**BACKGROUND**In 1884, German chancellor Otto von Bismarck called together 14 of the major western powers of the world to negotiate questions and end confusion over the control of Africa but not one delegate from the continent of Africa was invited!  For the purpose of this simulation, 8 of the 14 western powers will be represented.

At the time of the conference, 80% of Africa remained under traditional and local control. What ultimately resulted was a hodgepodge of boundaries that divided Africa into fifty irregular countries. By the time independence returned to Africa in 1950, the realm had acquired a legacy of political fragmentation that could neither be eliminated nor made to operate satisfactorily.  Now, it is YOUR chance to turn back the clock and establish a system of boundaries and countries that will improve the future of the African continent, while maintaining your country's perspective during that time period.  Because an effective resolution to the reorganization of Africa is of paramount importance, you have received the following letter which asks you to help to develop a new border system.

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| http://teacherweb.ftl.pinecrest.edu/snyderd/MWH/Projects/mun-bc/germaneuro.gif **OTTO VON BISMARCK, CHANCELLOR of GERMANY** **Chairman of the Conference** **BERLIN  GERMANY**  **Committee Delegate:**  **The Conference Commission requests your immediate presence in Germany as a delegate to the Berlin Conference. You and your delegation, experts in the areas of economics, geography, ethics, military history, and international negotiations, have been appointed by your government to represent them in this process. Each nation present will be allowed to participate in a two-day review and deliberation to determine the fate of the African Continent.**  **Your timely presence in Berlin by 15 November 1884 will allow your country to be heard. As Chairman of the Berlin Conference, I assure you that your task will be difficult, but of supreme importance to the future of Africa, Europe, and the entire world.**    Otto von Bismarck |

**TASK**

You are a member of a delegation representing your nation at the Berlin Conference.  Your delegation must effectively argue which parts of Africa should be given to your country, keeping in mind what is best for both Africa and your country. To complete this task, you will create a document containing your nation's position on the adjustment of the African boundaries.  You will also create a map depicting your new parts of Africa.  Each delegation must "wear several hats" while researching and preparing for the conference:

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| **Delegate Responsibilities & Areas of Attention** | |
| **Economist**  Arable land  Physical landscape  Access to water  Mineral wealth  Trade | **Anthropologist**  Language  Religion  Ethnicity  Tribes/kingdoms  History |
| **Political Scientist**  Balance of power Government types  Border structure (e.g. shape)  Neighboring states  Foreign interests | **Speaker**  Present information in character as a representative of the country Participate in debate Be prepared |

Your first responsibility is to research your assigned country; there are several linksprovided on my website to get you started.  Each group will receive a role card on their country as well. This will allow you to represent your assigned nation intelligently, and to act “in character” even when specific information about a topic may not be available (e.g. what type of government exists in your country?  What types of problems have occurred in your country's past that could have been prevented?).

Secondly, you must familiarize yourself with the continent of Africa through resources, maps, and data, not just information on your assigned country.  You must then establish criteria by which you will prioritize the “pieces” of Africa your nation desires.  There are many priorities you may consider - language, religion, access to major oceans, seas, or rivers (prevent landlocked states as much as possible), cultures/established tribal kingdoms, population (density & total), mineral access & arable land, physical landscape, etc...  As you can see, you have quite a responsibility on your hands.

**POSITION PAPER**

When you have gathered enough data and maps, and have established the underlying criteria and philosophies guiding your country's decisions, you are then ready to construct your position paper.  Your position paper will contain your country's underlying criteria and philosophies in dealing with the establishment of your piece of Africa.  In addition, it should describe the specific action which will be taken by the Berlin Conference, offering specific solutions to the problem. Remember to represent the goals and desires of your respective nation to the best of your ability. The position paper should be roughly 1 double spaced page long.

A map containing the parts of Africa your country desires must be included as well. You will be displaying it during the simulation. I will provide you with a blank map. Lastly, each project must contain a section describing the amount of work each individual contributed.

**BERLIN CONFERENCE SIMULATION**

During the simulation, nations will take turns presenting their position paper to the conference. Each nation’s speaker will attempt to convince the various delegations that their position paper is the best. After one round of speeches, each nation will have a few minutes to discuss which nation’s position to vote for, and which nations they will reject. There will be a vote and decisions will be made. Then there will be a second round where each nation has a second chance to either claim a different, unclaimed piece of Africa.

