

**TOPIC : COLONISATION OF ZIMBABWE**

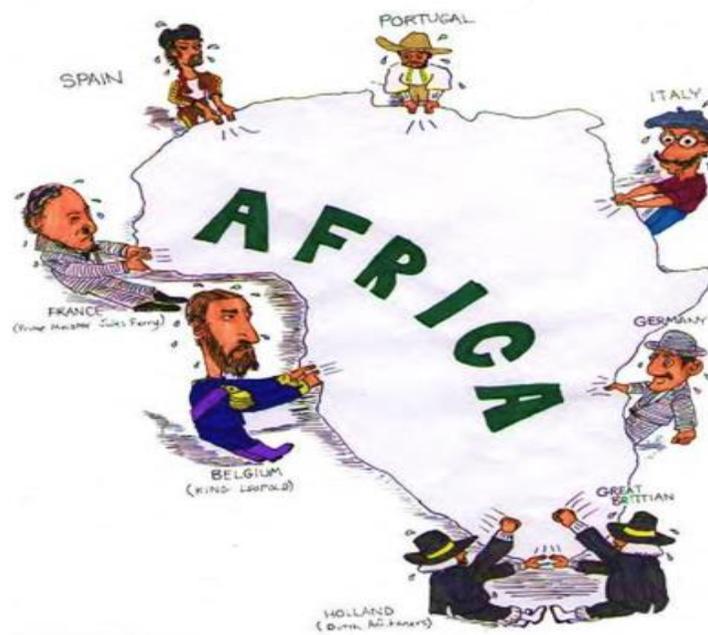
**SUBTOPIC : THE SCRAMBLE AND PARTITION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

## **OBJECTIVES**

**BY THE END OF THE SUBTOPIC LEARNERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:**

- ✓ Identify countries involved in the scramble and partition of southern Africa.
- ✓ Outline the causes of the scramble and partition of southern Africa
- ✓ Describe the Berlin conference and the resolutions reached.
- ✓ Evaluate the results of the scramble and partition of Southern Africa.

## **Background**



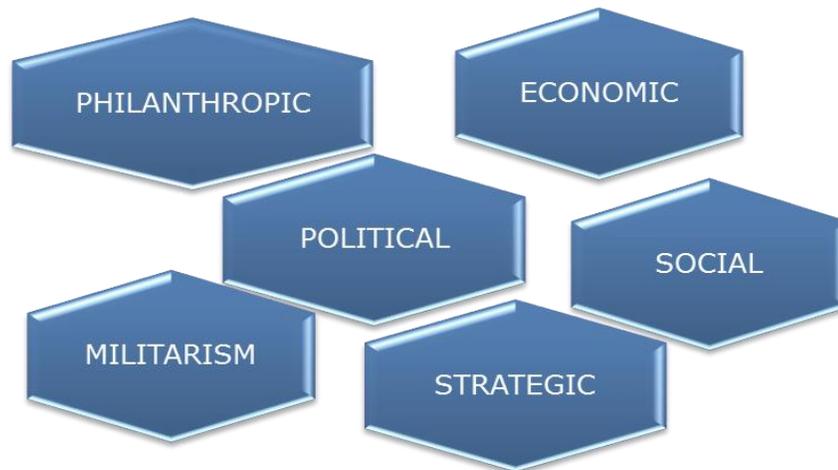
Scramble for southern Africa

- Scramble means to rush in an un-orderly manner, to partition is to divide something into shares or parts.

- The scramble and partition of Southern Africa was a division, invasion and occupation of African countries between European countries.
- The scramble for Africa started in 1870 after European countries changed their attitude towards Africa.
- The European countries were now interested in extending their territories outside Europe, this rush for African countries led to possible wars between the Great powers leading the Berlin conference.
- European powers that took part in the scramble for Africa included Britain, Portugal, France, Holland, Spain, Italy, Belgium and German.
- In this rush for African countries powerful European countries were able to get more colonies.

### Reasons for the scramble and partition of Southern Africa

- The European encroachment took place between 1840 and 1885 and it mainly took place in three forms of commercial penetration, political colonisation and Christian missionary activities.
- The scramble and partition of Southern Africa was caused by a complex combination of factors which are economic, political, social, philanthropic, militarism and strategic.



