

Two views of Imperialism in Africa.

(Extracted and edited from *World History*, Pearson-Prentice Hall, Saddle River, NJ)

Instructions: Read the following **two (2)** excerpts and answer the questions that follow in the spaces provided using full sentences for your answers.

Document 1 was written by Dr. David Livingstone (1813-1873) who was a missionary and explorer. This excerpt is from his personal diary [March, 1866], where he expresses his feelings about working in Africa.

Now that I am on the point of starting another trip into Africa I feel quite exhilarated; when one travels with the specific object in view of ameliorating (improving) the condition of the natives every act becomes ennobled (an honor).

Whether exchanging the customary civilities, or arriving at a village, accepting a night's lodging, purchasing food for the party, asking for information, or answering polite African enquiries as to our objects in travelling, we begin to spread a knowledge of that people by whose agency their land will yet become enlightened and freed from the slave trade.

The mere animal pleasure travelling in a wild unexplored country is very great. . . . The effect of travel on a man whose heart is in the right place is that the mind is made more self-reliant; it becomes more confident of its own resources.

Source: *Last Journals of David Livingstone in Central Africa from 1865 to His Death*, ed. Horace Walker (1874), in *The Challenge of Africa* (vol. 12, Encyclopedia of Discovery and Exploration; Aldus, 1971).

Document 2 was written by Basil Davidson in 1978. He is a modern expert on Africa. This excerpt identifies some of the reactions of African leaders during the 1800's regarding European imperialism in Africa.

There were those who welcomed the coming of European rule: usually, this was after the invasions were over. Few who were present at the time seemed to have enjoyed it. "I heat your countryman done spoil West Indies" said a Niger Delta ruler to some British visitors in 1841, long before the invasions had begun: "I think he want come spoil me country too." With few exceptions the existing state of Africa found it well to defend themselves. They did this by diplomacy wherever they could, by warfare whenever they must: there were many wars of resistance to invasion.

The Ethiopian emperor Tewodros II spoke for a whole generation of African rulers as early as the 1860's, not long before his suicide after defeat in 1868 by an invading British force. "I know their game. First the traders and the missionaries come; then the ambassadors; then the cannons (and guns). It's better to go straight to the cannons."

Source: *Let Freedom Come*, by Basil Davidson, Copyright 1978 by Basil Davidson (edited).

Name: _____

Answer the following questions below in the spaces provided using full sentences for your answers.

1. Why does David Livingstone feel inspired by the thought of his upcoming trip to Africa?

2. How did Tewodros II describe the Europeans who came to African **AND** how did he respond?

3. Analyze, Compare and Contrast the viewpoints of Livingstone and Tewodros II on the goals of Europeans in Africa.