**TO SUMMARIZE**

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| The basic steps you and your fellow delegates must complete: | |
|  | · ***Designate*** the duties of all delegates in your group - economist, anthropologist, political scientist, and speaker. |
|  | · ***Research*** the essentials of the Berlin Conference, your respective nation, and the general goals and inclinations of ALL other delegations. |
|  | · ***Analyze*** maps and data to familiarize yourself with the African continent. |
|  | · ***Establish***a hierarchy of priorities by which you will claim portions of Africa (e.g., kingdoms, access to water and minerals, language, religion, etc.). |
|  | · ***Create***a position paper articulating your nation's goals, priorities, and solutions with respect to the issue of establishing the boundaries of Africa. |
|  | · ***Construct*** a map of the parts of Africa your country is claiming. |
|  | · ***Include***a section describing the amount of work each individual had contributed to the overall project. |
|  | · ***Submit*** your position paper and map. |
|  | · ***Participate*** in the Model Berlin Conference. |
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**EVALUATION**

The following rubric may be used to evaluate your contribution to this task.

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| **Categories:** | **Exceptional (8-10)** | **Superior(6-8)** | **Acceptable(4-6)** | **Unsatisfactory(>4)** |
| Group Interaction | Excellent communication skills; group work builds upon individual effort; responsibility shared evenly; students clearly perform roles | Good listening/speaking skills; positive discussions and feedback; most students participate | Some ability to work together; group discusses and creates solutions; some students participate | Infrequent discussions; one person does all of the work; little or no participation by others |
| Creativity | position paper and speech are interesting and engaging; shows insight; clever solutions to task | Interesting; some aspects of the project display insight | Completes the task but without regard for uniqueness or flair | Sketchy, incomplete, unfocused presentation |
| Content | Focused, historically accurate, detailed | Well thought out, historically accurate, addresses major points | Addresses most of the task, only minor errors, historically accurate | Incomplete task, historical errors |
| Presentation | Aesthetically pleasing, clear understanding of all concepts, typed with proper formatting, no grammatical or spelling errors | Good looking project, can discuss all topics, few written errors, good formatting | Good delivery of the information, knows most topics, neatly written, some written errors | Unpracticed, reads information, illegible and/or many errors |
| Position Papers and Resolutions | Takes a stand and supports it with specifics, well organized, thoughtful and interesting to  read, follows the format perfectly without grammatical errors | Opinion is clear but supported with only a few examples, organized, may contain a few grammatical errors | Either no opinion or no specific examples, wanders but makes some good points, at least one page in length | No opinion, no details from either treaty, less than one page in length, may have  many grammatical errors |

Total: /50 points

**France**

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. France has colonial outposts established along the west coast of Africa and extending inland approximately 500 miles east of Lake Chad and north to the Mediterranean Sea. French colonial outposts include the cities of Libreville, Conakry, Dakar, and Abidjan. Find these on a map and try to make sure no other countries take these areas.

**Great Britain**

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. Great Britain is most concerned about maintaining control of the Suez Canal (it has been under their control since 1875) and the surrounding territory. The canal connects the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean, Red, and Arabian Seas providing important shipping routes. Great Britain has expanded its control around the canal, throughout Egypt and south into the Sahara to create a buffer zone against French expansion. Great Britain desires holdings from the Cape (southern tip of Africa) to Cairo. British colonial outposts exist in west Africa in the cities of Lagos, Freetown, and Banjul. Great Britain is also in conflict with the Dutch for control of the Cape of Africa. The biggest concerns for Britain are keeping colonial outposts, land from the Suez Canal south, and land from the Cape north.

**Belgium**

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. Led by King Leopold, the Belgians want access to the mineral and rubber resources of the interior tropical rainforest in the Congo River basin. The Belgians are also interested in the ivory trade (elephant tusks).

**Italy**

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. Italy desires the Horn of Africa (area that is surrounded by the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean) and land in northern Africa nearest Italy.

**Portugal**

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. Portugal has the oldest colonial outposts on the continent: a small post on the west coast near Bissau, a larger portion on the southwest coast, and the southeast coast.

**Netherlands/Dutch**

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. The Dutch have a long history in the Cape region of Africa dating back to the 1600s. The Dutch are presently struggling for control of the area against the British. You want to fight against the British for some control of this area.

**Germany**

The 1884 Berlin Conference to partition Africa has been called by the German Chancellor, Otto Von Bismark. You are hosting the conference in your capital city. The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. Germany has some control of coastal southwestern Africa and coastal east Africa just south of the equator and some control over a portion of western Africa near the equator by Douala. Germany desires to maintain control of these areas.

**Spain**

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. The Spanish want to maintain a presence on the north western coast of Africa. However, the wars for independence in Latin America beginning in the 1820s have left the empire with little monetary funds.