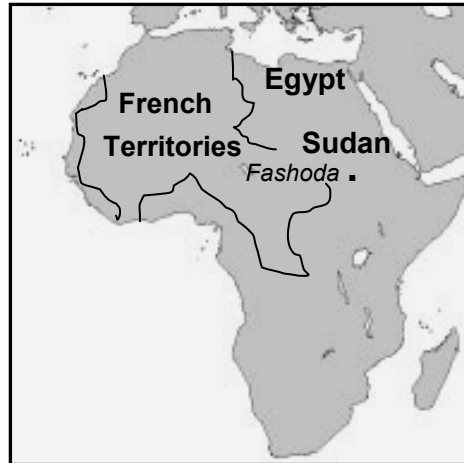


Mappings Mayhem

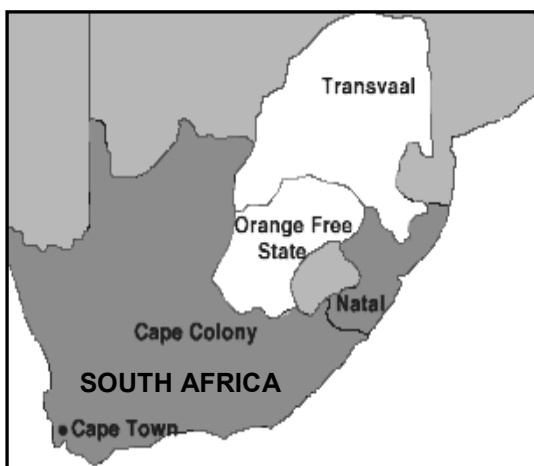
The imperialist powers of Europe were far from friendly with one another. The competition to claim lands and control resources was more important to them than any efforts to keep peace. Through the 1800's and early 1900's, several clashes heightened tension. Many of these occurred in Africa, as it was being carved up into a patchwork of European colonies.

The first showdown was in the territory of the Sudan south of Egypt. France had already claimed much of the western region of Africa and hoped to extend its empire into the northern tier of the continent by moving east toward the Sudan. At the same time, however, the British wanted to extend their African empire south from Egypt, into the same territory the French had their eye on. The situation came to a head in 1898 when French forces faced British soldiers, all there to plant their flags on the same ground.



War seemed inevitable as the two armies met in Fashoda and both refused to back down.

However, the French finally did give in for two main reasons. First, they were greatly outnumbered by the British and did not want to suffer another defeat as they had in the Franco-Prussian War. Secondly, the French were even more concerned about Germany and didn't want to anger the one nation that could be its most powerful European ally if the need arose. Although tense, the face-off ended peacefully when France allowed the British to control the Sudan in exchange for recognizing French claims in Western and Central Africa.



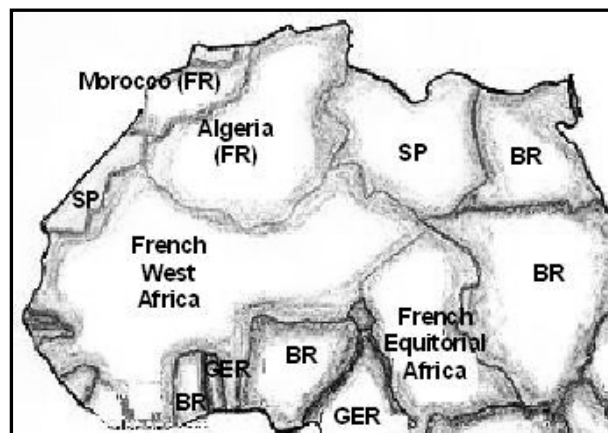
The Boer War of 1899 was fought between the British and Dutch imperialists called the Boers. This time, the scene was in southern Africa. South Africa was first colonized by Dutch settlers, who turned control over to the British after the Napoleonic Wars. The Boers were not happy about British rule and left the region in 1836, moving north to establish the independent countries of Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The British officially accepted the two states' independence and things stayed peaceful until gold and diamonds were discovered there in the 1880's.

Mappings Mayhem



Not surprisingly, the British then decided that it would be in their best interest to own and control the land and resources of the entire region. Tensions increased between the British and the Dutch until war broke out in 1899. The Boer War lasted three years, and Great Britain eventually won. Thereafter, both powers' territories were combined to form the Union of South Africa in 1910. Britain then had control over all of southern Africa, except the small, independent tribal nations of Lesotho and Swaziland, now British protectorates.

A third major clash occurred in northwest Africa in the country of Morocco. Both France and Great Britain were interested in this farming and mining region, but Morocco wanted to maintain its independence. Even so, in 1904 following the Fashoda crisis in the Sudan, the British agreed to allow France to have a sphere of influence in Morocco in exchange for backing down and allowing the British to claim eastern Africa. The German Kaiser, however, was upset that he was given no say in the agreement.



The Kaiser called a meeting of powers in 1905 to address the Moroccan question. Germany claimed that France had illegally taken its sphere of influence in Morocco, but backed by its allies, France was allowed partial control over the African land.

In 1911 tensions flared again when a rebellion broke out against Morocco's ruler. France, to protect its holdings, sent troops to help put down the revolt. The Germans, claiming they needed to protect their holdings there (even though they had none) sent a gunboat. Great Britain sent Germany a clear message that it would support France in the event of German aggression.

All these events resulted in two main outcomes. First, alliances that had formed in the late 1800's were strengthened. Though Germany had hoped to split up France and Great Britain by its show of force, the two nations drew closer instead. Secondly, the conflicts in Africa, especially the showdown in Morocco, increased tensions among the powers. War seemed closer than ever.

Colonial Conflicts

Showdown at Fashoda

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

Outcomes?

The Boer War

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

Outcomes?

The Moroccan Crisis

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

Outcomes?