

Source #10: Letter from African King Lobengula

Background: This letter was written by an African king to Queen Victoria of England.

To Her Majesty Queen Victoria,

“Some time ago, a party of men came to my county, the principal³⁵ one appearing to be a man called Rudd. They asked me for a place to dig for gold, and said they would give me certain things for the right to do so. I told them to bring what they could give and I would show them what I would give. A document was written and presented to me for signature. I asked what it contained, and was told that in it were my words and the words of those men. I put my hand to it. About three months afterwards I heard from other sources that I had given by the document the right to all the minerals³⁶ of my country”

Signed: King Lobengula

1. What happened to the King's land?
2. How did it happen?

Source #10: Kwame Nkrumah Quotation

Background: Kwame Nkrumah was an African nationalist.



“It is far better to be free to govern³⁷ or misgovern³⁸ yourself than to be governed by anybody else.”

“Africa's earth is rich, yet the products that come from above and below the soil continue to enrich³⁹, not Africans, but groups and individuals who operate⁴⁰ to Africa's impoverishment⁴¹.”

1. How did he feel about imperialism? How can you tell?
2. Why does he dislike it?
3. How does this compare to British imperialism in India?

³⁵ Principal: main

³⁶ Minerals: natural resources in the earth, such as gold, salt, silver, and iron

³⁷ Govern: rule

³⁸ Misgovern: badly rule

³⁹ Enrich: make rich

⁴⁰ Operate: work

⁴¹ Impoverishment: to become extremely poor