

- Industrial revolution led to **rapid increase in population** of European nations. Colonies also served as an outlet where surplus European population can settle down.

Nationalistic factors:

- Late 19th century was a period of **aggressive nationalism** in Europe. Many political leaders in Europe saw imperialism as means to maximize popular support at home. Ability to acquire **colonies overseas and rapid industrialization gave legitimacy** to rulers. For European states and people, the colonies abroad were a symbol of international prestige and national glory.
- Imperialism served the purpose of **national defence** by creating **"buffer states"** and by providing men of war, line of communication etc. The need to secure sea routes, ports, foreign bases for their navies, as well as the ability to raise colonial armies to help fight was a necessity for European states looking **to establish themselves as Empires**.

Other Factors:

- Imperialism was tied to **"Social Darwinism"** and **Racism** according to which superior races must dominate the inferior races by military forces and the inferior races had to be civilized. **Rudyard Kipling** in his poem **"White man's burden"** justified **Imperialism as a civilizing mission** of the natives.
- Christian Missionaries** in Asia and Africa added fuel to New Imperialism in order to Christianize the native people of those countries.

Till the arrival of **Kaiser Wilhelm II and his Weltpolitik** it was indeed the economic factors which played the dominant role in new imperialism and countries prevented any national war even when at collision course. **Example:** Peaceful solution of Fashoda crisis between France and Britain in Egypt. However, the **German assertiveness** could not sustain the economic sanity in new imperialism which ultimately leads to **world war I**. (555 words)

Social Darwinism is application of Darwin's theory of evolution and concept of survival of fittest to societies/ nations. According to the philosophy of social Darwinism, societies/ nations are in a state of constant struggle and competition. Only the fittest society/ nation will survive this competition and evolve.

Q.4) Discuss the circumstances leading to the Chinese revolution of 1949 and analyse its significance. (10 marks, 150 words)

Approach: Introduce by briefly writing about Chinese revolution. Discuss the then prevailing conditions in China and how they became a reason for the Chinese revolution. Then move on to discuss the significance of the Chinese revolution. Conclude on the long-term impact of this revolution.