Partitioning of Africa

The Mad Scramble for Africa
SS7H1 The student will analyze continuity and change in Africa leading to the 21st century.

a. Explain how the European partitioning across Africa contributed to conflict, civil war, and artificial political boundaries.
How it Began

• The first time Europeans became interested in Africa was during the slave trade in the 1500s.

• But by the 1800s major European countries had agreed to end the slave trade.

• Then the U.S. joined them and ended the slave trade also in 1808 but owning slaves was still allowed in the U.S.
What Were They after?

- Even though slavery had ended in the world, Europe became interested in Africa’s wealth.
- In the 1800s the Dutch and British controlled parts of southern Africa,
- And then competition drove other European countries to move in and make claims to other parts of the continent.
- These European countries were looking for colonies, raw materials, and new markets.
The 1884-85 the Berlin Conference was conducted, and European powers (Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, and Italy) agreed to divide the continent into European governed colonies.

This division was disastrous as the new boundary lines divided ethnic groups and in most cases forced rival ethnic groups to live together.
The Mad Scramble
Power and Control

• Belgians took control of the Congo
• France and Germany fought for control of the Sudan and Egypt
• At the same time, the Zulu fought against the British in South Africa
• The Fulani resisted French control in what is now Nigeria
• But because of superior technology and more advanced weapons The Europeans always came out winners
But by 1885, over 90% of Africa would be under the control of European empires, particularly the British and the French.

In 1878, much of Africa was not colonized by Europe.
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE ARTIST IS TRYING TO COMMUNICATE IN THIS POLITICAL CARTOON?
Europeans Turn to Imperialism

- Europeans saw colonies as a measure of national power known as imperialism.
- It was all about having access to raw materials and markets for their products which meant economic power.
- In the end the losers were the African people.
The Real Motives

• British wanted to protect transportation routes to British Empire territories in India and Asia

• The Europeans wanted the natural resources to fuel the Industrial Revolution. As they made products, they then forced African colonies to buy them for much more than they received for their resources.
The Wars Within

• Rival ethnic groups forced to live together causing conflicts and wars.

• Lost many resources without equal return.

• Lost their freedom to govern themselves.

• Africans were forced to work on plantations and in mines for very little money.
Africa’s Forced Borders