

**Background:**

Social Darwinism was the belief that Europeans were more advanced than other peoples of the world. Europeans believed this concept gave them justification and the right to control “weaker” or “less advanced” groups.

**Your Task:**

Read the documents below that demonstrate Social Darwinist attitudes towards Africa. Briefly explain the main idea of each document, then using SPECIFIC evidence, explain how the document demonstrates the attitude of Social Darwinism.

Document #1

“I contend that we (the British) are the first race in the world and that the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race. It is our duty to seize every opportunity of acquiring more territory and we should keep this one idea steadily before our eyes that more territory simply means more of the Anglo-Saxon race, more of the best, the most human, most honorable race the world possesses. **-Source:** Cecil Rhodes, “*Confessions of Faith*,” 1877

Main idea – Document #1

Demonstrates the attitude of Social Darwinism – Document #1

Document #2

The essential point in dealing with Africans is to establish a respect for the European. Upon this – the prestige of the white man – depends on his influence, often his very existence, in Africa. If he shows by his surroundings, by his assumption of superiority, that is he is far above the native, he will be respected, and have more influence.

In my opinion – at any rate with reference to Africa – it is the greatest possible mistake to suppose that a European can have a greater influence over the natives by convincing them he is “one of them.” In effect, to lower himself to their plane, instead of elevating them to his. The sacrifice involved is wholly unappreciated, and the motive would be held by the savage to be poverty and lack of social status in his own country. **Source:** Capt. F.D. Lugard, “*The Rise of Our East African Empire*.” 1893

Main Idea – Document #2

Demonstrates the attitude of Social Darwinism – Document #2

Document #3

The commencement of diamond-digging as a settled industry was in 1872. It was then that dry-digging was commenced, which consists of the regulated removal of ground found to be rich in diamonds. Here, within twelve miles of the river, and within a circle, of which the diameter is about two and a half miles, are contained all the mines, or dry diggings, from which have come the real wealth of the country. Dry digging is the future of the diamond fields in South Africa. I feel that with British industry, a huge amount of wealth can be extracted from this land.

**Source:** Anthony Trollope, "The Diamond Fields of South Africa," 1870

Main Idea – Document #3

Demonstrates the attitude of Social Darwinism – Document #3

Document #4



THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.—*The Journal, Detroit.*

\*The building says "schoolhouse" \*The white man is carrying a person \*The canteen says U.S.  
**Source:** *The Journal, Detroit 1898*

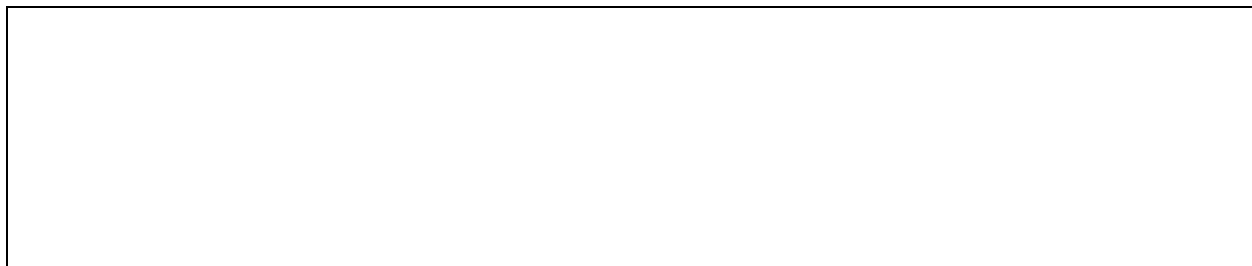
Main Idea – Document #4

Demonstrates the attitude of Social Darwinism – Document #4

Document #5



Main Idea – Document #5



Demonstrates the attitude of Social Darwinism – Document #5

