

Name _____



Greed Or Glory

Directions: Read the background information below, then take a position on the debate question. Write a one-paragraph response arguing your side - was European imperialism driven more by greed or by "civilizing" motives? Use examples from history to support your viewpoint.

During the 1800s and early 1900s, European powers expanded their empires across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. Leaders claimed they were bringing "civilization," education, and religion to the people they conquered. They said their goal was to spread progress and moral values. However, behind this claim lay powerful economic ambitions - the hunger for natural resources, new markets, and cheap labor.

This conflict of motives sparked debate across Europe and the colonies themselves. Some saw imperialism as a noble mission to improve the world. Others viewed it as a system of exploitation that enriched Europe at the expense of colonized peoples.

Debate Question: Was European imperialism motivated more by greed or by "civilizing" ideals?
