's territories.

1. Pick any area on the map to the right and make a circle about the size of a dime. How many tribes are in your circle?
(Count them)

There are ___ tribes in my circle.

2. If you were a European who wanted to take over the territories in your circle, **how might you use these tribes to help you take over the territory?**

3. Imagine that all of the tribes in your circle were forced to create a nation together. What kinds of problems do you think this would lead to?

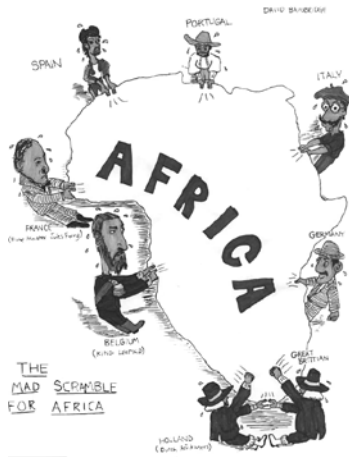


The Belgian conquest of the Congo

King Leopold II of Belgium was one of the first Europeans to become interested in imperializing African territory. He set his eyes on the territory of the Congo which had natural resources such as ivory, rubber, and petroleum. In 1879, Leopold hired Henry Stanley to help him acquire land there. In 1882, Leopold attained treaties (A formal agreement) from local chiefs of the Congo River Valley that gave Belgium personal control of the land. Publicly, Leopold spoke of a civilizing mission to save Africans from “barbarism”, creating a new era in African history.

Use the video clip to answer the questions:

How did King Leopold gain control of the Congo and it's people?



The Berlin Conference

King Leopold's activities in the Congo set off a scramble (rush) by other European nations. European countries were scrambling to take African territories throughout the 1800's. There was a fear at the time that war could break out between these countries because of the fierce competition. In 1884, the European nations agreed to hold a conference where they could peacefully discuss rules for dividing up Africa. This became known as the **Berlin Conference**. It was decided that a European nation could take an African territory as long as they followed the guidelines below:

- The Free State of the Congo was confirmed as private property of the Congo Society, the property of Léopold II (King of Belgium)
- The 14 powers would have free trade throughout the continent.
- The Niger and Congo Rivers were made free for ship traffic.
- Powers could only possess colonies if they actually could occupy them.
- Attempts to gain new territory must be agreed upon by all powers

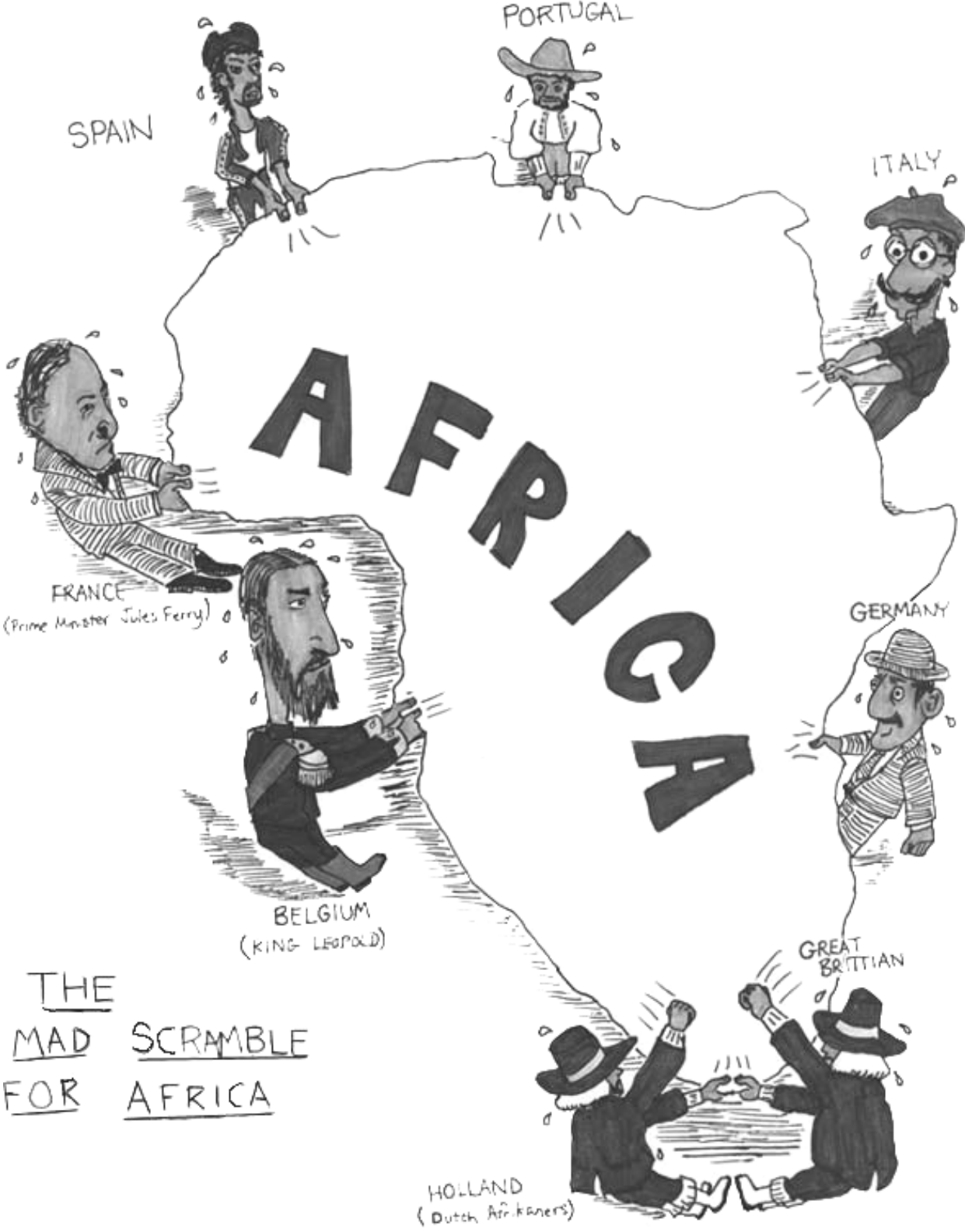
Describe the effect the Berlin conference would have on both Africans and Europeans.

The Case of Ethiopia

From 1889 to 1913, Menelik II ruled Ethiopia, the only African nation to fight back successfully against colonization. He wrote this letter to the caliph (ruler) of the Sudan.

“The Europeans who are present round the White Nile with intend (plan) to enter between my country and yours and to separate and divide us. When I heard of their plan, I sent an expedition (a group of men) in five directions. . . . I have ordered my troops to advance towards the White Nile. . . . Do not let the Europeans enter between us. Be strong, or else if the Europeans enter our midst, a great disaster befall us. . . . All my intention is to increase my friendship with you, and that our countries may be protected from their enemies.”

Why was Ethiopia successful in fighting back against the Europeans?



THE
MAD SCRAMBLE
FOR AFRICA

HOLLAND
(Dutch Afrikaners)

GREAT BRITIAN

SPAIN

PORTUGAL

ITALY

FRANCE
(Prime Minister Jules Ferry)

BELGIUM
(KING LEOPOLD)

GERMANY

AFRICA