

Hist 104, Lecture 10:
“Appetite & Force”: The Growth of Global Empires

a. “A Salutation Speech from the Nineteenth Century to the Twentieth”
Taken down in shorthand by Mark Twain

“I bring you the stately matron called CHRISTENDOM -- returning bedraggled, besmirched and dishonored from pirate raids in Kiaochow, Manchuria, South Africa and the Philippines; with her soul full of meanness, her pocket full of boodle and her mouth full of pious hypocrisies. Give her soap and a towel, but hide the looking-glass.”

Dec. 31, 1900.

Give her the glass; it may from error free her
When she shall see herself as others see her.

b. From Mark Twain, Letter to Joseph Twichell, January 27, 1900:

“My idea of our civilization is that it is a shabby poor thing and full of cruelties, vanities, arrogancies, meannesses, and hypocrisies. As for the word, I hate the sound of it, for it conveys a lie; and as for the thing itself, I wish it was in hell, where it belongs.”

0. Keywords

The Berlin Conference (1884-5), Paul Kruger, Cecil Rhodes, Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902), First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95), Spanish-American War (1898), “White Man’s Burden,” The Boxer Rebellion (1900), Russo-Japanese War (1904-05)

1. Toward the Partition of Africa (and Asia)

- a. Formula for radical global transformations in the 19th century
- b. European balance of power writ large
- c. The Crimean War (1854-1856)
- d. The Suez Canal (1869)

2. Imperialism & Resistance in Africa

- a. The Partitioning of Africa
- b. The Economics of Empire
- d. Anglo-Boer War (1899-02)

3. Imperialism & Resistance in Asia

- a. The First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95)
- b. The Spanish-American War (1898)
- c. The Boxer Rebellion (1900)
- d. The Russo-Japanese War (1904-05); Japan annexes Korea, 1910