

MOTIVATIONS FOR EUROPEAN IMPERIALISM

Africa

“I walked between earth and sky and when I looked down I said- ‘This earth shall be English’ and when I looked up, I said ‘The English should rule this earth.’”

-Cecil Rhodes

WHAT WAS KNOWN, 1ST CENTURY CE



"2. On the right-hand coast next below Berenice is the country of the Berbers. Along the shore are the Fish-Eaters, living in scattered caves in the narrow valleys. Further inland are the Berbers, and beyond them the Wild-flesh-Eaters and Calf-Eaters, each tribe governed by its chief; and behind them, further inland, in the country towards the west, there lies a city called Meroe"

MANSA MUSA: “THE RICHEST MAN IN HISTORY”

From the Mali Empire

Map created in 1375

Mansa Musa (Muslim) participated in a Hajj, and completely destroyed some economies due to his excessive spending.

News of this spread to Europe.

Portugal's Prince Henry begins exploration of African Coast in 1415



“BARBARIANS” AND “TRIBES”

“It was unearthly, and the men were—No, they were not inhuman. Well, you know, that was the worst of it—the suspicion of their not being inhuman. It would come slowly to one. They howled and leaped, and spun, and made horrid faces; but what thrilled you was just the thought of their humanity—like yours—the thought of your remote kinship with this wild and passionate uproar.”

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad, 1899



JUSTIFICATION

Just like the United States version of “manifest destiny,” Europeans believed they had a right, and it was a God-given destiny that they should “civilize” the “barbaric” people and build up the industry of the continent.



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