Name_____ Date_____

DBQ 9: Imperialism in Africa

(Adapted from *Document-Based Assessment for Global History*, Walch Education)

Historical Context:

European imperialism in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries resulted in the carving up of areas of Africa and Asia into vast colonial empires. This was true for most of the continent of Africa. As imperialism spread, the colonizer and the colony viewed imperialism differently. They saw both positive and negative effects of imperialism.

- **Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying documents in Part A. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of the document and the author's point of view. Be sure to:

1. Carefully read the document-based question. Consider what you already know about this topic. How would you answer the question if you had no documents to examine?

2. Now, read each document carefully, underlining key phrases and words that address the document-based question. You may also wish to use the margin to make brief notes. Answer the questions which follow each document.

3. Based on your own knowledge and on the information found in the documents, formulate a thesis that directly answers the question.

4. Organize supportive and relevant information into a brief outline.

5. Write a well-organized essay proving your thesis. The essay should be logically presented and should include information both from the documents and from your own knowledge outside of the documents.

Question: Evaluate the new imperialism of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Africa. What were the positive and negative effects of imperialism for the colonizer and the colony?

Part A: The following documents provide information about the effects of imperialism on Africa. Examine the documents carefully, and answer the questions that follow.

Document 1

This excerpt is adapted from Imperialism by J.A. Hobson, a British scholar.

The period of imperialism has witnessed many wars. Most of these wars have been caused by attacks of white races upon so-called "lower races." They have resulted in the taking of territory by force. . . . The white rulers of the colonies live at the expense of the natives. Their chief work is to organize labor for their support. In the typical colony, the most fertile lands and the mineral resources are owned by white foreigners. These holdings are worked by natives under their direction. The foreigners take wealth out of the country. All the hard work is done by natives.

What negative aspects of imperialism does this British scholar point out?_____

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(continued)

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DBQ 18: Imperialism in Africa: An Evaluation **(continued)**

Document 2

Sekou Toure, and African nationalist, pointed out another negative aspect of imperialism.

Colonialism's greatest misdeed was to have tried to strip us of our responsibility in conducting our own affairs and convince us that our civilization was nothing less than savagery, thus giving us complexes which led to our being branded as irresponsible and lacking in self-confidence.

What criticism of imperialism does this African offer?_____
_____

Document 3

The resolution of the All-African People's Conference, held in Accra, Ghana in 1958, "condemns colonialism and imperialism" based on these premises.

Whereas all African peoples . . . deplore the economic exploitation of African people by Imperialist Countries, thus reducing Africans to poverty in the midst of plenty . . . Whereas fundamental human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of movement, freedom of worship, freedom to live a full and abundant life . . . are denied to Africans through the activities of Imperialists.

What are the reasons this group condemned imperialism?_____
_____

Document 4

George H.T. Kimble, in a 1962 New York Times Magazine article, "Colonialism: the Good, the Bad, the Lessons," gives his point of view.

. . . they [the colonial powers] failed to provide the African with sufficient [preparation] . . . None of the newly independent countries had enough skilled African administrators to run their own . . . [or] enough African technicians to keep the public utilities working. . . . And no country had an electorate that knew what independence was all about. . . . For all its faults, colonial government provided security of person and property in lands that had known little or either. . . . It was the colonial powers who were largely responsible for the opening of the region to the lumberman, miner, planter, and other men of means without whom its wealth would be continued to lie fallow [uncultivated].

What does this author cite as negative effects of imperialism?_____
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What does he cite as positive effects of imperialism?_____
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(continued)

Name_____ Date_____

DBQ 18: Imperialism in Africa: An Evaluation (continued)

Document 5

This is an African proverb.

When the whites came to our country, we had the land and they had the Bible; now we have the Bible and they have the land.

What does this proverb imply about the effect of imperialism in Africa?_____
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Document 6

This poem by David Diop is from an Anthology of West African Verse.

The White Man killed my father,
My father was proud.
The White Man seduced my mother,
My mother was beautiful.
The White Man burnt my brother
Beneath the noonday sun,
My brother was strong.
His hand red with black blood
The White Man turned to me;
And in the Conqueror's voice said,
"Boy! A chair, a napkin, a drink."

What negative aspects of imperialism does David Diop present in this poem?_____
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Document 7

This excerpt, adapted from Balance Sheets of Imperialism by Grover Clark, points out other negative aspects of imperialism.

The struggle for colonies does not result only in cash losses. There were also lives lost, wars fought, and hatreds aroused which threatened new wars. . . .Italy's trade with her colonies in 1894-1932 was worth 5,561 million lire [about $1,100 million]. This was less than one percent of her total foreign trade in the same period. In fact, her expenditures on colonies for that time was 6,856 million lire. Obviously colonies cost more than they are worth in trade.

What evidence does this author provide to show that colonies were a negative financial drain on the Europeans?_____
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- **Part B—Essay**

Evaluate the new imperialism of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Africa.
What were the positive and negative effects of imperialism for the colonizer and the colony?