TEXT › JUSTIFYING COLONIALISM

EASY
HARD

Colonial policy is imposed in the first place on nations that must resort to emigration, either because their population is poor, or because it is excessive. But it is also imposed in those that have a surplus of products and need places to sell them: in this sense, the foundation of a colony is the creation of a market. In this time and with the crisis that all European industries are going through, the founding of a colony is the creation of a solution. We have to take into account our technical superiority. Our industrial and technological development allows us to expand the empire. Our powerful army, our extensive naval fleet, are perfectly prepared to consolidate the control and dominion of new territories. There is a third point that I must also address: it is the humanitarian and civilizing side of the issue. It must be said openly that, in effect, the superior races have a right with respect to the inferior races. The higher races have a duty to civilize the lower races. And is there anyone who can deny that there is more justice, more moral order in North Africa since France has conquered it?

Jules Ferry's speech in the Chamber of Deputies (Paris, 1882)

CLASS:

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