

### IMPERIALISM

(from *Voices 1870-1914* by Peter Vansittart)

"I contend that we are the first race in the world, and the more of the world we inhabit, the better it is for the human race. I contend that every acre added to our territory provides for the birth of more of the English race who otherwise would not be brought into existence. Added to which, the absorption of the greater portion of the world under our rule simply means the end of all wars." -- Cecil Rhodes

"I was in the East End of London yesterday and attended a meeting of the unemployed. I listened to the wild speeches, which were just a cry for 'bread,' 'bread,' and on my way home, I pondered over the scene and I became more than ever convinced of the importance of imperialism...My cherished idea is a solution for the social problem, i.e., in order to save 40,000,000 inhabitants of the UK from a bloody civil war, we colonial statesmen must acquire new lands to settle the surplus population." -- Cecil Rhodes

"If I am an Imperialist, it is because the destiny of the English race has been to strike fresh roots in distant parts of the world. My patriotism knows no geographical but only racial limits." -- Lord Milner

*Colonial Atrocities -- the depopulation by floggings, torture, mutilation, killing for sport, by whites of the Arano Rubber Company in Putumayo; the shoots, crucifixions and enslavement in the Congo Free State.*

In Response to a Tribal Rebellion in German East Africa --"It was, and is, my policy to use force with terror and even brutality. I shall exterminate the rebellious tribes in torrents of blood."

-- General von Trotha

*Out of 80,000, 65,000 Hereros were slaughtered, and 10,000 Namas out of 20,000.*

"In the Boer War, some 18,000 Boer civilians died in Kitchener's camps: British casualties were some 30,000 together with perhaps 13,000 Blacks, less scrupulously recorded. 350,000 horses perished as 'wastage.' Yet it was scarcely true that the British, by 1900 holding the largest empire in history, merely sought destruction of splendid civilizations. Though leaving unrestrained the greedy Indian moneylender and injuring much local industry, the British abolished banditry, widow-burning and civil wars in India, introduced tea planting and an honest civil service, and taught Indians their own history. In Malaya, they began rubber-planting and tin-mining, built Singapore, hospitals, roads, suppressed piracy." -- Peter Vansittart

"For where else in the world has a race gone forth and subdued, not a country or a kingdom, but a continent, and that continent peopled, not with savage tribes, but by races with traditions and a civilization older than our own, with a history not inferior to ours in dignity or romance; subduing them not to the law of the sword, but to the rule of justice, bringing peace and order and good government to nearly one-fifth of the entire human race, and holding them with so mild a restraint that the rulers are the merest handful amongst the ruled, a tiny speck of white foam

upon a dark and thunderous ocean." --Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India, to the Prince and Princess of Wales

"Natives are crooked-minded and corrupt, unfit for administration." -- Lord Curzon

"I could not help being struck by the way in which all salutations by the Natives [in India] were disregarded by the persons to whom they were given. Evidently we are too much inclined to look upon them as a conquered and down-trodden race and the Native, who is becoming more and more educated, realizes this." -- George V

### **Rudyard Kipling, "White Man's Burden" (1899) (section)**

Take up the White Man's burden--  
Send forth the best ye breed--  
Go bind your sons to exile  
To serve your captives' need;  
To wait in heavy harness,  
On fluttered folk and wild--  
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,  
Half-devil and half-child.

Take up the White Man's burden--  
In patience to abide,  
To veil the threat of terror  
And check the show of pride;  
By open speech and simple,  
An hundred times made plain  
To seek another's profit,  
And work another's gain.

Take up the White Man's burden--  
The savage wars of peace--  
Fill full the mouth of Famine  
And bid the sickness cease;  
And when your goal is nearest  
The end for others sought,  
Watch sloth and heathen Folly  
Bring all your hopes to naught...

### **Opposition**

"The total result looked for by colonial domination was indeed to convince the natives that colonization came to lighten their darkness. The effect consciously sought by colonialism was to drive into the native's heads the idea that if the settlers were to leave, they would at once fall back into barbarism, degradation, and bestiality.

On the unconscious plane, colonialism therefore did not seek to be considered by the natives as a gentle, loving mother who protects her child from a hostile environment, but rather as a mother who unceasingly restrains her fundamentally perverse offspring from managing to commit suicide and from giving free rein to its evil instincts. The colonial mother protects her child from itself, from its ego, and from its physiology, its biology, and its own unhappiness which is its very essence." – Franz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*

“The colonial world is a world cut in two. The dividing line, the frontiers are shown by barracks and police stations. In the colonies, it is the policeman and the soldiers who are the official, instituted go-betweens, the spokesmen of the settlers and his rule of oppression...

The settlers' town is a strongly built town, all made of stone and steel. It is a brightly lit town; the streets are covered with asphalt, and the garbage cans swallow all the leavings, unseen, unknown and hardly thought about...The settlers' is a well-fed town, an easygoing town; its belly is always full of good things. The settlers' town is a town of white people, of foreigners...

The native town... is a world without spaciousness; men live there on top of each other, and their huts are built on top of the other. The native town is a hungry town, starved of bread, of meat, of shoes, of coal, of light... The look that the native turns on the settlers' town is a look of lust, a look of envy; it expresses his dreams of possession--all manner of possession; to sit at the settler's table, to sleep in the settler's bed, with his wife if possible. The colonized man is an envious man. And this the settler knows very well; when their glances meet he ascertains bitterly, always on the defensive, 'They want to take our place.' It is true, for there is no native who does not dream at least once a day of setting himself up in the settler's place." – Franz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*

“Imperialism is government of other people, by other people, for other people. It is a perpetual insult, for it assumes that the outsider has the right to rule the insiders who cannot rule themselves. Even if the British had converted India into a land flowing with milk and honey, they would have been disliked. Subjection breeds a desire for liberation. Hence, imperialism digs its own grave.” -- Louis Fischer, *Gandhi, His Life and Message for the World*