

**2009 AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**EUROPEAN HISTORY**

**SECTION II**

**Part A**

**(Suggested writing time—45 minutes)**

**Percent of Section II score—45**

**Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1-12. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. Write your answer on the lined pages of the Section II free-response booklet.

This question is designed to test your ability to work with and understand historical documents. Write an essay that:

- Provides an appropriate, explicitly stated thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question and does NOT simply restate the question.
- Discusses a majority of the documents individually and specifically.
- Demonstrates understanding of the basic meaning of a majority of the documents.
- Supports the thesis with appropriate interpretations of a majority of the documents.
- Analyzes the documents by explicitly grouping them in at least three appropriate ways.
- Takes into account both the sources of the documents and the authors' points of view.

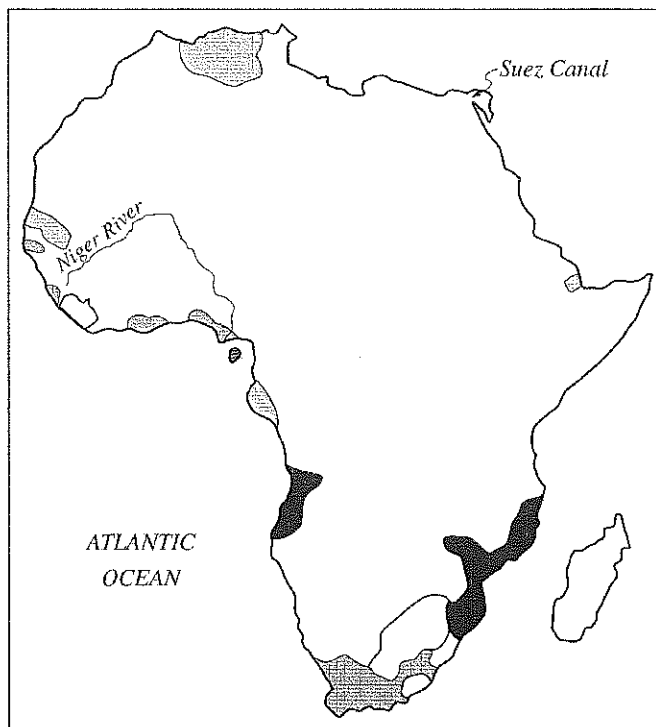
You may refer to relevant historical information not mentioned in the documents.









1. Analyze attitudes toward and evaluate the motivations behind the European acquisition of African colonies in the period 1880 to 1914.

Historical Background: The maps below show European expansion in Africa from 1878 to 1914.

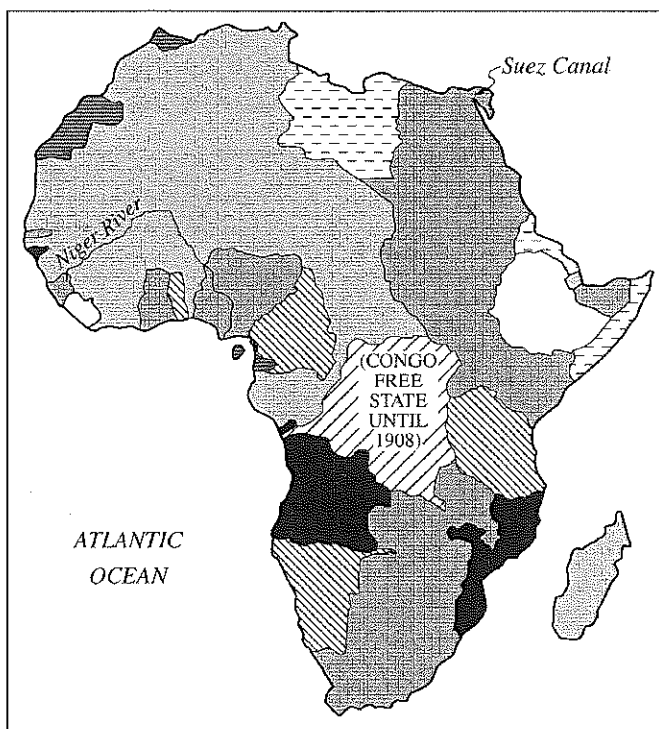
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EUROPEAN COLONIAL CLAIMS IN AFRICA, 1878



-  British
-  French
-  Portuguese
-  Italian
-  Spanish
-  Belgian
-  German
-  Independent

EUROPEAN COLONIAL CLAIMS IN AFRICA, 1914



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GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

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### Document 1

Source: Prince Leopold, heir to the throne of Belgium and future king, conversation, 1861.

