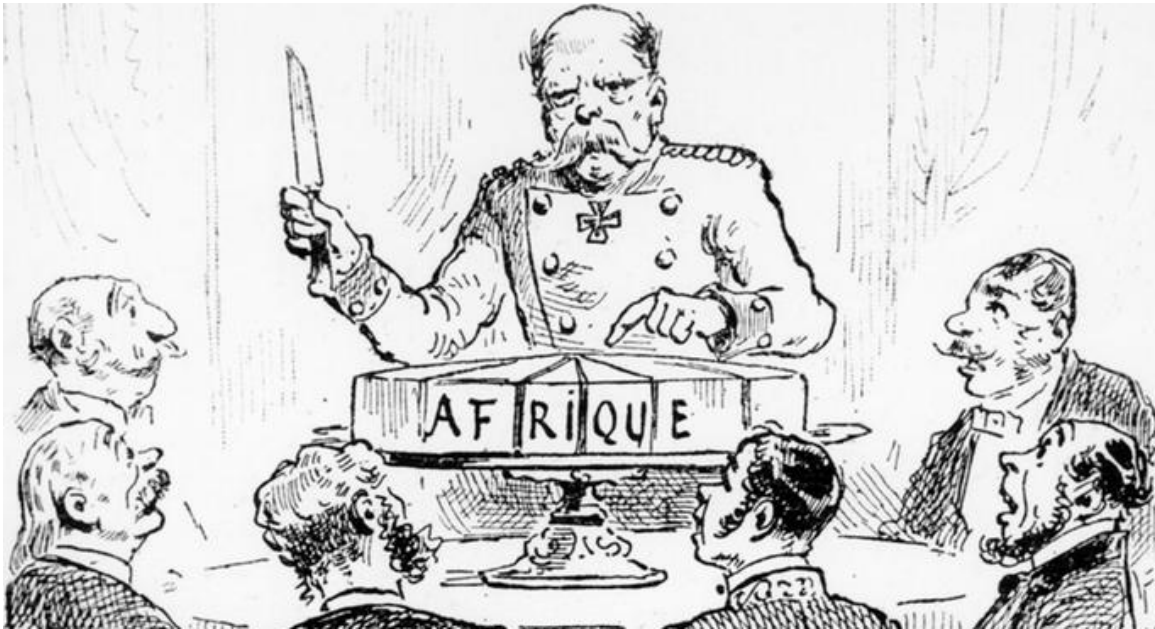


What was the 1884 Berlin Conference and the “Scramble for Africa”?



Source:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Berlin_Conference_\(1884\)#/media/File:IMGCD82_-_Caricatura_sobre_conferencia_de_Ber%C3%ADn,_1885.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Berlin_Conference_(1884)#/media/File:IMGCD82_-_Caricatura_sobre_conferencia_de_Ber%C3%ADn,_1885.jpg)

Observations

Inferences

In the image, what is the continent represented as? Why do you think the cartoonist represented the African continent this way?

What was the Berlin Conference?

The Berlin Conference of 1884–85 was organized by Otto von Bismarck, the first chancellor of Germany. The purpose of the Berlin Conference was to regulate European colonization and trade in Africa by identifying which European nations would be allowed to control which parts of Africa. The Berlin Conference was seen as the beginning of the “Scramble for Africa.” The “Scramble for Africa” was the invasion and colonization of African territory by European powers between 1881 and 1914. During the Berlin Conference, the European nations literally divided Africa up between themselves, often creating quite artificial states that divided cultural, linguistic and ethnic groups. No Africans were invited to the Berlin Conference and no Africans took part in deciding how the continent would be “carved up.” In 1870, only 10 percent of Africa was under European control; by 1914 it had increased to 90 percent of the continent. By 1914, only Ethiopia and Liberia were independent African nations not under the control of European powers.

Adapted from: http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Berlin_Conference_of_1884-85

1. Who organized the Berlin Conference?

2. Why was the Berlin Conference organized?

3. Who attended the Berlin Conference?

4. Who was not invited to attend the Berlin Conference? Why were they not invited?

5. What impact did the Berlin Conference have on Africa?

Directions: Examine the image, read the excerpt below and respond to the questions.



The Rhodes Colossus

Source: Punch, 1892 (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2007.

Cecil John Rhodes was a British imperialist, businessman, mining tycoon, and politician in South Africa. He was a strong advocate of British colonialism and imperialism. Rhodes was the founder of the southern African territory of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe and Zambia), which was named after him in 1895. Rhodes also founded the De Beers diamond company which eventually controlled 90% of the world's diamond production. His master plan was to establish a Cape-to-Cairo railroad line linking British colonial interests in Africa between Egypt and the Cape. This 1892 depiction of Rhodes as "The Rhodes Colossus, Striding from Cape Town to Cairo," became a common image of British imperial power in Africa.

Adapted from: http://historyproject.ucdavis.edu/ic/image_details.php?id=13906

What does this image and background text reveal about the motives of British imperialism in the 19th century?

What does this image and background text reveal about British imperialists attitudes toward the people they conquered?

What does this image and background text reveal about how Britain wanted to be viewed by the rest of the world?