CALIFORNIA CONTENT STANDARD 10.4.1

Industrial Economies and the Rise of Imperialism

Specific Objective: Describe the rise of industrial economies and their link to imperialism and colonialism.

Read the summary to answer the questions on the next page.

Beginning around 1850, European nations took control of much of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The policy of a powerful nation dominating the politics, economy, and society of another nation is known as **imperialism**.

- European imperialism went hand-in-hand with **industrialization**; European nations sought raw materials and new markets for industry and used new forms of transportation and weaponry to seize foreign lands.
- European leaders often justified their imperialism partly through the theory of **Social Darwinism**—the application of Darwin's ideas about the "survival of the fittest" to social change. Social Darwinists believe that wealth, technology, success, and strength make some groups superior to others, thus giving Europeans the right to invade some non-European lands.

Causes

Nationalism: To gain power, European nations compete for colonies, particularly in areas that permit control of trade routes.

Economic competition: Industrial demand for natural resources and new markets spurs a search for colonies.

Racism: A prevailing belief in the late 1800s holds that Europeans are a superior race, and have a right to claim lands inhabited by non-European people.

Missionary impulse: Missionaries and many Christian leaders in Europe believed they would do good by spreading their Christian teachings throughout the globe.

Europeans of the late 1800s and early 1900s use their wealth and advantage to conquer foreign lands and influence the economies, politics, and social lives of the colonized.

Effects

Colonization: Stronger nations, in this case in Europe, control distant lands and people—in the 1800s, areas of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Colonial economics: Europeans control trade in the colonies and set up local economies that are dependent on the Europeans.

Christianization: Christianity spreads to Africa, India, and Asia.

PRACTICE

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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 Which event would be an example of imperialism?
 - **A** A powerful nation seizes control of a poor nation and its resources.
 - **B** Laborers in a poor nation are employed seasonally by a powerful nation.
 - C Powerful nations join together to form a trade network.
 - **D** A poor nation receives economic aid from a powerful nation.
- 2 Nineteenth-century European imperialism was spurred in part by success in
 - A cartography (map-making).
 - B technology and industry.
 - **C** the teaching of foreign languages.
 - D agriculture.
- 3 What geography-related goal *most* motivated 19th-century European imperialists?
 - A exploration of major waterways
 - **B** exploration of inland areas
 - C discovery of shorter trade routes
 - D control of trade routes

- 4 The resource of central Africa that would have been *most* attractive to 19th-century European imperialists was its
 - A workforce.
 - B waterways.
 - C copper mines.
 - **D** wildlife.
- 5 Christian missionaries in colonized lands, in the 1800s,
 - **A** wanted people in other lands to become Christians.
 - B traveled to learn about religion in other lands.
 - C fought to stop the spread of imperialism.
 - **D** worked to help people forget about imperialism.
- 6 A 19th-century English Social Darwinist would say that his or her nation's power was proof of
 - **A** the success of democracy.
 - **B** the scientific revolution.
 - C its superiority.
 - **D** its religious faith.