Outline Lecture Eleven—Imperialism’s “Heart of Darkness”

Key Focus:
1) Imperialism in theory vs. imperialism in practice
2) The “superstructure” of racial ideology vs. the legacy of imperialism in Africa

I) The Scramble for Africa 1875-1900
   a) Averting Economic Crisis at Home
      i) Targeting African continent by 1870s
      ii) Berlin West Africa Conference 1884-1885
         (1) Set ground rules for staking claims
         (2) Swift and effective partitioning of entire African continent
   b) Types of Colonial Administration
      i) Frederick Lugard (1858-1945)
         (1) Doctrine of “indirect rule”
      ii) Direct rule model—King Leopold II’s “Congo Free State”
         (1) Impact on native population between 1890-1908
         (2) Humanitarian efforts of Roger Casement

II) Mapping the “Heart of Darkness”
   a) The Testimony of Edmund Morel (1873-1924)
      i) Corporate profits of the Anglo-Belgian India Rubber Company
      ii) Extraction of rubber through military force
         (1) “An armed soldier behind every producer”
   b) “Carnival of massacre”
      i) Militarization of the Congo river basin
      ii) Method of recruitment
         (1) De-humanizing the recruits
      iii) Extortion of quotas through terror
         (1) King Leopold’s rationale
      iv) Morel’s verdict on “the heart of darkness”
   c) Joseph Conrad’s Psychoanalysis of Imperialism
      i) Conrad’s personal experience with the imperialist project
      ii) Deconstructing the “Civilized/Savage” Distinction
         (1) The ominous opening of Marlow’s narrative
         (2) The Thames as the “navel” of imperialism
      iii) The “heart of darkness” at home
         (1) The “home-office” of the Company in Brussels
         (2) The veil of self-delusion
            (a) The aunt who believes in the Company’s “civilizing mission”
            (b) Kurtz’s “Intended”
            (c) Marlow’s description of a street scene in Brussels
      iv) Kurtz as the incarnation of imperialism
         (1) Highest product of European “civilization”
         (2) “International Society for the Suppression of Savage Customs”
         (3) Kurtz’s “voracious aspect”
v) Kurtz’s final pronouncement
   (1) Meaning of his last words “The horror! The horror!”