Europeans in Africa

**North Africa**

In the early 19th century, most of the countries of North Africa were part of the Ottoman Empire. But the Ottoman Empire was breaking up and European powers began to move in. The French gained control of Algeria and later Tunisia and Morocco. Here, desert tribesmen are attacking one of the French forts, which was defended by the famous French Foreign Legion.

The ruler of Egypt needed money, so he sold his shares in the Suez Canal to Britain. Britain became involved in Egyptian affairs and later took over the government.

**Trade in the West**

Those gold objects were made by the Ashanti, a people who live in west Africa. They grew rich by trading in gold and slaves. They fought the British in several wars and were defeated in 1961.

**Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe was the capital city of a rich kingdom in southeast Africa. It was destroyed probably in the early 19th century by rival tribes. The people were clever builders and this is the remains of a temple in the city.

In 1899 war broke out between the Boers and the British. The Boers did very well at first. They rode fast horses, were good at stalking the enemy and knew the countryside.

**South Africa**

Dutch settlers had first arrived in South Africa in 1652. They set up Cape Colony on the Cape of Good Hope. Most of them were farmers and they became known as "Boers." Dutch word for farmers.

In 1834 an international treaty gave Cape Colony to the British. The Boers hated being ruled by the British and between 1835 and 1837 many of them set off northwards, with all their possessions in wagons, to find new lands free from British rule. This movement is called the "Great Trek."

The Boers came into conflict with the Zulus, the fiercest of the neighbouring African tribes. The British helped the Boers and eventually, in 1879, the Zulus were completely defeated.

The British gradually increased their control over the Boer states. In 1886, gold was discovered in one of them and many more British people came out to work in them.

Cecil Rhodes made a fortune from diamond and gold mines, then formed a company to build a railway from the British colony to the mining area north of the Boer states. In 1895 this area became known as Rhodesia.

The Grab for Africa

In 1880 much of Africa was still independent of any European country. Between 1880 and the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the European powers carved up nearly the whole of Africa between them. This map shows Africa in 1914.

Key dates:

- AD 1014 Britain gained control of Cape Colony
- AD 1200 Collaspse of Kingdom of Zimbabwe
- AD 1213 French forces move to the Suez Canal
- AD 1235-1237 The Great Trek
- AD 1245 Britain bought Egypt's shares in the Suez Canal
- AD 1270-1279 Zulu War
- AD 1283 Fall of Khartoum
- AD 1296 Britain took over Matabeleland, which became Rhodesia.
- AD 1310-1320 Boer War
- AD 1318-1321 British Union of South Africa comes into being.

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