Pax Britannica: from age of Free trade to Age of New Imperialism



- A) Free Trade Empire (anti-imperialism and Crimean War, 1854-1856)
  - 1. Example (toward New Imperialism): Opium Wars, 1839-42
  - 2. Example: Sepoy Mutiny/Rebellion (India from economic exploitation to political domination), 1857
- B) New Imperialism (from 1870s): why?
  - 1. markets and materials?
  - 2. balance of power?
  - 3. jingoism
  - 4. moral crusade
- C) Successful Empire: Displacement & Home Rule; Natives & Paternal Rule
  - 1. Canada (1837-1867): example
    - -New Zealand receives Home Rule in 1852
    - -Australia, except for the West, 1850s
  - 2. India: second example (no displacement of natives, and no Home Rule or self--government)
  - 3. Scramble for Africa
    - -New Imperialism (coined c. 1870s): 4 million sq. miles added to Empire 1875-1914
- D) Unsuccessful Empire: Ireland and South Africa (separate colonial groups)
  - 1. The Irish Question from the Great Famine
    - -1800/01, Union of GB and Ireland
    - -1828-30s, Catholic Emancipation and push for Irish political reform
    - -1860s: Fenian uprising fails 1867, Gladstone/Liberals return 1868, "Mission to Pacify Ireland"
    - -1870s: Home Rule and the Land Question
    - -1880s: "Land War"; Gladstone and Home Rule (from 1886); Liberal Unionists split
    - -1910s: Home Rule and Parliament Act of 1911
    - -By 1902, Sinn Fein ("ourselves alone") founded; Ulster Volunteers founded about the same time
    - -1916, Easter Rising, Dublin Post Office)
  - 2. South Africa: Crisis of the Empire was not the Opium War, the Sepoy Mutiny, Fashoda, but the Boer War, 1899-1902
    - -England and Cape Colony, 1795
    - -Boers and Great Trek, 1830s and 1840s
    - -Discovery of diamonds in Transvaal 1870, and Gold in Transvaal 1886
    - -1895, Jameson raid (1895-Kaiser sends Boer President Kruger note of congratulation)
    - -Boer War 1899-1902
- E) The End of the Victorian/Liberal Social Consensus
  - -Boer war jolts Victorian Confidence in progress
  - -State expenditure rising: £156,800,000 (1895), £305,400,00 (1913); much of this was defense ("We want eight, and we won't wait" jingoism)