

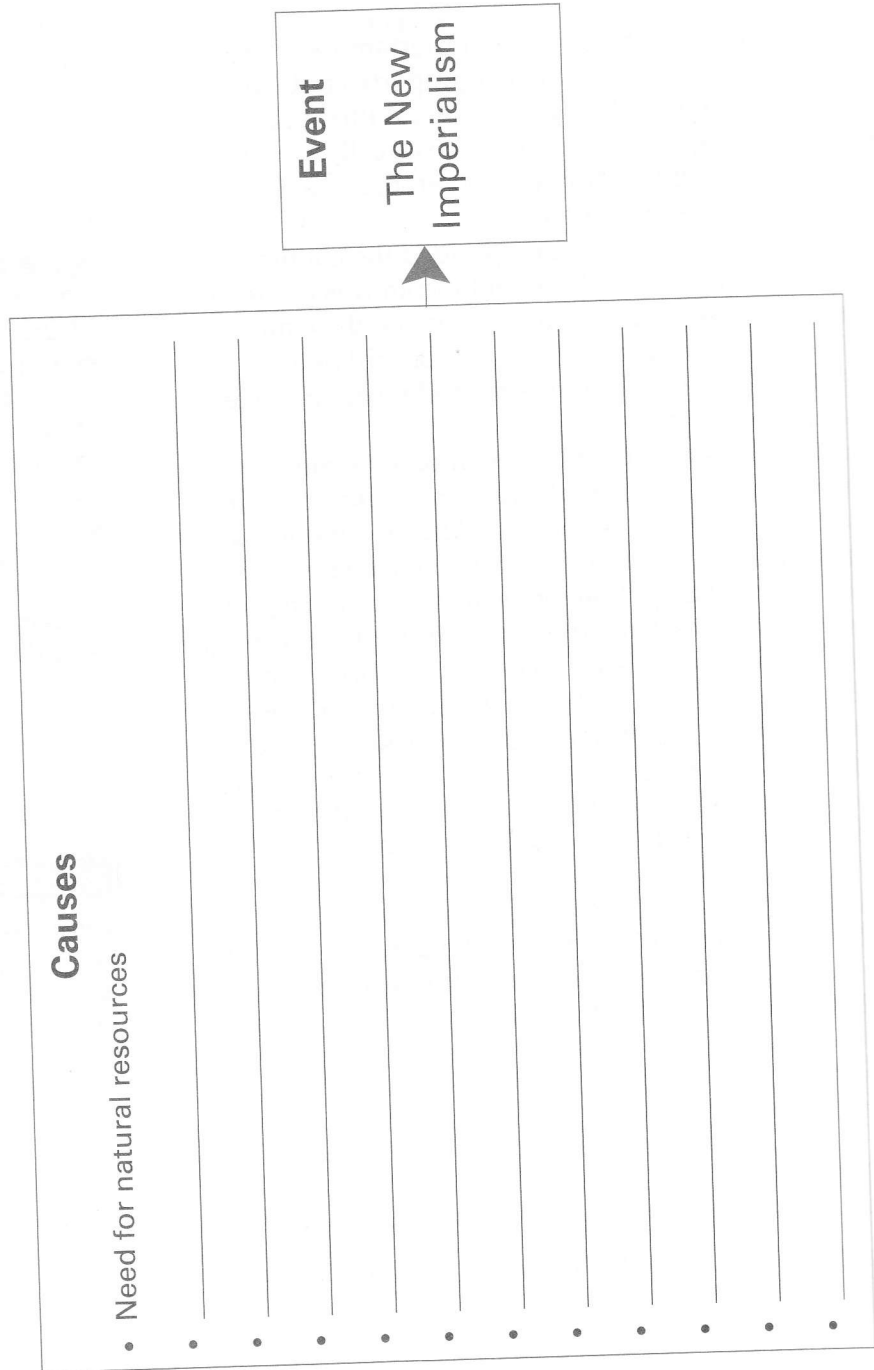
CHAPTER
24
SECTION 1

Note Taking Study Guide

BUILDING OVERSEAS EMPIRES

Focus Question: How did Western nations come to dominate much of the world in the late 1800s?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the chart below with the multiple causes of imperialism in the 1800s.



Many western countries built overseas empires in the late 1800s.

This expansion, referred to as **imperialism**, is the domination by one country of the political, economic, or cultural life of another country or region. In the 1800s, Europeans embarked on a path of aggressive expansion called the "new imperialism." There were several causes. The Industrial Revolution was one. Manufacturers wanted access to natural resources, as well as markets for their goods. Colonies also were an outlet for Europe's growing population. Leaders claimed that colonies were needed for national security. Industrial nations seized overseas islands and harbors as bases to supply their ships. Nationalism played an important role, too. When one European country claimed an area, rival nations would move in and claim nearby areas. Europeans felt that ruling a global empire increased a nation's prestige. Missionaries, doctors, and colonial officials believed that they had a duty to spread Western civilization. Behind the idea of the West's civilizing mission was a growing sense of racial superiority. Many Westerners used Social Darwinism to justify their domination of non-Western societies. As a result, millions of non-Westerners were robbed of their cultural heritage.

Europeans had the advantages of strong economies, well-organized governments, and powerful armies and navies. Superior technology, such as riverboats, the telegraph, and the Maxim machine gun enhanced European power. Africans and Asians tried to resist Western expansion. Some people fought the invaders. Others tried to strengthen their societies by reforming their traditions. Many organized nationalist movements to expel the imperialists. The leading imperial powers developed several systems to control colonies. The French practiced direct rule. They sent officials and soldiers from France to run the colony. Their goal was to impose French culture on the natives. The British, by contrast, relied on indirect rule. To govern their colonies, they used local rulers. In a protectorate, local rulers were left in place but were expected to follow the advice of European advisors on issues such as trade or military activity. In a **sphere of influence**, an outside power claimed exclusive investment or trading privileges, but did not rule the area.

Which aspect of the new imperialism led to non-Westerners being robbed of their cultural heritage?

1. Which aspect of the new imperialism led to non-Westerners being robbed of their cultural heritage?

2. What is the difference between a protectorate and a sphere of influence?

Review Questions

READING CHECK
How did Africans and Asians resist Western expansion?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *prestige* mean in the underlined sentence? Notice that the word *increased* appears in the same sentence. What would ruling a global empire *increase* for a European nation? Use this context clue to help you figure out the meaning of *prestige*.

READING SKILL

Multiple Causes List the multiple causes of imperialism mentioned in this summary.