Surrounded by the sea, Holland, Prussia and France, our frontiers can never be extended in Europe. . . . [But] the universe lies in front of us; steam and electricity have made distances disappear, all the unappropriated lands on the surface of the globe may become the field of our operations and of our resources. . . . Since history teaches that colonies are useful, that they play a great part in that which makes up the power and prosperity of states, let us strive to get one in our turn . . . let us see where there are unoccupied lands . . . where are to be found peoples to civilize, to lead to progress in every sense, meanwhile assuring ourselves . . . the opportunity to prove to the world that Belgians also are an imperial people capable of dominating and enlightening others.

### Document 2

Source: Benjamin Disraeli, British prime minister, speech to the House of Commons regarding the Suez Canal, February 1876.

I have never recommended, and I do not recommend now, this purchase either as a financial investment or as a commercial speculation. I have always and do now recommend it to the country as a political transaction, and one which I believe is calculated to strengthen the empire.

### Document 3

Source: Martial Henri Merlin, governor general of French Equatorial Africa, speech, 1910.

We went to new territories. We went there by virtue of the right of a civilized, fully developed race to occupy territories which have been left fallow by backward peoples who are plunged into barbarism and unable to develop the wealth of their land. What we exercised is a right, and if anyone denies this, you should firmly maintain that it is a right. We are entitled to go out to these peoples and occupy their territories; but, when we exercise this right, we, at the same moment are charged with a duty towards these peoples, and this duty we must never for one instant forget.

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Document 4

Source: Joseph Chamberlain, British industrialist, politician, and reformer, speech, 1888.

We have suffered much in this country from depression of trade. We know how many of our fellow-subjects are at this moment unemployed. Is there any man in his senses who believes that the crowded population of these islands [the British Isles] could exist for a single day if we were to be cut adrift from the great dependencies which now look to us for protection and which are the natural markets for our trade? . . . If tomorrow it were possible, as some people apparently desire, to reduce by a stroke of the pen the British Empire to the dimensions of the United Kingdom, half at least of our population would be starved.

Document 5

Source: Archibald Philip Primrose, Lord Rosebery, British politician and foreign secretary, letter to the *London Times*, 1900.

An Empire such as ours requires as its first condition an imperial race—a race vigorous and industrious and intrepid. Health of mind and body exalt a nation in the competition of the universe. The survival of the fittest is an absolute truth in the conditions of the modern world.

Document 6

Source: George Washington Williams, Baptist minister, lawyer, historian, and legislator, “An Open Letter to His Serene Majesty, Leopold II, King of the Belgians and Sovereign of the Independent State of Congo,” Stanley Falls, Congo Free State, 1890.

Great and Good Friend,

I have the honor to submit for Your Majesty’s considerations some reflections respecting the Independent State of Congo. There were instances in which Mr. Henry M. Stanley\* sent one white man, with four or five Zanzibar soldiers, to make treaties with the native chiefs. All the sleight of hand tricks had been carefully rehearsed and he was now ready for his work. A number of electric batteries had been purchased in London and when attached to an arm under the coat, communicated with a band of ribbon which passed over the palm of the white brother’s hand, and when he gave the black brother a cordial grasp of the hand, the black brother was surprised to find his white brother so strong that he nearly knocked him off his feet. By such means as these, and a few boxes of gin, whole villages have been signed away to Your Majesty.

\*British-American journalist and explorer sent to Congo by King Leopold of Belgium

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**Document 7**

Source: Resolution of the German Social Democratic Party Congress, 1900.

World and colonial policy is pursued for the purpose of capitalist exploitation and for displaying military force . . . [I]t corresponds first and foremost to the greedy desire of the bourgeoisie for new opportunities to invest its ever-increasing capital which is no longer content with exploiting the home market, and to the desire for new markets which each country tries to usurp to itself.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**