

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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STRAYER:**

Chapter 18, "A New Wave of Empire Building." The two centuries, from about 1750 to 1950, saw European colonial rule extend across the world. This is the focus of chapter 18. Indians in South Asia, Central and Southeast Asians, Africans, Native Americans in the west of the United States, Aboriginal people of Australia, the Maori of New Zealand, all of these peoples and more experienced European conquest and incorporation into European empires.

Many of the questions that historians have traditionally asked about this huge process have focused on European actions and intentions. What motivated this wave of European empire building? How did Europeans govern their new empires? How were native peoples impacted by European policies? These are important questions. But the colonized people of Africa, Asia, and elsewhere may seem at times like passive participants in the events of empire, victims perhaps of European aggression and exploitation or maybe beneficiaries of European education, Christianity, or health care, but not actors in their own right.

More recently, however, historians have explored how colonized people themselves actively shaped the history of the colonial era. Sometimes they resisted and rebelled. Sometimes they willingly cooperated with their foreign rulers. In various times and places, they embraced, rejected, or transformed a transplanted Christianity.

Many eagerly sought Western education, but later used it against the colonizers. Women certainly suffered from colonial rule. But they also developed self-help associations and earned money as traders. Everywhere, colonized people created new forms of community, new identities, new ways of belonging.

None of this diminishes the hardships, the enormous inequalities of power, or the exploitation of the colonial experience. It simply asks you to notice the extent to which colonized people could act, even within these oppressive conditions.