Control and Resistance

How imperial policies changed lives in the Congo and India

SS24.WH.6b "Summarize how the actions of imperialist nations affected cultures and peoples of Africa and Asia, and explain how these peoples resisted imperialization."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one imperial action in the Congo and one in India, then circle an effect of each action. Write 1 beside an act of resistance in the Congo and 2 beside an act of resistance in India.

Rubber, Cloth, and Resistance

1 In the late 1800s, King Leopold II of Belgium controlled the Congo Free State as his personal colony. He demanded wild rubber for factories overseas. Officials assigned villages rubber quotas, and armed guards punished people who failed to meet them. Men spent long days gathering latex instead of growing food, while families faced hunger and fear. Some communities fled into forests, hid supplies, or fought the forces enforcing the quotas. These choices were dangerous, but they challenged the demand that Congolese people work for the ruler's profit rather than their own communities.

2 Across the Indian Ocean, Britain ruled most of India by the late 1800s. British policies favored selling factory-made British cloth in Indian markets while exporting Indian raw cotton. Some Indian handloom weavers lost customers because they could not match the prices of machine-made imports. Political control also sparked resistance. In 1857, Indian soldiers in British service rebelled, and other groups joined uprisings against British rule. Grievances included British annexations of Indian states and the belief that new rifle cartridges violated religious practices. The uprising was defeated, but it exposed how sharply people contested foreign control.

3 Resistance did not always use weapons. In 1905, Britain divided Bengal, a province in India, despite strong opposition from many residents. Protesters launched the Swadeshi movement, urging shoppers to boycott British goods and buy products made in India. Some people spun or wove cloth to support local work. The boycott challenged British profits and asserted that Indians should help shape their own future. In the Congo and India, imperial rulers sought wealth or political power, but their policies disrupted work, family life, and local authority. People responded in different ways, from flight and rebellion to organized consumer choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did rubber quotas change daily life for Congolese families?

2. How did Congolese communities resist the rubber quotas, and what demand were they challenging?

3. How did British trade policies affect some Indian weavers?

4. Compare the causes and methods of the 1857 uprising and the 1905 Swadeshi movement.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 95 word museum label comparing the Congo and India. Explain how one imperial policy in each place changed daily life, compare a form of resistance in each, and end with a claim about how people challenged imperial control.

ANSWER KEY

Control and Resistance

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.6b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one imperial action in the Congo and one in India, then circle an effect of each action. Write 1 beside an act of resistance in the Congo and 2 beside an act of resistance in India. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did rubber quotas change daily life for Congolese families?	**Quotas kept men gathering rubber instead of growing food, leaving families facing hunger and fear of punishment.**
2	How did Congolese communities resist the rubber quotas, and what demand were they challenging?	**Some fled, hid supplies, or fought the forces enforcing quotas. They challenged forced work for Leopold's profit.**
3	How did British trade policies affect some Indian weavers?	**Factory-made British cloth sold in Indian markets at prices some handloom weavers could not match, so they lost customers.**
4	Compare the causes and methods of the 1857 uprising and the 1905 Swadeshi movement.	**In 1857, soldiers and others rose up against British rule amid grievances over annexations and rifle cartridges. After Britain divided Bengal in 1905, Swadeshi protesters boycotted British goods and supported Indian-made products.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the Congo Free State, rubber quotas forced many men away from farming, putting families at risk of hunger. Some communities fled or hid supplies to avoid the demands. In India, British trade policies hurt some handloom weavers by filling markets with cheaper factory-made cloth. Later, Swadeshi protesters boycotted British goods and supported Indian-made products. Congolese villagers tried to escape forced work, while Indian shoppers used their purchases to challenge British profits. Both responses show that people opposed foreign control even when they had very different tools.

Accept other resistance methods named in the passage when students accurately connect them to an imperial action. The museum label should compare effects and resistance in both places and make a supported concluding claim.