Causes of the scramble and partition

### Political reasons

- The formation of two great states that is, Italy (1866) and German (1870) disturbed the balance of power in Europe.
- Both were eager to acquire colonies to increase their status and influence in international affairs.
- France and Britain already had many colonies.
- Nationalists in German and Italy also wanted colonies and urged their governments to take part as this would enhance their prestige.
- The formation of the new states on the map of Europe, intensified the scramble for Southern Africa.

### Economic reasons

#### (a) The need for markets

- Britain was the first country to industrialise in 1800 and she had the monopoly of markets and materials in Europe.
- By mid-19<sup>th</sup> century almost all of Europe had industrialised, most European countries were now producing their own goods and the traditional markets in Europe were flooded.
- There was need for markets due to increased productivity hence the European countries looked for outside markets leading to the scramble and partition of Southern Africa.

#### (b) The need for new areas to invest surplus

- Need for new areas to invest surplus capital also led to the scramble and partition of Africa.
- The European capitalists were looking for virgin land to invest their surplus capital.

(c) Need for raw materials

- Due to industrialisation in Europe raw materials such as groundnuts, rubber, gold, cola nuts were now in short supply for the expanding industries.
- European powers now came to Southern Africa to obtain raw materials that were needed in Europe.
- European countries such as Germany and France did not want to depend on Britain for supply of products for their industries.
- This led to many countries coming to Africa for raw materials leading to the Scramble and partition of Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

(d) Discovery of minerals

- The discovery of diamonds and gold in South Africa in the 1870s at Kimberley made the Europeans to think that the rest of Southern Africa was rich in minerals such as gold and diamonds.
- Europeans then flocked to Southern Africa in search of the minerals.
- Europeans wanted to clear African wealth to Europe.



Minerals being distributed out of Africa

## Strategic reasons

Need to control economic places

- Britain occupied Cape largely due to the economic reasons, the occupation of Cape by Britain enabled her to occupy the rest of southern Africa.
- Britain also occupied Cape to control her trade routes.

## Social reasons

- Africa had been referred to as the Whiteman's grave, many white people died of diseases such as malaria and small pox in Africa.
- Improvements in medication through the discovery of new medicine such as quinine and tablets to cure malaria enabled Europeans to venture deep into African interior.
- Racism - Europeans colonised Southern Africa because they regarded themselves as the superior race.
- They believed that they had a duty to enlighten the Dark Continent (Africa) by spreading technology, Christianity and civilisation.

## Prestige

- The desire to restore prestige - after the defeat by Germany, France was forced into the race for colonies in Africa to redeem her lost prestige.
- France was defeated by German in the Franco Prussian war of 1870-71 and lost Alsace and Lorraine its rich provinces thus France wanted to regain prestige by acquiring new colonies.

## Other reasons

- The influence of traders, hunters and concession seekers.
- Traders and hunters encouraged their European governments to colonise places where they operated to protect their economic interest.
- Hunters and explorers – took pictures which portrayed the good image of Africa this encouraged their governments to colonise southern Africa.
- The need for fertile lands for crop cultivation.
- The need for cheap labour in Africa.
- The need for land to settle unemployment.
- The influence of European hunters, traders and concession seekers who wrote about the riches in Southern Africa.
- Disunity among the African leaders.
- The existence of ambitious leaders like Cecil John Rhodes.

## **Conditions in Southern Africa that called for the partition**

- The small size of most African states -all Southern African states were smaller than the states of South America.
- These small states were always at war with neighbouring states as a result of slave trade and this greatly weakened them making it very easy for Europeans to colonise them.
- Civil wars – there were frequent civil wars caused by succession disputes.
- African military weakness - Europeans were able to defeat African states in wars because of their advanced technological weapons.
- Europeans used superior weapons as opposed to Africans who used spears, arrows and slow firing muzzle loading muskets.
- The European armies were disciplined and organised.

- There was disunity and jealousy among Africans.
- Many African kings collaborated with Europeans.
- The signing of treaties or concession with Europeans like the Rudd concession which paved a way for Europeans to colonise Africa.
- Missionaries came to Africa to spread the word of God, this influenced and helped their kith and kin for example Reverend Robert Moffat and Charles Helm persuaded king Lobengula to sign treaties which led to the occupation of Zimbabwe.
- In so doing the missionaries encouraged their home governments to colonise places where they were actively involved like German missionaries.

