**OPCVL Source Analysis Practice**

**Directions:**

1. Read the source below. *The primary source is in the yellow box, the text above is context and background information to help you further understand the text.*
2. Fill out the OPCVL chart by answering all of the guiding questions.

**Source:** **Cecil Rhodes, “Confession of Faith” 1877**

*Cecil Rhodes was British businessperson and politician. He was a big proponent of British imperialism of Africa. His actions forever changed the face of southern African and the lives of the native people there. He built a large empire for Britain in Southern Africa, but in doing so he disregarded the rights of the people—the “natives,” as he referred to them—already living on the lands that he claimed. Rhodes’s treaties with the various African chiefs tended to be of dubious legality, and he routinely pushed against or ignored established boundaries with other European colonial powers. Rhodes wrote, “Confession of Faith” an essay expressing his imperialistic vision originally on June 2, 1877 in Oxford, England at the age of 23 but later that year in Kimberley, South Africa, he made some additions and changes. He had just begun to make his fortune in the Kimberley diamond fields of South Africa when he began writing this essay. The section below is an excerpt from his essay, “Confession of Faith”.*

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| 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.... The idea gleaming and dancing before ones eyes like a will-of-the-wisp at last frames itself into a plan. Why should we not form a secret society with but one object the furtherance of the British Empire and the bringing of the whole uncivilized world under British rule for the recovery of the United States for the making the Anglo-Saxon race but one Empire. What a dream, but yet it is probable, it is possible. I once heard it argued by a fellow in my own college, I am sorry to own it by an Englishman, that it was a good thing for us that we have lost the United States.... |

**OPCVL Chart**

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|  | **Values** | **Limitations** |
| **Origins**  ***Focus on the author, nothing about what is written*** | 1. Is this source a primary source or a secondary source? 2. Who is the author? 3. When was this source created / published? *(date of creation can be a different day from date of publication for some sources)* 4. Where (location) was this source created? If it is not known, can you infer where it was created?   Discuss the values of this source’s origins *(all of the information answered in questions 1-4 above)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? How does the origins provide insight and perspectives for historians to understand African imperialism?  *\*Remember a bias/one-source does have its values* | Discuss the limitations of this source’s origins *(all of the information answered in questions 1-4 on the right)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? Is the author bias? If so, how do you know that the author is bias? |
| **Purpose**  ***Focus on why the author write the words that he/she did*** | 1. Why was this source written? Why do you think the author is writing this? 2. Who is the author’s target audience? 3. What format was this source written in? Newspaper? Journal/diary entry? Published book? Official government document?   Discuss the values of this source’s purpose *(all of the information in questions 1-3 above)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? How does the purpose (focus on the why the author wrote the words) provide insight for historians to understand the motives for African imperialism? | Discuss the limitations of this source’s purpose *(all of the information in questions1-5 on the right)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? What bias does the message of this source have? What information is missing, not true and/or exaggerated? |
| **Content**  ***Focus on the words written, nothing about the author*** | 1. What is the literally message of the source? What is the source saying on the surface/at first glance? 2. Is there a hidden message to this source? If so, what is the hidden/ulterior message? 3. What information or examples does the author use to support their point?   Discuss the values of this source’s content (all of the information in questions 1-3 above) to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? How does the content (focus on the words written) provide insight for historians to understand the motives for Africa imperialism? | Discuss the limitations of this source’s content (all of the information in questions 1-3 on the right) to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? Is there information missing from the content? Are their inaccurate information being presented in the content? Is there exaggerated truths/information being presented in the content? |