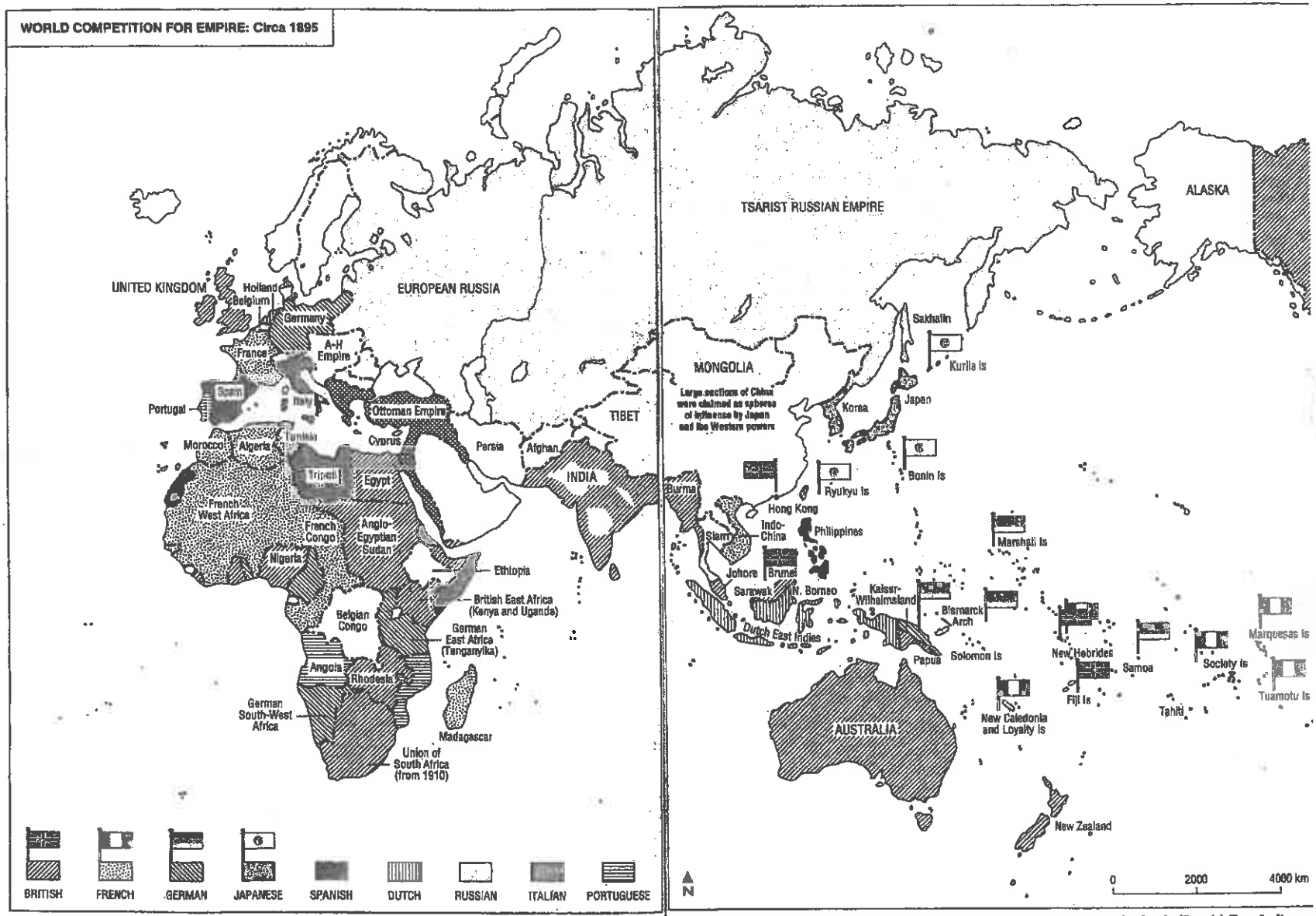

Map 5.1 World competition for empire, circa 1895
The world-wide colonial activities of the Western imperial powers in 1895 are shown on this map. Note that although the western European nations most obviously possess overseas empires, the Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires are in contiguous (adjoining) land areas. The British possess the largest overseas empire. The French and the Germans have both acquired African and Pacific territories. The Dutch have concentrated their colonial enterprise in one region — the Netherlands (Dutch) East Indies — the Indonesia of today. The Portuguese, the pioneers of overseas imperialism, still possess large areas of land in Africa, together with East Timor (north of Australia), Goa in India, and Macao in China, (all too small to be shown on this map). Note that by 1895 Japan had begun its own imperial expansion, having acquired Formosa and the Pescadores Islands as a result of its victory over China in 1894-95 (see Map 10.1)