### **The role played by imperialist in the colonisation of Southern Africa**

- Imperialists funded hunters and explorer missions.
- For instance Leopold 2 of Belgium, in 1876 organised the International African association and this was meant for the Congo state.
- He further sent hunters into the African interior, to secretly sign treaties with African chiefs.
- One such hunter was Henry Stanley Morton.

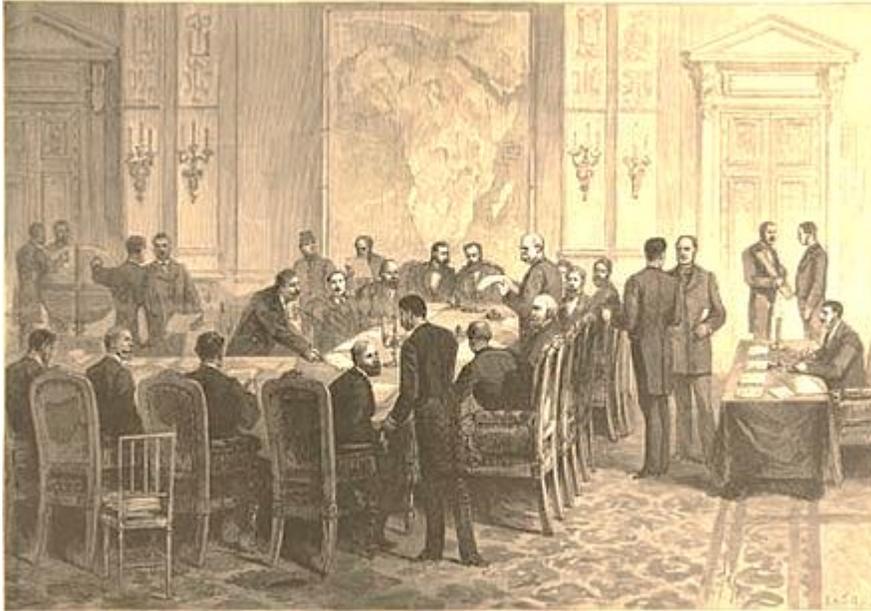


Henry Morton Stanley

### **Beginning of the scramble and partition of the Southern Africa**

- There is much debate about who was responsible for starting the scramble for Africa but each and every event played a significant role.
- There are a number of controversies on who opened the doors for the scramble.
- European countries rushed to Africa to acquire new land and there was no agreement on how to partition Africa.
- Historians believe that the scramble for Africa began with the Belgian Leopold II in 1876 due to mineral resources in the Congo Basin. Leopold II ordered the creation of an International African Association as to assume control over the Congo Basin.
- The act of the Belgian king forced the European powers to meet at Berlin so as to create a procedure for imperial claims.

## The Berlin Conference 1884-85



European representatives at Berlin

- The Berlin conference was channelled by Otto Von Bismarck the German chancellor.
- It was after having witnessed the disorderly manner and that the scramble had almost caused wars among the European powers.
- Bismarck called for conference of the European powers and it was held in Berlin in Germany.
- The conference laid down the rules for the colonisation of Southern Africa and the rest of Africa to avoid conflict over territories.
- It laid down the following principles for the colonisation of Africa:
  - Freedom of navigation on the major rivers.
  - Signing of protectorate and friendship treaties to be entered voluntarily.
- The establishment of colony would be internationally accepted if the following were done:

- a. Effective occupation was established (putting in place an administration system, hoisting the nation's flag and developing the land).
- b. All other signatories were informed.
- This resulted in the rush by European nationals to get their treaties signed by African chiefs and to send representatives of their governments to defeat the chiefs and establish colonies.



Partition of Africa

## Effects of the scramble and partition on Africans

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New homes, clothes and blankets were introduced.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Africans were moved out of their land and settle in drier lands especially in Zimbabwe.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New furniture was introduced.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Africans were forced to work.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved health.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They were also forced to pay tax.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction of improved means of transport and communication.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large african lands were cleared so as to create plantations for white settlers.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction of formal education.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minerals such as gold, diamond, coal and copper were exploited.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New food was introduced such as sugar and bread.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• African culture was disrupted.</li></ul>