

Cecil Rhodes: Confessions of Faith (1877)

It often strikes a man to inquire what is the chief good in life; to one the thought comes that it is a happy marriage, to another great wealth, and as each seizes on his idea, for that he more or less works for the rest of his existence. To myself ... the wish came to render myself useful to my country. I then asked myself how could I and after reviewing the various methods I have felt that at the present day we are actually limiting our children and perhaps bringing into the world half the human beings we might owing to the lack of country for them to inhabit that if we had retained America there would at this moment be millions more of English living. I contend that we are the finest race in the world and that the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race. Just fancy those parts that are at present inhabited by the most despicable specimens of human beings what an alteration there would be if they were brought under Anglo-Saxon influence, look again at the extra employment a new country added to our dominions gives. I contend that every acre added to our territory means in the future birth to some more of the English race who otherwise would not be brought into existence. Added to this the absorption of the greater portion of the world under our rule simply means the end of all wars....

We know the size of the world we know the total extent. Africa is still lying ready for us it is our duty to take it. 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 honourable race the world possesses.

I contend that there are at the present moment numbers of the ablest men in the world who would devote their whole lives to it.... What has been the main cause of the success of the Roman Church? The fact that every enthusiast, call it if you like every madman finds employment in it. Let us form the same kind of society a Church for the extension of the British Empire. A society which should have its members in every part of the British Empire working with one object and one idea...

Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902), was an ardent supporter of British expansion. His company, De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd., controlled 90 percent of the world's diamond production and had a large stake in South Africa's gold fields. Rhodes sought to extend British influence and institutions into the interior of Africa and to bring lands settled and dominated by Dutch-descended Boers under the British flag. Through his efforts, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) was added to the British Empire.

http://teacher.sduhsd.k12.ca.us/mmontgomery/world_history/imperialism/rhodes.htm