Empire Meets Resistance

Causes, consequences, and resistance across three regions

WH.5.5 "Analyze the causes and consequences of 19th century imperialism for Asia, Africa, and the Americas, including resistance movements to imperial control."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one reason for imperial control in each region, circle one form of resistance, and number one consequence of resistance in each paragraph so you can compare what changed.

Three Struggles Against Empire

1. In 1857, Indian soldiers serving the British East India Company rebelled. Many feared that rifle cartridges, which soldiers had to bite open, were greased with cow or pig fat, violating Hindu or Muslim beliefs. Anger also grew over company taxes and takeovers of Indian states. Soldiers and civilians seized cities, but British forces crushed the uprising in 1858. Britain then replaced company rule with direct rule by the British Crown. The revolt did not end foreign control, yet it forced Britain to change how it governed India. Imperial expansion had brought profits and power to Britain, while resistance exposed its costs.

2. In the 1880s, Belgium's King Leopold II claimed the Congo Free State as his personal territory. European demand for rubber made its forests valuable. Leopold's agents forced many Congolese communities to meet rubber quotas and punished people who refused. Some villagers fled to avoid collectors; others fought the agents. These acts challenged the system but did not end Leopold's control during the nineteenth century. Forced labor disrupted farming and family life, while rubber profits flowed abroad. Unlike the Indian revolt, resistance here often took the form of local actions against collectors rather than a single large uprising.

3. In Cuba, an island in the Americas, Spain sought to keep its sugar-producing colony and its trade. Cuban independence fighters launched a new rebellion in 1895 because they wanted self-rule and an end to Spanish control. Spain tried to cut rebels off from support by forcing many rural civilians into guarded camps, where hunger and disease killed large numbers. The United States entered the war against Spain in 1898; Spain lost Cuba, but United States troops occupied the island after the war. Cuban resistance helped break Spanish rule, yet the occupation showed that the end of one empire did not guarantee immediate self-government.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did British control contribute to the uprising in India, and how did the uprising change British rule?

2. How did demand for rubber affect Congolese communities, and how did some people resist?

3. How did Spain's attempt to defeat Cuban resistance affect civilians, and why did Spain's defeat not bring immediate self-government?

4. Compare the economic reasons for imperial control in the Congo and Cuba. How did each power try to keep control of a valuable resource or trade?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph assessing the claim, "Resistance quickly ended imperial control." Use evidence from India, the Congo, and Cuba, and explain one important difference among their outcomes.

ANSWER KEY

Empire Meets Resistance

HIGH SCHOOL · WH.5.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one reason for imperial control in each region, circle one form of resistance, and number one consequence of resistance in each paragraph so you can compare what changed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did British control contribute to the uprising in India, and how did the uprising change British rule?	**Company taxes and takeovers added to anger over the rifle cartridges. After crushing the uprising, Britain replaced company rule with direct Crown rule.**
2	How did demand for rubber affect Congolese communities, and how did some people resist?	**Rubber demand led Leopold's agents to impose quotas and forced labor, disrupting farming and family life. Some villagers fled collectors or fought the agents.**
3	How did Spain's attempt to defeat Cuban resistance affect civilians, and why did Spain's defeat not bring immediate self-government?	**Spain forced many rural civilians into guarded camps, where hunger and disease killed large numbers. After Spain's defeat, United States troops occupied Cuba.**
4	Compare the economic reasons for imperial control in the Congo and Cuba. How did each power try to keep control of a valuable resource or trade?	**Leopold sought rubber profits and used agents to enforce quotas in the Congo. Spain sought to keep Cuba's sugar production and trade and used force against the independence rebellion.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Resistance did not quickly end imperial control in these three places. In India, the 1857 uprising ended in defeat, although Britain changed from company rule to direct Crown rule. In the Congo, villagers fled or fought rubber collectors, but Leopold kept control during the nineteenth century. Cuba had a different outcome: its independence fighters helped break Spanish rule, but United States troops occupied the island afterward. Resistance could change how an empire ruled or help remove it, yet none of these struggles brought immediate self-government.

Accept answers that connect a motive or policy to its effects, rather than merely naming events. For the paragraph, look for accurate evidence from all three regions and a clear distinction between ending one form of rule and gaining self-government.