

WORLD HISTORY LONG-ESSAY QUESTION

UNIT 8: THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM

In your response you should do the following:

- **Contextualization:** Situate the argument by explaining the broader historical events, developments, or processes immediately relevant to the question.
- **Thesis:** Present a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.
- **Identifying Specific Evidence:** Provide specific historical examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt.
- **Supporting the Argument with Evidence:** Utilize specific examples of evidence to fully and effectively substantiate the stated thesis or a relevant argument.
- **Using Historical Reasoning:** Frame and structure an argument that addresses the prompt through historical reasoning (e.g., causation, comparison, continuity and change over time).
- **Argument Development:** Develop and support a cohesive argument that recognizes and accounts for historical complexity by explicitly illustrating relationships among historical evidence such as contradiction, corroboration, and/or qualification.

Question: Analyze cultural, political, and economic effects of the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885.

Tips for writing the LEQ:

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LEQ structure:

- Be sure to include a Contextualization and Thesis statement(s) in your introduction. For THIS question, write 3 separate thesis statements (underlined).
 - Three sentences; one for cultural, one for political, and one for economic. For each sentence, provide [at least one] specific effect(s).
- For THIS question, you should break the essay down into 3 supporting (body) paragraphs.
 - Present cultural outcomes of the Berlin Conference in body paragraph 1
 - Present political outcomes of the Berlin Conference in body paragraph 2
 - Present economic outcomes of the Berlin Conference in body paragraph 3
 - Include BOTH GENERAL effects AND the SPECIFIC effects (e.g., general economic = exploitation of Africans as cheap/slave labor, extraction of resources, use of Africans as markets for European goods; specific economic = King Leopold's use of the Congo Free State as his personal "piggy bank", reaping great benefits from rubber plantations, and resulting in terrible human rights abuses).
- Include ALL elements required by the LEQ rubric (including the "complexity" point).
- Your conclusion should be a restatement of the thesis.

Possible body paragraph themes:

- Cultural – language, religion, ethnicity, etc.
- Political – actual kingdoms/states, rival groups, previous colonial holdings, etc.
- Economic – natural resources, arable land, access to open water (minimal landlocked countries), relative population size, etc.