### **SOCIAL DARWINISM**

- The most unique/significant of the motives behind the "new" imperialism
- Application of Darwin's theories to SOCIETY!
- = Examples: capitalism/market competition, nationalism, racial and genetic characteristics
- Appeared in TWO forms:
- 1. Superior races (Europeans) have the right to dominate inferior ones
- 2. Struggle between nations—the fit survive and are victorious and the weak die off. Those who can gain colonies will gain strength and survive.

**WAR** = becomes inevitable and necessary!

### **COMPETITION!**

\* see von Treitschke quote below

### Charles Darwin—On the Origin of the Species

- Natural Selection and the struggle to survive
- Only the well adapted will survive
- "survival of the fittest"

# CAUSES/MOTIVES "NEW" IMPERIALISM

## "NEW" Imperialism

- Late 19th—Early 20th Century
- Driven by INDUSTRIALIZATION!
- Need for new raw materials/markets
- Industrialized nations: Western Europe, the United States, Japan dominate Africa, South Asia, S.E. Asia, Middle east

### **HUMANITARIAN/RELIGIOUS**

#### ETHNOCENTRISM

- Western nations rationalize imperialistic aspirations by having the goal of spreading Western Civilization to the less civilized, savage, poor, ignorant people of the world = this is the "White man's Burden"
- = the idea that it is the duty/responsibility to bring civilization to the uncivilized. Must bring to them:
  - = Christianity = "missionaries"
  - = literacy-schools-the Bible
  - = medicine

"To open to civilization the only part of our globe where it has not yet penetrated, to pierce the darkness which envelops whole populations, is a crusade, if I may say so, a crusade worthy of this century of progress" - Leopold II of Belgium

### **POLITICAL INTERESTS**

- Desire for nations to control strategic areas of the world
- Colonial "empire building" could distract from domestic problems
- NATIONALISM =increase in power would build patriotism and national prestige—unify people at home
- European nations involved in rivalries with one another by the late 1800's—alliances had started—rivalry in race for colonies (Britsh/Russia "Great Game" in Central Asia)
- Colonies were seen as giving nations advantage over one another
  - "All great nations in the fullness of their strength have desired to set their mark upon barbarian lands, and those who fail to participate in this great rivalry will play a pitiable role in time to come" Heinrich von Treitschke

"If there be a God, I think what he would like me to do is to paint as much of Africa British red as possible." - Cecil Rhodes

### **ECONOMIC INTERESTS**

- Industrial/Capitalist states seek markets and raw materials
- Great desire for new raw materials and natural resources
- Nations need to take more control of the lands that they conquered = colonies of this era tended to have fewer settlers but yet more political control exerted
  - = improved transportation/communication/technology allowed industrial nations to take greater control

Herbert Spencer (The 'Social Darwinist') guy

- = progress "... not an accident but a necessity." He believed that **economics is the true test of the fittest!**
- **J.A. Hobson**—What were his basic views on imperialism?