

# Capitalism and its Effects

When capitalism became the way that Europeans and Americans produced things, their view of the world changed. Capitalist businesses need **profits, markets** (places to sell their products), **technology, and...**

## 1) Natural resources

- Without natural resources, products cannot be made
- If these resources are expensive, the product is expensive
- European nations and the USA needed to get as much cheap natural resources as possible
- So they invaded Africa, Asia, and Latin America and forced those people to extract their natural resources for the benefit of European capitalists.
- This is called **imperialism** – when one nation takes over a foreign land and makes it part of its empire.

## 2) Imperialism

- In **China**, Great Britain and China fought the **Opium War**, but Great Britain won, and forced China to allow Europeans to control certain areas of China called **spheres of influence**.
- In **Africa**, the European countries met in **1895 in Berlin, Germany** for the **Berlin Conference** and they cut up **Africa** into different regions, giving **Great Britain** and **France** the biggest areas of control, with **Belgium, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Spain, and The Netherlands** getting smaller areas.
- In **India**, **Great Britain** took over and oppressed the people until **Mohandas K. Gandhi** led a non-violent independence movement. India became independent in 1945.
- In **Latin America**, the United States had the biggest influence, and we used our military to control the people of those countries so they would not hurt our businesses. We invaded Mexico, Nicaragua, The Dominican Republic, Panama, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Argentina, Colombia, Honduras, Venezuela, Chile, Brazil, and Guatemala many times.
- An English writer named **Rudyard Kipling**, called imperialism the “**White Man’s Burden**”, where white people had a responsibility to bring culture and civilization to non-white people (as if they did not have any, which is total crap – everyone has culture)

## 3) Revolutions and Reform Movements

- **Imperialism** led to **revolutions** in many nations.

- The people were sometimes revolting against the foreigners themselves (**The Boxer Rebellion in China, the Sepoy Mutiny in India, the Boer Wars in South Africa**)
- OR they were revolting against their leaders who allowed their countries to be controlled by Europeans
  - **Mexican Revolution (1911)**
  - **Chinese Nationalist Revolution (1910)**
  - **Iranian Revolution (1979)**
  - **Cuban Revolution (1959)**
  - **Meiji Restoration in Japan (1868)**
- During the **Japanese Meiji Restoration**, Japan **modernized its army** and **industrialized** its country. But it also needed **natural resources**, so it began its own **imperialism** in **Korea**, and then after the **Chinese Nationalist Revolution**, Japan invaded **China**.

## **The Communist Revolutions**

- Karl Marx's book **The Communist Manifesto** inspired many workers to strike and protest about poor working conditions. He told workers that one day, they would have to unite and overthrow **capitalism**.
- This caused many European countries to fear **revolutions** in their countries, so they started **reforming industry** to make it **safer** with new **laws** and **regulations**.
- But some countries did not think capitalism could work at all, so they made their countries communist through revolutions
  - **The Russian Revolution (1917)** was led by **Vladimir I. Lenin** and the **Bolshevik Party**
  - **The Chinese Communist Revolution (1949)** was led by **Mao Zedong**
  - **The Cuban Revolution (1959)** was led by **Fidel Castro**
  - **In 1953, North Korea** became Communist