

Empire Debate Answer Key

Sample Response

Imperialism brought more oppression than progress. While European powers built railroads, schools, and hospitals in colonized areas, these improvements mainly served their own economic interests. Indigenous peoples lost control of their land, cultures, and governments. In Africa, for example, European borders divided tribes and caused long-lasting conflicts. In India, the British extracted raw materials and limited local industries. The so-called "progress" of imperialism often meant the destruction of local traditions and the loss of freedom for millions.

Teacher's Guide

- **Objective:** Students will develop critical thinking and written expression by evaluating moral and historical arguments about imperialism's impact.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For struggling writers, provide sentence starters such as "One example of progress was..." or "Imperialism caused oppression because...".
 - Advanced students can include multiple examples or counterarguments for a balanced discussion.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Begin with a short class debate or quick write: "Was European imperialism more helpful or harmful?"
 - Display political cartoons or propaganda posters from the imperial era and discuss how they portray progress versus control.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Assign a mini research project comparing two colonies under different European powers and how their experiences differed.
 - Encourage students to connect the discussion to modern global power dynamics or economic inequality that traces back to imperial systems.